



Alta California

Regional Center

4151 E Commerce Way, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95834

916-978-6400

**Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, September 10, 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		
Kelsey Handcock, DRC	x		
Margaux De Leon, FA	x		
Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair)		Excused	
Tanishia Hubbard, Community Resource Partner	x		
Rosie Lasca, FA	x		
Tom Hopkins, SA	x		
Non-members Present:			
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC	Bridgette Rayney,	Samantha Moore	
Kenisha Hurd, ACRC	NeuroNav	Natalie Cooper	
Tracy Brown, ACRC	Kim Schreiber, NeuroNav	Nelia Nunes	
Anne Shayler, ACRC	Cindy J.		
Kizi Smith, ACRC	David Frankel		
Cat Carl, ACRC	David Kline		
David Lopez, ACRC	Emily S.		
Peter Mendoza, SCDD	Jean Gregory		
Lisa Hooks, SCDD	Patricia Kamlley, DDS		
Rachael Palmer-Teefy, PEC	Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez		
	Kevin Coyne		

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 Benita Shaw, Co-Chair

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

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

Co-Chair Benita Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

M/S/C (Carmen/Margaux) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the July 9th meeting minutes.

The committee approved today's agenda and the July 9th SDAC meeting minutes.

4. Public Comment Period

- Kevin, parent and conservator, shared ongoing challenges with the FMS requiring local or regional gyms to become vendored before approving gym memberships, which has led to difficulties accessing services. Also, noted frustrations with spending plan items being denied by the FMS or regional center, after they were previously discussed and included.
- Rachel, PEC, highlighted delays for SDP participants transitioning into their next budget year. She reported that many clients experienced budget extensions of 1 to 3 months, which disrupted access to services and supports. Rachel requested that the regional center collect and share data on the frequency of budget extensions to better understand and address the issue. She also expressed appreciation for Kenisha's support and helpfulness.
- Natalie shared concerns about participants going without services due to delays in budget rollovers, noting that some clients had no services for over 15 days. She described communication

breakdowns between SCs and PCSs. She also mentioned that families and IFs have no direct contact with PCS, which could slow the process.

- Nelia Nunes and David Kline were introduced as potential new SDAC members. Both shared their backgrounds and interest in joining the committee. The committee agreed that, since their appointments were not on the current agenda, a Q&A and discussion with them would be added as an action item for the next meeting, allowing committee members time to ask questions and provide input before moving forward with their appointments.
- Peter announced that SCDD is conducting a survey to gather input from individuals and families about their needs and priorities. The feedback collected will help shape the Council's next five-year state plan, guiding its work and advocacy efforts across California. The survey is available online, and assistance is offered for anyone who needs help completing it. Peter encouraged everyone to participate and noted that more information, including contact details, would be shared in the chat and on the SCDD website.

5. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

- Kenisha shared that as of September 3, 2025, ACRC has 573 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 347 are White, and 226 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (82), Black (33), Latin (37), Mixed (57), and Other (17).
- ACRC has 27 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: AAA FMS, Accura FMS, ACE FMS, Action FMS, Acumen FMS, Aid FMS, Arch FMS, Balance FMS, Bolder Path Services, Cambrian, Community Interface Services (CIS), Dromen, Inc., Essential Pay, Fact Family Management Services, Stro Financial Services, FMS Pay, GRD Fiduciary, GT Independence, Home of Guiding Hands, HR Alliance West, Mains'I, Premier DBA Aveanna Healthcare, Public Partnerships, Ridgeline FMS, Sisk Financial Services, Sentinel Four, Sequoia. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website. We continue to work on adding additional FMSs.
- 36 Providers are vendored and have been funded for Self-Directed Services (up to 40 hours of pre-enrollment training and supports).

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- 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 9 PCS's currently supporting all case management units with the 10th starting after backfill.
- 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

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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)
 - 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
 - What was the goal? What supports were in place to meet the goal? Barriers? Success?
- 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.
- Weekly office hours for our Grass Valley office, as they are comprised of 20% of overall SDP participants.

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- 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.
- Standing meetings with CSMs for units with higher enrollment numbers.

Outreach

- 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.
- Attended Diversity Outreach Workgroup continues to include SDP information to all events.
- Listening and Feedback Session on 8/20/25 at the LGBT Center.
- Will be attending the Supported Life Conference on October 9th and 10th.
- Will be attending the Fall Regional Workability Conference in Grass Valley on 10/27/25.
- We are interested in your ideas and suggestions on where outreach may be helpful.
- Kenisha provided information regarding public comments from the previous meeting.
 - Day Program Providers requiring referral packet/IPP prior to allowing tours; This is a practice in Traditional. SDP providers are not required to adhere to their vendored program design when serving clients in SDP. We are unable to enforce any screening/enrollment criteria for these providers.
 - Transparency with timelines; the internal facing checklists include timelines for the SC. These checklists will be updated and reviewed to reflect the same timelines on the external facing checklists.
 - Increase in budget extensions; Best Practice to implement services that are agreed upon with the intent to continue conversations for services that are still under review or being assessed.
 - Progress reports from service providers for goal-oriented (training) services will be requested at the 120 day mark before budget renewal.

- SDP Outreach for people who are not involved in SDAC; ACRC's Diversity Outreach Workgroup, Outreach activities are on ACRC's social media platforms; SC's discuss SDP during IPP meetings and/or when prompted.
- How many orientations for SDP were completed in comparison to actual enrollment flips into SDP; ACRC is in support of collaborating with SCDD related to receiving data on their orientation completions for ACRC's catchment area. We will be contacting SCDD to put a plan in place so that we can include this information as part of our regular updates.
- Rosie asked if more details could be added to the updates from Alta, suggesting the use of PowerPoint slides and language breakdowns to make the information easier to follow and reference in future meetings. She also asked for clarification on the number of Participant Choice Specialists (PCS) and how they review spending plans.
- Cindy raised concerns about the requirement for families to share their full IPP, which includes sensitive financial and personal information, with providers to get a tour or access services. She questioned the necessity and appropriateness of this practice and suggested an alternative, less intrusive document for referrals.
- Carmen asked for clarification about the internal and external checklists and timelines, specifically when the updated, more transparent external checklist would be available to families. She also raised a concern about a new practice in which families are told they must update their spending plan every time they hire a new individual or business, questioning whether this is an official policy or a Directive.
- Anne, ACRC, clarified that there is no current requirement from Alta for a new spending plan every time a provider changes, unless the FMS specifically requests it. The focus is on ensuring the service itself remains consistent, not necessarily the individual providing it.
- Preselah, GT Independence, shared feedback explaining that while flexibility is allowed, the spending plan must list the types of services and providers in a way that allows for changes in employees without requiring a new plan each time, as long as the service category remains the same.

6. DDS SDP Individual Budget Community Input

- Carmen reported on a recent DDS community forum about proposed changes to the individual budget process, specifically a plan for DDS to review all budgets over \$55,000. She expressed concern about the low threshold, the lack of a clear explanation for the review, and the purpose of the data being collected.
- DDS staff offered to forward questions to the appropriate department. Jennifer, ACRC, added that these changes are not yet finalized and are part of ongoing discussions about “guardrails” to ensure the sustainability of SDP.

7. Changes to IPP

- Carmen expressed concern that the new IPP is lengthy, technical, and duplicates much of the budget process, making it difficult for families to understand.
- Jennifer, ACRC, shared that the standardized IPP was developed to ensure consistency across regional centers, especially when families transfer between them, and confirmed that all centers are now required to use this template. It was noted that DDS held stakeholder meetings and public forums to gather feedback during the development of the new format and that DDS remains open to suggestions for future improvements.

8. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- Carmen reported that the subcommittee received two proposals in response to the RFP request for proposals: one from Cambrian and one from HR Alliance. After reviewing both proposals, the subcommittee found both to be good, but Cambrian's proposal to be more detailed, with clear timelines, a budget, and a focus on 1:1 consultation for participants. The subcommittee recommended moving forward with Cambrian's proposal. The committee agreed to review both proposals and vote by email by Monday, September 15th.

9. Action Items from Prior SDAC Meeting

- No previous action items.

10. SDAC Member Comment Period

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- Benita shared a heartfelt statement about the challenges families face when advocating for loved ones with disabilities, emphasizing the need for understanding and compassion from service providers and committee members. She expressed gratitude for the committee's work and the support provided to families, while also acknowledging the emotional toll of advocacy.
- Carmen responded by thanking Benita for her strong and caring advocacy.

11. *Dates for Future meetings:*

- November 12th, 2025, 6-8 pm **Remote Only**

12. *Identify agenda items for the next meeting*

- Q&A with Potential Appointed SDAC Members.
- Vote on Proposed Committee Meeting Dates for 2026.
- Please submit any items to Kizi Smith to be added to the agenda.

13. *The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.*