

Alta California Regional Center
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 20, 2025
Minutes

Present: Jackie Armstrong, Garrett Broadbent, Johnny Deng, Tom Hopkins, Dan Lake, Amy Lampe, Kelly Pennington, Anwar Safvi, Steven Sanchez

Absent (* excused): Carmen Aguilar*, EunMi Cho, Akkia Pride-Polk*, Ceasar Seabron

Staff: Lori Banales, Iqbal Ahmad, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown, John Decker, Jon Horbaly, Camelia Houston, Kenisha Hurd, Elijah Jenkins, Herman Kothe, Mechelle Johnson, Jaspreet Mann, Dana Muccular, Carly Moorman, Ryan Patchin, Lisa West

Facilitators: Amy Fulk, Naomi Smith

Visitors: Steve Andrews, Jaclyn Balanay, Taylor Berry, Alejandra Calderon, Rogel Domingo, Maureen Fitzgerald, Shaniece Hill, Xuezhao Jiang, Lara Jolin, Nick Lee, Janelle Lewis, Jaynnie Mülle, Karen Mulvany, Heather Murphy, Michael Phillips, Jenie Posadas, Terri Scheufele, Preselah Seymore, Nadeja Steager, Joe Tighe, Pamela Wanderstadt, Kim Zehring

Interpreters: Danae Crozat (ASL), Marlene Gaines (ASL), Mario Perez (Spanish)

1. **Call to Order – Reading of ACRC’s Mission & Vision** – The Board of Directors met at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

**Noted change to the agenda – we will review the Performance Contract – 2024 End of Year Report prior to the National Core Indicators (NCI) Data.*

2. **Performance Contract – 2024 End of Year Report**

- Ms. Johnson noted that each year the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) looks at how well each regional center is doing in meeting their goals and fulfilling their contract with the department. The purpose for this presentation is to “look back” at the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) and our progress with meeting the public policy measures. This information is posted on ACRC’s website.
 - Please submit any feedback and/or comments/questions throughout the year to performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org.
- Ms. Johnson shared that ACRC provides resources to adults living in home settings, such as caregiver succession planning, information to access affordable housing, and offering opportunities for all different types of residential options including independent living and supportive living. Service Coordinators (SCs) are trained on how to address Advance Care

Planning and End of Life decisions with clients and family members.

- Ms. Bloom shared that ACRC staff continue to assess the needs of children and families during the child's Individual Program Plan (IPP) and provide family support services (e.g., respite, daycare, crisis management, educational support, behavior management, Durable Medical Equipment [DME], and parent education).
- ACRC continues to meet the required Compliance Measures.
- Ms. Houston noted that ACRC continues to improve on the Intake/Assessment Timelines for those three years old and older – we are currently at 58.57% (previous year – 51%).
 - The number of applicants continues on an upward trend.
 - It's important to note that the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, Text Revision (DSM) was revised in 2022, which gave more clarity to the expanded diagnostic criteria from Autistic Disorder to Autism Spectrum Disorder (which includes Pervasive Developmental Disorder and Asperger's Disorder).
 - As the number of applicants who are made clients increases, ACRC must hire additional SCs to serve them.
 - To address the increase in referrals, ACRC created a fourth Intake Unit to complete the Social Assessments, and we restructured the Intake Department internally to help streamline the process. We have launched Atlas, which will help track data moving forward. We have also increased the number of psychologists that we work with.
- Ms. Bloom noted that DDS' year end data shows ACRC at 86.4% in Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) completion. She clarified that IFSPs are for children under the age of three.
 - ACRC recently ran a report on IFSP completion and based on our data, we are at 95.83%.
 - We monitor IFSP timeliness monthly across units and offer staff training to make sure these percentages remain high.
- ACRC continues to work with service providers to support the development of paid internship programs (PIPs) and competitive integrated employment (CIE) based on outcomes of needs assessments. Mr. Decker noted that employment has been a priority for ACRC and the Board of Directors. Ms. Moorman expressed appreciation to the ACRC service providers who have added tailored day services to their program designs, so that clients can find CEI. For a long time, DDS pushed for internships, but ACRC is focusing on quality internships that are leading to more direct hires. We are starting to see that increase. Ms. Moorman has established strong relationships with the school districts in ACRC's catchment area to make sure students take advantage of vocational and workability programs. The school districts are eager to collaborate with ACRC.
- ACRC remains committed to improving equity in Purchase of Service expenditures by an individual's ethnicity and age. Although there has been

no significant increase or decrease in the data represented specifically with the American Indian/Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander population, Ms. Muccular noted that ACRC has seen the most significant change in the "Other" Ethnicity or Race category with some data indicating an improvement in accessing services anywhere from 1 to 3%. We recognize the significance of purposefully engaging with Tribal Communities in a methodical manner, as well. The hope is that we are clearly continuing to build a pathway towards advancing our efforts in educating the community on how to access ACRC services. As of October 30th, ACRC has participated in 73 outreach events, and we are rededicating ourselves to getting community input by offering various Feedback and Listening Sessions.

- It is important to realize that Case Management Only services are important and it remains the client's choice.

3. *National Core Indicators (NCI) Data – Public Meeting*

- Ms. Bloom explained that the NCI surveys are used by DDS to assess the performance in services and supports provided to people with developmental disabilities. For this presentation, we are reviewing the Adult In-Person Survey, Child Family Survey and the Family Guardian Survey which were completed in the 2023-24 FY. The intent is to learn from this data and improve our efforts.
- This information is posted on ACRC's website. The full NCI dashboard is posted on DDS' website.
 - Please submit any feedback and/or comments/questions to ncifedback@altaregional.org by November 28th, so that it can be included in ACRC's report to DDS.
- Each survey asks questions that are broken down into eight broad categories:
 - Demographics
 - Information and Planning
 - Access and Delivery of Supports
 - Choice, Decision-Making, and Control
 - Community Participation
 - Health and Safety
 - Satisfaction
 - California-Specific Questions
- Adult Family Survey:
 - Data indicates that ACRC families believe they are prepared to handle the needs of their family members in the event of an emergency.
 - It is important to note that ACRC hosted our first Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair this year.
 - Although families answered that they could not always get respite services when needed, ACRC recently received a letter from DDS

asking why ACRC has experienced an increase in respite utilization, which we responded to.

- It is also important to note that the service standard guidelines do not allow for caps on respite services.
 - Child Family Survey:
 - Data indicates that ACRC families are able to contact their SC or Manager when they need to.
 - ACRC has utilized our social media platforms to promote this and have had staff update their email signature lines to include their Manager's information if a response is not received within two days.
 - The question, "What makes it hard to do things in the community?" allowed families to have more than one response.
 - ACRC has made strides in using technology to help assist clients/families in their day-to-day life.
 - Family Guardian Survey:
 - It is important to note that some of ACRC initiatives help support client/family choice:
 - The Self-Determination Program (SDP) empowers clients/families to choose how funds are used.
 - The People Planning Together (PPT) initiative assists clients in creating their own person-centered plan.
 - Regarding the California specific question regarding preferred language, ACRC exceeded the statewide average.
 - We have 89 employees who speak 19 different languages (which equates to 21.6% of staff meeting the needs of 13% of clients). They receive a bilingual stipend, as well.
- Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to those staff that put together these two presentations. It takes all of us at ACRC to effect positive change. We are constantly looking forward to how we can do things better. We do important, meaningful work, and we are reliant on the community to share their input to support positive outcomes.

*Mr. Hopkins read aloud ACRC's Mission and Vision.

4. **Meeting Our Mission**

- ◆ Due to the two public presentations, we will not have a Meeting Our Mission segment today.

5. **Community Comments/Announcements**

- ◆ Ms. Hill, the SEIU labor representative for ACRC staff, shared concerns from Union membership.

6. **Consent Agenda** – By consensus, the following consent agenda items were approved: a) excused absences of Akkia Pride-Polk; b) regular session Board meeting minutes of September 25, 2025; and c) Board Development Committee (BDC), Client Advisory Committee (CAC), Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) minutes.

7. **New Business**

- ♦ *Approve 2026 Board Training Plan*
 - The 2026 Board Training Plan is under Tab 7 of the Board packet. Mr. Lake noted that this plan must be submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by December 15th.

M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the 2026 Board Training Plan as presented.

- ♦ *Finance Committee*

Issue 1: Monthly Financial Report

Discussion and Action: Mr. Ahmad noted that the minutes are under Tab 5 and the financial report is under Tab 8 of the Board packet. During last Monday's meeting, he shared that ACRC's Operations (OPS) is healthy this FY and we continue to have a strong hiring plan. The increase in Purchase of Services (POS) expenditures reflects the implementation of the service provider rate increases. Mr. Ahmad is hopeful that ACRC's independent auditor will be able to present at the January Board meeting.

M/S/C (Hopkins) To accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

Issue 2: Approve POS Contracts of \$250,000 and above

Mr. Decker noted that of the 19 housing project requests for FY 2025-26, DDS is funding 12, of which three are ACRC's.

ACRC would like to partner with Mercy Housing California on the Pleasant Grove Apartments Phase II in Roseville. This multifamily housing (MFH) project has 98 units (between Phase I and II), with ten set aside units (four one-bedroom units, four two-bedroom units, and two three-bedroom units) for ACRC clients. Anticipated availability in the Summer of 2028.

M/S/C (Armstrong) To approve the \$1,000,000 contract for Mercy Housing California as presented. (one abstention)

ACRC would like to partner with Brinshore Development & Operative Office on the Tupelo project in Woodland. This MFH project has 73 units, with 19 set aside units for ACRC clients. Units will be pre-wired for assistive technology. Anticipated availability in the Fall of 2028.

M/S/C (Lampe) To approve the \$2,375,000 contract for Brinshore Development & Operative Office as presented.
(one abstention)

ACRC would like to partner with Jamboree Housing Corporation on The Studios at Hotel Berry project in Sacramento. This MFH project has 104 units, with five set aside units (studio apartments) for ACRC clients. Anticipated availability in the Spring of 2027.

M/S/C (Lampe) To approve the \$400,000 contract for Jamboree Housing Corp. as presented. (one abstention)

♦ *Committee Updates*

- CAC

- Mr. Hopkins shared that the CAC met on October 14th and November 4th.
 - At the October meeting, the group discussed the use of technology to support independence and the Roommate Matching App.
 - At the November meeting, Michael Mercado, ACRC's Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Specialist, introduced himself and shared how he supports deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. Community Services Staff also provided an overview of GoGoGrandparent, the new rideshare service that ACRC has worked on developing.

- PAC

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the PAC met on October 9th.
 - The group discussed the DDS directed revisions to ACRC's "Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy," where members shared some of the same concerns that Board members had. With the necessity of approving it, it is important to note that concerns still exist.
 - ACRC staff presented their step-by-step process for handling California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests that involve vendor/provider materials.

- Mr. Broadbent commended ACRC for looking ahead and informing providers of the workflow and statutory timelines.
 - A few months ago, the PAC added "Resource Sharing/ Vendor Collaboration" to their agenda. This section provides an opportunity to discuss specific topics of interest or concern. The group brought forward the desire to make sure that service providers were invited to IPP and Planning Team meetings. ACRC is committed to supporting this request.
 - Service providers appreciate the collaboration with ACRC on this subject.
 - One of the provider advocacy groups, the Capital Coalition, hosted their first Legislative Breakfast to share information with legislators and local municipalities.
 - One change that the PAC started discussing in October and addressed again this month was aligning the attendance requirements for PAC applicants to those of PAC members. Applicants must attend seven out of ten meetings, five of which need to be in-person.
- ◆ *President's Report*
 - Mr. Lake expressed appreciation for those in attendance today.
- ◆ *Executive Director's Report*
 - Yesterday, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released their budget forecast for California. They are projecting an almost \$18 billion deficit for the 2026-27 FY. Ms. Banales noted that regional centers will review the proposed budget on January 10, 2026, and work through our Association to determine how best to advocate for our system. DDS is projecting an additional 38,000 clients in FY 2026-27, while we have already added 29,000 individuals statewide this FY. As the system expands, it is imperative that we make sure there is funding for all of the individuals that count on us every day.
 - This year's Santa Day will be held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, located at 6151 H Street, Sacramento, on Friday, December 19th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This annual event is beloved by our community – the flyer will be distributed widely.
- ◆ *ARCA-CAC Rep. Report*
 - Ms. Lampe shared that the next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, November 21st, from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Tony Anderson is now the group's Chairperson.

♦ *ARCA Delegate Report*

- Ms. Pennington expressed appreciation to Mr. Lake and Mr. Broadbent for attending the ARCA Academy, which was held at ACRC's Sacramento office last Saturday, November 15th. She also thanked Ms. Banales, Ms. West and staff (Tyler, Brady and Forest) for assisting throughout the day. We had approximately 140 people in attendance.
- ARCA meets again in January 2026.

8. ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: Lori Banales