

Alta California Regional Center
Provider Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 11, 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
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
Laleh Sharpe, Maxim Healthcare
Services
Carole Watilo, Progressive
Employment

Absent: (* excused)

Yvonne Soto*, DDSO

Visitors

Beza Admassu
Jessica Anderson
D'Auna Aragon
Jody Bailey
Julie Beadle-Brown
Stephanie Berberich
Taylor Berry
Nora Cancino
Kim Christensen
Christa Coats
Bill Duncan
Maureen Fitzgerald

Angel Garcia
Brayden Holtzinger
Letty Leon
Michael Lyman
Susana Magana
Nati Mauga
Dillon McMahon
Nataline Nguyen
Jim Odusola
Lois Orcutt
Branee Owens
Amy Parkin
Jen Roney
Cynthia Teel
Jasmine Vollenweider
Rafael Wagas
Max Woodford

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Iqbal Ahmad, Chief Operating Officer
Scott Barr, Quality Assurance &
Compliance Manager
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client
Services
Jordan Cody, Legal Services Manager
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Michelle Duchene, Community
Services & Supports Manager
Jordan Eller, Specialized Services
Manager
Hubert Enriquez, Emergency
Response Coordinator
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Carly Moorman, Client Employment
Specialist
Jason Scantlebury, LEAD Community
Services Specialist
Marissa Vila, Legal Services Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) met on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. to discuss: 1) Board Report; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration; 4) Discussion – AB1147 (Public Records Act); 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, Lindsey Dyba made the motion to approve the Provider Advisory Committee meeting minutes of June 12, 2025, as submitted.

1. Board Report

- Mr. Broadbent shared that the Board met on July 24th:
 - The Board approved their revised 2025-26 fiscal year (FY) Board meeting and committee meeting schedules. The Board has found that the time of the meetings/trainings are difficult with members' personal schedules. In an effort to increase attendance, they have moved the start time for meetings to 5 p.m. and their trainings to Saturdays.
 - They approved the contract with Dr. Peter Himber, a CalPERS annuitant, who will be assisting with ACRC's Intake timelines. This was actually the Board's second approval of this contract, since CalPERS required a rollcall vote.
 - Reyva Johnson, one of ACRC's Client Advocates, shared a presentation on the People Planning Together (PPT) Training that she has provided to adult clients and high school age students transitioning into adulthood.
 - Mr. Decker provided a transportation update, noting that 5% of trips take longer than 90 minutes. These trips are usually in rural areas or due to the number of individuals in a vehicle.
- Mr. Broadbent noted service providers have expressed concern regarding ACRC's revisions to their current "Social Recreation Activities, Camp and Non-Medical Therapies Policy. He shared that on August 1st, ACRC received a letter from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) requiring a revision to this policy to make sure it follows W&I Section 4688.22, which states that regional centers "shall not generally prohibit or disfavor the purchase of these services."
 - Some providers have already attended Planning Team meetings where this opportunity was shared with clients/families.
 - Those present asked: Are there any limits on these requests? What is the budget for these requests? Will the PAC have an opportunity to make suggestions?
 - Ms. Banales noted that this was required by the department. The removal of service standards related to frequency and duration on all types of services are to be removed from this service policy per the Directive. That said, ACRC's Service Coordinators (SCs) are still required to assess need and apply this assessment to hours in the

day available to participate in requested activity. The Executive Committee voted to move this revised policy on to the full Board for consideration at the September 25th Board meeting.

2. ***Executive Director's Report***

- Hubert Enriquez, ACRC's Emergency Response Coordinator, shared that September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. ACRC is hosting our 1st Annual Emergency Resource Fair on Thursday, September 25th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Mr. Decker highlighted the three new DDS Directives that have been released:
 - Excessive Mileage Rate Models
 - ACRC received feedback from service providers about the mileage that was built into the new rate models. He will review this Directive, in depth, during an upcoming "Coffee with Community Services" session. ACRC will also offer a separate meeting for those service providers using Service Codes 116, 117, 805 and 862.
 - Updated Rates for Transportation Services – there are significant rate changes for closed transportation and guidance for calculating retroactive payments.
 - Revised Billing Instructions for Broker Services – change from daily rates to monthly rates.
- ACRC is proud to announce the opening of the Liberi Home, a Group Home for Children with Special Health Needs (GHCSHN). ACRC has three clients that are slated for admission, and the two other beds will be available to regional centers across the state. This home is located in Carmichael and will keep kids close to their parents while they receive the 24-hour nursing care that they require.
- Ms. Duchene shared that ACRC is piloting a rideshare broker service, GoGoGrandparent. These services are for clients that have transportation needs outside of normal hours.
 - An ACRC Board member will be utilizing this service and staff have also identified 66 additional clients that might be able to utilize this pilot project.
 - Ms. Banales will continue to report back to this committee as we learn more.

3. ***Resource Sharing/Vendor Collaboration***

- Ms. Ramirez shared that one of the goals for this committee is to have less reporting out and more collaboration. We came up with an idea of suggesting discussion topics for future PAC meetings.
 - Link to Resource sharing doc:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AkaxOzKNf75M8Stpmu4De399RMMhW8dgKkp35vXRw/edit?gid=193331...>
- Today's topic is AI (Artificial Intelligence)

- Mr. Broadbent noted one of the biggest concerns is being HIPAA compliant. Creative Living Options is looking to replace their web-based case management system with SETWorks.
 - Futures Explored is looking at utilizing KEBA.
- Ms. Banales noted that each regional center has an individual contract with DDS. Currently, regional centers must receive DDS' approval of any AI usage. Regional centers will be required to have business agreements in place with each service provider to make sure that there are guidelines for client's protected health information (PHI) when using AI. She will be sharing more with this committee as she learns more; there will be a lot of discussions at the Executive Director level. We need to be cautious and diligent, while balancing client information with the efficiencies of using AI.
- InAlliance staff just started using AI for their external newsletters to families.
- Southside Unlimited just started writing policies with AI.

4. **Discussion – AB1147 (Public Records Act)**

- Ms. Banales requested that Jordan Cody, ACRC's new Legal Services Manager, share information about AB1147 and the Public Records Act (PRA).
 - Mr. Cody shared that regional centers across the state have been working collaboratively and have drafted two letters about the California Public Records Act (CPRA) for service providers.
 - The first provides information about upcoming changes to public records requirements under the California Public Records Act (CPRA). The second will be sent to specific service providers when a public records request is received by the regional center.
 - The state legislature decided to classify regional centers as public agencies beginning January 1, 2026. We are private, non-profit corporations, however based on receiving funding solely provided by state and federal streams we have been aligned in the public space.
 - Mr. Cody shared that service providers may want to take proactive steps to protect their information prior to January 1, 2026.
 - ACRC has ten days to notify the requestor if we will be complying with the request. We do not know what the workflow will look like as we move forward. Service providers will have the opportunity to object to a PRA request. If you are sent this notice and you do not respond, ACRC is required to release the requested information. You may want to establish protocols within your organization on how these requests will be handled.
 - Ms. Banales noted that if a public records request is received and the service provider claims that the information is exempt, a judicial process is required if the requestor challenges the release.

- Members asked if service providers will have an opportunity to review their ACRC vendor files.
 - Ms. Banales noted that ACRC will need to evaluate if staff have the capacity to do this. ACRC would like to find a way to partner with providers and will get back with strategies to meet this need.
- Regarding the earlier topic of AI, Mr. Cody noted that if you or your staff use personal devices for work purposes, they could be subject to public records requests, as well.
- Ms. Banales underscored importance for each provider to consult with their counsel on this topic to gain knowledge and to provide guidance.

5. ACRC Vendor Forum Representative Updates

- The Behavioral Day Services met on September 9th, and the Medical Day Services vendor forum met on September 10th, where ACRC staff:
 - Discussed the consultation and training requirement.
 - Provided Quality Assurance (QA) and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) updates.
- At the Infant Development Program vendor forum on September 3rd, ACRC staff shared the new DDS Directives and rate reform for Early Start.
- The Residential vendor forum is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th, from 1 to 2 p.m.
- The Independent Living Services (ILS) vendor forum is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21st, from 11 a.m. to noon.

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

- PAVE
 - Dr. Beadle-Brown, with the California Community Living Network (CCLN), provided a presentation on ACRC's pilot project with Person-centered Advocacy Vision Education (PAVE).
 - This project is being funded by the State of California. The aim of the project is to develop, pilot and test the feasibility, reliability, and validity of a new system that will:
 - Support people to experience better quality of life outcomes.
 - Gather robust data on quality and outcomes.
 - Provide access to that data at different levels to inform service development.
 - Dr. Beadle-Brown shared that the focus is on outcomes and informed choice. The whole idea is that the data that is collected should be serving a purpose.
 - We have been working to develop a process, building as we go. PAVE will learn with you and asks that you support those

individuals who have been identified to be part of this pilot.
Feedback is welcome.

7. ***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.
 - Taylor Berry shared her role at 24 Hour Home Care, which provides respite, personal assistance (PA) and social recreation coaching across all ten counties. Because of her employment history, which includes being an ACRC Service Coordinator (SC), she believes she would provide a unique perspective during this committee's discussions. Ms. Berry hopes to help build a stronger relationship between ACRC and its vendors.

Without objection, Andrea Croom made the motion to approve Taylor Berry's membership to the PAC.

8. ***Announcements/Comments***

- Ms. Watilo shared that Progressive Employment Concepts (PEC) is celebrating their 30th anniversary at Drake's: The Barn in West Sacramento on October 11th, from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to this free event.
- The DSP Collaborative is holding a kickoff webinar for LA County on September 23rd, from 2 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.
- ACRC is hosting Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) Training on October 1st & 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. This free training is made possible through a grant that PEC received.

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 9, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales