

# ALTA CONNECTIONS

The Quarterly Client, Service Provider, and Staff Update Newsletter



More on our **featured artist Morgan Marjerson** pg.10

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Executive Director Lori Banales*

Happy New Year! I hope that 2024 brings you joy, prosperity and good health. Over the previous year, each edition of the Alta Connections highlighted the ongoing activities that support the four Focus Areas of the ACRC Strategic Plan. Those activities continue, and new projects begin. Partnering with our community has maximized our efforts and outcomes towards those activities. The articles within the January edition further illustrate the great work and collaboration we have with our community. We are proud to have joined in partnership with local education institutions (University of California, Davis; California State University, Sacramento; Sierra Community College) to promote employment of people served and of those who support them, in addition to enhancing language access touch points. ACRC remains committed to advocating and fostering opportunities to increase client employment outcomes as well as the DSP and regional center workforce. These areas continue to hold a priority position in much of the work we do.

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

**ACRC TO BEGIN HOSTING QUARTERLY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETINGS  
SAVE THE DATES FEBRUARY 7TH, MAY 1ST, AUGUST 7TH, AND NOVEMBER 6TH  
11AM-12PM**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.ALTAREGIONAL.ORG/CALENDAR](https://www.altaregional.org/calendar)**

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - CONT.**

*Executive Director - Lori Banales*

On December 8th, ACRC welcomed clients of all ages to experience Santa Day at our Sacramento office. This day has expanded to include holiday traditions and customs celebrated throughout the world. The event is truly beloved by our community and our staff. Our "Santa Committee" provided a photo with Mr. and Mrs. Claus, a stuffed toy and holiday treats to hundreds of participants. The day is made possible through the efforts and dedication of the ACRC staff who fund raise throughout the year to support this singular day. Thank you to all who attended. The day was magical! We are already getting ready for next year!

As we look forward to finding ways to increase community engagement, we are very happy to announce that beginning in 2024, ACRC will host quarterly Community Meetings. These meetings will be open to clients, families, and the community at large as an opportunity to learn about regional center activities and initiatives, as well as to provide an opportunity for public input. Our quarterly schedule will begin in February via Zoom, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The scheduled dates are February 7th, May 1st, August 7th, and November 6th. We look forward to seeing you on screen!

In addition to the community meeting, ACRC will be launching an Annual Satisfaction Survey. The survey will be provided to every client after their annual IFSP or IPP. The survey will be provided in the preferred language electronically or by regular mail. Assistance to complete survey will be provided when requested. Please be sure to complete the survey when you receive it. What you share matters and will help shape our regional center's customer service experience.

## **ACRC PARTICIPATES IN 92ND CAPITOL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY**

For the first time, ACRC was invited to decorate our own tree in the Capitol Rotunda for the ceremony. Bradley Margetts helped trim the tree and got a chance to meet Governor Newsom. Thank you to our staff and vendors for assistance with making ornaments.



# MIND INSTITUTE DDS EMPLOYMENT GRANT TO TEST THE INDIVIDUALIZED PLACEMENT AND SUPPORT MODEL IN ALTA CALIFORNIA REGIONAL CENTER CLIENTS



**DR. MARJORIE SOLOMON**



The overall goal of our DDS Employment Grant project is to help develop evidence-based practices in the provision of supported employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and for those with autism using the Individualized Placement and Support (IPS) model. IPS is a customized supported employment model with the largest worldwide evidence base. It has been used primarily for individuals with chronic mental illnesses, where it has been very effective, and there now have been several small trials of IPS in individuals with IDD and with autism. IPS has been very successful in these populations as well. In our project, we adapt IPS to meet the unique needs of California clients, and to show the model can be implemented successfully in community employment agencies vendorized by Alta.

IPS is not very different from what most high-quality supported employment providers seeking competitive integrated employment for clients do. However, the model has unique aspects that make it highly effective. First, in IPS, employment support professionals both develop jobs and act as job coaches for their clients. This ensures there is good continuity for clients and their employment specialists who may then also develop a relationship with the consumer's employer. Second, employment specialists only develop jobs in consumers' areas of interest. Third, IPS is a "place and train" versus a "train and place" model meaning that the goal is to get consumers jobs right away rather than have them participate in lengthy training that doesn't lead to employment. Finally, agencies implementing IPS must undergo intensive periodic fidelity reviews to ensure that they are implementing the model correctly.

Last February we began training participating agencies in IPS. Four Alta-vendorized supported employment agencies stepped up to participate as partners. These are InAlliance, On My Own Community Services, PRIDE Industries, and tkMomentum. Our group has weekly meetings where we discuss the IPS model and how to deliver services with good fidelity; specific challenging cases; available resources we can share; and issues related to funding the model and sustainability. A quarterly stake holder panel of autistic adults, family members, policy experts, academics, and employers also meet to consult with us on these issues. To date, we have enrolled 16 participants. Thus far, about half of them have gotten jobs in their areas of interest. We have just begun our first 6-month fidelity reviews and they are going smoothly. Our weekly meetings produce rich discussions and highlight barriers to securing competitive integrated employment for our clients. We are hopeful that our research will reveal that IPS is producing better work outcomes than services as usual and that we will figure out a way to braid available funds to support the model should it be successful. We are very grateful for the DDS funding that has helped us to conduct this work.

For questions, please contact Jo Ann Yon Hernandez  
jyonh@ucdavis.edu





# GET TO KNOW THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

## STEVE RUDER



The Northern California Business Advisory Council (BAC) works with businesses to promote opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to become valued members of the workforce. The BAC team is made up of regional center supported employment agencies, the Department of Rehabilitation and American Job Centers, which all assist people with disabilities to find meaningful work. When a BAC partner works with a business that creates welcoming and supportive opportunities for people with disabilities, the BAC invites that businesses to mentor other businesses about how they can implement their strategies. Once businesses learn how to receive support from the BAC team agencies, they are very pleased to have access to eager job candidates who are qualified for the work and tend to be long-term employees. If you are a hiring manager or would like to connect a manager to the BAC, please contact our email at [hs-bac@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hs-bac@ucdavis.edu) or connect with their linkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ncalbac>

## DECEMBER 5 - MICROENTERPRISE FAIR AT SACRAMENTO OFFICE

ACRC is happy to host Microenterprise Fairs allowing opportunities for clients to sell their artwork and products. For information about future events please visit <https://www.altaregional.org/calendar>.





# SIERRA COLLEGE JOB FAIR

On November 7th 2023, Sierra College hosted a DSPCollaborative.org Disability Industry Career Expo at their Rocklin campus for regional center service providers. ACRC appreciates the support for holding a career fair that creates awareness of jobs in the developmental disability field.



## UPDATE ON NEW PROGRAM AT SIERRA COLLEGE

Sierra College Learning Independence for Future Employment (LIFE) Program will begin in late Spring 2024 - Angel Garcia, MSW - Program Manager

Sierra College will begin operating the Learning Independence for Future Employment (LIFE) program to serve 18 to 26-year-old consumers of Alta California Regional Center in a college setting. The 2024-2025 cohort of 12 students will be welcomed by the Sierra College community to begin the program on campus integrating learning, real world practice and community activities. Participants will engage in programming using learn for independence curriculum that provides courses in work/career, money management/finances, independent and community living, transportation options, health & nutrition, safety, culture & identity, building community & navigating relationships, organization and communication, and much more. Also included will be the building of internships for participants to gain work experience, with the intent of gaining competitive, integrated employment by the end of the four-semester program. Additionally, participants will engage in a variety of community integration activities on and off campus that relate to self-advocacy, safety, community, living, transportation, finances, and more. Students will also be supported and encouraged to take advantage of the noncredit, credit, and community education classes available at Sierra College. For more information, please visit the LIFE program website (<https://www.sierracollege.edu/academics/life-program/>) or email [LIFE@sierracollege.edu](mailto:LIFE@sierracollege.edu).

If you know of a potential applicant or would like to apply for the program yourself, please use the above email address to be put on the email list for when the application is released.



## CLINICAL CORNER SHANNON MCCONNELL, RDH, BSDH DENTAL COORDINATOR



Reflecting upon my first year as ACRC's Dental Coordinator, it has been a privilege to work side-by-side not only with incredible colleagues but also with our amazing clients and families. Although I was unfamiliar with the Regional Center system when I came to ACRC, my background as a clinical dental hygienist combined with my knowledge of insurance billing has put me in a unique position to help ensure our clients are getting their dental needs met. Being able to serve our client population has been one of the greatest joys of my life.

One of my main goals over the last year has been to streamline internal processes so that our service coordinators can assist our clients with addressing their dental needs more quickly. I have also been collaborating with our local dental providers and dental plans to help coordinate complex dental care visits for clients, find quality providers, and get much needed dental treatments approved.

The highlights of my year have been participating in various outreach opportunities, like providing a fun, interactive oral hygiene education class to Visions in Motion, an adult day program. I was also invited to host a booth with a few colleagues at the Special Olympics Fall Games event. And most recently, one of our Client Advocates, Jacob Miller, and I were invited to give a talk to second year dental students at the new dental school in our area, California Northstate University, about the barriers our clients face when accessing dental services.

## CARING FUTURES - THE ARC OF CALIFORNIA BILINGUAL FUTURE PLANNING WEBINARS AND CLASSES

**CaringFutures**  
*A community of sharing & strength*

**Futuros y Esperanza**  
*Una comunidad de intercambio y fortaleza*

ACRC would like to encourage parents and caregivers to participate in the future planning classes and webinars available free in English and Spanish from The ARC of California. <https://www.caringfutures.org/> or <https://www.futurosyesperanza.org/>. This grant-funded project aligns well with ACRC's Coordinated Future Planning Initiative <https://www.altaregional.org/coordinated-future-planning>



## ACRC CLIENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOSTS MEET AND GREET

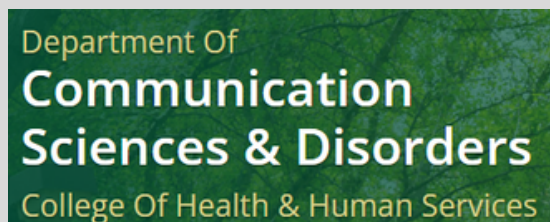
ACRC's CAC held a meet and greet prior to their November meeting. CAC members provided an overview of the work of the committee and invited visitors to join. If you're interested in learning more, please visit <https://www.altaregional.org/client-advisory-committee-cac>



## LANGUAGE ACCESS AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY GRANT AWARDED TO SACRAMENTO STATE

ACRC has awarded Sacramento State a grant for a groundbreaking project focused on overcoming barriers to Community Integrated Employment (CIE) for Latinx consumers in our 10-county catchment area. With a target of 540 adult consumers, the project, led by the Communications Sciences & Disorders Department, will assess communication disorders and cultural/ socioeconomic factors among 50 client volunteers, aiming to identify and address disparities in CIE. This initiative, aligning with ACRC's Strategic Plan and replicable in other regional centers, has the potential to significantly increase CIE participation, benefiting underserved minorities and supporting the state's employment priorities.

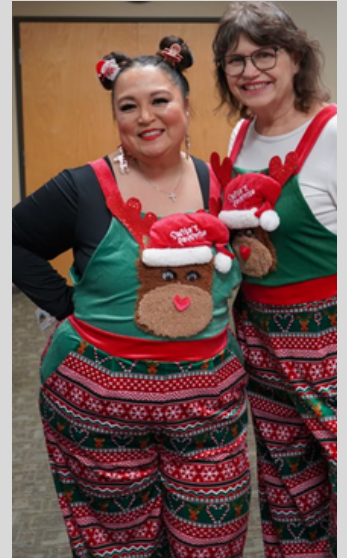
In collaboration with ACRC, Dr. Heather Thompson, a champion of equity and community engagement, and Dr. Louis Vismara, an expert in ASD and public policy, will lead the project. The collaboration involves ACRC in participant recruitment, community outreach, and comprehensive review of findings and recommendations. This transformative effort not only addresses the urgent need for equitable employment opportunities but also contributes to broader social justice goals, promoting inclusive spaces and cross-cultural understanding.





# SANTA DAY 2023

Santa Day started decades ago as a special day for our clients to have a safe and sensory aware environment where they could come have fun and take a free photo with Santa Claus. This year's theme was **Celebrating Holiday Traditions from Around the World**. Our clients were able to learn about other holiday traditions, participate in activities at each booth and even receive a little something to take home about each culture/holiday tradition. Hundreds of clients and families filled the ACRC Sacramento office throughout the day. Many attendees appreciated the new sensory room. A special thanks go to our Santa Committee for their year-round preparations and fundraising for this event and to our many staff volunteers.

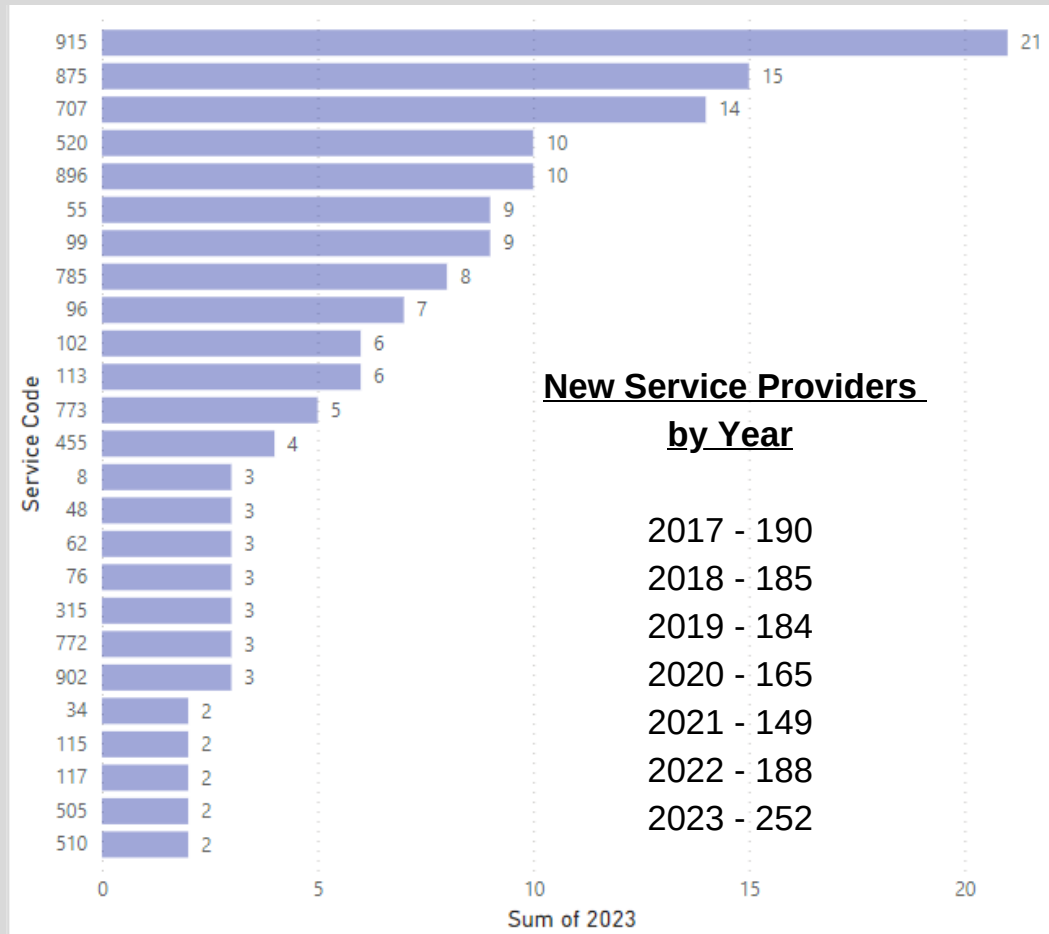


# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES YEAR IN REVIEW

As our agency grows, so do the resource needs of regional center clients and their families. Though new resource development slowed in some areas of disability services due to the COVID19 pandemic, we are beginning to see more applicants completing vendorization. We continue to experience steady residential care facility (21) growth; this year we added a significant number of transportation companies (15) as well.

## Service Codes with most growth in 2023

- 915 - Adult Residential Facility
- 875 - Transportation Company
- 707 - Speech Pathology
- 520 - Independent Living Program
- 896 - Supported Living Services
- 99 - Community-Based Day Serv.
- 055 - Self-Directed Supports
- 785 - Clinical Psychologist
- 099 - Geriatric Facility
- 102 - Parent and Indiv. Training
- 113 - Spec. Residential Facility
- 773 - Occupational Therapy
- 455 - Day Care Family Member
- 008 - Sports Club
- 048 - Early Autism Treatment
- 062 - Personal Assistance
- 076 - Coordinated Family Support
- 772 - Physical Therapy
- 902 - Community Crisis Home
- 034 - Money Management
- 115 - Spec. Thera. Serv. age 3-20
- 117 - Spec. Thera. Serv. age 21+
- 505 - Activity Center
- 510 - Adult Developmental Center



## New Service Providers by Year

- 2017 - 190
- 2018 - 185
- 2019 - 184
- 2020 - 165
- 2021 - 149
- 2022 - 188
- 2023 - 252

## STAFF RETIREMENTS

ACRC will begin recognizing those that have retired from our agency. We thank these staff for their years of service and dedication to our mission and vision.

- Lisa Wright** - Intake Specialist - Sacramento 10/6/23;
- Denise Ingalls-Knott** - Children's Unit - Sacramento 11/3/23;
- Karen Partch** - Grass Valley Office - 12/7/23;
- Cid Van Koersel** - Training Unit - 12/28/23;





# ACRC BEGINNING NEXT PHASE OF HCBS REVIEWS



HCBS Specialists Aliesia Gautschi, Marti Eason, and Kylee Draper

The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver is a Medicaid program that allows states to provide long-term care services to individuals in their homes or community settings instead of in institutional facilities. It aims to support people with disabilities and elderly individuals, promoting independence and quality of life outside of traditional care institutions. Provision of these services by ACRC vendors must align with federal requirements.

The Department of Developmental Services has required Regional Centers to complete an on-site review of all HCBS settings to verify their full compliance and implementation of the HCBS settings requirements by August 31, 2024. During the on-site review, regional centers must verify all relevant federal requirements are satisfied.

ACRC staff are working collaboratively with service providers to make efforts to immediately remediate any findings during the monitoring visit such as seeking input from individuals served on how areas of noncompliance may be corrected, completing training and/or training staff on the federal requirements and person-centered service planning, or updating any conflicting documentation to support full implementation of the federal requirements.

ACRC has approximately 500 service providers that will be reviewed by August 31, 2024. For additional information visit <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/>

## FEATURED ARTIST PROFILE - MORGAN MARJERSON

Morgan Marjerson has been attending Placer ARC Studio 700 for a little over 6 years. Morgan enjoys variety of art disciplines, some of which include ceramics, jewelry making, sewing, painting, and three-dimensional design. Morgan has a very uplifting attitude about her artwork. Her positive outlook is drawn from a variety of different inspirations which include family, Walt Disney (films, animation, and characters), Nature, and other artists that fuel her passion to create.

If you are interested in purchasing any of Morgan's art, please feel free to contact Studio 700 Assistant Program Director Sheldon Schear at [sheldons@placerarc.org](mailto:sheldons@placerarc.org).





# Yolo County Commission on Aging & Adult Services



## DD/ID Aging Caregivers Task Force

# Save the Date - 2024 Town Hall Meetings

Please join Supervisor Jim Provenza, Alta California Regional Center and Yolo County staff for a conversation about the needs of aging caregivers of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Yolo County

All meetings 5:30pm - 7:00pm

*3 in-person meetings - 1 virtual meeting*

*No hybrid options available for the upcoming meetings.*

*In-person meetings and virtual Zoom Town Hall will have American Sign Language and Spanish interpretation*

### **February 22, 2024 - West Sacramento Community Center**

1075 W Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691

### **March 14, 2024 - Winters Community Center**

201 Railroad Ave, Winters, CA 95694

### **April 3, 2024 - Esparto-Capay Valley Health and Community Center**

17340 Yolo Ave, Esparto, CA 95627

### **April 25, 2024 - Virtual Meeting sharing findings and input (registration link to follow)**

For additional information please contact Sheila Allen 530 666-5583  
[sheila.allen@yolocounty.org](mailto:sheila.allen@yolocounty.org)

Photos from 2023 Town Hall meetings in Davis and Woodland



# EARLY START JOB FAIR



**SPONSORED BY ARPA PART C INITIATIVE**

**Alta California**

Regional Center

**Our goal is to connect employers and job seeking professionals at all levels. If you are interested in a job working with infants and toddlers in Early Start, please join us! There are many jobs available with providers serving families and children birth to age 3 who are experiencing developmental delays.**



**February 23, 2024**

**10am - 2pm**

**2241 Harvard St #100**

**Sacramento**

**The Brenda Smith Room**