

Recently Featured Articles with Descriptions and Sources

The following articles were researched using Claude AI and reviewed, fact checked and edited by Allen, Shea & Associates. See that listing [here](#).

Paper and Practice

<https://allenshea.com/paper-and-practice/>

Revisits the 1992 Lanterman Act amendment requiring IPPs to reflect a person's own preferences, strengths, culture, and vision, and looks at the persistent gap between that legal promise and what families actually experience.

Sources

- Michael Smull, Essential Lifestyle Planning: A Handbook for Facilitators (quoted directly in the piece)
 - Little Hoover Commission, "A System in Distress: Caring for Californians with Developmental Disabilities" (Report #273, 2023) — lhc.ca.gov
 - California Legislative Analyst's Office, budget analyses on per-capita spending disparities by race/ethnicity — lao.ca.gov
 - Disability Rights California, analysis of racial/ethnic service-spending disparities — disabilityrightsca.org
 - CA Department of Developmental Services, statewide IPP template and plain-language IPP workbooks — dds.ca.gov/rc/ipp
 - Master Plan for Developmental Services — chhs.ca.gov
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How to Read Your Regional Center Assessment

<https://allenshea.com/how-to-read-your-regional-center-assessment/>

A plain-language explainer for anyone newly referred to a California regional center (or supporting someone who is): what an "assessment" or "evaluation" actually measures and what happens with the results.

Sources

- California Welfare and Institutions Code § 4646(c), governing the 60-day IPP timeline after eligibility — law.justia.com
 - CA Department of Developmental Services, Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER) — dds.ca.gov/transparency/cder
 - CA Department of Developmental Services, plain-language IPP preparation booklets — dds.ca.gov/rc/ipp
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Current Trends in Supporting People with IDD and Their Families

<https://allenshea.com/currents-trends-in-supporting-people-with-idd-and-their-families/>

A curated roundup (rather than a single-topic piece) of current articles, research, and websites on supporting people with I/DD and their families — a good jumping-off point rather than a deep dive.

Sources

- Dr. Craig Escudé / IntellectAbility, “Seven Trends to Look For in 2025 in Supporting Individuals with IDD” — replacingrisk.com
- Caregiver, “What’s New in IDD Care for 2026” — cg-idd.com
- KU Life Span Institute, 43-year study of IDD funding trends (State of the States project) — news.ku.edu
- Plus a 10-organization resource directory included in the original post: The Arc — thearc.org
- AAIDD — aaidd.org
- NASDDDS — nasddds.org
- IDD Toolkit, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center — iddtoolkit.vkcsites.org
- IDD Health Equity — iddhealthequity.org
- IntellectAbility (ReplacingRisk.com) — replacingrisk.com
- WashU Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Center — iddrc.wustl.edu
- Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) — pcori.org
- KU Life Span Institute / State of the States — lsi.ku.edu
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) — aucd.org

LGBTQ+ Adults with Intellectual Disabilities Need Supportive Caregivers

<https://allenshea.com/lgbtq-adults-with-intellectual-disabilities-need-supportive-caregivers/>

By Margaret Walsh (May Center for Adult Services); addresses the added bullying and harassment LGBTQ+ adults with intellectual disabilities face and what makes caregiving genuinely supportive and affirming.

Sources

- Margaret Walsh, May Institute — original full article — mayinstitute.org

Effective Ways that Regional Center Service Coordinators Can Advocate for Individuals with IDD and Their Families

<https://allenshea.com/effective-ways-that-regional-center-service-coordinators-can-advocate-for-individuals-with-idd-and-their-families/>

A practical playbook for how service coordinators can advocate within the IPP process — documenting need, requesting Purchase of Services, coordinating across systems, and escalating when services are denied — plus a step-by-step checklist and sample scripts families can use directly with their own coordinator.

Sources

- Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act (California Welfare & Institutions Code, Division 4.5) — [leginfo.legislature.ca.gov](https://leginfo.ca.gov)
- California Code of Regulations, Title 17 (regulations implementing the Lanterman Act) — oal.ca.gov
- California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) — dds.ca.gov

- Disability Rights California (DRC) — disabilityrightsca.org
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What California's Master Plan for Developmental Services Means for You

<https://allenshea.com/what-californias-master-plan-for-developmental-services-means-for-you/>

Translates the state's 167-recommendation Master Plan into a plain-language answer to "is anything actually changing, and when?" — covering what's already in effect (like the sub-minimum-wage ban), what's running behind schedule (like the standardized intake and respite tools), and what to watch for.

Sources

- California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS), Master Plan for Developmental Services: A Community-Driven Vision — chhs.ca.gov
 - CA Department of Developmental Services, first annual Master Plan progress report (March/April 2026) — dds.ca.gov
 - SB 639 (2021), phasing out sub-minimum wage for workers with disabilities, effective January 1, 2025 — leginfo.ca.gov
 - SB 138 (2023), requiring standardized regional center intake and respite-assessment processes — leginfo.ca.gov
 - Disability Rights California — disabilityrightsca.org
 - State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) — scdd.ca.gov
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The Many Hats of a Regional Center Service Coordinator

<https://allenshea.com/the-many-hats-of-a-regional-center-service-coordinator/>

A plain breakdown of the roughly dozen roles one coordinator juggles — case manager, advocate, benefits helper, crisis responder, mediator, and more — along with the legal duties and hard limits (not a therapist, can't promise unlimited funding, can't decide for a competent adult) that define the job.

Sources

- No explicit source list in the original piece — it draws directly on the legal duties it names: the Lanterman Act and regional center rules, California's mandatory-reporting requirements, and the fair hearing/appeals process.