

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
James Astorga, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Taylor Berry, 24 Hour Home
Care
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Andrea Croom, InAlliance
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Jay Kolvoord, STEP, Inc.
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Bill Duncan
Maureen Fitzgerald
Michael Hayes
Abigail Henderson
Erica Horn
Dawn Horwath
Jessica Knuth
Marc Lever
Susana Magana
Marie McConnell
Porche Middleton
Cody Newport
Branae Owens
Vicki Phillips
Jen Roney
Arneisha Smith
Melissa Sweet
Jasmine Vollenweider
Rafael Wagas
Michelle Wild
Caili Wilk
Max Woodford

Absent: (* excused)

Eric Ciampa*, UCP of Sacramento
Joe Jaquez, EGACTION
Antonio Ranit*, Antelope Hills
Manor
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO

Interpreters

Danae Crozat
Cory Watson

Visitors

Beza Admassu
Rosanna Aragon
Arica Arvin
Stephanie Berberich
Mirela Bere
Clifton Carley
Jeff Chenu
Marla Clayton
Emmalynn Chaubard
Meddie Cueva

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance and
Compliance Manager
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Carly Moorman, Client Employment
Specialist
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Norma Vidaurreta, Lead Community
Services Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Report; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Discussion – AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle Insurance; 4) Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration; 5) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 6) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 7) PAC Committee Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of November 13, 2025, as submitted.

1. **Board Report**

- Mr. Broadbent shared that ACRC's Board of Directors met on November 20th:
 - ACRC held two public meetings – the Performance Contract 2024 End of Year Report and the National Core Indicators (NCI) Data.
 - Annually, the Board must approve their Board Training Plan. They also approved the monthly financial report and three housing contracts:
 - \$1 million contract for Mercy Housing California for ten set aside units for ACRC clients in Roseville.
 - \$2,375,000 contract for Brinshore Development & Operative Office for 19 set aside units for ACRC clients in Woodland. These units will be pre-wired for assistive technology.
 - \$400,000 contract for Jamboree for the Hotel Berry project in Sacramento. There will be five set aside units for ACRC clients.
 - The Board received updates from the PAC, the Client Advisory Committee (CAC), and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) representatives.

2. **Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales is pleased to start the New Year and remains hopeful, anticipating the Governor's State of the State in the California legislative chambers this morning. She encouraged everyone to follow Marty Omoto, who sends out updates regularly. There will be opportunities to advocate for our statewide service system. Ms. Banales looks forward to our partnership as we combine our efforts to present a common and unified front. She will share more with the Board at next Monday's committee meetings.
- Mr. Decker noted that ACRC will continue to support service providers with the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') Quality Incentive Program (QIP), because they have an impact on the rates that service providers receive. The department has identified a page with all of the requirements that are involved, along with a checklist. They also have posted links to their recorded Webinars. Service provider can check their "Provider Status" by vendor number, as well. DDS updates this page every Monday.

- Due date is January 31, 2026 - [Quality Incentive Program \(QIP\) : CA Department of Developmental Services](#)
- Additionally, DDS is implementing a Standardized Vendorization process. ACRC's website has been updated with this information under: [Vendorization Rollout in Provider Directory - Alta California Regional Center](#). By April 1st, ACRC's plan to have all of the templates available for service provider program designs. Our goal is to make this user friendly and make sure everyone knows the expectations because of the strict timelines. Ms. Duchene noted that all communication during the vendorization process must be done through DDS' Provider Directory.
- At the beginning of February, service providers will see their new rates when they input their e-billing.
- Mr. Decker noted that DDS recently released a Directive for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance monitoring and reporting, and Guidance on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenIA).
- Ms. Banales and Mr. Decker will be leaving this morning to attend a groundbreaking ceremony in Yolo County. This housing project has 18 set aside units for ACRC clients located in West Sacramento.
- ACRC's Santa Day was held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center on H Street in Sacramento on December 19th. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community.

3. **Discussion – AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle Insurance**

- Ms. Chaubard, with California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA), shared the background of this bill – due to a loophole in the system, Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) began having issues a few years ago when they were involved in an accident while using their personal vehicles while on the job. They started to look into the law and realized that they would have to draft a bill to try to “fix” the situation. AB 815 is the starting point and went into effect on January 1st. There is still a lot of work to do moving forward and there has already been some pushback.
 - The California Behavioral Health Association (CBHA) was CDSA's partner in drafting this bill.
- Jeff Chenu, with Newfront Insurance, noted that we have an already existing “gap” in coverage during the course of business, as he had shared at last May's PAC meeting. The insurance companies may decline coverage to a DSP, who is working at the time. The cost then falls to the service provider.
 - Mr. Chenu read aloud the text of the bill. As soon as service providers start reimbursing for mileage, it is not considered a personal use vehicle. Adding an endorsement on a personal use policy would cover this gap, but there is an additional fee. This bill is a step in the right direction, but there are still questions and concerns that will hopefully get answered this year, such as:
 - Does a DSP need to disclose to their insurance carrier that they use their vehicle for their work?

