



Alta California

Regional Center

4151 E Commerce Way, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95834

916-978-6400

Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

1 to 3 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)		Excused	
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		Excused	
David Kline, SA	x		
Samantha Moore, FA	x		
Non-members Present:			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC	Rachel Palmer Teefy, PEC	Yadir Morales	
Tracy Brown, ACRC	Emily S., PEC	Yasmin	
Faye Tait, ACRC	Dawn Dingman	Mirela Bere	
Anne Shayler, ACRC	E. Davis	Nick Lee	
Kenisha Hurd, ACRC	Ms. Turner	Preselah Seymore, GT	
Kizi Smith, ACRC	Flerida Meza	Independence FMS	
Cat Carl, ACRC	Ms. Souza		
Chelsea Coffin	Jaclyn Balanay, DDS		
Lisa Hooks, SCDD	Jean Gregory		
Christine Tolbert, SCDD	Katelyn, SafeinHome		
Anne Shayler, ACRC	Sarah, SafeinHome		
Kayley Proenza	Sarah Ford		

Nick Lee	Biana Magallon-Flores, PPL FMS David Frankel Letycia O'Connor, nurse next door	
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1. Welcome and Purpose – Alta/SCDD

Mechelle Johnson, 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 (1:00 p.m.)

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

Chair Lisa Cooley called the meeting to order at 1:08 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 May 13th meeting minutes.

The committee approved today’s agenda and the May 13th SDAC meeting minutes.

4. Public Comment Period

- Christine Tolbert, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), shared an overview of the statewide SDP orientation that included information on the April 2026 move to a sole-source, standardized two-part Zoom format (Part A: system/eligibility & Part B: spending plans, IFs, FMS, monthly English/Spanish sessions with more languages to come, high recent attendance, certificate process, and where recordings/resources are on the SCDD website.
- Rosie asked why the orientation is live Zoom sessions, not on demand, and which sessions are most popular.
 - In response, Christine reported that the directive requires live Zoom (accessible by phone), scheduling depends on trainer/admin capacity and certificate processing, and historical data shows Tuesday/Thursday mornings are most popular.

- Public comment from Yasmin who asked for data on Alta participants who completed the orientation, specifically how many go on to enroll in SDP and how long their transition into the program takes.
 - In response, Christine noted that she does not have Alta-specific enrollment or transition data on hand, but shared that SCDD provides attendee lists to DDS, which shares them with the regional centers.
- Public comment from Dawn who asked whether there's a required time limit between Part A and Part B or between completing both parts and later enrolling.
 - In response, Christine noted that there are no strict time limits, certificates don't expire and retaking isn't required. Although, reviewing updated materials is recommended if you wait a long time.
- Yadir submitted an accessibility comment asking that the red text on slide five of the introduction be changed because it is difficult to read.
- Rosie shared a public comment and thanked the SDP team and her son's SC for a rapid response to a crisis that required a spending plan change. Rosie also shared that IFTA launched the IF University offering Advanced SDP training, practical tools, live support, and community for Independent Facilitators (IFs).
- Parent Jennifer S. requested a collaborative, supportive conversation with the regional center to explore ways to better assist families and improve SDP responsiveness.
- Rachel, PEC, thanked the regional center for improving the SDAC meeting access on the website and raised concern about continued delays in SDP renewals/transitions and asked for continued efforts to speed up the renewal process.
- Yasmin shared a public comment and asked for clarity on SDP termination policies, client rights, outcome tracking, PCS staff access, and suggested a collaborative roundtable.
- Ms. Turner asked if there are any lists of non-vendored providers.
 - In response, Kenisha noted that there is a list through the IF Hub, and FMS may be able to share. ACRC can share the vendored providers list.

5. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Kenisha shared that as of July 1, 2026, ACRC has 692 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 415 are White, and 277 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (87), Black (45), Latin (42), Mixed (56), and Other (47). Sacramento has the highest enrollment (332), followed by Placer County (131), then Nevada County (98), El Dorado (70), and Yolo County (45).

- 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 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.
- 48 Providers are vendored for Self-Directed Services (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports).
 1. AAA Pathways
 2. Ace FMS
 3. Adjoin
 4. Alexa Guerrero
 5. AMFC Empower People DBA New Horizon Resources
 6. Aminah Abdul Hakim
 7. R&D Assessment and Consulting Services
 8. Choicess (yes, two "s" in the spelling)
 9. Community Integration Specialists
 10. Danielle Alvarado
 11. Dignified Independent Facilitator, LLC.
 12. Dromen, Inc.
 13. Engaged Services
 14. Expand Yu, LLC
 15. FMS Pay, LLC
 16. Girasol Hive, LLC
 17. Hand full of Stories
 18. Hero Facilitation, LLC
 19. HR Alliance West, Inc.
 20. I Can Choose, LLC
 21. James Cerebral Palsy Foundation
 22. Kaimen LLC DBA Oliveyou
 23. Kimberlie Rollins
 24. La Vi La CIP
 25. Life Leap Services
 26. Lighted Path Solutions, LLC
 27. Linking Pathways
 28. Lori Ross
 29. Mirela Bere
 30. MKRD Consulting
 31. Monica Star Vandevender
 32. My SDP Plan
 33. Neimah Care

34. Neurodiversity PBC
35. Permatransitions, LLC
36. Phoenix Facilitation of California, LLC
37. Premier Healthcare SVS DBA Aveanna Healthcare
38. Prescott Consulting Services, LLC
39. Quality Life Services
40. Helen Reese
41. REP Harmony Support Services, Inc.
42. Rollins Independent Facilitation Consultation
43. Zero Surico
44. Swathi Allamesetti
45. The Gifts Foundation
46. Thriving Futures
47. Upcountry Advocate, LLC
48. Ying Tang

- 8 providers for PDS Self-Directed Services (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports paid via FMS):
 1. Ace FMS
 2. Action FMS
 3. Community Engaged Payee Support (CEPS)
 4. GRD Fiduciary Services
 5. Premier Healthcare Services DBA Aveanna Healthcare
 6. Public Partnerships, LLC
 7. Ranjit Labiano
 8. Ridgeline FMS
- 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.
- 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
- In Partnership with Cambrian FMS, ACRC has advertised Cambrian's flyer for SDP workshops on all of its social media platforms.

Ongoing meetings and collaboration

- 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.

Outreach

Event Name	Date	Populations Served	County	Event Type
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Placer Pride Festival	5/16/26	All, LGBTQIA+	Placer	Info Table
Anthem Blue Cross Heart Health Awareness	5/23/26	All	Sacramento	Info Table
3 rd Annual Block Party Heartbeat – Sacramento Unified School District	5/2/26	All	Sacramento	Info Table
Yarmarka Festival	5/16/26	All, Russian/Ukrainian	Sacramento	Info Table
Hmong America Day	5/16/26	All, Hmong	Sacramento	Info Table
Roseville Pledge Fair	5/7/26	All	Placer	Info Table
Intercare Therapy Roseville Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	5/29/26	All	Placer	Info Table
Sacramento Pride	6/13/26	All, LGBTQIA+	Sacramento	Info Table
West Sacramento Juneteenth	6/12/26	All, African American	Yolo	Info Table
Regional Safety Day	6/6/26	All	Sacramento	Info Table

- 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

- No new Directives since March 2026.

Previous Public Comments

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

- No Q. Request for a link to the SDAC is hard.
 - A. -Lisa Hooks will discuss with self-advocates; apparently community members prefer not to be required to register for community meetings.
- Q. Payment for services from 2024 have not been received

- A. -This issue was resolved prior to SDAC convening. It is recommended that all invoices are submitted in a timely manner, in alignment with invoice criteria identified in the billing directive for payment consideration.
- Q. Hard time transitioning in the new plan year; receiving conflicting information from the SDP committee. Causing IF's to not want to work with ACRC.
 - A. After a spending plan is developed, a planning team discussion and understanding of how the spending plan meetings IPP goals for services in the budget will help the SC discuss alignment with statute/definition/directives.
- Q. Revisiting approvals for services that were approved a year prior.
 - A. SC should be assessing the need for services and supports annually. For conditions that have not changed, documentation should be available in the client chart for reference and planning team discussion.
- Q. SDP Extensions/Revisions
 - A. ACRC is no longer requiring alignment with Nov 2025 Directive for spending plan changes on plans that were approved prior to Nov 2025.
- Q. SC's asking FMS's about service providers; can the client be included in these conversations?
 - The FMS is a regional center vendor and may be asked questions by the regional center at any time. It is also recommended that SC's also communicate with clients regarding their services and supports.
- Q. Interested in identifying a way for clients to communicate with the RC regarding how well their SC is doing.
 - A. The State of California Department of Developmental Services is also interested in such feedback. Each IPP includes a QR code whereby clients and families are able to provide feedback to the regional center about their experience with the regional center. Also, if more immediate feedback is warranted, each Service Coordinator's email signature includes the contact information of their direct supervisor. Moreover, each direct supervisor's email signature line includes the direct contact information of their Associate Director. We hope that by sharing contact information, clients and families may obtain immediate access when a concern needs to be escalated. Remember, the Office of the Day may be reached by contacting our main line 916-978-6400. We hope this information is helpful.
- Q. Is there a list of vendors for 099 FMS agencies?

- A. Yes, there are 8 currently; see updates on page 3 of 6 of this report.
- Can we document our positive and negative comments?
 - Yes, Kizi Smith, ACRC Secretary, takes notes during every SDAC meeting.
- Q. What are pretransition supports?
 - A. Any coaching and/or training supports needed by an individual and their family or their representative to successfully enroll in the SDP. General SD Supports are authorized to be provided after the SDP orientation and before a potential participant is enrolled in the SDP. [Self-Determination Program: Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-enrollment Transition Supports Guidance](#)
- Q. SDAC meeting announcements on ACRC social media?
 - A. Yes (Jennifer Bloom followed up on this)
- Q. Took a long time to get services in place and the RC was not helpful.
 - A. Please contact the Client Services Manager (CSM) if SC is unresponsive. You may contact the Associate Director (AD) if the CSM is unresponsive.
- Q. Backlog on minor changes being made to spending plan.
 - A. Spending plan changes should be discussed amongst the planning team within 30 days, 7 days for health and safety. Changes in providers for the same exact service do not require RC review; although some FMS's are requiring this RC to review/approve prior to implementation.
- Q. Client passed away and there was no RC help
 - A. No response received by ACRC after reaching out on this concern.
- Q. Clients purchasing more hours of 1:1 support than assessed.
 - A. Planning team to consider client's ability to live independently and generic resources.
- Q. Why add ratio on social recreation activities?
 - Nov 2025 Directive requires RC to certify that the service is in compliance with HCBS.

Public Comment

- N/A

B. Clarification of Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) Eligibility and Service Authorization within the Self-Determination Program (SDP)

- Samantha noted that clients were being told Coordinated Family Supports (CFS) is the same as ILS, and requested the regional center explain CFS purpose/eligibility and how staff are being trained on it.
- In response, Kenisha noted that CFS is a pilot designed to help people remain in the family home and is not the same as ILS, and is delivered via traditional POS, not added to SDP budgets. Staff received initial training though a refresher may be useful.

C. Center Compliance with Self-Determination Program (SDP) Transition Timelines

- Kenisha noted that DDS has not set SDP transition timelines. ACRC uses an internal year-one checklist and will publish a year-two draft by month's end, follows statutory meeting deadlines (30 days/7 days for health and safety), and won't retroactively require pre November 2025 plans to meet the November 2025 directive.

6. Supporting Transition to SDP

- David Ellis, Cambrian FMS, will present at the September 9th SDAC meeting.

7. Workflow Group Discussion

- The committee deferred the workflow group discussion to the September 9th meeting so SDAC members can participate, and ACRC/PCs will bring updates and timeline information.

8. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

- **Discuss workflow group.**
 - Workflow group deferred to the September 9th SDAC meeting.
- **Process flow with timelines and expectations, including alternate options.**
 - This item was deferred to the September SDAC meeting.

9. SDAC Member Comment Period

- Rosie asked about the status of SDAC implementation funds, remaining balance, and any outstanding or planned RFPs.
 - Mechelle noted there hadn't been any recent SDAC funding discussions or subcommittee meetings and proposed bringing a funding update to the September SDAC meeting.

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- The committee agreed to add an agenda item for ACRC to report on current SDAC funds and RFPs at the next meeting.
- Samantha thanked ACRC for flexible problem solving on spending plan revisions and asked if plans approved before November 2025 must be retrofitted to the November 2025 directive when changes are needed later.
- Kenisha responded that they do not, and if a spending plan was already approved before November 2025, subsequent revisions due to a change in circumstance don't have to be brought into alignment with that directive.
- Tanishia thanked ACRC for being responsive and collaborative and noted that her ACRC contacts quickly provide updates and help resolve issues when she's assisting families, making it easier to ensure timely information and services.

10. *Dates for Future meetings:*

- 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*

- Workflow discussion group
- Process flow with timelines and expectations including alternate options
- Supporting Transition to SDP (David Ellis)
- SDAC Funds Update

12. *The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.*