

**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, March 10, 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
Others Present:		
Lori Banales, ACRC Brittany Mangum, ACRC Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Herman Kothe, ACRC Cindy Le, ACRC Shirley Skadan-Smith, ACRC David Lopez, ACRC	Maxine Paula, DDS Sonya Bingaman, SCDD Rene Nitz, SP Breeanne Burris, SP Joseph Hernandez, SP Sandra McElwee, SP	Kidada M., Public Janelle L., Public Kimmie B., Public
Legend:		
SA – Self-Advocate, FA – Family Advocate, SP – Service Provider		

1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (1:04 P.M.)

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes (from January 13, 2021)

Karen motions to approve the minutes, Kenya seconds the motion to approve the January minutes. Motion passed. No Abstentions.

Benita motions to approve agenda, Karen seconds the motion to approve the March agenda. Motion passed. No Abstentions.

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

There are 9 clients in SDP.

- PCP-10 completed, In progress 13
- Budget-completed 9, In Process 8
- Spending Plan completed 9: In process 8
- FMS completed 9, In process 2
- SDP IPP Completed 9, In Process 2

FMS vendored Agencies: A veanna, Community Interface Services, GT Independence, ARCC Center, the Emelyn Group and Public Partnerships.

Tracy Stein vendored (to serve 1 client)

There are four agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP. Two vendors have submitted their service delivery plan.

Recent workgroups and collaborations:

- January 5th: ACRC HCBS SDP work group
- January 28th & February 26th: ACRC/DDS SDP Meeting
- February 4th: ARCA (North/South) Regional Center SDP Meeting
- February 9th: Tracy presented collaboratively at a GT Independence webinar on the role of the FMS
- February 11th & 23rd: ACRC SDAC Volunteer Mtg- worked to put together Q&A section

SPD Q&A Sessions will be launching Monday. ACRC showed the flyer and shared that it has been translated into 8 threshold languages. SDAC members were welcomed to participate. This will be sent out every 2 weeks. The expectations are that the FSMs will be invited and each vendor can talk about one of the models. Questions from the community will follow.

There are 13 clients in the DDS second pull who 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, or "lots going on" and waiting until its available to everyone, two no response, and one focusing on new job. There were four case closed/inactive clients.

Monthly SDP discussion topic has been added in unit meetings across the agency. At a monthly recurring meeting, Team Unity, the topic in February was: Independent Facilitation: Self-Paced Webinar, DDS Q&A

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

Joyce states that the ACRC Next Steps is out of date and needs revising.

There are changes made and highlighted in the document attached.

A question was asked if SCDD and the Regional Center will have a list of Independent Facilitators?

Herman answers that once the website is up and running, then participants will be referred to it. All we have at this point is information on Facebook. There is currently no quality control or verification for this. The Independent Facilitator network is meeting monthly and is in constant communication with one another. The meetings are informal and public. Some Regional Centers and some SDAC through the state have their own list, but it's really challenging, so it's up to each RC and each SDAC. One central place where everyone can look will be the best option. You can search by county, language, etc. Facebook remains to be the best place to look right now. Meena and Benita from the SDAC are Independent Facilitators as well as Kidada M. and Sandra M. from the community.

5. Updating the Description of SDP on ACRC's Website—Committee

Karen would like to create a subcommittee. Much of the information on ACRC's website has not been updated since 2018. As we get closer to the release of SDP, ACRC's website will need to be more up to date. Lori Banales recommends that Karen and Herman work together to update the website.

6. Explaining Finances in Plain Language and Diagrams—Herman Kothe & Lori Banales

Herman will break down and simplify the information he shared at the SDAC meeting in January.

SDAC is looking for linear timelines, but the process is not linear. Lori says she can get together a timeline for each process. Joyce asks if there is a

statewide process that every Regional Center has to follow directed by DDS or is it Regional Center to Regional Center. Lori answers by saying it is up to each Regional Center, but there is a lot of collaboration between Regional Centers. ACRC will speak to their Chief Financial Officer and make sure their accounting team is accountable for moving things at a timely manner.

Where can the budget be accessed if the client has not been with ACRC for 1 year? Mechelle answers by saying the budget will be developed by assessing the needs of the client. An IPP would need to be done to establish a budget. The accounting depart will modify a need given by the Service Coordinator.

7. Different Approach to the SDP Orientation—Joyce McNair

In November, Joyce explored to see what kind of activities other Regional Centers were doing. Another Regional Center shared that the Kern Regional Center SDAC and Valley Mountain Regional Center SDAC would share their implementation funds in order to share their orientation in a different way. Their Regional Centers have a large Hispanic population and said that our method would not work for their clients. In a more informal situation, these families and clients like to share stories and then it can turn into a conversation about Self-Determination.

Kenya agrees with Joyce and says what we're doing is not working for the public. It's a lot of information and is really confusing for our community, especially when the client and family speak a different language. She also speaks to how difficult it is for our clients to comprehend SDP.

Lori shared with the SDAC that we have money available for the year, so maybe we could have monthly conversations where anyone can share. There would be need to be some sort of format to steer and lead the conversation. Lori shares that the Provider Advisory Committee meeting often discusses SDP. Many providers are weary about SDP, but have learned that there are many benefits to accepting SDP clients. Lori would like to host something where SDAC can present to the service providers.

Sonya shared that there is an Independent Facilitator Network (IF Network) based in the Bay Area, but now operating virtually. It is open to Independent Facilitators, SDP participants and family members, and others. As each region increases their number of IFs, it might, at some point, make sense for regional IF Networks to develop. The IF Network is developing a website to host a centralized list of IFs statewide. Each IF will be able to add themselves to this online list and add details about the services they'll offer. It is hoped this website will go live within a few months.

Regarding Lori's idea about having a group meeting, Kenya says that it may be hard for families to go to yet another meeting. Kenya also says that it would be nice to have a mentor that they could call to discuss SDP and ask questions.

Lori would like to create a list of mentors and will work on that. Kenya suggests some sort of stipend for SDAC members volunteering to be a mentor. This year's funds are allocated already, but we need to figure out what we would like to do it with it next year.

8. Best Practices of SDP from other Regional Centers—Lisa Cooley

Discussed above.

9. Summary of SSDAC- Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (2/16/21)—Lisa Cooley

It was discussed what it would take to get more people on board for SDP for everyone come June 2021. Lisa shared with the group what the Statewide Local Advisory discussed at their February 16th meeting. *This document can be found with the attachments separate from the minutes.*

10. Public Comment Period- Public

Benita asks about PCP- will this continue being paid for when it is opened up for everyone?

Jen responded by saying that at this time, we are waiting for DDS to inform us as to funding PCP when SDP is available to all. DDS does not have an answer for us yet.

Benita states that some people are concerned about the amount of paperwork with FMS. There is a multitude of steps regarding FMS. There is a packet requiring electronic funds, codes are not matching, and there is also a signature required from the participant. There are 7 steps the person goes through before they can get paid for the services. Why does the school district have to be accessed to get SDP services?

Mechelle answers this by saying that generic resources have to be fully exhausted.

Rene, a Service Provider, has her own private practice and would like to know how to get involved. She is a life coach and just wants to share her services. Rene wanted to clarify that she did NOT have to become an Independent Facilitator. How can she can get her services out there?

Joyce responded saying that she needs to get go through the network. Someone from ACRC will contact her discuss it further.

11. Identify agenda items for next meeting:

None

12. Dates for Future Meetings:

- 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

13. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 PM