

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 13, 2025  
Minutes

**Present:**

Garrett Broadbent, Creative  
Living Options, Co-Chair &  
Design. Dir.  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento  
Andrea Croom, InAlliance  
Bonnie Douglas, Turning Point  
Kate Halecky, Southside  
Unlimited  
Joe Jaquez, EFACT  
Jay Kolvoord, STEP, Inc.  
Christa McClure, Tri-County  
Respite Care Service  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Lindsey Dyba\*, Futures  
Explored, Inc., Chair  
James Astorga, F&A Astorga  
Care Home  
Janet Brandon\*, A.I.M. &  
Associates  
Antonio Ranit\*, Antelope Hills  
Manor  
Laleh Sharpe\*, Maxim Healthcare  
Services

**Visitors**

Jody Bailey  
Mirela Bere  
Taylor Berry  
Nora Cancino  
Lisa Cappellari  
Gina Cisero  
Meddie Cueva  
Loretta Duncan-Fowler  
Tony Duplan  
Chuks Elochukwu  
Maureen Fitzgerald

Jacquie Foss  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Gizelle Garcia  
Melanie Gonzales  
Royce Goree  
Michael Hayes Sr.  
Earl Holmes  
Priscilla Holmes  
Braydon Holtzinger  
Erica Horn  
Jessica Knuth  
Letty Leon  
Michael Lyman  
Dyshay McKinnon  
Grant Murrey  
Lois Orcutt  
Amy Parkin  
Becca Pressnell  
Michelle Ramirez, CBEM  
Kris Ross  
Kristin Symonds  
Cynthia Teel  
Jasmine Vollenweider  
Rafael Wagas

**Staff:**

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  
Helen Neri, Community Services &  
Supports Manager  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 9:31 a.m. to discuss: 1) Director's Report; 2) Board Report; 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, Garrett Broadbent made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of January 9, 2025, as submitted.**

*\*change in agenda was noted*

*\*Mr. Broadbent presented Jacquie Foss with a plaque to acknowledge her years of service.*

## 1. **Director's Report**

- Mr. Decker noted that this is ACRC staff's last week in this building – 14 years to the day of moving in, we will be exiting this building. Over the next two weeks, we will be shifting our operations to the new site located at 4151 E. Commerce Way, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95834.
  - The March PAC meeting will be held at the new office.
- At last week's Community Meeting, Ms. Johnson stated that ACRC is rolling out its Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Trainings to our outlying offices. The first training session will be held at our Yuba City office on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The virtual training is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. that day and an in-person workshop follows from 1 to 2 p.m., where interested individuals will have an opportunity to start drafting their plan.
  - Ms. Foss shared that STEP, Inc. has a large room in Yuba City if ACRC ever needs a larger room to accommodate participants.
- ACRC's Annual Purchase of Services (POS) meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 7 p.m., with a follow-up meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 2 p.m., to discuss the data presented on March 18<sup>th</sup> and accept stakeholder input.
- In regards to the National Core Indicators (NCI), the adult in-person surveys are being conducted this year.
  - ACRC staff are encouraging clients to participate.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol.
- On February 4<sup>th</sup>, ACRC Executive Staff were able to meet JaRita Pichon, the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') newly appointed Chief Equity Officer, leading their Service Access and Equity Division.
  - It is an interesting time for her to take this position, and the more she knows about our service system, the more effective she will be.
  - Mr. Decker extended an offer for her to visit Independent Living Services (ILS) and Supported Living Services (SLS) providers. If she accepts this invitation, ACRC staff will reach out to those providers.

- Ms. Pichon was able to attend the ILS Vendor Fair, which was held that day, as well.
- DDS has posted “Resources for ALL Californians” on their website. ACRC remains committed to the specialty positions that we have been afforded by the department (e.g., deaf and hard of hearing specialist, cultural diversity specialist, etc.).
  - We recognize that situations across the state are impacting individuals. ACRC staff will continue to gather resources from the connections that we have as an agency.
- Last week, the CPCIDD (California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities) sponsored an event at the Meristem campus. The “Housing for All: Best Practices in IDD Housing Development” symposium was well attended, and individuals were able to learn about opportunities across the state.
- Regarding the rate study:
  - There are formula and quality incentive payment errors. Mr. Decker heard that 6,000 vendorizations were approved last week. ACRC has 1,300 acknowledgement letters to send out, after the information is verified by ACRC staff. This is a statewide issue.
    - After the letters are sent, the remaining 10% payments will be issued to providers. Mr. Decker noted that with this much data and the number of worksheets, it is a daunting task for regional center staff.
    - Health & Safety Waivers will remain in place until the new rate surpasses it.
    - The “hold harmless” clauses will stay in place through June 2026.
  - There are challenges with the rate study and Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHNs). These facilities require acknowledgement forms and need hold harmless calculations. DDS will meet with regional centers to discuss costs not captured in current Level 7 and ARFPSHN workbooks.
  - We have asked the department to work on rates for Housing Access Services, Crisis Services, and Intensive Transition Services, which are currently excluded service codes.
  - ACRC is in the process of vendorizing new homes. Once the new vendorization bridges over to DDS, they will send an invite to the vendor with a 45-day deadline to confirm their information in the system (not 45 days from vendorization, but 45 days after DDS receives the data from the regional center, which may be the following month). DDS will be releasing this Directive soon. The department does not want to penalize any new vendor during this process.

- DDS will better be able to assess any issues with the Transportation rate methodology once the vendor-submitted hold harmless data can be analyzed.
  - The statewide transportation group continues to meet, and they are hopeful that the workbooks will shed some light about the disparities that exist. They continue to push more data to the department between meetings.
    - If you want any more information on this, please reach out to Mr. Ciampa.
- Ms. Foss believes Enhanced SLS needs to also be looked at.
- Per committee members requests, acknowledgement forms will no longer be sent in bulk.
  - If there are any issues, please email Ms. Duchene and she will ask her team to resend.
- Mr. Decker made copies of the "DDS Multifamily Housing Development Map" that is posted on the department's website.
- DDS is excited that ACRC's and Valley Mountain Regional Center's (VMRC's) DSP Collaborative will be expanding to other regional centers over the next few years.
  - The plan is to expand to the Los Angeles area first, then the other centers after that.

## 2. **Board Report**

- Mr. Broadbent reminded everyone that the PAC has two standing committees – the Communication & Outreach Committee and the Vendor Relations Committee (the Legislative Committee was discontinued).
- The Capitol Coalition will be meeting in this room after the PAC meeting.
- A suggestion has been made to establish another committee to discuss service codes 055 & 063.
  - Volunteers include Jay Kolvoord (Chair), Andrea Croom, Kate Halecky and Joe Jaquez.
  - Mr. Kolvoord will identify the Committee's name.
    - If you are interested in joining this committee, please email [jayk@stepagency.com](mailto:jayk@stepagency.com).
- The Board added two members at the November Board meeting – Ceasar Seabron and Akkia Pride-Polk.
- At the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting:
  - During the "Meeting Our Mission" segment, A.J., a client, personally recognized his Service Coordinator (SC) and shared how her role in his life affected him positively.
  - ACRC recognized staff for their years of service.
  - The financial report reflects an increase in costs for the first quarter due to the rate study. The Board also reviewed and accepted the "clean" independent audit report.

- ACRC's Education Support Team shared a presentation which noted that 16,606 clients have either an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a 504 Accommodation Plan, or are in the process of being assessed for special education to determine eligibility.
  - PAC members expressed an interest in having this presentation shared at a future meeting.

**3. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates**

- Community Care Licensing (CCL) Regulations Discussion
  - Stephenie Doub, CCL's Regional Manager, will be attending the March PAC meeting.
- ACRC continues to hold rate reform vendor forums.

**4. System Reform and Legislative Updates (Capitol Coalition, CCLN, CDSA, CRA, PAVE, Master Plan Workgroup, & Service Provider Coalition Group)**

- Capitol Coalition
  - As Mr. Broadbent mentioned, the group is meeting after the PAC meeting today at ACRC.
  - Ms. Croom noted that they are working on their Mission statement, revising their logo and completing their application to join the Lanterman Coalition.
- CCLN
  - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) Annual Leadership Conference 2025 will be held in San Diego from April 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - "Staying Strong Together – Advocacy, Hope & Resilience", this conference will focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. A panel from the LGBTQIA+ and Hispanic communities will share how they feel threatened at this time. More information will be released soon.
    - Teresa Anderson, Public Policy Director of the Arc/UCP California Collaboration, has released her report on the workforce. She is scheduled to share a presentation at the conference.
    - CCLN will be reaching out to ACRC and VMRC about possibly sharing a presentation on the DSP Collaborative, as well.
  - Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Foss are part of the DDS Quality Incentive Program (QIP) focus group. In time, it appears that our service system will be a pay-for performance system, which is concerning because utilization will become targeted.
    - Mr. Kolvoord noted that the Master Plan Workgroup, which he is a member of, has shared that there is no plan to move all services over to Managed Care.

- CDSA
  - The California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) held their public policy briefing, and their Legislative Affairs Conference is scheduled for March.
- CRA
  - During the last DDS QIP meeting, there was a growing consensus that there needs to be more advocacy. Mr. Ciampa encouraged service providers to view the meeting information on DDS' website in their archive section.
  - DDS plans to hold a meeting to discuss a universal metric system for respite and personal attendants (PAs). They have a statutory deadline to have something completed by December, so that it can be implemented in January 2026.
  - There continues to be questions about bundling mileage.
- PAVE
  - The group will be meeting within the next few weeks.
- Master Plan Workgroup
  - A meeting was held in Oakland yesterday.
  - Recommendations are being formalized by all of the different workgroups to be presented to the full group.
  - Mr. Kolvoord noted that they have not received much feedback on housing and transportation issues. If you are a transportation provider, showing up to these meetings and providing input would be valuable.
- CaAPSE
  - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) is reviewing employment service codes and is seeking partners to help address ongoing issues.
  - There are also issues with Tailored Day Services (TDS). Clients are not able to access these services because they need more hours for other services.

## 5. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Vendor Relations Committee
  - Mr. Broadbent shared that the group met and reviewed the correspondence that they have been having with Ms. Johnson and Ms. Bloom regarding Purchase of Services (POS) processing issues, which continues to be ongoing.
    - Ms. Watilo would like to join this group.
- Communication & Outreach Committee
  - Mr. Ciampa and Ms. Ramirez have verified the membership and sent out a survey to find a meeting time for everyone. Anyone is welcome to join.
    - The next meeting is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

6. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Because of the weather, Mr. Kolvoord shared that STEP, Inc. has cancelled their second annual Valentine's Day event.
- Ms. Watilo shared a January 2025 report from the Illinois State Council on Developmental Disabilities entitled "*What's At Stake: Project 2025's Potential Impact on People with Developmental Disabilities.*"
- Ms. Duncan-Fowler noted that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is trying to find a meeting space that follows the Brown Act.
- STEP, Inc. is offering a paid Deaf Training that is available for hearing staff that provide services to deaf clients. If you would like more information, please contact Mr. Kolvoord.
- Please send any suggested agenda items to Ms. Dyba for the March meeting.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 13, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales