



**Alta California**

Regional Center

2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95815

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**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)**  
**Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**  
**6 to 8 p.m.**  
**Minutes**

<b>Members:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<p align="center"><b>Legend:</b></p> <p>SA – Self-Advocate            FA – Family Advocate            SP – Service Provider</p>
Benita Shaw, FA	X		
Carmen Delgado, FA	X		
Daniel Meadows, SA	X		
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	X		
Kenya Martinez, FA		X	
Kimberly Terrell, SA		X	
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	X		
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		X	
Linda Thrift, Community Resource Partner		X	
Tom Hopkins, SA		X	
Tracy Ligtenberg, FA	X		
William Reed		X	
Margaux De Leon	X		
<b>Non-members Present:</b>			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Johnny Xiong, ACRC Faye Tait, ACRC Cynthia Johnson, ACRC Janet Roberts, ACRC Melissa Schuessler, ACRC	Kenisha Hurd, ACRC Kizi Smith, ACRC Anne De Medeiros, SCDD Rachael Palmer-Teefy, PEC Sherry Davis Miller Jessica Mercado, Field Services Deborah & Jaycee Beal Emily Scholl, PEC	Jaclyn Balanay, DDS Mirela Bere Lori Ross Chris Chu Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez Georgina Kier Chelsea Coffin, Adjoin	

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

Welcome & Introductions (6:00 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 6:44 p.m. Chairperson Lisa Cooley requested the committee come back and vote on the approval of tonight's agenda and the February 8, and March 8 SDAC agenda and meeting minutes.

**A roll call vote was made.** (Lisa, Tracy, Benita, Carmen, Kelsey, Daniel, Margaux) **Made the motion to approve the agenda of tonight's meeting and the February 8 and March 8 agenda and meeting minutes.**

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

### A. New SDAC Committee Member-

- The committee introduced new SDAC committee member Margaux de Leon appointed by Alta California Regional Center.

### B. General SDP Update

- Faye shared that as of May 5th, 2023, ACRC has 241 individuals that have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 146 are White, and 95 are Minority (36 Asian, 14 Black, 20 Latin, 22 Mixed & 3 Other). Age Range 0-17 years old (71) 18-100 years old (170).
- Faye shared the Directive that was released on April 26<sup>th</sup> from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that has significantly increased the rates for Financial Management Services (FMS) agencies as of May 1st. Previously the maximum rate for an FMS in SDP was \$175 per month. The current maximum rate is now \$925 per month.
- Faye noted that two FMS agencies reported that they are already hiring new staff.
- ACRC has six vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Essential Pay, and Mains'l. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website.
  - ACRC meets quarterly with our vendored FMS agencies. We have also invited them to attend SDAC meetings.

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- The next meeting is scheduled for August 3rd.
- Our regional center has two Person Centered Planning (PCP) Vendors: Lighted Path Solutions and Lincoln Training Center. 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 through the collaboration of SCDD and DDS.
- ACRC continues to offer orientation through our Learning Management System (LMS).
- ACRC continues to promote this, and our Participant Choice Specialists (PCS') attend these orientations, as well, and are available to assist staff when needed.
- Ongoing meetings and collaboration
- We have a once a month SDP Training with various topics such as Introduction to SDP, 5 Core Principles, Budget vs. Spending Plan, and Outside Resources for Transition Support.
- Our CSM for the SDP unit, Melissa Schuessler, continues to provide training and support to the agency and unit.
- Our three PCS' provide daily support to staff and individual SDP case staffings happen as needed.
- ACRC's monthly meetings with DDS continue.
- Our SCs continue to provide clients/families with information about SDP and assist them with registering for SDP orientations, training, and follow-up.
- Our PCS' have developed a foundational SDP training program for our SCs and are working with American Sign Language (ASL), Hmong and Russian partners to develop outreach tools and information specific to those communities.
- A question was asked what is the protocol for moving funds once in SDP.

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- Faye noted that it was clarified with DDS that 10% can be moved without the approval of the regional center. However, the regional center needs to be notified in order to adjust the authorizations in our system so that the FMS can access the funds on their end.
- A question was asked if an individual is in SDP and needs to complete an assessment that is allotted in their budget but is unable to complete it in time, is there an alternative plan? What can be done to complete the assessment? If unable to complete in time, will the funds still be available to fund the assessment for the next following?
  - Faye noted that Alta has been working towards a solution for Independent Living Services (ILS), which has been the most difficult to get an assessment completed. A possible solution could be to assess with your Service Coordinator (SC). ABA would require an ABA assessment. A possible solution could be to go to an ABA provider that you will utilize for your ABA services for the assessment.
  - Faye noted if the funds allotted for the assessment were not spent in a year's time, the funds would be added to the next year's budget.

### C. Update on 099 Vendorizations

- Mechelle shared that Alta has two Person Centered Planning (PCP) Vendors: Lighted Path Solutions and Lincoln Training Center, and are currently working on vendoring four entities for 099 (1 FMS and 3 Pre-Enrollment Transitions Supports). As of now, two are vendored, and four are in the process of being vendored.
- Mechelle noted that we have secured the implementation funds for Progressive Employment Concepts (PEC) to provide Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports to clients and families.

### D. FMS Status Update-Who is Taking Clients, Who has waitlists, and What Does it Take to Be on the Waitlist

- Faye shared the current status of FMS agencies.
  - **Acumen**-Bill Payer/Sole Employer Model – No waitlist
  - **Aveanna**-Bill Payer/Co-Employer – Not accepting clients

- **Cambrian**-Bill Payer (limited)/Co-Employer - Waitlist through July 2023. Requires a screening document to review for acceptance. Screening documents asks for info including budget amount and number of employees/vendors that will be on the spending plan. Tend to not accept budgets over \$120,000.
- **GT Independence** – Bill Payer/Sole Employer/Co-Employer Model – Considering clients for August 2023. Require a consult meeting first and completed documents (IPP, spending plan, certified budget) before an estimated start date is given for services.
- **Essential Pay**-Bill Payer – Not accepting clients
- **Mains'I** - Bill Payer/Sole Employer/Co-Employer Model – Approximately a five-month waitlist. Do not require specific documents to be completed ahead of time.

#### **4. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update –**

- Benita shared on behalf of Kenya. Benita inquired if there is still an opportunity for committee members to attend the Supported Life Conference.
  - Mechelle noted that the registration for committee members to attend the conference has closed.
- As part of ACRC's SDP Outreach to diverse communities, Participant Choice Specialist Cynthia Johnson worked with several SCs who are Russian speaking to develop the SDP Presentation.

#### **5. Progressive Employment Concepts Update –**

- Rachael shared that they are awaiting the signing of the contract for the Pre-Enrollment Transition Support Services.
  - Mechelle noted that she will follow up with PEC to complete the process.
- Rachel shared that PEC is hopes to begin offering the first round of the coaching and training series starting in early July.
- Benita asked if PEC has a referral process.

#### **6. Action Items pending from prior SDAC meeting:**

- a. Discuss adding a by-law for voting.
  - This item was deferred until the next meeting.

#### **7. Public Comment Period**

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- Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez, shared feedback and her experience of supporting her son Gabriel in SDP and asked the committee about how to break down barriers to get more individuals into the program and create a smoother process.
- Sherry Davis Miller has a daughter that is a client at Alta and is looking forward to joining future SDAC meetings.
- Lori Ross shared that she appreciates as a parent of a transitioning SDP client how much it helps when there is the acknowledgment that this process is a work in progress.
- Rachael Palmer Teefy shared a few experiences of individuals that she has supported and noted that the FMS agencies are frequently changing their policies, which is significantly impacting individuals and their families. Rachel asked if this could be brought up at Alta's next meeting with the FMS to communicate policy changes with at least two weeks' notice.
- Rachel also shared kudos to the SDP unit at Alta for continuing to be knowledgeable and a great resource.
- Georgina Kier, parent of an Alta client, who is also an IF, shared that her experience with Alta SDP has been positive. Georgina also shared the experiences of clients that she serves and noted that the onboarding process has taken a very long time.

### **8. SDAC Member Comment Period**

### **9. Future Dates for 2023 SDAC monthly meetings:**

- May 10, 2023, 6-8 pm – **Remote Only Meeting**
- July 12, 2023, 1-3 pm
- September 13, 2023, 1-3 pm
- November 8, 2023, 6-8 pm – **Remote Only Meeting**

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

1. How to break down barriers to get more individuals into the program and create a smoother process.
2. How to utilize the grant funds for SDP Presentation in other languages.

### **12. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.**