

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 9, 2025
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
Andrea Croom, InAlliance
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point
Kate Halecky, Southside
Unlimited
Joe Jaquez, EGACT
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Yvonne Soto, DDSO
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Christa Coats
Meddie Cueva
Silvia Diaz
Maureen Fitzgerald
Gizelle Garcia
Michael Hayes
April Keplinger
Letty Leon
Anh Nguyen
Nataline Nguyen
Lois Orcutt
Branee Owens
Amy Parkin
Cynthia Teel
Jasmine Vollenweider
Max Woodford

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Taylor Berry*, 24 Hour Home
Care
Jay Kolvoord*, STEP, Inc.
Christa McClure*, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez*, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor

Visitors

Beza Admassu
D'Auna Aragon
Duke Auguste
Gabrielle Auguste
Stephanie Berberich
Clifton Carky

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance &
Compliance Manager
Jordan Cody, Legal Services Manager
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Norma Vidaurreta, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Marissa Vila, Legal Services Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Report; 2) Executive Director's Report;

3) Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration; 4) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 5) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 6) PAC Committee Reports; and 7) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 11, 2025, as submitted.

1. Board Report

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the Board met on September 25th:
 - This was the Board's first meeting at their new start time – 5 p.m.
 - They approved the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy. Again, the Board acknowledged their shared concerns regarding the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Directive. They also approved the Person-Centered Thinking Policy.
 - Ms. Johnson shared a presentation entitled "ACRC Efforts to Address the Needs of Aging Clients and Caregivers." She recently presented nationally on ACRC's Advanced Care Planning.
 - This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
 - On My Own's roommate matching app, OOMM, will soon be available statewide. ACRC remains a leader in piloting new opportunities for clients.

2. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales noted that conversations continue with DDS about the revised Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy. The legislative intent is to include individuals in their community. ACRC is receiving a variety of requests, where staff must consider the intent. ACRC continues to be supportive of our community, but our ability to have the guardrails in place is being restricted.
 - Ms. Banales will continue to keep this committee informed of any updates.
- Ms. Duchene shared that GoGoGrandparent is opening up to more individuals beginning November 1st. Most of these rides take place from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., on weekends, or on a sporadic basis. Clients' needs must be assessed and discussed with their Planning Team. Eight clients are currently using this service.
- ACRC is also working on the standardized vendorization process – more details will be shared at the November PAC meeting.
- Ms. Eller shared that ACRC has already received DDS' approval for our Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) projects for the current fiscal year (FY). ACRC received a large amount of funding targeted for affordable housing projects, which include:

- Mercy Housing multi-family housing project in Roseville, with ten set aside units for clients.
- Brinshore Development and Operative Office multi-family housing project in Woodland, with 19 set aside units for clients.
- Funding for the acquisition and renovation of one Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) for children. This new EBSH will support children with sexual maladaptive behaviors. This home will also be a resource for Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) and North Bay Regional Center (NBRC).
- Jamboree Housing multi-family housing project in Sacramento, with five studios apartments for clients.
 - Ms. Banales noted that these projects make a difference to those served.
- After last month's discussion, Mr. Cody drafted "ACRC Reverse CPRA Workflow and Extended Timeline," which reflects ACRC's step-by-step process for handling California Public Records Act (CPRA) requests that involve vendor or provider materials. Once ACRC receives a request, the regional center has a statutory timeline to respond within ten calendar days.
 - On Day 1, ACRC will immediately notify the vendor/provider that their materials are subject to a CPRA request and that they must respond within three business days.
 - Days 1-3, the vendor/provider reviews the request, gathers responsive records, and submits them to ACRC, along with any asserted exemptions and legal justification (e.g., trade secret, privacy, proprietary business information).
 - Days 3-5, ACRC reviews the vendor's/provider's submission and determines whether claimed exemptions apply. ACRC notifies the vendor/provider of its decision to approve or deny exemptions.
 - Day 6, ACRC issues acknowledgment to requester within ten calendar days or receipt, stating intent to comply, deny or extend. If vendor/provider review is ongoing, ACRC informs requester of pending third-party review.
 - Days 6-10, if ACRC denies the exemption, vendor/provider must decide whether to (a) allow disclosure or (b) file reverse CPRA action in Superior Court, in the county that you reside in, to prevent release.
 - Day 10 (optional), if additional time is required due to consultation with vendors/providers, multiple offices, or voluminous materials, ACRC issues a 14-day extension notice to the requester.
 - Days 11-24 (extended review period), vendor/provider may continue justification or file reverse (CPRA); ACRC coordinates internally and documents progress.
 - Day 24+, if no reverse CPRA is filed, ACRC releases responsive records. If a reverse CPRA is filed, ACRC pauses disclosure pending court order.

- There is a 14-day extension, but Mr. Cody does not want vendors/providers to rely on this.
- ACRC is still creating a process, but this is a general overview of the steps we will have in place.
- Ms. Banales noted that the CPRA request would expressly be for the documents that ACRC has for your institution. We want to give you the opportunity to verify that we have current records and then let us know if any of them are considered exempt. Everything that happens in the ten days is flexible. Most of the regional centers across the state have contracted with BBK (Best Best & Krieger LLP) and will be collaborating with them to clarify details. Ms. Banales would like service provider associations to determine what might be considered exempt and inform ACRC. There are procedural changes that may need to happen as we move forward.

3. *Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration*

- Today's topic is the process by which ACRC Service Coordinators (SCs) schedule Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings and how service providers should schedule Individual Service Plan (ISP) meetings.
 - Service providers have acknowledged that they were not invited to client's IPP meetings.
 - Ms. Banales stated that ACRC is continuing to learn more about this issue. With 25% of our staff being new, we will make sure that the expectation is clear.
 - Previously, SCs provided service providers with the 588 Form during IPP meetings. With the new standardized IPP, the meeting takes place and then the SC returns to the office to complete the IPP.
 - Ms. Johnson will look into this and get back to this group.

4. *ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates*

- The Residential vendor forum was held on September 17th.
 - The group discussed the changes to Level 2 and Level 3 homes and the exemption process for awake night staff.
 - Beginning January 1st, Planning Teams for clients who reside in Level 3 homes will need to identify what type of consultant services are appropriate for the individual's needs. The new DDS Directive requirements will be assessed during next year's Quality Assurance (QA) visits.
- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum is scheduled for October 21st, and the Employment Services vendor forum is scheduled for October 28th.

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

- Capital Coalition

- They are hosting a Legislative breakfast on Wednesday, October 22nd, at Creative Living Options (CLO) new office in Sacramento.
 - 18 community partners/legislators have confirmed attendance.
- One of the main objectives of this event is to outline the foundation of our statewide service system, since legislators normally think of the immediate issues, not what we are trying to preserve.
- CCLN
 - Ms. West received an update on the California Community Living Network (CCLN), which she will forward to the group.
 - In 2018, the federal law was changed for overtime requirements and paying domestic workers. The current administration stated that they will suspend those requirements.
 - The concern is that In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers qualify for overtime under the federal law.
 - It is important to note that SEIU has put an exemption in for California.
- CDSA
 - The California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) held their annual meeting last month, where IntellectAbility shared a presentation.
 - ACRC may have them share the same presentation during an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services."
 - They are working on building their legislative proposals for next year.
- CRA
 - On September 5th, DDS released a Directive regarding excessive mileage rate models which impacts Early Intervention Services and In-Home Respite.
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) met with DDS regarding some discrepancies and are awaiting clarification.
 - There is also concern as to why this is not available for other Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliant service codes.
- PAVE
 - Ms. Dyba will send the Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) presentation out to everyone from last month's meeting.
 - ACRC staff met with Dr. Beadle-Brown and DDS, who gave their authorization to share data. ACRC will be providing feedback within a week; ACRC has already identified staff, we have yet to identify the clients who will be participating in this pilot.
- CaAPSE
 - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) is hosting an Employment eForum on Monday, October 13th.
 - Ms. West will forward the flyer to everyone.

- DDS had their Employment Workgroup Meeting yesterday. They have a new robust plan to redesign employment services for the State of California.
- Transportation rates were updated and released on September 1st. Service providers have shared their concerns with DDS (e.g., non-ambulatory rates are not sufficient). The department has conducted a survey, using the Provider Directory, and is working to resolve some of the issues.

6. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - The group believes that the attendance requirements for a PAC applicant should be aligned with PAC membership requirements (70% in-person).
 - A few years ago, PAC membership attendance requirements were changed – seven out of the ten meetings require in-person attendance.
 - Of the seven meetings that an individual is required to attend prior to being considered for PAC membership, five of those must be attended in person, understanding that if it serves the purpose of the PAC's grid, we may choose to be flexible for outlying areas.
 - This will be an action item for the November PAC mtg.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- With so much strife in our service system and the world, Ms. Watilo worries that service providers may lose sight of the value of this work. The PAC may want to consider developing some person-centered tools about why we do this, what is the deeper purpose.
- Mr. Broadbent shared that CLO is hosting an Open House on Saturday, October 25th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to celebrate their 24th anniversary. Ms. West will forward the flyer to everyone.
- The California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) is partnering with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and is hosting a Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Symposium at the North Natomas Community Center on Wednesday, October 29th, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month – an event is taking place at the State Capitol today.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, November 13, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales