

ALTA CONNECTIONS

The Quarterly Client, Service Provider, and Staff Update Newsletter



More on our **featured artist**
Stephanie Dardon pg.10

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Executive Director Lori Banales

Happy Fall! With the changing of the season, there is so much to celebrate as we embrace all of the opportunities that this next quarter holds for our regional center community. Over the past several editions of this newsletter, we have highlighted one of the four Focus Areas included in our agency's Strategic Plan. In this edition, we will turn our attention to Client and Family Support. This focus area incorporates the needs and desires of clients and families to receive services and supports in the ways that work best for them. Through one time funding, our regional center has been able to address language access needs, non-traditional service hour restrictions and geographic incentives to increase opportunities for many of our Early Start families who have experienced barriers to service. We continue to listen to our communities to learn where to concentrate our efforts and initiatives. Additionally, we remain engaged with the promotion of the DSP Collaborative between Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) and Alta California Regional Center (ACRC). This collaboration concentrates on rebuilding the workforce of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- MESSAGE FROM ED
- DSP APPRECIATION WEEK
- DSP PROFILES
- STAFF PROFILE
- CLIENT BIRTHDAY
- SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING
- SIERRA COLLEGE VENDOR JOB FAIR
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- SUPPORTED LIFE CONFERENCE
- COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES
- FEATURED ARTIST

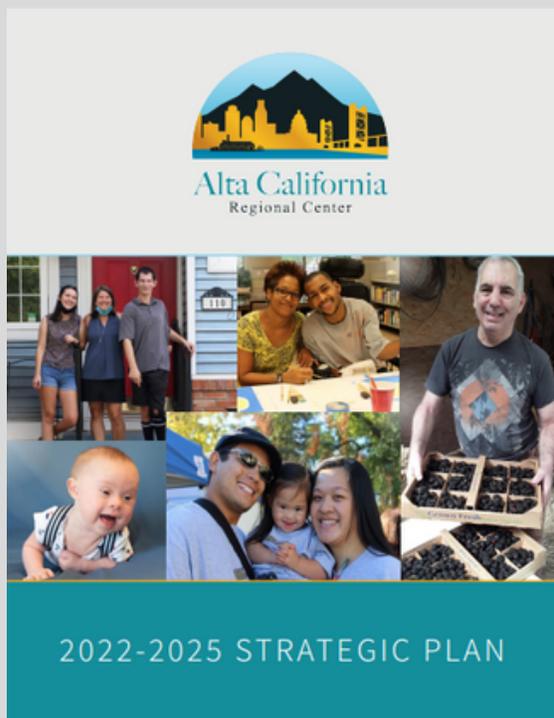
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - CONT.

Executive Director - Lori Banales

In order to provide accessible and available resources to our clients and their families, the workforce must be intact. We stand committed to doing all that we can to support our providers so that they, in turn will be able to support you! ACRC was thrilled to see that the Governor recognized the work and dedication of those who proudly and professionally support people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. There are so many people to spotlight and celebrate and as you read on, we hope that you will enjoy reading about a few of them. They represent all that is good with our service system. We know that rebuilding the workforce will not happen overnight. Our efforts are not short sighted. We are developing strategies that will support us for the long game. We recognize that many clients have yet to return to pre-pandemic service levels and thank you for your patience and understanding as we reimagine our service system. Transportation is a big piece of this puzzle. We have transitioned as of October 1st, to a transportation broker, R & D Transportation, to assist ACRC in maximizing transportation routes and efficiencies that will include increasing capacity.

ACRC is also celebrating Hispanic Heritage month. We have been out in the community participating in festivals and outreach opportunities. This month, ACRC is happy to support and promote Conferencia 2023, Aprendiendo Juntos on October 28th at the UC Davis MIND Institute. Families who are interested in attending this Spanish language conference, need to contact their service coordinator if they would like to request regional center funding of their registration. There are many more community activities scheduled and we are proud to have a calendar posted on our website to feature these events. Thanks for your partnership. We are better together and eager to serve.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOCUS AREA CLIENT AND FAMILY SUPPORTS



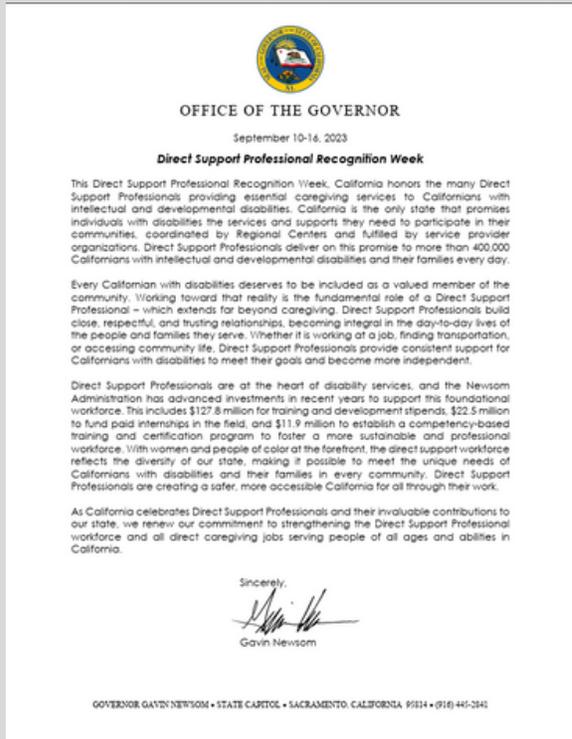
Focus area definition:

The regional center will explore greater flexibility and more family-centered services and supports so that people with intellectual/developmental disabilities can continue to live at home and be supported in ways that make sense for them.

Community input:

- Families need help to identify community resources.
- Families want to find people to support them that they trust and who understand their language and culture.
- There is a growing need to attract and retain a direct support workforce that represents a variety of cultures and languages.
- Families seek greater flexibility to design support that works for their family.

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WEEK



September 10-16, 2023 was Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. ACRC celebrated by sharing stories and pictures of amazing Direct Support Professionals from our local service providers. Governor Newsom stated, “Direct Support Professionals are at the heart of disability services,” and ACRC couldn’t agree more. He went on to discuss the ways in which the Department of Developmental Services is investing in the disability services workforce.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES WORKFORCE INITIATIVES

DDS Workforce Initiatives can be found at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>



- The **Regional Center Employee Tuition Reimbursement** program provides tuition reimbursement for eligible regional center employees and is meant to enhance regional center services received by consumers through increasing subject matter expertise and career advancement options and improving employee retention rates at regional centers.
- The **DSP Training Stipend** program provides training stipends to DSPs who complete training and development courses.
- The **Bi-/Multi-Lingual Pay Differential** provides a pay differential to DSPs who communicate regularly with individuals and families in a language or medium other than English.
- The **DSP Internship** program provides an internship for up to three months and includes standardized training and practical work experience for new entry-level direct care workforce DSPs.
- The **DSP University** program is a three-tiered, competency-based training and certification program for DSPs and is designed to enhance DSPs professional training. Successful completion of each tier is tied to wage differentials.
- The **Technology Pilot** program will explore the use of technology, when chosen and safe, to assist individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). DDS will measure how the use of technology reduces reliance on in-person services, increases access to bilingual services, and provides an effective option for individuals with I/DD to lead more independent lives.

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY'S AMAZING DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE

As we celebrated Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, we posted many pictures on our social media accounts of DSPs selected by our service providers. Check out some of these caring, hardworking support professionals that earned acknowledgement from their companies.



Shanina Johnson



Rayna Dougherty



Roshanna Pellini



Michael Smoot



A.I.M. & ASSOCIATES, INC.



