



Alta California

Regional Center

2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95815

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Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
1 to 3 p.m.
Minutes

Members:	Present	Absent	<p align="center">Legend:</p> <p>SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider</p>
Benita Shaw, FA	X		
Carmen Delgado, FA	X		
Daniel Meadows, SA		X	
Kelsey Handcock, DRC		X	
Kenya Martinez, FA	X		
Kimberly Terrell, SA	X		
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	X		
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		X	
Linda Thrift, Community Resource Partner	X		
Tom Hopkins, SA		X	
Tracy Ligtenberg, FA	X		
William Reed		X	
Non-members Present:			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Johnny Xiong, ACRC Faye Tait, ACRC Cynthia Johnson, ACRC Janet Roberts, ACRC	Anne De Medeiros, SCDD Peter Mendoza, SCDD Carole Watilo Rachael Palmer-Teefy Georgina Kier Chelsea Coffin, Adjoin Jaclyn Balanay, DDS Yadira Morales, NeuroNav Heather Mabie, NeuroNav	Carol Carson Lena Driscoll Kate Brittain Duwe Amanda Pellaccio, PEC Rachel Palmer Teefy, PEC Emily S., PEC	

1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (1:00 p.m.) There was not a quorum of members present. Agenda items were handled as informational until a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes – Lisa Cooley

A quorum was established at 1:13 p.m. Chairperson Lisa Cooley requested the committee come back and vote on the approval of today's agenda and the November 9 and December 14, 2022 SDAC meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Carmen/Tracy) Made the motion to approve the agenda.

M/S/C (Carmen/Tracy) Made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 9 and December 14, 2022. Kenya asked that a correction be made on the December meeting minutes to uncross Karen's name as she was still a member at this meeting but has since resigned.

3. ACRC SDP Updates—Mechelle Johnson, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown & Johnny Xiong

A. General SDP Update

- Jennifer shared that as of January 4th, ACRC has 211 individuals that have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 124 are White and 87 are Minority (30 Asian, 14 Black, 15 Latin, 24 Mixed & 4 Other). The County breakdown is, 21 El Dorado, 20 Nevada, 43 Placer, 107 Sacramento, 19 Yolo, & 1 Yuba.
- ACRC has six vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Essential Pay, and Mains'l. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website.
 - ACRC meets quarterly with our vendored FMS agencies. Our most recent meeting was on November 3rd. We have also invited them to attend SDAC meetings.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for February 2nd.
- Our regional center has two Person Centered Planning (PCP) Vendors: Lighted Path Solutions and Lincoln Training Center. There are other agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP.

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- ACRC continues to update, identify and track specific progress of each participant's enrollment in SDP. This provides information at a quick glance on where in the process each client currently is, which will assist us in understanding who is currently responsible for the next steps, as well as to continue to identify any barriers for the completion of enrollment. Service Coordinators (SCs) have tools to support them in updating at each step of the SDP process.
- The Statewide SDP Orientation is available in English and Spanish. ACRC continues to promote this, and our Participant Choice Specialists (PCS') attend these orientations, as well, and are available to assist staff when needed.
- ACRC continues to hold SDP Q&A sessions every Thursday afternoon; these began in May 2021. SCs attend these sessions to learn more about the program and get answers to case-specific questions.
- Our three PCS' provide daily support to staff and individual SDP case staffings happen as needed.
- ACRC's monthly meetings with DDS continue; the last meeting was held on November 4th. The next meeting will be held on January 13th.
- Our SCs continue to provide clients/families with information about SDP and assist them with registering for SDP orientations, training and follow-up.
- Our PCS' are working with American Sign Language (ASL), Hmong and Russian partners to develop outreach tools and information specific to those communities.
- Faye Tait, the Client Services Manager of the new SDP unit shared an update that the new SDP unit is fully staffed with six SCs and three Participant Choice Specialists (PCS'). The unit is set to be up and running by mid to early March.
- Faye shared that depending on where the participant is in their SDP process will determine when they will switch over to the SDP unit. Furthermore, the participant's traditional SC will work alongside the SDP SC until the SDP process is complete to ensure a seamless transition.
- Benita asked if there is still an online option for orientation.
- Mechelle shared that the LMS is not an option due to not being updated with all of the directives. At this time, we are referring

families to attend the live State Council orientation. The link can be found on the Alta website and was shared at the meeting [SDP Orientation | SCDD \(ca.gov\)](#).

- Benita shared the difficulties participants and families are experiencing with contacting FMS agencies for questions for families and gave Kudos to the SCs that have helped.
- Benita noted that some FMS agencies do not want families to contact them unless they have completed all necessary paperwork which can take time and slow down the process. If families could get the paperwork started that would help.
- Johnny shared that Alta will continue these conversations at the upcoming meetings with the FMS agencies.

B. Extensions and Development of Standardized Vendorization Packet [Self-Determination Program - Extensions and Development of Standardized Vendorization Packet \(ca.gov\)](#)

- Johnny shared that on Dec 2nd, 2022, DDS put out an extension on Option A which will be extended through June 30th, 2023.
- Option B, effective August 1st, 2022 will remain available and will be the sole option as of July 1st, 2023.
- DDS is currently working on a standardized vendorization packet for self directive supports providers which is expected to be available in March 2023.
- Benita asks the committee to add the pre-enrolment transitions support and managing the 40 hours on the March meeting agenda.
- Mechelle noted that Alta recognizes the challenges with the FMS and has been diligent with reaching out to four FMS agencies that are not currently vendored with us to become vendored. We are providing this information back to DDS, so they are aware that we are committed and invested in the program's success, along with feedback from the FMS agencies in terms of what their challenges are.
- Benita asked if any FMS agencies are taking clients right now.
- Faye confirmed only the Bill Payer Model or the Sole Employer Model which is Essential Pay and Acumen. The Co-Employer Model wait time is currently April or May.
- Mechelle shared that manpower and rate issues are the major barriers that the FMS is experiencing.

- Mechelle noted that we received acknowledgment from DDS that they are addressing these issues.
- Kenya asked if it would be possible to change the timeline of the vendorization process in order to get more agencies vendorized quicker.
- Mechelle shared that we are doing everything we can to speed up this process. Some of this is outside of the regional center's control.
- Kenya asked if the vendorization timeline process for Alta could be discussed. This item will be added to the March meeting agenda.

4. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update - Present Proposals on Pre-Transition Non Vended Supports Funded by Implementation Funds, Followed by Committee Vote

- Kenya shared that we were not able to vote last meeting due to not having a quorum. There were three proposals submitted, but it was decided to move forward with Supported Life Institute and Progressive Employment Concepts.
- We have asked Supported Life Institute to host a resource fair in February, March, or possibly April. Due to time constraints and the manpower that it would take to put this event together, this timeline is no longer an option. We have proposed to hold the Supported Life Institute to hold this event in the summer. Supported Life Institute has not confirmed if they are able to hold the resource fair at this later date as they hold their own resource fairs in May and October.
- Mechelle noted that June would be too late to hold the resource fair due to the funds needing to be spent by the end of February. For this fiscal year, 21-22, the regional center has \$146,046 for transition support. We have already spent \$55,500 on the Leap of Faith orientation. This leaves \$91,064 to spend by the end of February. Mechelle plans to can ask for an extension through the end of this fiscal year which would be May 31st.
- Benita proposed holding a meeting with the Grant Funding Sub-Committee to look at other considerations for proposals.
- Rachel Palmer-Teefy with Progressive Employment Concepts shared a summary of the proposal and will be providing monthly updates to the SDAC and will be attending the meetings. Rachel does not believe there will be any issue in finding people to support. Although, the main barrier will be for participants to be able to find an FMS to start on June 1st.

PEC's goal is to provide support for participants to move as far in the process as they can. Although they may still need to be placed on a waitlist.

- The proposal will run through May 31st, 2023. PEC has hired a new Independent Facilitator (IF) starting February 1st.
 - To connect to PEC, families can look at their website for contact information.
 - SCs can also do direct referrals.
- **M/S/C (Carmen, Lisa, Tracy, Benita, Kenya, Linda) Made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. The SDAC voted to approve the Progressive Employment Concepts grant proposal.**

5. Action Items pending from prior SDAC meeting:

- a. Follow-up on the DDS Directive to contract with local providers to provide services on a non-vendored basis but funded with SDP budgets.
 - Mechelle noted that the subcommittee can bring forward a proposal at the next meeting.
 - PEC and the Supported life Institute proposals were shared. The committee voted on moving forward with the PEC proposal.
- b. Send out committee members roster to SDAC members.
 - The member roster was sent to the SDAC members.
 - State Council and Alta will reach out to existing members and will seek new members
- c. Discuss adding a by-law for voting.
 - This will be further discussed in a future meeting.

6. Public Comment Period

- Rachel Palmer-Teefy with PEC shared her concern about the FMS and participants continuing to see very long waitlists. Also, many FMS' are changing their policies on what they are willing to pay for. Thank you to the team at Alta for holding a great budget meeting recently for a participant.

7. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Lisa shared that it is good to hear positive stories of clients. She hopes to continue to hear the feedback so we can continue to improve.

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- Benita shared the challenges that families are having with the FMS and hopes that the conversation will continue during the meetings. Kudos to the Alta team for your support to the families.
- February 8th will be added to the calendar to discuss and vote on the one agenda item.
- Any proposals to be voted on will need to be submitted ten calendar days before the next meeting to:
SDACPublicComments@altaregional.org.

8. Future Dates for 2023 SDAC monthly meetings:

- March 8, 2023, 1-3 pm
- May 10, 2023, 6-8 pm
- July 12, 2023, 1-3 pm
- September 13, 2023, 1-3 pm
- November 8, 2023, 6-8 pm.

11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting.

1. Discuss and vote on proposals.
2. State Council and Alta will reach out to existing members and will seek new members.
3. Discuss how long the vendorization process takes with Alta.
4. Discuss adding a by-law for voting.

12. Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.