

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 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
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
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Antonio Ranit, Antelope Hills
Manor

Interpreters

Aviva Ben-Shitrit-Raiter
Cory Watson

Board Members:

Kelly Pennington

Visitors

Sheila Abrams
Jessica Anderson
Erica Avila
Stephanie Berberich
Lisa Cappellari
NaTasha Harden
Michael Hayes
Melissa Hix
Braydon Holtzinger
Erica Horn
Jessica Knuth
Susana Magana
Marie McConnell
Cody Newport
Branee Owens
Madeline Ronchetto
Jen Roney
Brandie Rovito
Michele Simpson
Allan Villagran
Jasmine Vollenweider
Rafael Wagas
Max Woodford

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 9:31 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 April 9, 2026, as submitted.

1. Executive Director's Report

- Ms. Banales noted that the Governor will be releasing the May Revision at 10:30 a.m. today. Yesterday, Pete Cervinka, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), shared that it may not be as much of a challenge as once thought. The regional center Executive Directors are meeting this afternoon to discuss it in more detail.
- ACRC is seeking input on our Performance Measures that are embedded into the Performance Contract. We are looking for ways in which we can influence positive outcomes for those that we serve – we are accepting input through May 29th. It will be taken before the Board's Executive Committee for approval at their June 8th meeting.
- We will be sending out our Community Resource Development Plan's (CRDP's) Stakeholder Survey by the end of next week. We will ensure the survey reflects the rate study categories. ACRC's priorities are Safety Net Services (including affordable housing, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly [RCFE], Dental Services, etc.). We are looking for creative ideas that will fill in some of those gaps.
 - This will be a topic at an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services," as well.
 - ACRC has been involved in the development of the Willowgrove Project in Davis for the last four years. We originally negotiated ten set aside units for clients. Two weeks ago, the developers informed us that they have increased it to 20 set aside units. It is important to note that this project has no DDS/regional center funding attached.
- At last week's "Coffee with Community Services," we reviewed DDS's Remote Services Directive, which offers service providers suggestions on ways to track this so that they can add this into e-billing.
 - Ms. Banales noted that DDS is asking service providers to use this formula; they are curious to know how many clients are receiving services in this manner.
- DDS is highlighting the Provider Directory Standardized Vendorization Process by posting "Open Vendorization Request by Stage and RC" on their website. This graph shows the breakdown of where regional centers stand across the state in vendorizations – ACRC is shining in this process. Just yesterday, our Community Services and Supports (CSS) Department received ten applications.

2. Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration

- Today's topic is Purchase of Services (POS) issues.
 - Ms. Dyba polled the 16 PAC members:

- For receiving POS' in a timely manner – nine members have experienced regular issues; certain service types are more difficult.
- Ten members have had difficulty receiving responses from Service Coordinators (SCs).
- Five members reported that they regularly get the Manager involved.
- Many delays are due to SC turnover and not knowing who to contact.
- There are issues in the Atlas (Profound) system.
- Some referrals take several months to get started, and some have wrong dates on POS.
- Some service providers do not receive the active authorizations email generated from the Accounting Department.
- Ms. Johnson noted that there have been delays in getting POS' in the system and she is working with Robin LeMay, ACRC's POS Manager, about invoicing issues.
 - The SC submits the POS in Atlas, then the Manager approves it. The POS then goes to the Accounting Department to process. There should not be a lag in the SC writing and submitting it for Manager approval. It is important to note that ACRC does ask for a two-week processing time for POS' – the "start date" is two weeks out from the Planning Team Meeting.
 - It was shared that ACRC's Accounting Department tells service providers to speak with their Fiscal Assistants, who then direct providers back to the SC.
 - Please reach out to either Ms. Johnson and/or Ms. Bloom if you need assistance.
- The Service Provider Portal (SPP) – Electronic Authorizations is posted on ACRC's website. Iqbal Ahmad, ACRC's Chief Operating Officer, will be invited to the June PAC meeting to share more information on this process. ACRC also has a "Who to Contact" list posted on their e-billing page.
- ACRC staff noted that the POS system shows different views to ACRC and providers. Providers requested training on the system so they can provide support to SCs as they navigate the system.
 - ACRC staff clarified that providers are not expected to provide support to SCs to navigate the POS system.
- This issue is about service access. Service providers want to make sure clients are receiving the services they need in a timely manner.

3. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates

- The Residential Services vendor forum was held on April 23rd.
- The Supported Living Services (SLS) vendor forum is scheduled for May 21st.

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

- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) held their Annual Leadership Conference from May 6th to 8th.
 - John Decker was awarded the Key Person Award for his work in innovated services and projects.
 - During the lunch time meeting, they discussed the new technology project and shared insurance perspectives.
 - Kirk Hinkleman, the keynote speaker, shared an amazing session, honoring John O'Brien and how Person-Centered Planning (PCP) helped define his final stages of life.
 - Please share upcoming events with CCLN – they are looking for opportunities for Dr. Julie Beadle-Brown to share information about Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE).
- It is important to note that DDS is no longer funding the DSP University. Service providers would be responsible for paying their staff if they require them to complete this training.
- On May 5th, the California Health & Human Services Agency (CalHHS) released a report on employment outcomes.
 - Ms. Watilo will forward the report to Ms. West for distribution.
- Ms. Dyba reminded everyone that the California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) is hosting a Workforce Summit on May 27th & 28th.

5. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - Ms. Ramirez noted that this committee is charged with ensuring that the PAC has representation across service codes and from all ten counties that ACRC serves.
 - Max Woodford, from Learning to Thrive, a community-based day program service, shared that their first location opened in Grass Valley and they recently opened another location in Yuba City. Learning to Thrive also provides tailored-day services in seven counties, which opens the doors to employment opportunities for the clients they serve.

Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to approve Max Woodford's membership to the PAC.

- The PAC's Discussion Group portal is now included on the PAC's page on ACRC's website. This will help guide the discussions during these meetings.
- Ms. Dyba reminded PAC members that they must sit on at least one committee. Ms. West will email PAC members to clarify each committee's membership.

6. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Futures Explored is hosting a Trivia Night next Thursday evening, May 21st.
- Mr. Decker shared that DDS will be highlighting the new Meta Glasses pilot project with Odyssey Learning & Life Day Program in their next newsletter.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 11, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales