

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 12, 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
Janet Brandon, A.I.M. &
Associates
Eric Ciampa, UCP of Sacramento
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

Absent: (* excused)

Andrea Croom*, InAlliance
Bonnie Douglas*, Turning Point
Carole Watilo*, Progressive
Employment

Visitors

Nel Rose Amihan
Jessica Anderson
Catherine Bean-Anderson
Stephanie Berberich
Taylor Berry
Christa Coats
Meddie Cueva

Maureen Fitzgerald
Nica Garachico
Michael Hayes
Priscilla Holmes
Erica Horn
Jessica Knuth
Letty Leon
Marie McConnell
Grant Murry
Cody Newport
Sergio Pinto
Becca Pressnell
Shawn Raiford
Haleigh Scott
Aimee Celine Sy
Miranda Wilding

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance &
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
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Carly Moorman, Client Employment
Specialist
Helen Neri, Community Services &
Supports Manager
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 9:32 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Report; 2) Executive Director's 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 May 8, 2025, as submitted.

1. Board Report

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the Board met on May 29th:
 - The “Meeting Our Mission” segment highlighted the LIFE Program at Sierra College.
 - ACRC recognized staff, including Lisa West, for 25 years of service.
 - The Board approved the Slate of Officers for the next fiscal year (FY), the financial report, the independent auditor and two housing contracts.

2. Executive Director’s Report

- Ms. Banales shared that ACRC is holding an Open House on Thursday, July 10th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Instead of holding a PAC meeting, we will be inviting microenterprises and vendors to set up booths. Space is limited to our first and second floor conference space, along with the cafeteria and patio area.
 - Mr. Decker and Ms. Moorman will be coordinating the Microenterprise Fair.
 - Please contact Ms. West if you would like to participate.
- This Friday, the state’s legislature will vote on Senate Bill 101, which:
 - Rejects the Governor’s proposal to cap overtime hours for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers.
 - This is a conversation that will continue; we remain hopeful.
 - Rejects pausing the Direct Support Professionals (DSP) University with Sacramento State.
 - Regional centers believe that this opportunity will assist providers in hiring the needed DSPs to serve clients across the state.
 - Modifies the Governor’s proposal to establish Medi-Cal premiums for unsatisfactory immigration status (UIS) individuals by lowering the proposed \$100 per month to \$30 per month, while also limiting the age range to 19- to 59-year-olds, starting January 1, 2027.
 - There is still a long way to go to reach a balanced budget.
- Ms. Banales attended a meeting with Pete Cervinka, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), to discuss the May 14th DDS Directive entitled “Access to Client Information” – a plain language version is now posted on the department’s website.

- Although DDS sent it out to service providers across the state, ACRC will be sharing the Directive with all ACRC service providers later today.
- Ms. Banales expressed appreciation to ACRC's Community Services Department, Managers and staff. They worked together to make sure that ACRC was able to meet DDS' requirement for the completion of the Service Acknowledgement Forms (SAFs) by May 30th.
 - Ms. Duchene expressed appreciation to all of the service providers who made this happen.
 - Mr. Kolvoord noted that ACRC did a great job in communicating with service providers on this, as well.
- Mr. Decker noted that there is a requirement for the DDS Provider Directory, as well. Currently, ACRC has 77 service providers who are on the "not started" list.

3. **Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration**

- What technology are service providers using to support clients?
 - eRSP – this app is the industry leading, cloud-based, home care software featuring client management, scheduling, billing, and payroll solutions that are easily tailored for Companion Care, Special Needs, Assisted Living, and Skilled Care Service.
 - MediSked – this medication-scheduling program works well as a database. Some providers believe it could be better designed; it is too complicated.
 - eVero – this web portal and mobile app is designed to help you manage your Self-Direction budget, services, and staff. You can access information, track budgets, and communicate with your team; considered a strong option.
 - Behavior Agent – for those employees who have company cell phones, this AI app assists with ABA data collection, behavior/skill/event notes, and person-centered language. It also has a scheduling component.
 - QuickSolvePlus (QSP) – this SLS & ILS Management Software will help you support clients more quickly and accurately and at a lower cost by automating much of what you may do by hand or in multiple locations. The industry reporting requirements are pretty well covered by this tool.
 - Some providers are using ChatGPT to help build a more robust staff training program.
 - Google Speech & Google Forms – Google tracking captures information and provides graphs.
 - Some providers have built their own Bot for billing purposes, which has saved time.
- Mr. Decker is ACRC's Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) contact and will be providing an EVV update at tomorrow's "Coffee with Community Services."

- DDS' EVV Team is hosting a virtual office hour meeting on June 27, 2025, from 1 to 2 p.m. The link can be found on the department's website.
- ACRC has almost completed the vendorization of two programs that have assistive technology devices – GrandCare and SafeinHome (out of the East Bay).
 - GrandCare provides a tablet within the client's home that can control different devices in the home. The idea is that the tablet can be set up so the client can have a direct connection with family members and/or service providers. You can preprogram the tablet for emergencies, as well.
 - SafeinHome empowers people to live independently in their own homes and communities using a remote supports staff and assistive technologies. They will also pay for subscriptions.
 - Mr. Decker noted that ACRC is working with DDS on obtaining a Service Code for assistive technology services.
 - ACRC and STEP will be sharing an Assistive Technology Presentation at the 39th Annual Supported Life Conference in October.
- ACRC is vendored with GoGoGrandparent, a transportation broker, who can assist with setting up a rideshare or schedule rides.
 - Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) vendored GoGoGrandparent, on behalf of the state, so that all regional centers can utilize them. ACRC is working to promote and expand this opportunity in our catchment area. There are great opportunities available to clients who have transportation challenges.
- Mr. Broadbent will be presenting at the California Disabilities Services Association (CDSA) Conference in September on IntellectAbility and StationMD.
 - IntellectAbility has a Health Risk Screening Tool (HRST) that has been used a few times in California. This tool can assess the risk of death within the year. With four hours of training, staff can be certified on how to assess a client's level of risk, which can eventually affect a client's quality of life.
 - Station MD provides high-quality medical care for people with I/DD anytime they need it; it is available in several states, but not all (yet).

4. ***ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates***

- No vendor forums were held.
- ACRC will be reconvening with transportation vendors.

5. ***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.

- Their subcommittee met with DDS to discuss 055 & 063 Service Codes and the exemption process. The big concern is that these service codes provide personalization in service needs.
 - Although service providers believe ACRC handled this process with integrity, other regional centers did not provide all of their service providers with their letters or even initiate a discussion.
 - The department recognized some of the core issues, even if they do not have solutions at this time. The subcommittee is waiting to see what may come out of this discussion.
 - Ms. Duchene noted that DDS informed her this morning that they are working on ACRC's exemption letters at this time.
- CCLN
 - The California Community Living Network (CCLN) is pleased that the legislative version of the state's budget includes the reinstatement of the DSP University and rejects the cap to overtime hours for IHSS providers. They remain hopeful that the Governor will agree to this.
 - They are concerned about the interpretation of sleep time guidance by the Department of Labor (DOL), which will have a significant impact on Supported Living Services (SLS) providers. CCLN is continuing their conversation with DDS on the potential impact.
- CDSA
 - CDSA is holding their annual conference in Carlsbad from September 16th to 19th.
- CRA
 - The California Respite Association (CRA) has heard that DDS is still working with their consultants on the universal family assessments. The public comment period was to open on June 1st.
- PAVE
 - Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE) continues to move forward. CCLN appreciates the partnership with ACRC and looks forward to the pilot.
- CaAPSE
 - The California branch of the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (CaAPSE) was awarded a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grant.
 - ACRC is currently working on their scope of work and hopefully will be getting into contract with them by the end of the month.

6. **PAC Committee Reports**

- Communication & Outreach Committee
 - The group met and reviewed the PAC's Vendor Orientation presentation.
 - Ms. Ramirez will have the slides updated by the end of the month.
 - Michael Lyman withdrew his PAC application.

- Taylor Berry will be on the September PAC agenda for membership.
 - A suggestion was made to update the attendance requirements needed prior to submitting a PAC application (making it the same as being a PAC member).
- Vendor Relations Committee
 - The group discussed ACRC's Purchase of Services (POS) procedures – seeking process and what is required of vendors to implement these procedures. Service providers must work with Service Coordinators (SCs) in a timely manner, escalating issues to Managers and Associate Directors (ADs), if necessary.
 - They may seek more clarity from Ms. Bloom and Ms. Johnson.

7. *Announcements/Comments*

- ACRC is hosting a booth at the Sacramento PRIDE Festival this weekend.
- Futures Explored Film Studio invites everyone to join them tonight at the Historic Tower Theatre – red carpet starts at 6 p.m., with the showing of short films following at 7 p.m.
- Because there is a term limit for the PAC's Co-Chair/Designated Representative to ACRC's Board of Directors, Mr. Broadbent is seeking the level of interest of sitting PAC members to hold this position for the 2026-27 fiscal year (FY). He noted that it is important to attend several Board meetings prior to holding this position.
- Between now and the September PAC meeting, PAC members are in the best position to understand gaps in services. Regional centers are now allowed to use Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds for a wide range of services. Ms. Eller noted that ACRC will be releasing the 2025-26 FY Needs Assessment Survey for this year's CPP/Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) development priorities in early July. Rhonda Phillips, ACRC's Housing Specialist, has several housing projects that she will be putting forward for gap funding, as well.
 - ACRC remains committed to supporting projects throughout our ten-county catchment area.
 - Ms. Banales is attending The Heights on Stockton Dedication Ceremony next Tuesday at 11 a.m.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 11, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales