

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2026
Minutes

Present:

Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored,
Inc., Chair
Garrett Broadbent, Creative
Living Options, Co-Chair &
Design. Dir.
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.
Christa McClure, Tri-County
Respite Care Service
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own
Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

James Astorga*, F&A Astorga
Care Home
Laleh Sharpe*, Maxim Healthcare
Services

Interpreters

Cory Watson
Jonathan Webb

Board Members:

Dan Lake

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Jessica Anderson
Stephanie Berberich
Meddie Cueva

Bill Duncan
Maureen Fitzgerald
Melanie Gonzales
Michael Hayes
Braydon Holtzinger
Dawn Horwath
Jessica Knuth
Michael Lyman
Marie McConnell
Bryan Neider
Cody Newport
Branee Owens
Amy Parkin
Vicki Phillips
Becca Pressnell
Paul Quiroz
Jen Roney
Pamela Slinkard
Sarah Verity
Jasmine Vollenweider
Max Woodford

Staff:

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
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Board 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 January 8, 2026, as submitted.

**change in agenda was noted*

1. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Decker shared that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has provided a summary of the Trailer Bill Language (TBL), which was released earlier this month. This summary is posted on the department's website.
- Ms. Moorman shared that the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Collaborative has expanded to the Los Angeles area. On March 5th, she will be attending the Disability Career Expo in Pasadena to share more information with job seekers. We are excited to see how this expansion goes.
 - Any service provider can join in on this opportunity by registering their profiles on the website.
 - We are looking to see how we can make the website more user friendly by offering job seekers the ability to filter results. ACRC is asking service providers that have joined to add "searchable" options to their profiles.
- ACRC has begun the standardized vendorization process. So far, we have received 100 applicants; 53 in requirement state and 47 in submission stage. We have had to close out some provider applications due to not receiving documentation that is required to be submitted within the first 15 days. We have reached out to DDS for them to add In-Home Respite as an option, as well.
- Rate reform is an ongoing process at ACRC.
 - ACRC has provided Service Coordinators (SCs) instructions on how to write Purchase of Services (POS') for the new rate models.
 - A provider is having delays in receiving their POS' due to their multiple ratios.
 - Mr. Ciampa noted that DDS proposed a new methodology on how 875 Transportation providers submit their billing. These rates are effective March 1st. He encourages those affected providers to review this proposal.
 - For 880 Transportation, non-ambulatory (wheelchair) is tied to the individual, per trip. Further clarification from DDS is being sought.
 - Mr. Ciampa has been working with DDS for over ten years on transportation issues. He believes one of the struggles is that

the department does not engage with the entire transportation community. The test will be if these “pain points” come out, DDS will look at the data and will hopefully be amenable to change.

- ACRC has a new housing brochure, which highlights the multi-family housing developments that we have supported on behalf of the clients that we serve.
- Mr. Decker will be speaking at the Cal-TASH conference later this month. He, along with two client advocates, were chosen to sit on a client-centered panel for the Annual Housing California Conference in March.
- Regarding DDS’ Quality Incentive Program (QIP), if you have any questions, please contact your Community Services Specialist.
- Ms. Bloom noted that ACRC is working in collaboration with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) office to engage the Black and African American community. SCDD hosted a Listening Session in September 2025, and the follow-up session is scheduled for February 25th, at ACRC’s Sacramento office. Registration is required.
 - A suggestion was made for ACRC to hold a Self-Determination Program (SDP) Listening Session.
 - Ms. Bloom noted that the Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) meetings are a forum for this.
- Ms. Johnson shared that ACRC is holding our Annual POS Data Meeting virtually on March 13th, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. A virtual community input session is also scheduled for March 18th, from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration is required for both meetings.
- Important dates regarding the Governor’s proposed 2026-27 budget include:
 - The Senate Subcommittee No. 3 Hearing is scheduled for March 26th at 9:30 a.m.
 - The Assembly Subcommittee No. 2 Hearing is scheduled for April 15th at 1:30 p.m.

2. **Board Report**

- Mr. Broadbent shared that ACRC’s Board of Directors met on January 22nd:
 - ACRC recognized staff that have worked at the agency for five, ten, 15, 20 and 25 years.
 - The approval of the revised Resource Development Policy was tabled, so that the PAC had a chance to review it.
 - The Independent Audit Report and the financial report were approved.
 - Ms. Houston shared a presentation entitled “Intake, Assessment & Eligibility Determination – Lanterman Eligibility” which helped the Board understand how an individual moves through this process.
 - Some individuals are in this process past the required timelines due to the number of applicants and resource needs in the area of psychological assessment. ACRC has vendored 42 clinical

psychologists and continues to need more to keep pace. These efforts continue.

