



**Alta California**

Regional Center

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 916-978-6400

**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)  
 Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)  
 Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
 Minutes**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<p align="center"><b>Legend:</b></p> <p>SA – Self-Advocate            FA – Family Advocate            SP – Service Provider</p>
Benita Ayala, FA	X		
Carmen Delgado, FA		X	
Daniel Meadows, SA	X		
Karen Mulvany, FA	X		
Kelsey Handcock, DRC		X	
Kenya Martinez, FA	X		
Kimberly Terrell, SA	X		
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	X		
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		X	
Pam Cheh, Community Resource Partner		X	
Tom Hopkins, SA		X	
Tracy Ligtenberg, FA	X		
William Reed	X		
<b>Non-members Present:</b>			
Brittany Mangum, ACRC Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Herman Kothe, ACRC Faye Tait, ACRC Thalia Castro Vega David Lopez, ACRC Sonya Bingaman, SCDD Peter Mendoza, SCDD	Theresa Gomez Maxine Paula Milam, DDS Margaux de Leon Joe Hernandez Breeanne Burris, 24 Hour Home Care Rachael Palmer, Progressive Employment Concepts Cindy Cox, GOFC Solutions	Christine Ibia, Aveanna Healthcare Felicia Ford	

## **1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair**

Welcome & Introductions (1:03 P.M.)

## **2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes (from November 10, 2021)—Lisa Cooley**

- Meeting Agenda:
  - Motion to approve agenda by William Reed
  - Seconded by Benita Ayala
  - SDAC passes unanimously
- Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to approve minutes by Daniel Meadows
  - Seconded by Sonya Bingaman
  - SDAC passes unanimously

## **3. ACRC SDP Updates—Mechelle Johnson, Jennifer Bloom, & Tracy Brown, ACRC**

### **a. ACRC 2021 Progress Report:**

- ACRC continues to update their internal spreadsheets which identifies and tracks the specific progress of each participant's enrollment in SDP. This provides information at a quick glance on where in the process each client currently is, which will assist us in understanding who is currently responsible for the next steps, as well as to continue to identify any barriers for the completion of enrollment.
- Clients who "flipped the switch" for a total of 50 clients as of January 5<sup>th</sup>
  - 21 are white
  - 29 are minorities
    - 4 African American
    - 10 Multicultural Cultural
    - 7 Hispanic
    - 2 Pacific Islander
    - 1 other Asian
    - 1 Vietnamese
    - 2 Korean
    - 2 Other

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- ACRC continues to have seven FMS vendored Agencies: Acumen, Aveanna, Community Interface Services, GT Independence, The Emelyn Group, Public Partnerships, Mains'l. Their contact information and available FMS services are listed out on the DDS website. Mechelle is aware some FMS are transitioning away from serving SDP clients and some FMS Agencies will need to be removed from the DDS website. The SDAC was advised in November that ARCC FMS would no longer be serving clients and Public Partnerships FMS is also going to stop serving clients.
- There are still a few agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP. Newly vendored for Person Center Planning Services: Lighted Path Solutions.
- ACRC continues to have weekly SDP Q&A Sessions for our Service Coordinators every Thursday, since May 2021. Starting in September 2021, ACRC holds weekly SDP consultation committee so that Service Coordinators are able to staff case specific questions.
- Regional Center SDP Collaborative meetings
- Statewide SDP Meetings, each month, 11/17/21 and 1/12/22
- ACRC HCBS internal workgroup 12/6 and 1/10 now scheduled quarterly. HCBS assessments continuing, as well as consults with Service Coordinators as needed.
- ACRC Timelines document on our website as well as other SDP resources and information
- ACRC Monthly Meeting with DDS, 11/19/21 and next one 1/21/22
- Service Coordinators continue outreach to clients to discuss the SDP program (documented on the 588 as a discussion item) and assisting them with registering for the LMS SDP Orientation
- Individual staffings are ongoing with Client Services Managers and the Associate Directors, as needed outside of the weekly committee staffing schedule

Month	Orientation Completed	Budget Completed	Budget In Process	PCP Completed	PCP In Process	Spending Plan Completed	Spending Plan In Process	IPP Completed	IPP In Process	Flipped the Switch!
July		12	4	12	13	12	1	12	2	12
August	236	19	34	13	5	8	7	3	11	16
September	45	6				4				20
October	47	4				3				25
November	44	4				4				29
December	54	3				1				41

Q: Karen asked how our numbers increased so greatly in the last two months.

A: Tracy responded by saying that as our Service Coordinators continue discussing SDP with clients and their families, the more comfortable it becomes and the momentum builds. The process has become smoother.

Q: Kenya asked about Lighted Path, which was recently vendored and would like to know if there is a link. Can percentages be broken down for the ethnicities that were shared above. Has ACRC spoken to Kern RC to collaborate?

A: Jen will share their email with the group. The percentages will be broken down by Kenya. No one in particular has reached out to Kern for anything specific, but all of the Regional Centers meet monthly regarding SDP.

Lighted Path Solutions email address: [lightedpathsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:lightedpathsolutions@gmail.com)

#### **b. Electronic Verification requirements for ACRC Service Codes**

At this time, there is no update. DDS said more information will be coming soon. DDS's website for EVV is: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/>

#### **c. Update on camp/social recreation services under SDP**

ACRC has a policy and procedure complete and will be presented to their Board of Directors on Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. ACRC's If there are any clients who would like to participate in Social Recreation, please continue bring those requests forward through the service coordinator. These requests are moving forward through our Best Practice Committee.

#### **d. FMS Business Terms**

ACRC has added suggested SDP questions for participants to ask FMS agencies prior to selecting them to be their FMS provider. ACRC has a meeting coming up with FMS agencies the first week of February. Karen explained that some service providers have indicated they will not be able to proceed with SDP services given Regional center reimbursement and FMS reimbursement.

Q: Tracy L. is concerned about the FMS being a critical piece of the process. Is there quality assurance in place?

A: Felicia Ford shared that this is NOT a Regional Center issue, but a DDS issue. Specifically, that FMS reimbursement for SDP Participants is significantly lower than it is for Participant-Directed Services.

#### **4. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update—Benita Ayala**

The committee is awarding the left-over implementation funds from the 2019-2020 fiscal year to Leap of Faith in the amount of \$21,000 and the committee supports providing \$3,000 to the state-level SDAC from the 2021-2022 funds. Leap of Faith will deliver two SDP Orientations to ACRC clients and families during the first week of February. Orientations will be delivered in English and Spanish.

Vote to approve this:

- Benita proposes a motion to approve the funding to Leap of Faith
- Karen seconds motion
- Committee unanimously passes motion with no abstentions

#### **5. Translation Services Update**

ACRC Needs 5 days in advance notice to provide translation services. The funding for translation will come out of the SDAC implementation fund.

Translation for SDP Q&A sessions held for the community were funded by the SDAC implementation funds.

Per trailer bill section #4620.4 use of these funds may not supplant any existing efforts or funds for similar purposes. Per the DDS directive SDAC implementation funds can be used for translation.

If someone needs translation of documents, that is something ACRC has always provided and continues to meet the needs of their clients. ACRC is also assisting in translation of documents for SDP.

#### **6. SDAC to extend invitation to Katie Hornberger, Office of the Ombudsperson, to present to SDAC—Committee**

SDAC passed unanimously.

**7. SDAC reviewed/approved 2021 SDAC SDP Implementation Report and send to DDS, ACRC, and the Office of the Ombudsperson—Lisa Cooley, Benita Ayala, & Karen Mulvany**

- Motion to approve by Daniel Meadows.
- Seconded by Lisa Cooley
- SDAC passes unanimously
- SDAC also wished to send these SDP Updates more frequently, monthly or bi-monthly.

**8. Update on SDAC Ad Hoc Committee—Karen Mulvany**

The SDAC Ad Hoc Committee hosted webinars and trainings in November of 2021. The group is scheduling in informal sessions for February & March focusing on FMS and Independent Facilitators. They will be reaching out to these providers for Lunch and Learn sessions.

**9. Action Items:**

- a. ACRC will share how the budget should be updated to reflect the 4/1/2022 rate study implementation.
  - *Deferred pending DDS guidance*
- b. ACRC will provide racial/ethnic data on completed SDP participants. SDAC verbally requested racial/ethnic data in written form compared to ACRC total population percentages and also for those who have completed orientation to those who wish to proceed with SDP.
- c. ACRC updated SDAC on new Participant Choice Specialist positions pursuant to DDS directive issued 11/4/2021 at: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Participant\\_Choice\\_Specialists\\_October\\_2021.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Participant_Choice_Specialists_October_2021.pdf)
  - *The link above is for the participant choice specialist and what it will be to each Regional Center. ACRC plans to hire four in this position in this fiscal year.*

**10. Public Comment Period**

Joe Hernandez: Joe is no longer with Aveanna. He is now working for SCDD as the SDP manager. He is working with DDS to create statewide training for SDP in plain language and broken down into 5 modules. Modules are to be 1 hour to 90 minutes and include Q&A time. Modules will be in multiple languages and the implementation is set to begin in March. Trainings will be offered online and can be used as an orientation to enter SDP or as supplemental training information. This training is not to replace the Regional Center orientation, but to be an alternative to create more access and equity.

Rachel Palmer shared that FMSs are not paying employees on time, and has happened multiple times. There are significant waitlists with different FMSs. Some waitlists are booked out until April.

Q: Karen M. wants to know if the Regional Center knows which FMSs these are so they have the opportunity to connect with them.

A: Mechelle J. is aware there has been a waitlist. There are ways to navigate around this. We are in the process of courtesy vrending a new FMS agency. If Rachel can provide these details to Mechelle after the meeting, this would be helpful.

Margaux de Leon has expressed that FMS support and communication is there for people who are transitioning but then once folks are in SDP, little or no communication. She is concerned about a pending program change for which she has not received a response from the FMS.

Rachel Palmer: Would it be possible for these meetings to ever take place later in the day? Most folks and their families participating in SDP who she knows are working during the day and unable to attend at this time. She has been encouraging people to email their public feedback and is sure a lot of people would like to attend in-person and share successes and challenges.

Committee will discuss this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

## **11. SDAC Member Comment Period**

Benita: When will SCs who have left positions be filled and who will be taking over that caseload in the meantime? She feels the budget approval is moving slowly. There are step-by-step, in-house tool changes that were made.

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A: Mechelle answered, when the Service Coordinator leaves, there is always a coverage plan. All clients have a SC, even if temporary. Parents can reach out to ACRC if they are unaware who the new or temporary SC is. Jen answers about the process moving slowly- this shouldn't be the case because we have weekly committee meetings in addition to ad hoc meetings if an issue arises that needs an answer. ACRC directors make themselves available to assist this as soon as these are brought up.

Benita: Regarding Leap of Faith- Orientation on 2/2 or 2/3, one in the morning or one in the afternoon. She wanted to just let committee know.

Kimberly is concerned about the hurdles along the way entering SDP. She can understand why there are doubts of people wanting to participate in SDP.

Kenya can understand Kimberly's concern. That is why we will have the coaching from other organizations.

Kimberly thinks it would be a good idea if every client had a note taker when taking trainings.

Lisa shared that there is a training for Independent Facilitators happening. People need to sign up if they are interested in becoming an Independent Facilitator. Rachel Palmer shared the details for this training.

[cesrachaelp@progressiveemployment.org](mailto:cesrachaelp@progressiveemployment.org)  
[www.progressiveemploymentconcepts.org](http://www.progressiveemploymentconcepts.org)

Tracy Ligtenberg asked if there is a way we can get a more regular report on the FMS agencies? Is there a way we can get this feedback to DDS so we are able to thrive? Tracy proposes a standing agenda item for future FMS updates.

Benita asked if ACRC can invite clients who have flipped the switch to these committee meetings? Can they receive a message blast informing them of the meetings?

Mechelle will look into seeing where else we can share the SDA C meeting notices. Herman shared that we have many different ways of getting out information and notifications. Email notifications seem to be the best way to reach folks as they signed up specifically.



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Herman mentioned that there is a stipend for those who participate in the video modules for SDP among seven other categories. A flyer is included as an attachment.

Kenya asks if everything is being translated in Spanish and Hmong?

Herman responded by saying the flyers had been translated into Hmong and Spanish.

### **12. Future Dates for 2022 SDAC monthly meetings:**

- February 9, 2022, 1-3 pm
- March 9, 2022, 1-3 pm
- April 13, 2022, 1-3 pm
- May 11, 2022, 1-3 pm
- June 8, 2022, 1-3 pm
- July 13, 2022, 1-3 pm
- August 10, 2022, 1-3 pm
- September 14, 2022, 1-3 pm
- October 12, 2022, 1-3 pm
- November 9, 2022, 1-3 pm

### **13. Identify agenda items for next meeting:**

- Action Items-none
- Update EVV
- Katie Hornberger presentation- will look at schedule
- FMS standing item
- Update on rate-based study implementation; how does the RC pull this into budget calculation?
- Light Path solutions presentation for future meeting
- Discuss changing time for SDAC meetings

### **14. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 PM**