- Will insurance companies charge the State of California more because of this bill?
- Is this for newly written policies or does it cover existing policies?
- Is California's Department of Insurance going to provide insurance companies with any guidance on how to implement this bill and how it is going to be enforced?
- Mr. Chenu believes a "test" case that will get challenged might help get the bill enforced. The legislative staff that helped get this bill passed will be instrumental in assisting as we move forward.

4. **Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration**

- Today's topic, the "PAC's Role in the I/DD System", will be rescheduled.
- Ms. Dyba explained that the idea behind this agenda item is to share things you, as a service provider, or your business has experienced. Also, to inquire how others have handled certain situations.
- Suggested upcoming topics include:
 - Resources on marketing, referrals and expanding a service provider's client base.
 - Mr. Decker noted that Community Services Specialists attend ACRC's Adult Services Committee meetings to inform Service Coordinators (SCs) what service options are available.
 - Connecting with other Vendor Advisory Committees across the state to see how they conduct their meetings.
- If you are interested in suggesting upcoming topics for discussion, please email Ms. Dyba and/or Mr. Broadbent.

5. **ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- No vendor forums were held since the last PAC meeting.

6. **System Reform and Legislative Updates (Capital Coalition, CCLN, CDSA, CRA, PAVE, CaAPSE & Master Plan Workgroup)**

- Capital Coalition
 - The group is working on their policy priorities and collaborating with the Lanterman Coalition to discuss advocacy priorities for this year.
 - They are waiting for the Governor to release the state's proposed budget, while staying in contact with legislators.
- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is focused on the QIP's 10%.
 - The "Fight for Our Health Coalition Rally, Press Conference and Lobby Day" is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14th, on the West Steps of the State Capitol. The rally begins at 9:30 a.m. Attendees will be broken into groups with a group lead to meet with legislators. Everyone will be provided with talking points.

- The group continues to work with DDS on the language regarding overtime for Personal Assistants (PAs) and DSPs.
- CDSA
 - CDSA sponsored AB 2423 (Mathis) Developmental services: rates. This bill requires the state to update the rate models, which are used to determine payments to regional center service providers, every other year, and to fund those new rates subject to appropriation by the Legislature.
 - On January 1, 2026, the state posted the rates and discovered that some are underfunded by 10%; some are 20% underfunded.
 - DDS will be doing a more thorough analysis on the rate study.
 - To keep our statewide service system sustainable, it needs to be funded at this level.
 - The group is working to professionalize the workforce and would like DSPs included in future discussions with the department.
 - We have seen incredible value in remote services. The March 6, 2025 DDS Directive states that the department is extending this option until the end of 2026. One of CDSA's priorities is to work to have remote services written into law and remain a choice for clients.
 - With the new rate models, the department created an exemption process. As service providers move forward, and may receive a denial of their exemption request, we want to make sure that our service system does not lose innovation. CDSA is seeking input from clients, families and service providers on what options they would like to see made available.
- CRA (The California Respite Association)
 - DDS planned to have the Standardized Respite Assessment released by January 1st but realized that more work needed to be done. They are working to include additional resources so that the tool will be what is needed.
- PAVE
 - Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) is holding a follow-up training for ACRC's Lead SCs on January 13th.
- CaAPSE
 - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) is meeting monthly with DDS to discuss the ongoing renovations to employment services in the State of California. As the state continues to face a deficit, we will see if things will turn into "actionable" items moving forward.
 - As mentioned at last month's meeting, CaAPSE is partnering with Cal-TASH on an employment presentation for their 43rd Annual Conference "Building Bridges Breaking Barriers" on February 27-28, 2026. They are putting together a panel of clients who have been successful in securing employment.

7. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Vendor Relations
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26th at 1 p.m.

8. **Announcements/Comments**

- Mr. Broadbent shared that IntellectAbility and StationMD have been approved by Medi-Cal and are finalizing their vendorizations with regional centers, including ACRC. He will reach out to see if they are available to present at an upcoming PAC meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 12, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales