



Alta California

Regional Center

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**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
1 to 3 p.m.
Minutes**

Members:	Present	Absent	Legend: SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider
Benita Shaw, FA	x		
Carmen Delgado, FA	x		
Daniel Meadows, SA		x	
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	x		
Kimberly Terrell, SA		x	
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	x		
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		x	
Tanishia Hubbard, Community Resource Partner	x		
Tom Hopkins, SA		x	
William Reed		x	
Margaux De Leon, FA	x		
Non-members Present:			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Jaspreet Mann, ACRC Anne Shayler, ACRC Kizi Smith, ACRC Sydney Ruport, ACRC Cat Carl, ACRC Sophia Mogannam, ACRC	Catie Denico, ACRC Lisa Hooks, SCDD Peter Mendoza, SCDD Jaclyn Balanay, DDS Rosie Lasca, IFTA Amanda Pelaccio, PEC Beth Beswick, Engaged Services	Glenny-parent Kelly Levig Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez Mirela Bere Nelia-parent K. Howard Ayanna Fabio	

1. Call to Order by Benita Shaw, Vice Chair

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

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes – Benita Shaw, Vice Chair

A quorum was established at 1:08 p.m. Vice Chairperson Benita Shaw requested the committee vote on the approval of today's agenda and the January 8th SDAC meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Lisa/Carmen) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the January 8th meeting minutes.

The committee approved the agenda for today's meeting and the January 8th meeting minutes.

3. Public Comment Period

- In a public comment, a parent, Glenny, expressed frustration with frequent changes in service coordinators and a lack of responsiveness for her daughter in the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
- In a public comment, a parent mentioned no response to requests since February.
- Benita encouraged both parents to share contact information for direct assistance and emphasized that their comments are heard, even if immediate answers aren't provided during the meeting.
- Additionally, a parent, Yasmine, made a public comment, asking about a Person-Centered thinking policy being discussed by Alta's Executive Director.
- Jennifer Bloom clarified the Person-Centered thinking policy and noted that the goal is to ensure a general agency-wide person-centered philosophy.

4. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Anne shared that as of March 6th, 2025, ACRC has 501 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 307 are White, and 194 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (74), Black (27), Latin (30), Mixed (51), and Other (12).

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- ACRC currently has 16 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: ACE, Action, Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Essential Pay, FMS Pay, Laurence F. Padway, Mains' I, Public Partnerships, Ritz, Sisk Financial Services, and Sentinel Four. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website. We continue to work on adding additional FMSs.
- Aveanna FMS, Action, Ace, and Public Partnership, LLC are vendored for Self-Directed supports (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports).
- The Statewide SDP Orientation continues to be 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. If clients/families cannot make the times of the SCDD orientation, we are able to provide the LMS training in its place.
- Five PCSs currently support all case management units. A sixth PCS was hired and will start the training and onboarding process on 4/1/25. We plan to hire three more PCSs.

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.
- Monthly Statewide SDP meetings continue.
- PCSs continue to attend unit meetings to share information, resources, and technical support.

Outreach

- February - Black History Outreach Fair at the Higher Learning Academy in Del Paso Heights.
- March - Job Fair for SC and PCS Recruitment.
- May - Wellness Fair for Mental Health at the Maidu Community Center in Roseville.

- The SDP Unit is in partnership with the ACRC Diversity Outreach Workgroup to attend other outreach opportunities.
- SCs continue to discuss the 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.
- There was a question on how many clients a PCS carries on a caseload.
 - Anne discussed the role of the PCS in supporting service coordinators and clients. She clarified that the PCS does not carry individual client cases and is not the direct point of contact for clients, but rather a support role for all parties. Anne also mentioned that the capacity of the PCS changes based on the number of clients entering each unit.
 - Lisa Hooks suggested clarifying the roles of service coordinators and PCSs to avoid confusion.
 - Benita emphasized the need for better communication and support for clients, particularly in cases where service coordinators are not meeting their needs. She also raised questions about the training and qualifications of PCSs.
 - Anne confirmed that all PCSs undergo an orientation and onboarding process, including training on the Lanterman Directive and regional center services.
- Sydney, the Community Services Specialist, addressed issues with FMS providers and payment delays. She outlined the process for reporting and resolving FMS-related problems, suggesting participants first contact their service coordinator and exhaust troubleshooting options before escalating to community services.
- If the service coordinator cannot resolve, can contact Community Services (Sydney).

5. SDAC Membership

- Benita noted openings for SDAC members and shared her experience as a committee member, emphasizing the importance of representing the entire community rather than just personal interests.

- Lisa Hooks from the State Council explains the appointed process for the SDAC, detailing the application procedure and the importance of balanced representation. She noted that they are currently seeking more self-advocates to join the committee.
- Peter added that self-advocates are essential, and hearing from the community is important.
- The committee has 12 members, with one vacancy each for the State Council and ACRC.
- Peter offered to send a PowerPoint overview of the committee's operations and membership process.
- The committee discussed the need for more diverse representation, including self-advocates and members from different counties.
- Lisa explains that they aim to reflect the community's diversity in the committee's makeup

6. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- There is no update at this time. The Grant Funding Sub-Committee will reconvene soon to discuss plans for the 2024-2025 implementation funds.

7. Independent Facilitator Training Academy Proposal Update

- Rosie shared an overview of the seven In-person SDP workshops she has completed across ACRC's catchment area over the past several months. In addition, several meetings were held with SCs.
- Received 75 surveys that provided feedback about the workshops.
- Recommendations for future projects include expanding outreach efforts, strengthening SC-IF collaboration, Enhancing Resources for Families, and ongoing SDP education & support.
- Public comment from Georgina Kier praised all the work Rosie has done.
- There was discussion about distributing the surplus materials to committee members and community partners. Jennifer confirmed that ACRC plans to use the materials for outreach events and distribute them to interested parties.
- The project has concluded.

8. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

9. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Benita shared personal experiences and feedback from the community, which included SDP enrollment timelines, and emphasized the need to address barriers and improve support.
- The committee agrees to add discussion of specific barriers and potential solutions for the next meeting.

10. Dates for Future meetings:

- May 14th, 2025, 6-8 pm Remote Only
- July 9th, 2025, 1-3 pm
- September 10th, 2025, 1-3 pm
- November 12th, 2025, 6-8 pm Remote Only

11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting

- Lisa H. suggests developing best practices to improve communication and support for individuals in SDP.
- Please send any agenda items to Kizi.

12. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.