



Alta California

Regional Center

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**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
6 to 8 p.m.
Minutes**

Members:	Present	Absent	Legend: SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider
Benita Shaw, FA	x		
Carmen Delgado, FA	x		
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	x		
Margaux De Leon, FA	x		
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	x		
Tanishia Hubbard, Community Resource Partner	x		
Rosie Lasca, FA	x		
Tom Hopkins, SA		x	
Non-members Present:			
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC	Beth Beswick	Debbie Fisher	
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC	David Kline	Yadir Morales	
Kenisha Hurd, ACRC	Emily Scholl	Dayna	
Tracy Brown, ACRC	Patricia Kamlley, DDS	Debbie Fisher	
Jaspreet Mann, ACRC	Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez	Georgina	
Faye Tait, ACRC	Nelia Nunes	Kayley Proenza	
Anne Shayler, ACRC	Mirela Bere	Maureen Fitzgerald	
Kizi Smith, ACRC	Kelli Hanspard-SCDD		
Peter Mendoza, SCDD	Olivia		
Lisa Hooks, SCDD			

1. Welcome and Purpose – Alta/SCDD

Jennifer, ACRC, provided an overview of the Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) structure, including the roles of the regional center and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).

2. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (6:00 p.m.)

3. Approval of Agenda & Minutes – Lisa Cooley, Chair

Chair Lisa Cooley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

M/S/C (Rosie/Benita) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the September 10th meeting minutes.

The committee approved today's agenda and the September 10th SDAC meeting minutes.

4. Q&A with Potential Appointed SDAC Members

- The committee discussed the addition of two potential new members, Nelia Nunes, who SCDD appointed, and David Kline, appointed by ACRC. Both candidates were introduced and given an opportunity to tell the committee about themselves: Nelia, a parent representative with experience in planning and organizing community support, who was welcomed back after attending prior meetings, while David shared his experience as a self-advocate representing Nevada County and a former teacher. Following introductions and discussion, the committee welcomed both Nelia and David as active voting members.

5. Public Comment Period

- Georgina shared her gratitude for the Self-Determination Program (SDP), describing it as life-changing and fantastic for her son and family. As an Independent Facilitator (IF), she also offered constructive feedback, suggesting that clearer communication and

easier access to PCSs would further improve the program's supportive process for families.

- Dayna expressed appreciation for SDP, saying it has been amazing for her son. She highlighted the value of teamwork among families and providers and asked about opportunities for experienced families to mentor those new to the program, volunteering her own interest. Dayna also showed interest in contributing to policy improvements, especially around financial processes and maximizing resources for participants.
- Yasmin welcomed the new committee members and praised SDP for its significant value to families with complex needs. Yasmin supported the idea of creating mentorship or additional support systems for participants and families.

6. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Kenisha shared that as of November 3, 2025, ACRC has 603 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 367 are White, and 236 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (84), Black (36), Latin (38), Mixed (61), and Other (17).
- ACRC has 26 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: AAA FMS, Accura FMS, ACE FMS, Action FMS, Acumen FMS, Aid FMS, Arch FMS, Balance FMS, Bolder Path Services, Cambrian, Community Interface Services (CIS), Dromen, Inc., Essential Pay, Fact Family Management Services, Stro Financial Services, FMS Pay, GRD Fiduciary, GT Independence, Home of Guiding Hands, HR Alliance West, Mains'I, Premier DBA Aveanna Healthcare, Public Partnerships, Ridgeline FMS, Sentinel Four, Sequoia. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website. We continue to work on adding additional FMSs.
- 36 Providers are vendored and have been funded for Self-Directed Services (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports).
- The Statewide SDP Orientation is available in English, Spanish Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Hmong, and Arabic from a collaboration between SCDD and the DDS. ACRC continues to promote and share this resource, including having PCSs attend and be available to all staff as well.

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- There are 9 PCS's currently supporting all case management units with the 10th starting on 11/17/25.
- We recognize that rate reform in SDP requires more conversation from SC's than in Traditional. While the SC is not expected to be well versed and in-the-weeds knowledgeable about rate reform, we want to make sure that SCs are equipped to provide simplified information to clients and families. This information is related to changes that clients and families can expect to see when they're reviewing their IBCCT compared to last year's IBCCT. Notably, clients and families can expect to see changes in service codes, ratios, and rates. SCs may share the following verbiage along with sharing FAQs found on DDS's website in preparation for assessed needs meetings.
 - Rate Reform in California's developmental services system means changing the way the state pays for services. The goal is to make sure that the payment system is fair, supports providing high-quality care, and that it helps people get the services they need. Payments are made by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) through regional centers to all service providers. The payments are reimbursements for services provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and families. As a result of rate reform, some service codes that existed before 1/1/25 are no longer applicable, new service codes have been created, some rates have decreased, some rates have increased, and some rates now include mileage. ACRC continues to assess services based on the client's intended outcomes in the IPP, ensuring that the regional center funded services are connected to the client's qualifying diagnosis and promotes independence. For more information, please find the FAQ's related to rate reform on DDS's website. If you have any specific questions, please let your Service Coordinator know.
- Services available outside the SDP Budget
 - Coordinated Family Supports (CFS)
 - Co-Pays

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- Environmental Accessibility
- Sedation Dentistry (pre/post op and cleaning)
- State Supplemental Program (SSP)
- Paid Internship Program (PIP)
- Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)
- Coordinated Career Pathways (CCP)
- Creating Behavioral Educational Momentum (CBEM) Crisis Hotline
- Assessing Training Goals
 - Documentation for progress reports for ILS, SLS, TDS, Day Program, and Job Coaching
 - What was the goal? What supports were in place to meet the goal? Barriers? Success?
- Client Services Managers and SC's continue to receive alerts/reminders to initiate new year transitions at the 120, 90, 60, 30, and 15 day mark.

Ongoing meetings and collaboration

- The SDP team holds SDP drop-in labs for Managers and Lead SCs monthly.
- The SDP team holds SDP drop-in clinics for SCs once per month.
- Individual SDP case staffings with SCs, CSMs, PCSs, and ADs continue, as needed.
- Collaboration between Regional Centers continues with monthly meetings.
- Monthly Statewide SDP meetings continue.
- PCSs continue to attend unit meetings to share information, resources, and technical support (clarification on directives and service definitions related to service requests in spending plans).
- Weekly office hours for our Grass Valley office, as they are comprised of 20% of overall SDP participants.
- Standing meetings with CSMs for units with higher enrollment numbers.

Outreach

- SCs continue to discuss SDP with clients and families during quarterly meetings, planning team meetings, annual IPP meetings, and when

prompted. This includes support with registering for the required orientation.

- Outreach activities coordinated by ACRC's Diversity Outreach Workgroup post its outreach events on social media platforms.
- Q&A Sacramento Youth Center September 24th
- Mental Health Fair in Elk Grove, October 10th
- Supported Life Conference, October 9th and 10th
- Department of Rehabilitation Workability Conference in Grass Valley on October 27th
- We are interested in your ideas and suggestions on where outreach may be helpful.
- Kenisha provided information regarding public comments from the previous meeting. Please include your contact information so that you may receive a timely call back.
- Transparency with timelines; the internal facing checklists include timelines for the SC. These checklists will be updated and reviewed to reflect the same timelines on the external facing checklists.
 - Completed-will be presented to Managers on 11/19 before being disseminated to all of case management and made available externally.
- Concerns with FMSs not paying for services that are on the spending plan – in this example, the approved spending plan approved one item, and the family wanted a second item. The second item was not approved. If there are any planning team disagreements with services being funded, denials should be formal, including client's right to appeal.
- Delays with processing – as SDP enrollments increase, more time will be needed to process requests. In the event you are not receiving a response, please escalate your call/email to the Client Services Manager for support
- Decision Makers at meetings
 - Service Coordinators are able to make decisions at meetings when assessed requests are within our procedural guidelines.
 - In instances outside of procedural guidelines and disagreements, a follow-up meeting and decision will be made within 15 days (or later if agreed upon by the planning team). W&I Code 4646(h).

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- Decrease back and forth with SC's and PCS related to the spending plan
 - A spending plan checklist
 - Planning team meeting/discussion about services and supports on the spending plan and tethering back to IPP goals and objectives.
- Can SC's send a different document than the IPP to SDP providers that does not include SDP budget information – Clients choose who to share their IPP with and may redact any portion of the IPP. ACRC will not send documents to providers unless there's a current ROI.
- Language breakdown of Enrollments
 - Armenian, 1
 - ASL, 1
 - Cantonese Chinese, 2
 - English, 588
 - Korean, 3
 - Russian, 2
 - Spanish, 6
- How many orientations for SDP were completed in comparison to actual enrollment flips into SDP? ACRC received orientation lists from DDS and will be monitoring and reporting when/if these clients flip:
- 9/15 – 30 clients
- 9/23 – 48 clients
- 10/23 – 36 clients

Public Comments

- Yasmin expressed appreciation for Kenisha's thorough updates and her commitment to transparency, emphasizing the value of transparency and proactive communication with families. She encouraged the committee to continue finding effective ways to keep all participants informed, recognizing that not everyone can attend meetings in person.
- Rosie also expressed gratitude for the detailed presentation. She suggested holding additional town halls or drop-in clinics specifically for participants to further empower families. Rosie thoughtfully pointed out opportunities to reach more diverse communities, including Spanish, Chinese, and Korean-speaking communities, as well as the Black community. She encouraged ongoing outreach in counties with lower participation.

- Maureen thanked the committee for providing practical resources and suggested sharing meeting materials sooner so families can benefit promptly. She also expressed interest in having accessible information about SDP and any new legislative updates.
- The committee discussed creating a mentorship program to help families and clients understand the SDP process.
 - Lisa, SCDD, clarified that subcommittees with fewer than half the general committee's members don't require voting or public meetings.
 - The group decided to form a small subcommittee to explore mentorship best practices and promising approaches.
 - Jennifer suggested SDAC members could independently organize this effort using the SCDDs offered Zoom link.

7. Proposed Committee Dates for 2026

- The committee reviewed the 2026 bi-monthly meeting schedule. It was noted that the Veterans Day holiday was avoided by moving that meeting to November 18th.
- Yasmin suggested the committee meet monthly in 2026.
- There was a discussion about the feasibility of meeting monthly due to other commitments and the need for robust updates every other month.
- The committee agreed to maintain bi-monthly meetings while focusing on improving outreach and announcements for broader outreach.

M/S/C (Nelia/Margaux) Made the motion to approve the meeting calendar for 2026.

The committee approved the 2026 calendar meeting dates.

8. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- Jennifer noted that although the group did not meet during this period, the previously approved Cambrian FMS proposal was temporarily paused due to state uncertainty about SDAC implementation funds and has now been cleared to proceed after DDS confirmed the funds will, in fact, be allocated.

9. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

- N/A

10. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Benita requested a moment of silence for a tragic loss in the community.

11. Dates for Future meetings:

- Wednesday, January 14th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, March 11th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 13th, 2026, 6:00-8:00 pm
- Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 18th, 6:00-8:00 pm

12. Identify agenda items for the next meeting

- Please submit any items to Kizi Smith to be added to the agenda.

13. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.