



Alta California

Regional Center

4151 E Commerce Way, Suite 100
 Sacramento, CA 95834
 916-978-6400

Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC) Wednesday, May 13, 2026 6 to 8 p.m. Minutes

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)

Members:	Present	Absent	Legend: SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider
Benita Shaw, FA (Co-Chair)	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	
Nelia Nunes, FA	x		
David Kline, SA	x		
Samantha Moore, FA	x		
Non-members Present:			
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC Mechelle Johnson, ACRC Tracy Brown, ACRC Jaspreet Mann, ACRC Faye Tait, ACRC Anne Shayler, ACRC Kenisha Hurd, ACRC Kizi Smith, ACRC DeLayna Eskridge-Brown, ACRC Lisa Hooks, SCDD Anne Shayler, ACRC	Rachel Palmer Teefy, PEC Emily S., PEC Mirela Bere Olaf Luevano, Ritz FMS David Ellis, Cambrian FMS Brenda, CA Debbie Fisher Veronika Lustyuk Adam Kessler Sharon Lipping	Preselah S. GT Independence Patricia Kamlley, DDS Kimberly Sena, UCP Bianca Magallon- Flores, PPL FMS Paul Andrus Vianey Gomes Yadir Morales Alejandra Calderon Marwa El Naggar	

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). Meeting schedule and language-access procedures, and the multiple ways the public can access information, provide input, and request follow-up outside of SDAC meetings were also provided.

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 6:04 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

M/S/C (Carmen/Nelia) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the March 11th meeting minutes.

The committee approved today's agenda and the March 11th SDAC meeting minutes.

4. Public Comment Period

- Rachel, PEC, proposed making SDAC meetings easier to access by placing a direct Zoom registration link on the SDAC webpage so families can quickly join, receive reminders, and add meetings to their calendars. She also highlighted the importance of timely, reliable FMS payments and a clear, consistent spending-plan review process, noting that improving these areas would make it easier for providers to participate in SDP and continue serving Alta families.
- In response, Lisa, SCDD, thanked Rachel for her input and explained that SCDD currently manages the Zoom links and must balance ease of access with community concerns about registration requirements, potentially creating barriers to public meetings. She committed to bringing the issue back to self-advocates to explore preferred ways of sharing links and to review options for making

meeting access more user-friendly, while affirming that public comments are taken under advisement and assigned for follow-up.

- Emily, PEC, provided suggestions to make SDP more consistent and user-friendly for families. She encouraged the regional center to improve documentation and access to prior planning-team decisions so long-term supports don't need to be re-reviewed when staff changes, to streamline spending-plan date extensions when only the time frame needs adjustment, and to include participants and their teams when consulting with FMS agencies to avoid misunderstandings and support collaborative solutions.
- Bianca introduced herself as a community liaison with Public Partnerships, an FMS currently accepting new enrollments with no waitlist, offering multiple models and language support.
- Paul highlighted the strong potential of SDP and shared that his own family has benefited from the program. He suggested creating a way for clients to provide structured feedback on service coordinators, so that excellent support can be recognized and patterns of delay or non-responsiveness can be identified and addressed, ultimately improving service quality for everyone.
- Olaf, Ritz FMS, introduced Ritz FMS, which has no waitlist and offers all three FMS models, and shared that further information would be provided in the chat.
- SDAC Members, Alta staff, and State Council staff thanked commenters for their input and will review and follow up on the issues raised.

5. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Kenisha shared that as of May 1, 2026, ACRC has 667 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 405 are White, and 262 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (90), Black (43), Latin (41), Mixed (63), and Other (25). Sacramento has the highest enrollment (314), followed by Placer County (128), then Nevada County (96), El Dorado (67), and Yolo County (46).
- ACRC has 25 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies(also available on DDS's website):
- AAA FMS, Accura FMS, ACE FMS, Action FMS, Aid FMS, Arch FMS, Balance FMS, Cambrian, Dromen, Inc., Essential Pay, Fact Financial Management Services, Stro Financial Services, FMS Pay, GRD

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Fiduciary Services, GT Independence, Home of Guiding Hands, HR Alliance West, Mains'I, Premier DBA Aveanna Healthcare, Public Partnerships, Ridgeline FMS, Ritz FMS, Inc., Sentinel Four, Sequoia, Tracy Stein Management Services, Inc.

- 36 Providers are vendored for Self-Directed Services (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports).
- The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), in partnership with the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), offers statewide SDP Orientations for people interested in the Self-Determination Program (SDP).
 - Beginning April 1, 2026, the SDP Orientation will be offered in two parts. Each part is two hours. You must complete both parts before beginning the SDP transition. If you completed the orientation before April 1, 2026, or are already enrolled, you do not need to retake it.
 - Available in the following languages:
 - Arabic
 - Armenian
 - ASL
 - Chinese
 - Farsi
 - Hmong
 - Korean
 - Tagalog
 - Vietnamese
 - Certificates are provided to participants who attend the full session and submit the required information. **Required information includes the first and last name of the person served by the regional center and their Unique Client Identifier (UCI).**
 - Once all information is confirmed, certificates are typically sent within two weeks. Information about certificate recipients is shared with the Department to support enrollment.
- There are 10 PCS's currently supporting all case management units. PCS support role/duties were highlighted at the beginning of this meeting.

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- Due to an increase in DDS Directives, SDP enrollments, changes in case management staff, and overall agency growth. Current internal and external processes are under review to identify and implement more support from PCS's to case management teams.
 - Required Once monthly trainings for managers and Lead Service Coordinators
 - PCS support in internal and external meetings
 - Case Management Presentations on SDP Process
 - Critical timeline reminders beginning at the 4-month mark prior to renewal
 - Monthly collaboration with local Independent Facilitator Round Table facilitated by Rosie Lasca

Ongoing meetings and collaboration

- The SDP team holds SDP drop-in labs for:
 - 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

<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Populations Served</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Event Type</u>
● Dignity Health	3/16/26	Individuals with TBI	Sacramento	Info Table

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• Sac Buddhist Temp.	3/21/26	Japanese and Buddhist	Sacramento	Info Table
• Sac IHSS	3/24/26	All	Sacramento	Outreach
• Family Resource Fair	4/7/26	Spanish	Placer	Info Table
• Stanford SYF	4/8/26	All	Placer	Presentation
• La Familia	4/10/26	Latino	Sacramento	Info Table
• Everbloom	4/12/26	Neuro Divergent	Sacramento	Info Table
• Antelope HS	4/15/26	School Staff	Sacramento	Presentation
• Stanford SYF	4/16/26	Staff	Sacramento	Presentation
• YMCA	4/18/26	Children/Adults	Sacramento	Info Table
• Impact Center	4/18/26	Children/Adults	Sacramento	Info Table
• Greater Sac Urban League	4/20/26	Staff	Sacramento	Info Table
• Woodcreek HS	4/22/26	School Staff	Yolo	Presentation
• Laurel Ruff School	4/23/26	Parents & Students	Sacramento	Info Table
• EGUSD	4/23/26	School Staff	Sacramento	Presentation
• Edgewater Elementary School	4/24/26	Residents of Linda and Marysville		Info Table
• All Abilities Day	4/25/26	ID/DD Community	Placer	Info Table
• Colusa County Fair	4/25/26	Colusa Community	Colusa	Info Table
• SCUSD	5/2/26	Chinese and AAPI	Sacramento	Presentation

- 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

- 3/18/26 -Guidance on Waiver Enrollment [D-2026-Case Management-002](#)
 - DDS will send quarterly reports of prospective waiver enrollees to RC's.
 - Clients and Families will be contacted and educated on the benefits of federal waiver enrollment.
 - This process will be facilitated with the help of ACRC Federal Program's Department.
- 3/24/26 SDP Orientation [D-2026-Self Determination Program-002](#)
[SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM: ORIENTATION UPDATE](#)

Previous Public Comments

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

- No follow-Up necessary from last meeting.
- Email Received on 5/1/26 regarding Person Centered Plans and Pre-Transition Supports

[Self-Determination Program: Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-enrollment Transition Supports Guidance](#)

Public Comment

- Chair Lisa proposed that the committee track monthly positive and negative comments about SDP, similar to another advisory committee she observed, so SDAC can better see patterns over time and use that information to guide improvements and celebrate what is working well.
- Erin requested clarification on the 40 hours of pre-transition support, including examples of what those hours can include and the rate at which they are billed. She was referred to the DDS directive and will receive follow-up via email.
- Rosie asked whether Alta could provide a list of FMS agencies that are approved to provide 099 pre-transition services so that she and others can clearly see which FMS vendors can be used for those pre-transition supports.
 - In response, Anne confirmed she has Rosie's email and will send the list.
- Rosie requested a summary of questions and themes received through the SDP questions and SDAC public comment email boxes so the committee can better understand common barriers and concerns. She suggested that individuals who submit questions be invited to SDAC meetings. She asked about options to strengthen language access/interpretation and to expand outreach via social media, such as posting flyers and meeting links.
 - In response, Jennifer noted that Alta can recap themes and outcomes and include a meeting invite in responses.

6. Supporting Transition to SDP

- David Ellis, Cambrian FMS, presented a training program for individuals transitioning into SDP, covering SDP principles, differences between FMS models, employer responsibilities, and budgeting/spending-plan management, with materials available in Spanish. He reported that 34

clients transitioned last quarter, 16 requested training, and 8 have completed it so far. To increase engagement, Cambrian will retain the core curriculum, add practical workshops, and continue to provide written handouts to all referred families.

- David will send training materials, handouts, and presentation slides (including Spanish versions) to Jennifer for distribution to the SDAC committee members.
- In response to questions and comments from SDAC members, the committee voted to extend access to this training to current SDP participants as well, and Alta will distribute and publicly share the materials to promote the support.

M/S/C (Carmen/Rosie) Made the motion to recommend that the Cambrian FMS training and support services be made available not only to individuals transitioning into the Self-Determination Program, but also to individuals who are already enrolled in SDP.

The motion was carried by voice vote, with all members present voting “aye,” and no opposition noted.

- Jennifer, Kenisha, and David will collaborate on developing a promotional flyer to announce the expansion of training/coaching to current SDP participants and explore posting materials on Alta's website once finalized.

7. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- There was no Grant Funding Sub-Committee meeting.

8. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

- Lisa H., SCDD, reported that, although SCDD had already appointed Samantha Moore through its formal membership process, the SDAC had not yet completed its customary courtesy vote. The committee therefore moved to formally recognize Samantha as an SDAC member, and the action item was completed. Samantha will provide her contact information to Kizi so the roster and distribution lists can be updated.

9. SDAC Member Comment Period

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- Carmen shared her daughter's recent renewal as a detailed example to help the committee see where the current process can stall with multiple document requests, staff changes, and last-minute adjustments. She emphasized the need for a more streamlined process to avoid future service gaps and financial impacts on both families and service providers.
- Samantha shared feedback from families to highlight how small technical issues and rerouting through multiple committees can slow down transitions and renewals. She encouraged Alta to strengthen coordination between service coordinators, managers, and the SDP unit, especially for higher-budget or complex cases, so that families experience faster, more predictable transitions into and through SDP.
- Co-chair Benita stressed how important reliable timelines and smooth hand-offs are for families who depend on SDP supports to keep things stable at home. She suggested making spending-plan timelines and FMS/payment coordination a standing focus for SDAC. She encouraged closer work with FMS agencies and leadership so that system improvements clearly translate into fewer delays.
- Lisa H., SCDD, commended SDAC members for strong, systems-focused advocacy and noted the value of the existing partnership between SDAC, Alta, and the State Council. She encouraged developing clear process sheets and decision-making guides, possibly through a workgroup, so families, providers, and service coordinators have clear steps to follow and can more easily identify where delays happen, turning concerns into practical, shared solutions.
- Several SDAC members expressed interest in forming a workgroup to map SDP/spending plan processes, identify bottlenecks, and create clear guidance for families and providers. This will be returned to as a future agenda item to confirm members and define the workgroup's initial scope.

10. Dates for Future meetings:

- Wednesday, July 8th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, November 18th, 2026, 6:00-8:00 pm **Remote Only**

11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting

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- Discuss workflow group.
- Process flow with timelines and expectations, including alternate options.
- Please submit any items to Kizi Smith to be added to the agenda.

12. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.