



Alta California

Regional Center

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**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
6 to 8 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	
Margaux De Leon, FA	X		
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)	X		
Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA		X	
Tanishia Hubbard, Community Resource Partner	X		
Tom Hopkins, SA		X	
William Reed		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 Jaclyn Balanay, DDS Rosie Lasca, IFTA Rachael Palmer-Teefy, PEC Amanda Pelaccio, PEC Beth Beswick, Engaged Services	Glenny-parent Kelly Levig Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez Mirela Bere Nelia-parent K. Howard Ayanna Fabio Selvin Arevalo, Independent Financial Management Service	

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).

2. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (6:00 p.m.)

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

Chair Lisa Cooley called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m. A quorum was not established. Chair Lisa Cooley requested that the committee return to vote on the approval of today's agenda and the March 12th SDAC meeting minutes.

A quorum was not established.

4. Public Comment Period

- Georgina expressed frustration about an unclear audit process for her son's job vendor service. However, she also celebrated significant positive changes, highlighting how SDP has helped with her son's social life, friendships, and employment opportunities.
- Rosie shared her son's success in SDP. After three years in the program, her 18-year-old son is gaining independence, with trained staff supporting him on his first road trip to San Francisco.
- Rachael, PEC, praised Alta's SDP team for their support and highlighted recent challenges with budget reductions resulting from the rate study.
- Amanda, PEC, shared both challenges and positive developments in SDP. Amanda discussed the challenges faced during the budget year transition, including delays in receiving the IBCCT and missing transportation details. She also highlighted the significant improvement in financial management services (FMS), noting that payment issues for service providers have been largely resolved, which she sees as a significant improvement for potential SDP participants.
- Elizabeth expressed concerns about her client's budget and services. She also raised concerns about a delay in updating E-billing and an unexplained budget decrease.

- Emily praised the openness and collaborative efforts of the regional center, which she believed had improved lately, while highlighting concerns about budget addendum delays.
- Georgina shared her experience with challenges with spending plan submission and approval delays.
- Selvin, GT Financial Management Services, shared that the organization has undergone leadership and collaborative changes with the regional centers, addressing issues such as service delays and eliminating previous problematic practices.

5. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Kenisha shared that as of May 1st, 2025, ACRC has 521 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 318 are White, and 203 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (76), Black (29), Latin (34), Mixed (52), and Other (12).
- ACRC has 27 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: AAA, Accura, ACE, Action, Acumen, Arch, Aveanna, Balance, Cambrian, Community Interface Services (CIS), Dromen, Essential Pay, Fact Family, FMS Pay, GRD Fiduciary, GT Independence, HR Alliance, Mains'I, Public Partnerships, Ridgeline, Ritz, Sisk Financial Services, Sentinel Four, Finance for People (Stro), Home of Guiding Hands, Laurence F. Padway, and Sequoia. 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, Public Partnership, LLC, and AMFC Empower are vendored for Self-Directed supports (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. If clients/families cannot make the times of the SCDD orientation, we are able to provide the LMS training in place.
- There are 8 PCS's currently supporting all case management units with the 9th starting on 6/16/2025 and plans to hire a 10th.

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- 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 SC's 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. SC's may share the verbiage below along with the sharing FAQ's 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)

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- 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
- 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 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 with monthly meetings.
- Monthly Statewide SDP meetings continue.
- PCSs continue to attend unit meetings to share information, resources, and technical support.
- Developed language and guidance in accordance with the new standardized IPP. Effective 4/21/25, all IPP's will be written in the standardized way which was effective 1/1/25.

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

6. Potential SCDD Appointed SDAC Member

- Lisa H. discussed SCDD's membership process for the SDAC. She explained that half the committee members are appointed by the regional center and half by the State Council, with a thorough

application and interview process. Due to a lack of quorum, the committee couldn't proceed with a vote on a potential new member (Rosie Lasca) tonight. Lisa emphasized the need to recruit diverse members, particularly self-advocates, youth in transition, and representatives from rural areas, to maintain a balanced and engaged committee.

- Jennifer supported the State Council's approach to recruiting Rosie as a potential committee member. She emphasized the importance of bringing Rosie to a meeting so that existing members can get to know her, ask questions, and assess her suitability. Jennifer also shared a positive update about a potential self-advocate from Nevada County who might be interested in joining the committee in July.

7. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- Carmen reported that the subcommittee has \$109,123.57 in grant funding to spend by February 28th, 2026. There was discussion of potential uses for the funds and a proposal to approach all ACRC FMS agencies to ask them to consider submitting a proposal to utilize SDAC funds to fill the gaps, including accessing FMS agencies- the "ins and outs", timelines specific to various FMS agencies, understanding each FMS model, and staffing and planning. The subcommittee plans to meet again next month to develop these ideas further and welcomes input from other members.

8. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

9. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Carmen would like to discuss communication challenges in the Self-Determination Program, focusing on identifying problems and finding solutions to reduce delays and client frustration.

10. Dates for Future meetings:

- 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*

- Grant Funding Sub Committee Update
- Potential SCDD Appointed SDAC Member

12. *The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.*