Michelle Pratt



Brianna Walker



Cassandra Gauna



Michael Thygesen



Dawn Witt



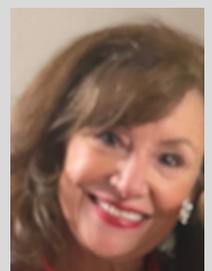
Dakota Medina



Maple Avery



Virginia Daley



Susan Bailey



Charles Sherman's Home I & II



STAFF PROFILE - LEAD COMMUNITY SERVICES SPECIALIST JASON SCANTLEBURY

I was born in San Jose, CA but raised in the Foothills of Rocklin and Newcastle, CA. My father was a former NBA basketball player that worked as a salesman and my mother was a former model who worked as a Kindergarten teacher. I have one sibling, a sister who is 8 years older.

I graduated college in 2001 with a degree in Mass Communications. I started my career working as a Residential Shift Leader at a Level 14 group home for severely emotionally disturbed adolescent girls. Two years later I transitioned to a house manager at a Level 12 group home for teenage boys for two years.



In 2005, I began my career working with disabled adults as the Administrator for ICF/DDN homes. After 6 years I moved on to being a Community Support Facilitator for a Supported Living Services agency for 5 years. My career at Alta Regional Center began in 2016. I started out as a Service Coordinator for four years and transition to the Community Services Department in late 2020 as a Specialist. My LEAD position began in February of 2023.

I am an active runner in my off time and have completed 12 marathons in the past. Movies and music have always been a passion as well as pop culture. I have two cats, Lana and Lola.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY EARLINE GORDON

Earline celebrated her 90th birthday on July 17 and with the help of her family, friends and Vivsiks Care Home, they hosted a birthday party that same week. Earline wanted her theme to be butterfly and pastel colored as she loves things that are sweet and loving. During her party, she enjoyed an ice cream cake and tasty food. Afterwards, everyone came together to create pictures and sing karaoke.

The key to Earline's health at her age is having a positive attitude, always feeling young at heart, and the quality care she has received at Vivsiks Care Home for the last 15 years. She is the sunshine in the care home and makes all those around her smile.



For her next birthday, Earline wants a new dress and a Disney themed party featuring the Disney princesses and Mickey Mouse. She is looking forward to more beautiful and happy years!



SUPPORTED DECISION MAKING UPDATE

ROBIN BLACK

ACRC LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER

Last fall, the California legislature passed new laws (Welfare and Institutions Code sections 21000-21008) to define supported decision-making (SDM) as an individualized process of supporting and accommodating adults with disabilities to enable them to make life decisions without impeding the self-determination of the adult. In the new laws, the State legislature acknowledged that “like adults without disabilities, adults with disabilities may use a wide range of voluntary supports to help them understand, make, and communicate their own decisions.” The law requires that SDM agreements be in writing, accessible to the person with a disability, contain specific information, and meet specific legal requirements.

ACRC is excited for this new opportunity for our clients to increase their choice and self-determination in decision-making. Realizing that no resources or training materials exist specific to California’s requirements, and wanting to have this opportunity accessible to its clients, ACRC last Spring convened an SDM Training Workgroup to help develop and provide training on SDM. The Workgroup includes ACRC clients from its Client Advisory Committee, representatives from the State Council of Developmental Disabilities, ACRC’s Client Advocates, as well as members of ACRC’s Training and Legal Departments and Executive Management.

The Workgroup has been meeting monthly since May 2023 to identify existing SDM resource and training materials and to adapt them for use to meet California’s specific SDM requirements. Once training materials have been adapted, the Workgroup will be working to schedule and deliver regular trainings in SDM to clients and their families, as well as ACRC staff, and community members, in a variety of different formats in order to best meet everyone’s needs.

SIERRA COLLEGE TO HOST PROVIDER JOB FAIR

Early in 2023 ACRC partnered with VMRC to develop the DSP Collaborative for the purposes of supporting the hiring needs of regional center service providers. We’ve created a website dspcollaborative.org and begun hosting regional center service provider specific job fairs. As we continue these efforts, we are happy to announce, **Sierra College will host a job fair for regional center service providers on November 7, 2023, from 10am-2pm.** The event will be held in the cafeteria at the main campus 5100 Sierra College Blvd Rocklin, CA 95677. You can remain updated on ACRC events by viewing our events calendar at <https://www.altaregional.org/events-calendar>. You may also visit dspcollaborative.org.