- The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day will be held on March 3rd.
- Ms. Pennington shared information on the state's first Dementia Care Home, which is in the San Andreas Regional Center's (SARC's) catchment area.
- The proposed revisions to ACRC's Resource Development Policy include standardizing insurance requirements, adding a mutual indemnity clause to all contracts, and adding safeguards to the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI).
 - Mr. Broadbent has discussed these proposed revisions with Mr. Decker and suggested adding a definition of GenAI and clarifying the terms and definitions of the agreement by adding or referencing DDS' Directives, Guidance and/or Best Practices.
 - This will be discussed in more detail at the March 9th Board Executive Committee meeting.

3. Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration

- AI Presentation from Bryan Neider of AbilityPath.
 - Mr. Neider has been in the technology field for over 30 years. He just recently did a deeper dive into AI, which is already embedded in our lives.
 - GenAI enables computers to create original content, including images, video, music, and 3D models.
 - AI platforms have "personalities" – outcomes vary for each AI tool. They are unique.
 - Concerns about AI:
 - Myth #1 – "GenAI reduces staff and volunteer engagement"; Reality – AI enhances efficiency and impact.
 - Myth #2 – "AI prevents staff from learning essential skills"; Reality – AI serves as a coach, not a replacement for skill-building.
 - Myth #3 – "AI tools always provide accurate responses"; Reality – AI tools produce errors, or "hallucinations".
 - AI's framework – strategic benefit is that AI accelerates team productivity to drive mission impact.
 - Creating a great prompt requires being specific and direct. Users should also consider creating AI governance guidelines.
- Mr. Neider noted that he has attended the DDS meetings regarding their new online system, the Life Outcomes Improvement System (LOIS). He has concerns and believes the department needs to rethink this project. This is our moment to make this opportunity meaningful to direct care staff, as well as clients and families. He believes a more robust imagination would be more beneficial to the statewide service system.
 - Mr. Neider can be reached at: Bryan@abilitypath.com

- Update on StationMD and IntellectAbility Presentations
 - We discussed having these at PAC meetings, while they were already scheduled to present at upcoming "Coffee with Community Services" meetings – committee members agree that they will not be scheduled for PAC meetings.
- Mr. Ciampa will present the "PAC's Role in the I/DD System" at the March 12th PAC meeting.

4. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates

- The list of upcoming vendor forums includes:
 - Day Services – February 19th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - Employment Services – February 26th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - Transportation – March 23rd, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - Independent Living Services (ILS) – April 7th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - Residential – April 23rd, from 1 to 2 p.m.
 - Supported Living Services (SLS) – May 21st, from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Ms. Dyba requested that PAC members who attend these share a summary at the next scheduled PAC meeting.
 - Ms. Duchene will forward the PowerPoints to Ms. West so that she can distribute as well.

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

- Capital Coalition
 - The group is currently consolidating their positions which they will be reviewing at today's meeting.
- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) continues to work with DDS regarding In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), specifically on an eight-hour day versus a 40-hour week. The concern is that currently, per state law, there is no overtime for Supportive Living Services (SLS) DSPs.
 - This past year, the federal government released a policy to stop enforcing those rules. CCLN believes that if this overtime option is no longer a requirement, it will destabilize the workforce. Although the intent is to preserve the status quo, it is much more significant.
 - Ms. Dyba will add this to the March PAC meeting agenda.
 - The group is currently trying to gather data regarding service providers who are having issues with the QIPs.
 - The CCLN Annual Leadership Conference is scheduled for May 6th-8th, at the Paradise Point Island Resort & Spa in San Diego.
- CDSA
 - The California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) is holding their Direct Support Professionals (DSP) Conference on May 27th & 28th, in

- collaboration with ARCA and the California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD).
- The group plans to hold their Legislative Conference and Lobby Day in March.
- They support SB 969 (Reyes) - Developmental services: remote services and supports. This bill would make the remote service delivery model a permanent option.
- CRA (The California Respite Association)
 - Effective February 1st, the rate table includes 1:2, 1:3 and 1:4 ratios.
 - They are still working to cosponsor a bill to clean up the language in Title 17 so that in-home respite will be allowed in or around the family home.
 - CRA continues to work with DDS on the Respite Assessment Tool. The assessment is much shorter, but they still have concerns about how it will be implemented.
- PAVE (Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education)
 - ACRC held training last month for SCs and are currently recruiting clients and families. A meeting is scheduled for later this month to review how many might be interested in participating in this pilot.
- CaAPSE
 - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) held their annual Board planning meeting last week.
 - The group is reviewing the DDS TBL. They are also coordinating with other states to see how they are working on rate setting and options.

6. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Ms. Dyba requested that these reports be shared via email.

7. **Announcements/Comments**

- Yvonne Soto has retired; she is no longer a PAC member.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 12, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales