



Alta California

Regional Center

2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95815

916-978-6400

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, October 12, 2022
6 to 8 p.m.
Minutes

Members:	Present	Absent	<p align="center">Legend:</p> <p>SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider</p>
Benita Shaw, 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		
Non-members Present:			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC	Anne De Medeiros, SCDD	Clara Herrera-Vilchez	
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC	Jaclyn Balanay, DDS	Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez	
Tracy Brown, ACRC	Carole Watilo	Namhee Kim	
Johnny Xiong, ACRC	Rachael Palmer Teefy	Janelle Lewis	
Faye Tait, ACRC	Jane Alexander	Maria Lopez	
Cindy Le, ACRC	Kate Brittain Duwe	David Nisson	
Cynthia Johnson, ACRC	Chelsea Coffin	Mary Nisson	
Samantha Moore, ACRC	Melanie Gonzales, Adjoin	Amanda Pelaccio	
Janet Roberts, ACRC	Stephanie Hammond	Jackie Powell	
Lisa West, ACRC	Mayra Hernandez	Emily Scholl	

1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (6:06 p.m.) There was not a quorum of members present. Agenda items were handled as informational until a quorum was established.

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes – Lisa Cooley

A quorum was established at 6:15 p.m. Chairperson Lisa Cooley requested the committee come back and vote on the approval of tonight's agenda and the September 14, 2022 SDAC meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Karen/Carmen) Made the motion to approve the agenda.

M/S/C (Karen/Carmen) Made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 14, 2022.

3. ACRC SDP Updates—Mechelle Johnson, Jennifer Bloom, Tracy Brown & Johnny Xiong

A. General SDP Update

- Jennifer shared that as of October 4th, ACRC has 178 individuals that have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 44.19% are White and 55.81% are Minority (10.92% Asian, 11.77% Black, 17.72% Latin, 8% Mixed & 7.41% Other).
- ACRC has six vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Casa Fiscal and Mains'l. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website.
 - ACRC meets quarterly with our vendored FMS agencies. Our most recent meeting was on August 3rd. We have also invited them to attend SDAC meetings.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for November.
- Our regional center has three Person Centered Planning (PCP) Vendors: Lighted Path Solutions, Lincoln Training Center and Starpoint Consulting. There are other agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP.
- ACRC continues to update, identify and track 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. Service Coordinators (SCs) have tools to support them in updating at each step of the SDP process.

- The Statewide SDP Orientation is available in English and Spanish. ACRC continues to promote this, and our Participant Choice Specialists (PCS') attend these orientations, as well, and are available to assist staff when needed.
- ACRC continues to hold SDP Q&A sessions every Thursday afternoon; these began in May 2021. SCs attend these sessions to learn more about the program and get answers to case-specific questions.
- Our three PCS' provide daily support to staff and individual SDP case staffings happen as needed.
- ACRC's monthly meetings with DDS continue; the last meeting was held on October 7th.
- Our SCs continue to provide clients/families with information about SDP and assist them with registering for SDP orientations, trainings and follow-up.
- Our PCS' are working with American Sign Language (ASL), Hmong and Russian partners to develop outreach tools and information specific to those communities.

B. ACRC SDAC Collaboration Regarding Pre-Enrollment Transition Support

- Mechelle shared that ACRC is interested in working with our local advisory committee on this. She noted that one regional center has contracted with an agency in their community.
 - Karen noted that the DDS Directive states SDAC grant funding can be used to establish non-vendored IF services. The SDAC and ACRC are tasked to collaborate on this. (See September 27th 2022 Directive at www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/.)
 - Mechelle would like to work with one local entity to offer pre-enrollment transition supports.
- Cindy noted that DDS released guidance on July 28th to outline services available for those individuals that have completed the SDP orientation and who are transitioning to enrollment in the SDP. She has drafted service standards that explain the two options that the participant must choose from. They are as follows:

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- Option A: This option is only available through January 31, 2023. Participants may choose to receive an Initial Person-Centered Plan (PCP) and IF services. The cost for both services cannot exceed a total of \$2,500. Participants may choose to receive the Initial PCP and IF services from a vendored or non-vendored provider. If, from a non-vendored provider, payments can only be made by using Purchase Reimbursement (Service Code 024).
 - Option B: Available August 1, 2022 and will be the only option available after February 1, 2023. Participants may request for the development of the Initial PCP and/or Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports separately. Payment for the Initial PCP cannot exceed \$1,000. Payment to a non-vendored provider is made using Service Code 024, while a vendored provider receives payment using Service Code 056. For those individuals who require additional transition support, they may receive up to 40 hours under Service Code 099. Additional hours may be authorized on a case-by-case basis.
 - ACRC will be releasing a Request for Proposal (RFP) which will be shared with this committee.
 - Mechelle shared that participants can use whomever they wish, but believes having a local entity that provides the transition supports would be beneficial.
- C. Self-Determination Program: Adjustments to Individual Budget
- On September 15th, DDS released a Directive providing guidance to regional centers for adjusting a participant's individual budget under any of the following situations:
 - Increase in state minimum wage
 - Change in rates for vendored services included in the individual budget calculation
 - Change in rates for a regional center vendored provider, who is also providing SDP services
- D. Purpose of the SDP Committee
- Kenya shared the purpose of this committee for those that are joining for the first time.

4. Aveanna FMS Agency General Update

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- Mayra Hernandez, the Community Relations Specialist at Aveanna, shared that this FMS is unable to accept new SDP clients until January 2023 for new cases. Budgets of \$200,000 or more now require an upper management level review before approving the budget and spending plan.
- DDS has identified the following SDP Service Codes that will be required to comply with Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) regulations that take effect in January 2023:
 - Respite In-Home – 310
 - Homemaker – 313
 - Community Living Supports – 320
 - Skilled Nursing – 361
 - Speech, Hearing and Language – 372
 - Occupational Therapy – 375
 - Physical Therapy – 376
- Aveanna's Lead coordinator is on leave and will return on December 12th. Two new SDP team members are currently in training and they are looking to hire additional staff.
- For new and renewing clients, to avoid delays in services and payments, a final spending plan must be completed, reviewed by Aveanna, and submitted to the regional center for review and processing of Purchase of Services (POS) and e-billing no later than the 10th of the month to start the 1st of the following month.

5. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- Kenya shared that the SDAC has close to \$90,000 in the budget.
- We will be hosting a Resource Fair (possibly more than one).
 - ACRC will share information through social media.
- Up next, the SDAC will be considering the proposal from Progressive Employment that will use some of this funding.

6. Progressive Employment Proposal-Presentation for Use of Implementation Funds Followed by Committee Vote

- Rachael Palmer Teefy (IF) shared that Progressive Employment would like to focus on supporting individuals from underserved communities to join SDP. Their training/coaching proposal includes four series (seven sessions followed by seven one-on-one coaching sessions per series) that would run from February 2023 to February 2024.

- Each two-hour session would focus on a different topic or step in the SDP process followed by a one-on-one coaching session with each training participant. In the one-on-one sessions, Progressive Employment would discuss with the participants what they learned during the training and assist with problem solving, navigating and planning out their next steps to take in order to join SDP.
 - Their goal is to foster a collaborative learning environment and provide individuals with information that will allow them to make their own informed decisions and successfully join SDP.
- These series will be offered in different languages; community input is welcome on what is needed.
 - The proposal is for \$61,600.

M/S/C (Carmen/William) Made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. The SDAC voted to approve the PEC grant proposal.

7. Action Items pending from prior SDAC meeting:

- a. ACRC SDAC Collaboration Regarding Pre Enrollment Transitions Support
- b. Is there a way to simplify the vendor pool or unrepresented groups without compromising the vendorization process?
- c. Discuss and committee vote on Progressive Employment Concepts proposal

8. Public Comment Period

- Carole expressed appreciation to the committee for looking at Progressive Employment's proposal and asking the right questions. They strive to provide access to underserved communities so that those individuals have the options as others. They wish to provide SDP in a holistic way and are also looking forward to working collaboratively with ACRC.
- Anne De Medeiros stated that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) provides training. Christine Tolbert, who works out of their Orange County office, will be moving into Joe Hernandez's position.
- Rachael shared that one of the individuals that she supports wanted her to share that he works with Aveanna. One concern is that his direct support professionals (DSPs) have to download the app and it requires

that they provide privacy access in order for the app to work. His DSPs have requested cell phone reimbursement since they have to use their personal cell phones.

- Rachael noted that Disability Voices United (DVU) is holding a Statewide Virtual Conference on California's Self-Determination Program entitled "Breaking Through Barriers – Advancing Self-Determination" on December 2nd, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - More information can be found at:
<https://disabilityvoicesunited.org/breaking-through-barriers>
 - The SDAC may wish to fund individual's participation at this conference – DVU is vendorized by ACRC (PH2437).

9. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Lisa shared that In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers utilize EVV when the recipient has multiple attendants coming to their home.
- Karen mentioned that there is a device that can be used in the home (DDS gave authorization for these) that does the EVV login for all of the client's staff. Using this option may be less complex for some individuals.
 - Mechelle noted that DDS is planning on releasing "plain language" guidance on EVV as it relates to concerns from service providers and participants about tracking.
 - Karen remains hopeful that the FMS will assist with staff EVV trainings.
 - Mayra stated that Aveanna can provide a broad EVV in-service/training for DSPs that work for the clients enrolled in SDP.
 - DSPs will be required to input data in real time.
 - Mayra will work with Mechelle to move forward on this.

10. Future Dates for 2022 SDAC monthly meetings:

- November 9, 2022, from 1 to 3 p.m.

11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting.

1. Rachael suggested having ACRC share a presentation on individual budgets, including rate information, and provide it in paper format with large print, as well as sharing onscreen.

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2. Follow-up on the DDS Directive to contract with local providers to provide Independent Facilitator services on a non-vendored basis but funded with SDP budgets.
 - a. Mechelle noted that the subcommittee can bring forward a proposal at the next meeting.
 - b. The Grant Subcommittee will follow-up on the DDS Directive.
3. Carmen believes this evening's meeting brought in some additional community members. She is hopeful that we can do more of these.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.