

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 13, 2025  
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  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento  
Andrea Croom, InAlliance  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Kate Halecky, Southside  
Unlimited  
Joe Jaquez, EGACT  
Jay Kolvoord, STEP, Inc.  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Christa McClure\*, Tri-County  
Respite Care Service  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto\*, DDSO

**Interpreters**

Jessica Poitevin  
Renee Souleret

**Visitors**

Beza Admassu  
Stephanie Berberich  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Melanie Gonzales  
Michael Hayes  
Braydon Holtzinger  
Erica Horn  
Stephanie Maki  
Carmine Manicone  
Marie McConnell  
Branae Owens  
Jen Roney  
Caili Wilk  
Max Woodford

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client  
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  
Ryan Patchin, Training Manager  
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community  
Services Specialist  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration; 3) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 4) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 5) PAC Committee Reports; and 6) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of October 9, 2025, as submitted.**

**1. Executive Director's Report**

- Ms. Banales shared that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be releasing details about their annual tree lighting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The request is for ornaments created by clients. Once received, Ms. Banales will have Ms. West send the information out to this group.
  - Typically, the department has 21 smaller trees for each regional center to decorate on their own.
    - For ACRC's tree, Ms. Banales would like client made ornaments delivered to ACRC's Sacramento office by the first week of December.
  - Important to note – if any ornament has a photo of a client, it will also need to include a photo release.
- Yesterday, Ms. Banales attended a meeting with DDS where they discussed the DSP University. The launching of the DSP University is contingent on the completion of the Learning Management System by California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), which holds the State contract for curriculum development. The soonest this program may be available would be end of December 2025.
- Ms. Banales is pleased to announce that Jason Scantlebury has been promoted to Adult Services Manager. He starts in his new managerial position on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ACRC is hosting our next Microenterprise Fair on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Due to limited space, we will be selecting attendees from the applications submitted by 5 p.m. on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Ms. Moorman will be notifying applicants by November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Ms. Duchene shared information about DDS' Quality Incentive Program (QIP) for the fiscal year (FY) 2026-27.
  - In order to earn the full (10%) quality incentive rate for FY 26-27, service providers must complete the following surveys:
    - Provider Capacity Survey – this survey will require providers to answer questions about zip codes of areas served, languages offered, vacancies, staff wages, length of time with agency, number of staff who left agency, and number of part-time and full-time employees.
    - Prevention and Wellness Survey – this survey is for Service Codes 096, 113, 900, 901, 904, 905, 910, 915 & 920. The desired outcome of this measure is to gather information regarding the completion of preventative health screening for adults and children living in eligible residential facilities/homes.
    - Employment Survey – this survey is for Service Codes 950 & 952. This measure will gather information regarding staff who

directly support clients, and staff who have ACRE Training and CESP Training. It will also gather data on clients in Paid Internship Programs (PIP), Group Supported Employment, and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE), along with the total number of jobs held.

- DDS sent these surveys out on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have not received yours, please email DDS at [ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ProviderDirectory@dds.ca.gov).
- For those service providers that require Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), and independent audits, DDS will verify that they are compliant as of February 27, 2026.
- At the last PAC meeting, Ms. Eller shared information on ACRC's approved Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) start up projects for the current FY. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, ACRC held a Request for Proposal (RFP) Orientation for the Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home (EBSH) for children ages 7-17.
  - Those interested must submit their proposal by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Proposals will be reviewed by December 12<sup>th</sup>, and applicant interviews will be held from December 15<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - ACRC's final selection will be made by January 6<sup>th</sup>.

## 2. **Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration**

- Today's topic is "Therapy & Counseling Resources" led by Ms. Halecky.
  - Service providers discussed how they assist clients in accessing therapy and counseling resources, remembering that generic resources are available.
  - Ms. Bloom and Ms. Houston meet quarterly with ACRC's Managed Care Plans.
    - CalAIM might be beneficial for clients since Medi-Cal is looked at first.
    - Managed Care Plans are more robust than in the past and are accessible.
    - Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services has expanded their services, as well.
    - The Managed Care Plan's liaison's role is to assist ACRC Service Coordinators (SCs) to connect the client with the appropriate service.
  - ACRC is in the process of vendorizing two service providers that will have group therapy sessions available to clients within the year.
    - Passports to Learning plans to hold anger management sessions.
    - The Center for Holistic Psychology will be holding anger management and mind management sessions, too.

- Ms. Douglas noted that Turning Point also has therapies available for clients.
- If you are interested in suggesting upcoming topics for discussion, please email Ms. Dyba and/or Ms. Ramirez.

### **3. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum was held on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - The group discussed the updated DDS Directive regarding the 80-hour max.
  - ACRC's Quality Assurance (QA) Department provided an update and shared resources.
- The Employment Services vendor forum was held on October 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The group discussed the new job development service code and its requirements. They also had a presentation on the Paid Internship Program (PIP).

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

- Capital Coalition
  - They hosted their first Annual Legislative Breakfast on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which was well attended – representatives from seven offices and one candidate attended, along with Ms. Banales and Teresa Anderson, the Executive Director of the California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD).
    - The objective was to build a knowledge base for those that are not familiar with our service system. They also raised some core issues about access to services.
- CCLN
  - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is currently working on a California version of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) so that they can support overtime benefits for DSPs.
  - They are also looking at new locations to hold their Annual Conference – possibly Newport Beach instead of San Diego.
- CDSA
  - The California Disabilities Services Association's (CDSA's) Public Policy Committee is meeting next week to review legislative proposals.
  - Yesterday, they held an AI Training, which can possibly be shared with this committee.
  - AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle insurance: vehicle classification – this bill was approved by the Governor and takes effect January 1, 2026.
    - Ms. Dyba and Mr. Broadbent are working to secure a presenter to discuss this bill at the January PAC meeting.

- A workgroup is meeting today to review the feedback that they received regarding alternatives to the Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) requirements.
- PAVE
  - Last week, Ms. Duchene met with Dr. Beadle-Brown and discussed feedback on the Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) pilot program.
- CaAPSE
  - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) has met with DDS to discuss employment opportunities for clients across the state.
  - CaAPSE is currently working with Cal-TASH on an employment presentation for their 43<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## 5. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Communication & Outreach Committee
  - At last month's meeting, the group discussed aligning the attendance requirements for PAC membership to PAC applicants.
    - Of the ten PAC meetings in a fiscal year (FY), individuals must attend seven meetings (five of which will be in-person).
  - Members noted that participation is more robust when attending in person.
  - Because the PAC is underrepresented in rural areas, the committee will create a "Hardship Exemption Process" which will allow for leniency for those service providers that have a lengthy traveling distance. We strive to be inclusive.

**Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to approve aligning the attendance requirements of PAC applicants to PAC membership (attending seven of the ten FY meetings, with five in-person), along with creating a Hardship Exemption Process, as presented.**

- The "why" of the PAC?
  - The PAC provides recommendations, technical assistance, and shares opinions from service providers' perspectives with ACRC's Board of Directors. We are more than just a committee that discusses current topics.
  - As the PAC's Representative to ACRC's Board of Directors, Mr. Broadbent expressed concerns/reservations regarding the revisions to ACRC's "Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy."

- Ms. Banales noted that it is common practice to present to the Board committees any policy revisions prior to the full Board's vote to approve. As noted, this was a DDS Directive – we had no choice. She shared the concerns of the Board, as well as the PAC, with DDS directly.
- The PAC representative to the Board is often unseen by service providers but it is an important position. The PAC's natural state is to review and discuss issues. We need to be proactive – this does not happen naturally, it needs to be intentional.
- PAC members should contact the PAC Chair, Ms. Dyba, to add topics to the agenda.
- Vendor Relations
  - The group met and Mr. Broadbent asked for a volunteer to Chair this committee moving forward. They will discuss further in January 2026.

## 6. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Futures Explored is hosting a dance on December 6<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with Christian Brothers. Once she receives it, Ms. Dyba will share the flyer.
- Southside Unlimited's Work of Art at College Greens is holding "A Yuletide Open House" on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 8 p.m.
- ACRC is hosting a virtual Listening Session for aging clients and their caregivers on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. – registration is required.
- STEP is hosting a Town Hall Meeting for "Vance Taylor for State Assembly" on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. A "Meet & Greet" will run from 2 to 4 p.m., with the Town Hall from 4 to 6 p.m.
- ACRC's Annual Santa Day is schedule for December 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Center on H Street.
- Integrated Resource Institute & Progressive Employment Concepts (PEC) offer trainings which are provided for free through HCBS funding from regional centers, including ACRC.
  - On December 16<sup>th</sup>, PEC is holding a free webinar entitled "Social Security Benefits Training and Technical Assistance" from 9 to 11 a.m. Registration is required.
    - More information can be found at: [www.iri-pec.org](http://www.iri-pec.org)

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 8, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales