

Alta California Regional Center  
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 8, 2025  
Minutes

**Present:**

Garrett Broadbent, Creative  
Living Options, Co-Chair &  
Design. Dir.  
James Astorga, F&A Astorga  
Care Home  
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &  
Associates  
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento  
Andrea Croom, InAlliance  
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  
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare  
Services  
Yvonne Soto, DDSO  
Carole Watilo, Progressive  
Employment

Meddie Cueva  
Bill Duncan  
Alice Fisher  
Maureen Fitzgerald  
Elizabeth Freeman  
Angel Garcia  
Angelique Goldberg  
Michael Hayes  
Jessica Knuth  
Letty Leon  
Marie McConnell  
Susan Miner  
Saeed Mirza  
Alma Morales  
Cody Newport  
Judith Ovalles  
Branee Owens  
Amy Parkin  
Sergio Pinto  
Becca Pressnell  
Jen Roney  
Jasmine Vollenweider  
Max Woodford

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Lindsey Dyba\*, Futures Explored,  
Inc., Chair  
Bonnie Douglas\*, Turning Point

**Visitors**

Sheila Abrams  
Beza Admassu  
Jessica Anderson  
D'Alinzi Aragon  
Jody Bailey  
Stephanie Berberich  
Taylor Berry  
Christa Coats

**Staff:**

Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client  
Services  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &  
Clinical Services  
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client  
Services  
Carly Moorman, Client Employment  
Specialist  
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community  
Services Specialist  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) PAC Chair & Co-Chair/ Designated Rep to Board for 2025-26 FY; 3) Update on FMS Grant from 2024;

4) Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration; 5) ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates; 6) System Reform and Legislative Updates; 7) PAC Committee Reports; and 8) Announcements/Comments. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Garrett Broadbent made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of April 10, 2025, as submitted.**

**1. *Executive Director's Report***

- Ms. Banales sends her apologies for missing this meeting.
- As required by law, ACRC provides an annual update on our agency's performance goals. Yesterday, we shared information on ACRC's 2025 Performance Contract at our quarterly Community Meeting. In addition to today's presentation, we will be sharing this information during next week's Board Executive Committee, as well as the Client Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.
  - Ms. Johnson, Ms. Bloom, Ms. Houston and Mr. Decker provided an overview of Public Policy and Compliance Measures.
    - Ms. Houston noted that over the years, the number of applicants coming through ACRC's doors has increased substantially. Once these individuals are made eligible, we also need to make sure that the agency has Service Coordinators (SCs) at the other end to provide case management. We continue to vendor clinical psychologists. ACRC is working with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on the accuracy of the data, as well.
    - ACRC has been successful in our endeavors to stay current with the best practices to encourage employment opportunities for clients.
      - The DSP Collaborative is seeking stories to highlight individuals that are working in their communities.
      - Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP) is a pilot program that DDS introduced last year, which supports clients exiting work activity programs, subminimum wage settings, or are within two years of exiting secondary education.
        - Currently, ACRC has four CCP vendors, with three more in the process of being vendored.
        - Information has been shared with school districts and Ms. Moorman hopes to see an uptick in interest over the next year.
  - ACRC strives to improve equity in services. We hold focus groups and provide outreach throughout our agency's catchment area. There has been an ongoing discussion about what is authorized and

what is actually spent. Transportation services may have an effect on these numbers, as well.

- As ACRC implements the rate study, Mr. Decker believes that some of the data discrepancies will be resolved naturally.
  - Your feedback helps shape our agency's planned activities for the next year – [performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org](mailto:performancecontractfeedback@altaregional.org).
- Mr. Decker had the opportunity to participate in the Medicaid Rally at Kevin Kiley's office, and Ms. Banales is part of the planning workgroup for the "Keeping the Promise" Rally on the west steps of the State Capitol on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ACRC is preparing to submit our Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) \$892,000 budget to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
  - Grant funding is available; some of which has been utilized to fund the DSP Collaborative.
    - We are pleased to announce that the seven Los Angeles regional centers will be a part of this project beginning July 1, 2025; ACRC and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) are helping the LA County regional centers plan their first job fairs.
- Per DDS Directives, the department is requiring service providers to participate in the Provider Directory, as well as complete their Service Acknowledgement Form.
  - All providers that are billing the regional center must complete the registration process for the DDS Provider Directory by May 30<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to ensure that the information is correct, ACRC staff are double-checking how service providers are categorized.
  - As of this morning:
    - 36% of the Service Acknowledgement Forms have been received.
    - 309 service providers are in the directory but have not yet completed all of the steps.
      - ACRC utilized our Everbridge notification system to reach out to these providers. Since then, we have received 111 separate responses back from that list.
    - 264 service providers have not yet done anything.
      - After the Everbridge message, this number has gone down to 189.
  - ACRC's Accounting Department is reviewing this data, as well, as staff are preparing for rollover.
  - Questions remain about the timeline for participation in DDS' Provider Directory and new providers/vendorizations.
- Mr. Decker acknowledged the transportation service providers who attended three meetings with DDS and R&D Transportation last week, as we transition to mileage rates from hourly rates.

- DDS will be sending out exemption letters to service providers, with a cc to the regional center.

**2. *PAC Chair & Co-Chair/Designated Rep to Board for 2025-26 FY***

- Mr. Broadbent reminded PAC members that there is no term limit for the PAC Chair, but there is a three-year term limit for the Co-Chair/Designated Representative to ACRC's Board.
  - He is willing to serve one more year as the PAC Co-Chair/Designated representative to the Board.
  - Ms. Croom stated that she has been in contact with Ms. Dyba, who has indicated that she is willing to serve one more year as the PAC Chair, utilizing this next year to assist with the transition of the seat to another PAC member.

**Without objection, Lindsey Dyba is elected the PAC Chair, and Garrett Broadbent is elected the PAC Co-Chair/Designated Rep to the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 FY.**

**3. *Update on FMS Grant from 2024***

- Regional centers statewide have received feedback from the community regarding the challenges that they are facing. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was released, and our region awarded three contracts to Acumen Fiscal Agent, HR Alliance, and Ridgeline.
  - These FMSs are responsible for creating online systems to speed up the process of bringing on new clients.
- Mr. Decker noted that there are new guidelines for FMS vendors. If you are interested in becoming an FMS provider, please contact ACRC's Community Services Department.

**4. *Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration***

- Ms. Halecky is seeking suggestions for those agencies who are having difficulty with their Accounting Departments.
  - Some providers supplement some of their services.
    - NOW CFO – Mr. Broadbent noted that once his agency got the right representative, support improved.
  - Knowing that the cashflow challenges that service providers face affects client services, Mr. Decker is happy to support any efforts.
  - A suggestion was made to create a "Resource List" for new providers as they start this process.

**5. *ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates***

- Last week's transportation meetings ended up being a type of vendor forum.
  - Mr. Ciampa noted that the broker relationship requires a multistep process for submitting billing, which is new to service providers.

- Both ACRC and R&D Transportation are asking for data to be submitted prior to paying for services. The webinars are becoming more productive.

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

- Capitol Coalition
  - The group is meeting again today after the PAC meeting.
  - They submitted a letter to DDS regarding the issues with the 055 and 063 Service Codes – they are awaiting a response.
  - With the assistance of Futures Explored, the group is tracking and taking a position on several bills.
    - When they agree to act on a bill, Mr. Ciampa would like to share this information with the PAC, so that service providers can remain informed.
  - They are assisting with planning the May 22<sup>nd</sup> “Keep the Promise” Rally from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the west steps of the State Capitol.
- CCLN
  - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) Annual Leadership Conference 2025 was held in San Diego from April 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - Mr. Decker appreciates being invited. He and Mr. Kolvoord presented on the DDS’ Assistive Technology Pilot Project.
      - STEP and On MY Own have become subject matter experts on this.
    - DDS joined in on a great discussion on Enhanced Supported Living Services (SLS).
- CDSA
  - California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) is sponsoring a few bills.
    - AB 815 (Ortega) Vehicle insurance: vehicle classification.
      - This bill went through the Assembly’s Committee and has now moved to the Appropriations Committee.
    - AB 1335 (Gonzalez, Jeff) Habilitation services.
      - The Chair opposed this bill; it did not move forward.
- CRA
  - The California Respite Association (CRA) is opposing SB 617, a bill, co-sponsored by SEIU, which would create a statewide registry. The group does not believe this registry would be of any use.
    - This bill is before the Appropriations Committee since there is a cost to the bill. They are also seeking to have it included in the rate model.
  - Mr. Ciampa met with DDS regarding the respite assessments.
    - The statutory deadline for the tool to be developed is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

- PAVE
  - ACRC has been selected to participate in the pilot of the Person-Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE).
    - We have identified staff who will be utilizing the PAVE portal in developing their Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
    - ACRC is hosting PAVE's Advisory Group on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- CaAPSE
  - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) is working on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in employment services.
    - Ms. Watilo noted that a great presentation was given during the recent CCLN Conference.
  - They are also collaborating with different stakeholders on the 055 & 063 Service Code issue.
- Master Plan Workgroup
  - This group will be meeting every six months.

## 7. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Communication & Outreach Committee
  - They met on Tuesday and reviewed the updated PAC matrix. Ms. Ramirez is pleased to share that the PAC now covers all ten counties and has representation under every major category.
  - The group created a flyer, which will be posted on ACRC website, so that providers can add to the PAC meeting discussion list. It also shares the Gaggle group link, which is an independently managed discussion group. The Gaggle group now has about 70 providers signed up.
  - Ms. Ramirez noted that they will be bringing forward Michael Lyman, with Ridgeline Pediatric, for PAC membership consideration at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Vendor Relations Committee
  - This group did not meet this month.

## 8. **Announcements/Comments**

- While ACRC is aligning service codes, Mr. Decker shared that we have new levels of residential care and supplemental staffing ratios. This speaks to the necessity to reevaluate our agency's assessment tools. We will be working with our internal Risk Management Department to update these tools. ACRC strives to have a transparent process and will be seeking input from service providers and the CAC.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 12, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales