

**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, January 13, 2021
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Minutes**

Members:	Present	Absent
Lisa Cooley, SA	X	
Joyce McNair, FA	X	
Benita Ayala, FA	X	
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	X	
Daniel Meadows, SA	X	
Karen Mulvany, FA	X	
Kenya Martinez, FA	X	
Kimberly Terrell, SA	X	
Luis Rivera, FA		X
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA	X	
Niccole Pitz, FA		X
Tom Hopkins, SA	X	
Teresa Schmalz, FA		X
Others Present:		
Brittany Mangum, ACRC Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Herman Kothe, ACRC Cindy Le, ACRC	Emely Arienza., Chris Wecks, SP Kishan S., SP Joe Hernandez, SP Kavita, SP Amanda Hill, SP Carmen Delgado, PA	
Legend: SA – Self-Advocate, FA – Family Advocate, SP – Service Provider		

1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (1:05 P.M.)

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes (from November 4, 2020)

There was question regarding the missing agenda item from last month's minutes and this month's agenda. This agenda item will be carried over to the next meeting in March.

There was a motion to approve the agenda from Karen, Benita seconded. It was moved/seconded and carried to approve the agenda with the following changes. No Abstentions.

There was a motion to approve minutes from Kenya, Joyce seconded the motion. It was moved/seconded and carried to approve the minutes with the following changes. No Abstentions.

3. SDP General Information Update— Mechelle Johnson & Jennifer Bloom, & Tracy Brown, ACRC

ACRC Stats for Self-Determination Program (SDP):
Seven clients in SDP (1 client flipped the switch on 1/1)
PCP-9 completed, In progress 12
Budget-completed 7, In Process 2
Spending Plan completed 7, In process 6
FMS completed 7, In process 2
SDP IPP Completed 7, In Process 2

FMS vendored Agencies: Aveanna (formerly Premiere); Community Interface Services (CIS) GT Independence, and ARCC Center. Tracy Stein vendored (to serve 1 client @ their request)

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Not vendored with ACRC but on the DDS website: Mains'I and The Emelyn Group.

There are 4 Agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP.

January 14th 2021-SDP SC Forum

11/6 & 12/18, ACRC/DDS SDP Meeting

November 2, SCDD HCBS Training-Katherine Weston

December 3, ARCA (North/South) Regional Center SDP Meeting

10/19, 11/16, 12/7, ACRC HCBS SDP work group

There are 13 clients in the DDS second pull have not completed orientation. An Everbridge message was sent on 10/6 encouraging clients/families to schedule orientation.

Of the 88 clients in the DDS second pull, 48 have declined indicating current services are meeting their needs, "lots going on" waiting until its available to everyone, 2 no response, focusing on new job. 4 case closed/inactive.

Adding monthly SDP discussion topic in unit meetings across the agency-Team Unity topic in November: SDP Tools, DDS, and FAQs.

Karen asks why so few folks from SDP have continued with it in comparison to other Regional Centers.

Mechelle's response is that is uncertain why other than COVID-19 and the events of 2020. Jen believes that our SDP forum that is happening tomorrow should spread the enthusiasm and things that they wish they had known then what they know now. We now have success stories to share which could help with the excitement around SDP.

Kenya asks if SCs are pushing their clients to learn more about SDP? Are RCs giving this information and still pushing it forward and how it could be positive for them.

Jen responds saying yes, this is something that we are still letting clients and parents of clients know about the program and sharing examples how it could benefit a client's life. We are not letting SDP sit in the background. We are sharing how it can enhance their lives and lifestyles.

Kenya asks if there is any accountability with SCs asking clients about this and if there are any types of reports tracking this information?

Jen responds by saying that we are still collecting UCIs of clients who are interested in this. There is follow-up with SCs asking why someone is not interested.

Karen asks about the PCP services in advance of the Statewide roll out in June- will those services be available prior to or not until June.

Jen responds saying that this will be available to only those who were selected for the rollout. These services will be available to anyone once they have decided to move forward with SDP.

Benita asks what happens when you finish your plan and these plans cannot be utilized due to COVID-19. Are we doing this plan as if we're in-person. Will there be an addendum needed? Do we do the plan as if we're not in a pandemic.

Jen is saying that the person-centered plan can happen virtually and will be developed around the client's current situation and that changes in the plan can be made as needed, this is a living document.

Joyce responds that she added a clause saying “if this, then that” which will prepare it for any kind of change and not be placed on hold. Put everything in and it can be adjusted later.

Mechelle offers that it is up to the person. It does not need to be decided up front. There is no right or wrong in this situation and can be revisited when things are back to normal. This is a living document and is not indefinite.

Karen offers that the budget is going to be developed on recent spending. She does not want the budget to be compromised just because COVID is happening.

Joe informs everyone that they will more than likely need to come back to this and plan what you need now rather than later.

Kimberly shares that this is part of the IPP and this will reflect what the client wants whether it is now or in the future.

Sonya asks what the purpose of continuing to put clients on the SDP list?

Jen responds by saying she isn't sure there is a reason other than tracking interest in SDP.

Karen asks if there are any plans for a virtual resource fair for the broader audience of Regional Center clients.

Mechelle responds that there will be a meeting put together to schedule this.

4. ACRC's Next Steps (A Work in Progress) – Joyce McNair

There are changes made and highlighted in the document attached.

5. Discussion how SDP is funded by the Regional Center— Joyce McNair & Lisa Cooley

How are our services funded by the Regional Center and how is it allocated? Where does it start? Each client receives an hourly rate and includes the cost of doing business. How are the rates determined and how is it interpreted in SDP?

Herman answers this by saying that the California Developmental Disabilities system operates with about a \$10 billion annual budget. 1/3 or more of that budget comes from federal funding through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The state of California is able to bill the federal government 50 cents on the dollar for Medicaid Waiver billable services for eligible clients. The \$10 billion that the department gets is doled out to the 21 Regional Centers, headquarters (DDS) and the remaining State Developmental Centers. Alta's portion of the budget is approximately \$500 million, of which less than 15% is used for operations costs comprising of staff salaries including Service Coordinators who provide case management services. The remaining 85% funds Purchase of Services (POS) to provide direct services to clients in accordance with their IPPs. The budget that is calculated for SDP is based on the prior 12 months expenditures, but unmet needs and changes in circumstances could result in increases or decreases. As previously mentioned some providers have hourly rates, others have daily or monthly rates. During COVID it is recognized that some clients may have experienced an increase in needs for support while others may have encountered restricted access to previous services. Providers have been permitted to deliver alternative services from their program design or what is outlined in the IPP. There were proactive actions to increase authorizations some services.

The SDP budget amount is agreed upon by the planning team. Every SDP participant must select a FMS agency. This is how services are funded. A monthly report is provided of what is spent so they have sufficient funds for their 12 months. Alta does not receive the entire allotment up front each fiscal year. A Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) is submitted to the department to track expenditures throughout the year. We try to stay within our projected budget. If the system expenses exceed the allocation, DDS will have to go back to the legislature and request additional funds. In order for any services to be funded, the FMS requires authorization from the regional center which will occur upon completion of the steps of the SDP process.

In order for any funds to be authorized, all the steps must be gone through in ACRC Next Steps.

Joe shares that the bill rate is transparent at providers- it should be public and if it is not, make sure to contact ACRC. FMS is retro paid where they may have overextended themselves and are not able to be reimbursed by the Regional Center. There could also be a holdup in the process with vendorization.

Karen asks if the FMS rates are still there.

Joe says FMS rates are still in effect at the original set maximum. DDS has issued a directive that allows clients to waive FMS fee on a monthly basis if they can show significant financial burden during the SOE. We are not aware of any client using this directive as of yet and DDS still needs to further clarify the criteria for "financial burden"

Carmen asks about the directive needing to show a financial

need: where does this come from? If you don't get paid by the PCP plan, would the vendor get reimbursed by federal or state level

Joe Responds by saying a services changes by state of emergency. You may not have enough money in the budget right now, but can use it as a mechanism to save money. Services have been budgeted and put on pause, so their budget stays stable. If the FMS is suspended, then the DDS has made it to where the Regional Center pays the fee.

Joyce thinks this information would be really helpful to have to be shared at the orientation. She thinks an overview of where the money is coming through and how your case is funded would give people a better understanding.

6. Independent Facilitator (IFN) Presentation—Chris Wecks & Kishan S.

Independent Facilitator Network gave a presentation shared their slide show. They are a collaboration of IFs from different networks.

Presentation slide show available as attachment to the minutes.

Q&A from presentation:

Q: How does ACRC support connecting participants with PCPs and Ifs right now? Are there individuals on this call who need support right now? How does ACRC get flyers and information for an event like this into the hands of interested participants?

A: Facebook has pages dedicated to SDP- networking chatroom, etc. This was the best lead we have at this point. Once a list is created and current, we will also share and collaborate with other agencies as well

as the community. Anything that can make the process more streamlined, will be great for our audience.

Q: How might IFN be useful to ACRC SDAC? Where can this committee provide the resource link to find us online and join?

A: A link can be shared on ACRCs website.

Q: What is the general cost of services for an individual?

A: The services vary person to person and they also try to advocate for the client to get general resources.

7. Public Comment Period- Public

Carmen says that she heard there are some PCPs that have already been approved and would like to know if they can be shared? She wants some creative ideas.

Joyce responds by saying that her daughter wrote her own plan and pointed out her goals, current lifestyle, and things she wants to learn. She also shared how many hours she was willing to spend with someone. Lisa adds that this is like a more extensive IPP. Kavita said she would share some information with Sonya to share with the group regarding upcoming virtual trainings. Mechelle adds that she would inquire with those who have flipped the switch if they would be willing to share their information.

Sonya is doing a very in-depth overview of SDP next week. Is there a plan on Alta's part for any orientations prior to June for interested families?

Mechelle responds that this was discussed at the last meeting and there was a smaller group that would help out with this.

Mechelle says that she would be able to plan this within the next week or two.

Benita announces that she and Kenya will be doing their 2nd session in March. This will be done by the moderators and the last one will be done by Benita and Kenya.

Joe announces that Aveanna will be offering a full-service FMS. This will help getting people onboard much quicker and will include inhouse or contracted PCP, developing the spending plan, and coordinating with the RC. These staff members will be called "transition coordinators".

Kenya let everyone know there is a presentation coming this Tuesday, January 19th, 6-8:30 PM how to read an IPP. Sac City's website and see the information for the Zoom meeting.

8. Identify agenda items for next meeting:

- Updating the Description of SDP on ACRC's Website
- Explaining finances in a plain language and diagrams
- Lisa will discuss best practices of SDP from other Regional Centers
- Joyce will share a different approach to the orientation

9. Dates for Future Meetings:

- March 10, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- May 12, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- July 14, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- September 8, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM
- November 10, 2021, 1 PM- 3 PM

10. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM

