



Alta California

Regional Center

2241 Harvard Street, Suite 100

Sacramento, CA 95815

916-978-6400

Alta California Regional Center (ACRC)
Self-Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
1 to 3 p.m.
Minutes

Members:	Present	Absent	<p align="center">Legend:</p> <p>SA – Self-Advocate FA – Family Advocate SP – Service Provider</p>
Benita Shaw, FA			
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	
Tanishia Hubbard, Community Resource Partner		X	
Tom Hopkins, SA	X		
Tracy Ligtenberg, FA	X		
William Reed	X		
Margaux De Leon, FA	X		
Non-members Present:			
Mechelle Johnson, ACRC	Peter Mendoza, SCDD		
Jennifer Bloom, ACRC	Jessica Mercado, GT		
Tracy Brown, ACRC	Independence		
Faye Tait, ACRC	Jaclyn Balanay, DDS		
Anne Shayler, ACRC	Lori Ross, parent, IF		
Melissa Schuessler, ACRC	Mirela B.		
Sydney Ruport, ACRC	Yasmin Vilchez, parent		
Teri Voorhes, parent, IF	Emily S., PEC		
Anne Shayler	Rachael Palmer Teefy, PEC		
Reyva Johnson, ACRC	Amanda Pelaccio, PEC		
Kizi Smith, ACRC	Georgina Kier, parent, IF		

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1. Call to Order by Lisa Cooley, Chair

Welcome & Introductions (1:25 p.m.)

2. Approval of Agenda & Minutes – Lisa Cooley

A quorum was established at 1:30 p.m. Chairperson Lisa Cooley requested the committee vote on the approval of today's agenda and the July 12th SDAC meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Daniel, Tracy) Made the motion to approve the agenda of today's meeting and the July 12th meeting minutes.

There were no abstentions or objections, and the committee approved the agenda of today's meeting and the July 12th meeting minutes as is.

Carmen provided a Bagley Keene update regarding how the committee will conduct future meetings. After each agenda item, committee members will be allotted time to discuss further and ask questions. After the committee members have completed their allotted time, the committee will offer the public three minutes per person to comment on the agenda item.

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

A. General SDP Update

- Faye shared that as of September 6, 2023, ACRC has 289 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 181 are White, and 108 are Non White (41 Asian, 17 Black, 22 Latin, 25 Mixed & 3 Other). Age Range 0-17 (83) 18-100 years old (206).
- ACRC has seven vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Essential Pay, FMS Pay, and Mains'l. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website.

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- Our Community Services Department is working on onboarding additional FMS agencies.
 - ACRC meets quarterly with our vendored FMS agencies. Our last meeting was in August.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2023.
 - We also invite FMS agencies to attend SDAC meetings.
- Our regional center has two Person Centered Planning (PCP) Vendors: Engaged Services, Lighted Path Solutions, and Lincoln Training Center. There are other agencies in various stages of the vendorization process for PCP, as well as 024 reimbursements for PCP.
- As we prepare to transition to Option B, we currently have six vendors under 099 Pre transition Supports: La Vi la CIP, Mirela Bere, Engaged Services, Aminah Abdul Hakim, and FMS Pay LLC.
- 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 promote this.
- ACRC continues to offer orientation through our Learning Management System (LMS).
- **Ongoing meetings and collaboration**
- We offer a once a month SDP Training for all staff that includes various topics such as Introduction to SDP, 5 Core Principles, PCP and Option B, All things FMS, Budget vs. Spending Plan, PDS vs. SDP
- We are adding a new SDP drop-in lab to support managers and lead staff with individual case consult.
- We currently have one Participant Choice Specialist who provides daily support and will have an additional PCS joining soon!
- The CSM for the SDP unit, Melissa Schuessler, continues to provide training and support to the agency and unit.
- We also collaborate with other RCs to ensure consistency.
- ACRC's monthly meetings with DDS continue.

- We engage in outreach as our SCs continue to provide clients/families with information about SDP and assist them with registering for SDP orientations, training, and follow-up.
- We continue to hire for the SDP Unit and currently have three openings for Service Coordinators and one opening for a PCS.

◆ **Committee member agenda item discussion/questions**

- Thomas asked what the definition is for 099 Pre-Transition Supports.
 - Faye noted that individuals previously had up to \$2,500 for a Person-Centered Plan to be written and to receive support to start SDP. The new Directive allows the individual to receive up to \$1,000 to write the initial Person-Centered Plan, and there will be up to 40 hours with a vendor under 099 for Pre-Transition Supports.
- Kimberly and Kenya inquired if there will be any consideration for flexibility for the 40 hours with a vendor under 099 for Pre-Transition Supports based on the individual's needs.
 - Faye noted that the planning team can review the individual's needs and request additional hours.
- Margaux inquired about how many SCs are currently in the SDP unit.
 - Faye noted that there are currently five SCs and are hiring for four more SCs to achieve the goal of a 1:40 ratio.
- Kenya inquired if there are COVID-related supplies available for the community.
 - Peter shared that SCDD has access to COVID tests and PPE equipment and shared his contact information for requests for COVID-related supplies: Peter.mendoza@scdd.ca.gov.

◆ **Community Comments**

- Yasmin shared a comment that she would like to see a commitment from the RC on a caseload reduction to a 1:25 ratio for high-need clients who are choosing to be in SDP and inquired on what the length of the process for an IF to be vendored with Alta from beginning to end, what department is responsible for vendorization, and what is Alta's commitment to providing individuals in SDP or interested in the SDP program multiple language supports.

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- Jane shared that the Autism Society of Los Angeles will launch a new training program (Cross-Cultural Advanced Independent Facilitator Training) to assist IFs that have experience and are already transitioning individuals into SDP and are interested in advancing their knowledge. The training will be available in English, Spanish, and Korean. Registration will be open on September 15th.
- Rachel with PEC shared that Disability Voice United is hosting their Annual SDP Conference on November 3rd, 2023.

B. **Self-Determination Program: Meetings of the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC)** [Self-Determination Program: Meetings of the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee](#)

- Mechelle noted that the Directive was shared with everyone for informational purposes.

C. **Update on FMS Agencies and the Process of Transferring from One FMS Agency to Another**

- Faye shared that ACRC is working hard to onboard more FMS agencies. The process of transferring from one FMS agency to another can be a delicate process. Especially when completed mid-year due to billing and spending processes. Melissa and her team are working diligently on a process for transitioning from FMS to another mid-year. We hope to share this process at the next meeting.

4. **Bagley Keene Update**

- Peter shared a presentation on Bagley-Keene.
- Anyone who would like a copy of the presentation is advised to contact Peter at Peter.mendoza@scdd.ca.gov or 916-670-0407.

5. **Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update**

- Kenya shared that there are no updates and hopes the subcommittee can gather soon to discuss allocating the remaining funds.

6. **Progressive Employment Concepts Update**

- Rachel shared an update on the Pre-Enrollment Transition Support Services and reported that they currently serve two individuals under this grant. One individual is nearly done with their transition to SDP, awaiting the FMS start date. The second individual is beginning their

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Person Centered Plan (PCP) and then will complete additional transition supports services.

- The Training and Coaching Series will begin on October 16th and will run through December 1st.
 - PEC will be connecting with SCDD, who have shared that they have funding available for translation and interpretation services to ensure the training is accessible for all those interested in attending.
 - Public comment from Yasmin, who offered translation assistance to SCDD to promote SDP.

7. Action Items pending from prior SDAC meeting:

- a. Discuss adding a by-law for voting.
 - No updates at this time.
- b. Mechelle will reach out to non-active members appointed by ACRC to encourage participation.
 - Mechelle reached out to members appointed by ACRC, who were all able to attend today's meeting.
 - Public comment from Yasmin to be considered to serve as an SDAC committee member.
- c. Process for transferring from one FMS to another.
 - This item will be discussed further in the next meeting.

8. Future Dates for 2023 SDAC monthly meetings:

- November 8, 2023, 6-8 pm – **Remote Only Meeting**

11. Identify agenda items for the next meeting.

1. How long is the process for an IF to be vendored with ACRC (start to end)
2. What department is responsible for vendorization.
3. Process for transitioning from one FMS to another mid-year.
4. What is Alta's commitment to providing language supports to clients in the SDP program or interested in the SDP program.

12. Meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.