CLIENT SPOTLIGHT - LESLEE



Leslee was frustrated about being unemployed but thought the perfect job was out there for her and it began with Rover, a platform for pet owners to hire pet sitters. She is passionate about caring for animals and knew she could excel in being a pet sitter. Motivated, Leslee built a profile and got her first customer in 2018. She received a positive review and then the customers kept coming.

Building a business takes a lot of time and money management so Leslee sought the help of In Alliance, a program funded through the regional center that helps clients develop work and life skills. With the assistance of her program, Leslee started her business and now works as a pet sitter full time. She transitioned to receiving support from a facilitator with Blue Heron Programs who helps her manage the finances based on Leslee's needs and determined goals. Her success in these programs is evident because in July, she received Employee of the Month from Blue Heron!

She attributes her passion for caring for animals to her dogs, Gorgeous, who has been with her for 13 years, and Handsome, who passed away during the pandemic. The story of how Leslee came to meet Gorgeous is important to them both. Leslee saw her in a Craigslist ad stating to adopt the dog before she gets taken to the shelter. Immediately infatuated with the dog based on the pictures alone, Leslee called the number listed in the ad and unfortunately was immediately rejected because they believed Leslee was mocking them because the dog has three legs.

However, Leslee is persistent and used the knowledge she gained from programs on boundaries and communication and tried calling the number again. Her persistence paid off and Gorgeous became a part of the family.

Pet sitting makes Leslee happy, and she enjoys being her own boss and deciding her clientele. Her passion is clear based on the level of one more time. She stated she was serious about adopting the dog, and that she was not mocking them and genuinely loved everything that makes Gorgeous unique. Leslee's deeply cares for each of the animals she pet sits for. This is proven by the immense amount of positive reviews she has received. If you are interested in hiring her for pet sitting services, you can contact her directly at (916) 755-2724.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ACRC UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Did you know ACRC has our own online events calendar? <https://www.altaregional.org/calendar>

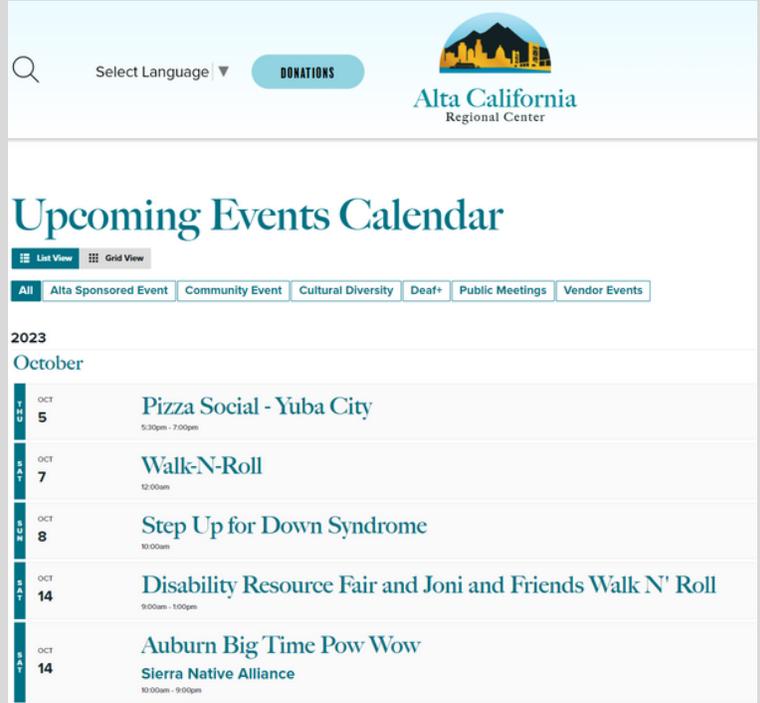
This is a great opportunity to find out when ACRC staff will be conducting outreach activities in your community.

You can find pictures of the events we attend on our social media pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/altacaliforniaRC/>

https://www.instagram.com/altacal_rc/

https://twitter.com/AltaCal_RC




SUPPORTED LIFE CONFERENCE 2023



Supported Life Institute
presents our:

37th Annual Conference
SUPPORTED LIFE 2023



**Inspiring Unity
through
Common Goals and
Creativity:**

*Empowering All People
with Developmental Disabilities
to be Fully Included in the Community*

Oct. 26 – 27, 2023

Wyndham Sacramento

**“A Place to Train Your Staff
-- in an Inclusive Environment”**

This year’s Supported Life Conference will highlight the DSP Collaborative, ACRC’s partnership with VMRC and our service providers to address workforce hiring challenges. Additionally, ACRC’s Director of Community Services, John Decker is presenting with members of the Disability Housing Alliance on Strengthening Community Housing Advocacy Through Family Partnerships.



From Dana and Andy Faletti with the Supported Life Institute:

How can we provide quality services and do our best job to help self-advocates succeed and thrive in the community these days?

That is what we hope people learn at this “Professional Conference with an Inclusive setting” - the Supported Life Conference.

The Supported Life Institute’s 37th Annual Fall Conference is a 2-day in-person event, held Oct. 26 – 27, 2023 at the Wyndham Sacramento Hotel.

Unlike the May Conference, which is a Self-Advocacy peer-training conference mostly for self-advocates. This October Conference is tailored to Professionals in Service Agencies who support people, Regional Center staff, Family Members, and staff from State Agencies such as DDS and Department of Rehab.

Agency Staff learn the hands-on “how” of creating and supporting inclusion for the people they serve.

Key topics in the field today include accessible Housing; good Jobs in the Community; helping agencies Transition with “HCBS” rules; new creative ways to find good people to hire; and many others With 4 Keynotes, 31 Sessions to choose from, and over 8 Topic Areas, there is so much to learn for everyone.

Details: www.supportedlife.org

To learn more about the Disability Housing Alliance please visit disabilityhousingalliance.org.

DISABILITY HOUSING ALLIANCE



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATES/STILL NEED UPDATING

Resource changes over the last quarter

New Service Providers

Community Integration Program

California Resource Services for Independent Living

Early Autism Treatment

Learning Solutions Kids, Inc.

Speech Pathology

Victoria Faszler, SLP

Psychologist

Deep Insight Psychology, Inc.

Transportation Broker

R&D Transportation

Supported Living Services

Connections People Services, LLC

Vinyard Supported Living Services

Good Life SLS, LLC

Residential Care Home

Celestial Care Adult Facility, LLC

Padua Care Home

Abounding Peace III Elderly Care

Villas One Inc.

Closed Services Providers

Occupational Therapy

Family Pediatric Therapy Services

Perfect Harmony Occupational Therapy

Sky Break Therapy LLC

Residential Care Home

Tate Family Care

Counseling Services

Deni Deutsch Marshall

FEATURED ARTIST PROFILE - STEPHANIE DARDON

Stephanie is a fountain of good vibes, creativity and optimistic spirit. Her artwork mirrors a junction of zoology field notes and glamorous fantasy. Stephanie has an exquisite collection of work and displays a great example of kindness to her peers here at NCA since 2015. Stephanie is bi-lingual and has 7 siblings. She likes Super Heroes, animals and comic books. Stephanie enjoys being creative, taking care of her chickens (Coconut and Pepper) and hopes to one day swim with the dolphins.

You can purchase Stephanie's work at Neighborhood Center of the Arts at 200 Litton Drive. #212 located in Grass Valley. You can also visit their website at <http://www.ncagrassvalley.org>.



Neighborhood
Center of the Arts

Arts • Advocacy • Opportunity

