

ALTA CONNECTIONS

The Quarterly Client, Service Provider, and Staff Update Newsletter



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Executive Director Lori Banales

Spring has arrived and ACRC is excited to welcome our staff and community into our new Sacramento office space! We have officially relocated to 4151 E Commerce Way in Natomas and are continuing to settle in. We are fortunate to offer a fresh, beautiful, spacious and modern workspace for nearly 580 Sacramento-based staff. We look forward to seeing you when you visit and show you around.

Autism Acceptance Month takes place annually in April, with this year's theme "Celebrate Differences". It is important to take this opportunity for everyone to come together and raise awareness, foster acceptance and to create a world where individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are supported, understood, and empowered. There are several celebrations occurring across our region. Take a look at our ACRC calendar of events to find activities in your area. <https://www.altaregional.org/calendar>

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ANNOUNCEMENT

ACRC IS HOSTING QUARTERLY VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS - MAY 7th, 2025 - 11AM-12PM

Please note: The intent of the Community meeting is to share updates across the organization and to engage with our community. This is not a space for client specific issues. Those discussions are welcomed at the Planning Team level or in a one-on-one conversation. Thank you for understanding the need to preserve client confidentiality. For additional information visit <https://www.altaregional.org/calendar> to get the link. No registration required.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - CONT.

The Master Plan for Developmental Services (MPDS) reflects a community-driven vision to improve how California supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the past several months, there have been monthly meetings to generate and develop ideas to support the future of our system. Stakeholder feedback was provided and considered as over 170 recommendations, covering Education, Behavioral Health, Housing, Employment, Transportation, Health Care, and Regional Center services were put forth. On March 28th, the final report was posted with the top handful of recommendations selected and included. <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/home/master-plan-for-developmental-services/> This plan will span the next ten years focusing on making our system work better and thrive within an integrated network of agencies. This work will be reflected in new and existing regional center measures, as directed by the Department of Developmental Services.

Finally, it is important to recognize and acknowledge the current political climate and the impact that this has on the hearts and minds of those in our community. I know that there are many questions. Unfortunately, there aren't many answers at this time. What can be shared is what is known. On January 10th, the Governor released the proposed state budget. Simultaneously, the Southern California fires began. As a result of the immediate need to help those affected, the state allocated a 2.5-billion-dollar relief package to jumpstart a recovery in impacted areas, with a delay in tax filing for those businesses and residents affected by the fires until October. This delay adds to the difficulty in determining final tax revenue to consider in the May Revised Budget, which will be released on May 14th. Additionally, the state is seeking a 3.4-billion-dollar general fund loan to cover the shortfall in the state Medi-Cal healthcare program. These are newly identified obligations that were not part of the January 10th proposed budget and must be considered as the final Budget bill is developed. There will be opportunities to gather at the Capitol to let your voice be heard and to share the importance of services and supports provided to those with developmental disabilities. Sign up on our website <https://www.altaregional.org/footer-form/stay-informed> to receive announcements about advocacy events in our area. I trust that through advocacy and the belief that the government at the state and federal levels will ensure that our community will remain a priority. Our system has weathered many uncertain budgetary times, and we have stood strongly together to ensure that in these times we remind our state and federal decision makers that California has created an entitlement of services for Californians with developmental disabilities. As we learn more, we will share more. Stay connected and let your legislators know the importance of the services you receive.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING AND STAFF RECOGNITION

ACRC's January Board of Director's Meeting included special recognition for Lead Service Coordinator Bailey Norman and honoring our staff with work anniversaries.



ACRC PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE HONORS JACQUIE FOSS

On February 13, 2025, ACRC's Provider Advisory Committee honored Jacquie Foss' many years of contributions to our local provider community. Jacquie served as CEO of Strategies to Empower People for 30 years before transitioning to focus on policy advocacy. Congratulations Jacquie!



ACRC HOSTS INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES VENDOR FAIR

On February 4, 2025, ACRC hosted an Independent Living Services Fair at our Harvard Office. Thank you to the service providers and staff that attended. To learn more about independent living services, please visit: <https://www.altaregional.org/services>



SPOTLIGHTING FACILITIES STAFF AND OUR BIG MOVE

In March 2025, ACRC moved into our new beautiful office space. We cannot express enough appreciation for the efforts put in by our facilities and information technology staff in planning this move for over a year and accomplishing the huge task of relocating our operations from the buildings we've occupied since 2011. We would like to give special recognition to facilities staff Brady Gomez, Forest Murtagh, and their manager Tara Miller for helping us create a beautiful space for staff and our community.



GRASSROOTS DAY

On March 4, 2025, ACRC staff and board members participated in the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Grassroots Day at the Capitol. ACRC staff and board members pictured with Assemblymember Nguyen and State Senator Niello. See description of the event from ARCA:

Delegates from California's Regional Centers participated in the ARCA annual Grassroots Day on March 4, 2025. Over 200 delegates from across the state visited their state Senator and Assembly member at their Capitol office. The delegation advocated on important issues affecting the developmental disability community such as workforce development, access to services, and sustainability of the system. The delegates included individuals served by regional centers, their families, and service providers. They shared personal stories, raised awareness, and celebrated the contributions of over 450,000 Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



CLINICAL CORNER

Did you know?

ACRC has Nurse Consultants who provide consultative support to service coordinators and planning teams. Through collaboration, they offer needs assessments that includes recommendations for least restrictive and appropriate service options, evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of existing services, service provider trainings and consultation with medical professionals, including safe discharge planning from hospitals.

ACRC's catchment area has six Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN) – these specialized residential care facilities, with five beds each, are designed to provide 24/7 medical and nursing care to regional center clients who have complex needs. The residents often require intensive nursing/medical support and receive this in a home-like setting where they have the opportunity to live in and access their own community. The ACRC Nurse Consultants visit each resident of an ARFPSHN monthly. The purpose of these visits is to ensure the unique needs of the residents are being met, to conduct ongoing needs assessments related to changes in their condition, and to collaborate and support the providers in ensuring the delivery of high-quality care that is in alignment with regulations. ACRC is excited to open its first Group Home for Children with Special Health Care Needs (GHCSHCN) in 2025!



ACRC OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



WeEmbrace Disability
Resource Fair



Chinese New Year
Celebration



Black History
Family Engagement



Natomas Charter
School Pride

WHO SHOULD YOU CALL WHEN YOU NEED ASSISTANCE?

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) is dedicated to helping clients access the services and supports you need. Here is who to contact when you need immediate support.

Step 1: Call your Service Coordinator (SC).

Step 2: Call your SC's manager (Client Services Manager). Your SC's Manager's name and phone number is listed at the bottom of your SC's email signature line.

Step 3: Call one of ACRC's Directors of Client Services: Jennifer Bloom @ (916) 978-6572 or Mechelle Johnson @ (916) 978-6653

Please note that our reception desk is ready to assist you in connecting with the person you need to reach. Please call: (916) 978-6400.

ACRC is committed to meeting your needs through excellent customer service.

SUPPORTED LIFE INSTITUTE ANNUAL SELF ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Presented by the Supported Life Institute - "Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Self-Advocacy"

Date: May 9th & 10th (2 days, in person)

Location: Wyndham Hotel, Sacramento, California (5321 Date Ave, Sacramento, CA 95841)

Clients and their supporters should contact their Service Coordinator if interested in attending.

Keynote:

"More than Just a Meeting:
Using Person-Centered Planning
to Live Life on Your Terms"

Alex Kimmel

The SelfDeterminator

Speaker, Trainer, Self-Advocate

Detroit, Michigan



Keynote:

"Running Red Lights: Becoming my Best Self!"

Brandon Gruber

Artist, Public Speaker

TASH and Cal-TASH Board Member

Brentwood, California



For more information please visit:

https://www.supportedlife.org/sa25/REGMaterials_7Pages_StatewideSelfAdv_May2025_PDF.pdf

CPCIDD HOLDS STATEWIDE HOUSING SYMPOSIUM AT MERISTEM CAMPUS



On February 5, staff from Regional Centers throughout the state and housing advocates gathered to learn about the most effective strategies and success stories in creating inclusive housing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. You can view the materials here: <https://www.cpcidd.org/current-projects/housing-for-all-best-practices-in-idd-housing-development/>



ACRC HOSTS LANTERMAN HOUSING ALLIANCE SPRING HOUSING SUMMIT



March 19-20, Housing developers and advocates met at ACRC's new office to discuss opportunities to advocate for and expand housing availability for individuals with developmental disabilities.



To learn more about ACRC's efforts to support housing development visit: <https://www.altaregional.org/housing-and-living-options>

CLIENT AND FAMILY SATISFACTION SURVEY



Alta California Regional Center sent out 25,980 surveys to clients and families to analyze client satisfaction. Each survey has a unique number, so it can be completed only once, and all surveys are tracked and safely stored. We believe understanding different relationships helps us see how clients, parents, legal representatives, and support staff feel about our services. Our main questions: What do clients or their representatives want more or less of? And, where are clients and their families satisfied or dissatisfied?

Please view the report here: <https://www.altaregional.org/post/client-and-family-satisfaction-survey>

FEATURED ARTIST CHRISTINA SWART

Christina Swart has been attending Neighborhood Center of the Arts since 2008. Christina enjoys working on painting canvases, pottery and multimedia artwork. Christina's inspiration comes from nature and incorporating numerous colors into her artwork. She appreciates a creative challenge and bringing her ideas to life through her artwork. If you are interested in purchasing any of Christina's variety of artworks, pottery and multi-media, please feel free to check out:

Neighborhood Center of the Arts
200 Litton Drive Ste #212
Grass Valley, CA 95945

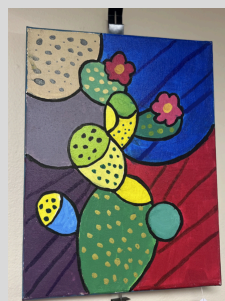
Hours of Operation: Studio Hours M-F 9am-2pm
Phone: (530) 272-7287

Email: NCAADMIN@NCCN.NET

Instagram: [@ncagrassvalley](https://www.instagram.com/ncagrassvalley)

Facebook: [Neighborhood Center of the Arts | Grass Valley CA |](https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodCenteroftheArtsGrassValleyCA/)

Etsy: [NCAGrassValley - Etsy](https://www.etsy.com/shop/NCAGrassValley)



NEW VENDORIZATIONS THIS QUARTER

ACRC's Community Services and Supports Department has been focusing on implementing the statewide rate study as outlined here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rate-reform/>. However, we continue to process new vendorizations and are happy to provide an update on new services vendored January 1 to March 30, 2025. For a full listing of service providers: <https://www.altaregional.org/transparency/contracts/vendors>

Camping Services (850)	1
CHILD DAY CARE FACIL (378)	8
Clinical Psychologist (785)	3
Community Integration Training Program (55)	1
Coordinated Career Pathways (956)	1
Creative Art Program (94)	1
Early Start Specialized Therapeutic Services (116)	5
FMS CO EMPLOYER (491)	1
FMS F/EA (490)	1
HOUSING ACCESS SVCS (89)	1
Independent Living Program (520)	4
Infant Development Program (805)	1
In-Home Respite Services Agency (862)	2
Intermediate Care Facility/Developmentally Disabled-Nursing (935)	1
Out-of-Home Respite Services (868)	1
Pharmaceutical Services (765)	1
Professional Copying/Reporting/Technical Services (100)	1
Residential Facility-Adults-Staff Operated (915)	9
Residential Facility-Children- Owner Operated (910)	1
SD SUPPORT SERVICES (99)	5
Specialized Therapeutic Services (age 21+) (117)	1
Specialized Therapeutic Services (age 3-20) (115)	1
Sports Club (8)	6
Supported Living Services (896)	1
Transportation-Public Transit/Rental Car/Taxi (895)	1

NOTICE SCDD LAUNCHES NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS ADULT IN-PERSON SURVEY

The National Core Indicators (NCI) Survey gives individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families the opportunity to voluntarily and confidentially participate in surveys to share their experiences on access to and use of regional center and community services. It is important to participate because:

- Survey responses help California learn how it is doing compared to other states.
- Survey responses help regional centers see what they are doing well and how they can improve.

NCI has developed more than 100 standard performance measures (or 'indicators') that states use to assess the outcomes of services for individuals and families, including outcomes in the areas of employment, rights, service planning, community inclusion, choice, health, and safety.

There are four types of NCI surveys used in California, and now through June 30, 2025, the Adult In-Person Survey is being conducted. ACRC's goal is to have 400 surveys completed by June 30th and we are over halfway there!

The Adult In-Person Survey is conducted face-to-face with an individual who is 18 years or older and receives at least one service from the regional center, in addition to case management. The process starts with a letter from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) inviting you to participate. Your thoughts, input and opinions matter!



More information:

<https://www.altaregional.org/transparency/reporting/nciassessments>

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/>

<https://scdd.ca.gov/qap/>



Sacramento County Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council

Join the Sacramento County Developmental Disabilities Planning & Advisory Council!




Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities? The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors established the Developmental Disabilities Council to ensure that services are effective, appropriate, and responsive to the needs of our community.

We are currently seeking dedicated **volunteer council members** to join our committee! We especially welcome **parents, family members, self-advocates, and professionals** who want to help shape the future of disability services in Sacramento County.

By joining the DD Council, you will:

- ✓ Help advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- ✓ Provide valuable input on services and policies.
- ✓ Collaborate with other passionate community members.

Meetings:

-  When: Third Wednesday of each month
-  Time: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
-  Where: In person (Sacramento, CA) & via Zoom

For more information or to express your interest, please contact:

 Loretta (La-Rue') Duncan-Fowler, Chairperson – (916) 284-7831

|  lorettalarueduncanfowler@gmail.com

 Bonnie Douglas, Vice Chairperson – (916) 241-6340

|  bonniedouglasvannatta@tpcp.org

Your voice matters! Join us in making a meaningful impact.