



# Alta California

Regional Center

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## Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC) Wednesday, March 11, 2026 1 to 3 p.m. Minutes

### Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)

| Members:  | Present   | Absent                            |   |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Benita Shaw, FA   | x   |                                   | <b>Legend:</b><br><br>SA – Self-Advocate<br>FA – Family Advocate<br>SP – Service Provider |
| Carmen Delgado, FA  | x   |                                   |   |
| Kelsey Handcock, DRC  | x   |                                   |   |
| Margaux De Leon, FA   | x   |                                   |   |
| Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)   | x   |                                   |   |
| Tanishia Hubbard,<br>Community Resource Partner   |   | x                                 |   |
| Rosie Lasca, FA   | x   |                                   |   |
| Tom Hopkins, SA   |   | x                                 |   |
| Nelia Nunes, FA   |   | x                                 |   |
| David Kline, SA   | x   |                                   |   |
|   |   |                                   |   |
|   |   |                                   |   |
| Non-members Present:  |   |                                   |   |
| Jennifer Bloom, ACRC<br>Mechelle Johnson, ACRC<br>Tracy Brown, ACRC<br>Jaspreet Mann, ACRC<br>Faye Tait, ACRC<br>Kizi Smith, ACRC<br>Reyva Johnson, ACRC<br>Bailey Norman, ACRC<br>Alphonso Ramirez, ACRC<br>Lisa Hooks, SCDD<br>Cat Carl, ACRC<br>Anne Shayler, ACRC | Ashley Henderson, ACRC<br>Amy Silva, ACRC<br>David Frankel<br>Jaclyn Balanay, DDS<br>Cesilia Ortiz<br>Rachel Palmer Teefy, PEC<br>Emily S., PEC<br>Mirela Bere<br>Olaf Luevano, Ritz FMS<br>Samantha Moore<br>Leslie<br>David Ellis, Cambrian FMS | Jean Gregory<br>IMJA Pro Services |   |

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**1. Welcome and Purpose – Alta/SCDD**

Jennifer welcomed the committee and attendees.

**2. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair**

Welcome & Introductions (1:00 p.m.)

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

Chair Lisa Cooley called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

**M/S/C (Carmen/Kelsey) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today’s meeting and the January 14th meeting minutes.**

**The committee approved today’s agenda and the January 14th SDAC meeting minutes.**

**4. Public Comment Period**

- Olaf Luevano, Ritz FMS, briefly introduced Ritz FMS, shared that they have no waitlist and serve all SDP models, and posted contact info in the chat.
- Rosie Lasca, Independent Facilitator Training Academy (IFTA), announced the launch of a free Independent Facilitator Hub (an SDP directory for participants, IFs, and providers) and shared the link in the chat.

**5. ACRC SDP Updates**

**A. General SDP Update**

- Kenisha shared that as of March 6, 2026, ACRC has 649 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 394 are White, and 255 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (85), Black (40), Latin (40), Mixed (66), and Other (24). Sacramento has the highest enrollment (305), followed by Placer County (124), then Nevada County (93), El Dorado (63), and Yolo County (47).

## Self-Determination Meeting Minutes March 11, 2026

- 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'l, 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 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.
- There are 10 PCS's currently supporting all case management units. PCS support role/duties were highlighted at the beginning of this meeting.
- 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
  - 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:

## Self-Determination Meeting Minutes March 11, 2026

- SC's Managers and Lead SCs monthly.
- 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.
- Spending plan committee for budgets with the following:
  - Health and safety support funding
  - \$125 or greater which is higher than the state's average of \$90k per DDS.
- Participant Checklist has been updated and now includes timelines.
- Attendance at the Independent Facilitators Round Table coordinated by Ms. Lasca.

### Outreach

| <b>Event Name</b>                 | <b>Date</b> | <b>Populations Served</b> | <b>County</b> | <b>Event Type</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| ● Shingle Springs                 | 1/23/26     | Native-American           | Placer        | Presentation      |
| ● Gen Z Speaks                    | 1/24/26     | African-American Youth    | Sacramento    | Outreach          |
| ● Funky Fresh Friday              | 2/06/26     | Black. Sankofa            | Sac           | Outreach          |
| ● Chinese New Year                | 2/07/26     | Chinese, AAPI             | Sac           | Outreach          |
| ● Yolo Listening                  | 2/18/26     | Latine Community          | Yolo          | Presentation      |
| ● Yolo Feedback                   | 2/25/26     | Latine Community          | Yolo          | Assistance        |
| ● SCDD Listening                  | 2/25/26     | Black, African-American   | Sac           | Listening Session |
| ● 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual 2SLGBTIA | 2/26/26     | School age 2SLGBTIA       | Sacramento    | Outreach          |
| ● Autism Awareness                | 2/28/26     | Punjabi/ Sikh Community   | Yuba          | Outreach          |
| ● EGUSD Resource                  | 3/11/26     | EGUSD and AAPI            | Sacramento    | Outreach          |
| ● Eggventure                      | 3/14/26     | North Sac Family          | Sacramento    | Outreach          |

- Outreach activities coordinated by ACRC's Diversity Outreach Workgroup posts its outreach events on social media platforms.
- 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.

- We are interested in your ideas and suggestions on where outreach may be helpful.

### **SDP Directives**

- Regional Center Reporting about large changes in SDP budgets [D-2025-Self-Determination Program-002 Self-Determination Program: Required Reporting for Individual Budget Information](#)
  - Random selection
  - 71 cases (36 below 21 yrs and 35 above 22yrs)
  - Budgets increased over a year by \$20k+
  - Information was submitted to DDS prior to the 2/28/26 deadline.
- LVAC/SDAC Funding [D-2026-Self Determination Program-001](#)
  - Funding is based on meeting the needs to increase service access, equity, reduce disparities with SDP enrollment.
  - RC and LVAC work collaboratively to identify ways to prioritize funds.
  - RC's have the authority to determine if there's a conflict of interests and decline to use funds when there is an identified conflict of interest (see enclosure A for criteria [D-2026-Self Determination Program-001 Attachment A](#))

### **Previous Public Comments**

Please include your contact information so that you may receive a timely call back.

- 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:
  - \*Orientation reports include professionals associated with Regional Center, DDS, and multiple people representing the same client. As such, the orientation numbers are skewed.
  - Could we clarify the rationale and/or intended outcome for this data?

### **Public Comment**

- Lisa H. clarified that earlier data requests were to compare how many people attend SDP orientation vs. how many actually complete enrollment.
- Kenisha noted limitations in the orientation data (mix of staff, families, IFs, etc.).

- Samantha asked why environmental accessibility supports were listed as funded outside the SDP budget, since they can be part of the SDP budget.
- Kenisha clarified this is a long-standing ACRC exception. Environmental accessibility can be funded either inside or outside the SDP budget. It's optional, not a new requirement, and is used because these projects are complex and some participants prefer not to manage them within their SDP budget.
- Margaux asked whether ACRC tracks how many people leave SDP and return to traditional services, and their ages.
- Kenisha recalled one or two instances where SDP was determined not to be the appropriate service delivery model.

#### **6. Supporting Transition to SDP**

- David Ellis, Cambrian FMS, reported that over the last three months, they have worked with 17 new SDP participants, shifting from group to one-on-one training; five participants have completed the series, and others are in progress. The training covers an overview of SDP, budget management, and how to be a good employer (including hiring, supervision, and termination). He noted that families, especially, need help writing job descriptions and ads, and Cambrian is providing handouts, planning quarterly workshops, and will give quarterly progress reports to SDAC (starting in May).
- Rosie also asked how long the project runs and whether people can still sign up. It was noted that the Cambrian FMS project would run through 2026, ending around January 2027.
- Rosie requested that Cambrian provide progress reports or a final report summarizing knowledge gaps and recommendations. David agreed with Jennifer's recommendation of a quarterly reporting schedule, starting with a report at the May SDAC meeting.

#### **7. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update**

- Lisa noted that the subcommittee has not met yet, and therefore, there are no updates to share.
- Jennifer noted that the Cambrian FMS project David reviewed essentially covered the grant funding update.

#### **8. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting**

- N/A

### **9. SDAC Member Comment Period**

- Lisa shared that Beth Martingo is developing an online SDP navigation tool called DAN and would like to present it at a future meeting.
- Rosie invited independent facilitators in the ACRC catchment area to join the Independent Facilitator Roundtable (via Zoom).
- Lisa H. introduced committee member applicant Samantha Moore. Samantha introduced herself as a client advocate and family member with prior experience at the regional center and DDS, and wants to join SDAC to help reduce barriers to SDP and better connect families with the regional center.
- There was a conversation about boosting engagement by recruiting more youth and male committee members and having SDAC members regularly bring back stories, concerns, and ideas from their communities, possibly through a standing “county/community report-out” item on future agendas.

### **10. Dates for Future meetings:**

- Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6:00-8:00 pm **Remote Only**
- Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6:00-8:00 pm **Remote Only**

### **11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting**

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

### **12. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.**