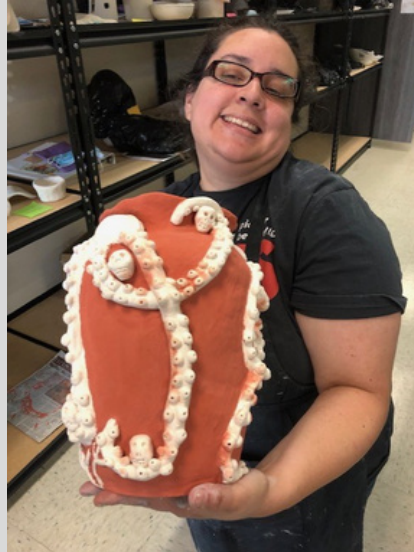


ALTA CONNECTIONS

The Quarterly Client, Service Provider, and Staff Update Newsletter



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Executive Director Lori Banales

Happy New Year! As we begin 2025, it is important to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year and how those accomplishments carry over. ACRC is committed to developing high quality services that meet the needs and desires of our community. As I review the year end data, I wanted to share a statistic that struck me. ACRC has increased the percentage of new vendorizations by 33% in 2024, compared to 2023. In real numbers, that is an increase from 252 to 333 newly vendored services available for our clients to utilize. These numbers do not include individual vendorizations, which would add significantly to the overall totals. I am proud of our Community Services department in streamlining processes and supporting applicants along the way.

In addition to developing new services, we have been working in partnership with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to implement the final phase of the rate study Rate Reform Directives and Updates : CA Department of Developmental Services. Our energies are devoted to updating our systems to support these changes. We have also been embracing the New Statewide Individual Program Plan (IPP), which will roll out in 2025.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- MESSAGE FROM ED
- DIVERSITY OUTREACH WORKGROUP
- CAPITOL TREELIGHTING
- CAPED CONFERENCE W/SIERRA COLLEGE
- MICROENTERPRISE FAIR
- STAFF SPOTLIGHTS
- SANTA DAY
- DENTAL SERVICES UPDATE
- OCRA 25 ANNIVERSARY
- NEW STAFF
- RUN FOR A SAFE HAVEN
- AB3291 - NEW LAW
- VENDORIZATION UPDATES
- FEATURED ARTIST

ANNOUNCEMENT

ACRC IS HOSTING QUARTERLY VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETINGS - FEBRUARY 5, MAY 7, AUGUST 6, AND NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Please note: The intent of the Community meeting is to share updates across the organization and to engage with our community. This is not a space for client specific issues. Those discussions are welcomed at the Planning Team level or in a one-on-one conversation. Thank you for understanding the need to preserve client confidentiality. For additional information visit <https://www.altaregional.org/calendar> to get the link. No registration required.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - CONT.

To help you understand the new format and get ready for your IPP meeting, the department has created a document called "Your Plan." This guide walks through person-centered thinking, focusing on the individual's preferences, strengths, and goals. Individual Program Planning : CA Department of Developmental Services. Another important area of collaboration across the state is the creation of a standardized Family Supports Assessment. This week the DDS hosted a meeting of Services Coordinators from each center at our office to walk through the assessment with frontline staff to garner input as the state draws closer to release of this assessment tool. Stakeholders across the state have provided valuable feedback and have helped to shape the vision and application of this tool. Thank you to everyone that has added to the conversation and development.

On December 13th, ACRC hosted another widely attended and successful Santa Day event. There are several pictures shared as you read on that showcase the magical atmosphere of the day. Due to the increase in attendees this year, we elected to relocate from our office to an event center to better accommodate the crowds. Even then, there were points of the day where movement was tight. All in all, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback, and it fills our hearts to be able to provide such a positive experience for our clients and their families. I want to acknowledge and thank publicly the dedicated work of our staff, who commit all year to raising funds to support this day. They are the true heroes of Santa Day!

Lastly, ACRC has completed our first year of the Client and Family Satisfaction Survey. A full year-end report will be drafted and shared publicly by the end of January. Thank you to those who participated in this survey. We are grateful to receive your responses. May 2025 be filled with great opportunity, collaboration and meaningful outcomes for those we support.

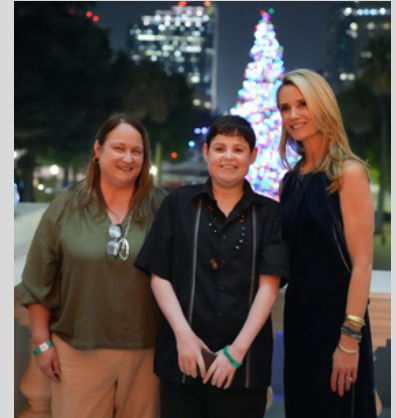
ACRC'S DIVERSITY OUTREACH WORKGROUP



Diversity Outreach Workgroup (DOW) is an ACRC internal committee system representative of the ethnic and linguistically diverse ACRC population. DOW supports identifying and voluntarily participating in outreach events throughout ACRC's ten-county catchment (i.e., through such activities as participation in Multicultural Events, Black History and Juneteenth Celebrations, and PRIDE March – to name a few). The DOW strives on a continual basis to ensure that clients feel seen and heard through representation, participation, and collaboration throughout the communities that ACRC serves.

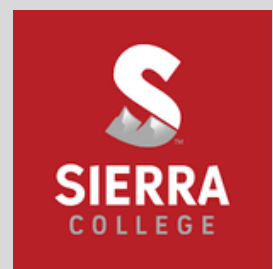
CAPITOL TREE LIGHTING

For the second year, ACRC was invited to decorate our own tree in the Capitol Rotunda for the ceremony. Bradley Margetts helped trim the tree and got a chance to meet Governor Newsom. Thank you to our many service providers for assistance with making ornaments. Bradley pictured here with ACRC ED Lori Banales, his mother Kelly Pennington, First Partner Jennifer Sibel, DDS Director Pete Cervinka and Governor Newsom.



SHARING OUR SIERRA COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

ACRC Employment Specialist Carly Moorman, Director of Community Services John W. Decker, and Sierra College Dean Amy Schulz were invited to present at the annual conference for the California Association of Postsecondary Education and Disability. We shared about the exciting work in partnership with Sierra College. You can read a recent article regarding this partnership here: www.rosevilletoday.com%2Fnews%2Froseville%2Fsierra-college-life-program-disabilities-independence



ACRC HOSTS MICROENTERPRISE FAIR

ACRC happily hosted another successful Microenterprise Fair. Thank you to all the clients, family members, and service providers that participated. ACRC staff enjoyed buying artwork, baked goods, decorations, crafts, books and so much more. We hope you'll join us for our next event.





STAFF SPOTLIGHT CLIENT SERVICES MANAGER CHRISTINA LANE



Christina Lane's journey is one filled with passion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. Her story begins in 1986 when she landed her first professional job at Golden Gate Regional Center on Market Street in San Francisco, working as a Residential Service Coordinator (SC). This pivotal role marked the start of her long and distinguished career in social services.

Christina's connection to ACRC goes back even further. In 1985, while studying for her master's degree in social work at Sacramento State University, Christina interned at ACRC, working with a mixed caseload under the supervision of Brenda Smith. It was during this time that Christina gained invaluable experience, setting the foundation for her future work.

After graduating from Sacramento State University in 1985, she worked as a Geriatric Case Manager. In this role, Christina conducted group therapy for individuals affected by Alzheimer's Disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Christina's career expanded further when she worked as a social worker/discharge planner specializing in end-of-life planning, hospice care, and training nurses on these sensitive topics.

Christina took on a significant role at Bencore Hospital (now known as Vibra), where she served as the manager of social services and discharge planning. There, she worked with individuals who were dependent on ventilators, further honing her expertise in end-of-life care, planning and leadership.

In 2008, Christina returned to ACRC as a Residential SC, marking the beginning of a new chapter in her career. After six years in this role, she was promoted to Client Services Manager, where she currently oversees one of three residential units. Her heart and soul are dedicated to serving ACRC's most vulnerable clients who reside in licensed, residential care facilities. With a team of 15 SCs under her leadership, Christina and her team ensure high-quality care for the clients they serve.

Mentorship is one of Christina's favorite aspects of her job. She takes great pride in mentoring and developing SCs and helping them achieve professional growth.

Christina is actively involved in corporate bible study and mentors women within her community. She enjoys reading, walking along the river, and camping with her husband, who she's been married to for 36 years. Her recent adventures include a camping trip to Plumas Eureka State Park, where she enjoyed paddleboarding and hiking. Her home life is filled with love and companionship, shared with her two cats, Tommy and Sushi.

SANTA DAY 2024

On December 13, 2024, ACRC hosted our annual Santa Day celebration. Santa Day is a free event for regional center clients and their family members. It is an opportunity to take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus! ACRC celebrated different cultures and holiday traditions including Hispanic, Hmong, Kwanza, and more! Due to the popularity of Santa Day, the event was held at the Mack Powell Center in Sacramento. We hope to see you there next year!



UNIVERSITY OF PACIFIC OPENS SACRAMENTO DENTAL CLINIC



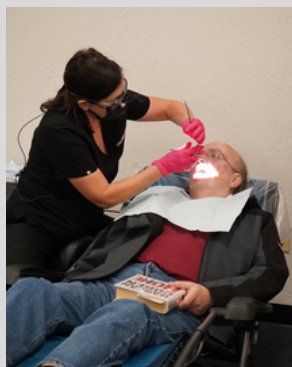
On November 22nd ACRC's Director of Intake and Clinical Services and Dental Coordinator (along with others from sister regional centers) were hosted by Dr. Mark Booth to tour the University of Pacific (UOP) Pacific Health Care Collaborative (PHCC) Clinic, a 30,000 square foot clinic that combines access to medical and dental services. The PHCC is located on UOP's Sacramento campus and includes sensory friendly exam and medical procedure rooms, and dental operatories to meet the needs of patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



ON MY OWN INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES HOSTS DENTAL CLINIC AT THEIR CITRUS HEIGHTS OFFICE FOR CLIENTS

On November 21st, ACRC had a unique opportunity to partner with On My Own ILS to host an event for a group of mutual clients. Working collaboratively, ACRC and On My Own arranged for two RDHAPs to provide preventive dental care to 14 clients at On My Own's event space. Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAPs) are dental hygienists who can work in a variety of settings outside of a traditional dental office. RDHAPs can perform dental cleanings, x-rays, fluoride treatments, and many more services for patients who may have trouble accessing a traditional dental office. At the event, clients were able to receive dental hygiene services, tips for improving home care, assistance with locating dental providers and referrals for further dental treatment needed. This inaugural event was a success!

ACRC is fortunate to be working with many wonderful community partners, vendored service providers, and local RDHAPs. We look forward to bringing more RDHAP services and collaborative dental clinics to 2025.



DISABILITY RIGHTS CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



2024 is the 25-year anniversary of the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) providing independent advocacy services for Regional Center clients! In honor of this milestone, on October 3, 2024, OCRA held open house events throughout California including their local Sacramento office. Congratulations on your anniversary OCRA.

WELCOMING NEW STAFF



Ali Baheej SC - Adults and Adolescents
Haley Simmons SC - Early Childhood
Tori Miller SC - Early Childhood
Sheridan Renfroe SC - Early Childhood
Mena Prado SC - Children's
Quan Zhang SC - Out-of-Class Assignment in Intake

Jimmy Hoang SC - Adults and Adolescents
Jeremy Couch SC - Adults and Adolescents
Nono Haunga SC - Residential
Rebekka Moreno INSC - Intake Specialist
Christopher White SC - Adults and Adolescents
Paola Arriaga Ochoa SC - Early Intervention
Virginia Gabby CSS - Community Services Specialist



Excellent work by ACRC's HR Team. Please see the full list of staff hired this quarter on page 11

STAFF SPOTLIGHT SHARON KURPINSKY DEFLECTION SPECIALIST & VICTIM ADVOCATE



Sharon Kurpinsky has her Masters Degree in Counseling Education from the University of San Francisco and Bachelors Degree from Sacramento State. Sharon has been with ACRC since 2006, starting out as a Service Coordinator in the South Area Unit. Prior to her work at ACRC, Sharon was the Administrator for a Foster Care Agency and a 24-bed Memory Care Unit, but her passion was being an advocate for Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Victims accompanying them to forensic exams, providing counseling, and advocacy in court.

Currently, Sharon is the Deflection Specialist and Victim Advocate for ACRC. In November 2023, Sharon worked with WEAVE in providing training to Service Coordinators on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence and will be working with all of the ten counties that ACRC serves in providing training with the agencies in those counties. Along with other staff in the Specialized Services and Supports Unit, Sharon provided training to all officers and detectives with the Elk Grove Police Department and the El Dorado County Sheriff Department on working with community members with ID/DD. Sharon has also volunteered with the Elk Grove Police Department and Fly Fit, providing community involvement to our clients.

STAFF PARTICIPATE IN RUN FOR A SAFE HAVEN 5K



This year a team of ACRC staff participated in My Sister's House annual 5k fundraiser, Run for a Safe Have. Funds raised help to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Thank you to ACRC's Victim Advocate Sharon Kurpinsky for helping coordinate and to all our staff that participated.



NEW VENDORIZATIONS IN 2024

As ACRC continues to grow, our Community Services Department seeks to expand services based on the stakeholder needs identified by our community. 2024 saw a significant increase in total vendorizations as well as a number of notable increases in specific service areas.

New Service Providers by Year

2017 - 190
 2018 - 185
 2019 - 184
 2020 - 165
 2021 - 149
 2022 - 188
 2023 - 252
2024 - 333 (33% increase from 2023)

Vendor Type	2023	2024
Residential Care Homes	21	57
Supported Living Agency	10	19
Speech Therapy	14	22
Camps	0	12
Sports Club	3	25

FEATURED ARTIST SARA STOVER

Sara is primarily a ceramist but is also accomplished in many different areas such as making beautiful earrings, jewelry, printing, drawings, mosaics and mixed media. Sara has been working in ceramics for over 14 years. Sara describes her work as “Out there, Tim Burton strange, Jackson Pollock meets Van Gough”. Sara shared that art has been in her family for several generations. Her grandmother was a curator at the Crocker Art Museum and gave her art books when she was younger. Sara is compelled to create which also provides help for her to remain calm and focused. She pulls inspiration from the world around her and channels her emotions into her work.

Sara’s art can be purchased from the Work of Art Gallery. Address and information provided below as well as the Instagram and Facebook links.

Work of Art – College Greens 8345 Folsom Blvd. Suite 101 Sacramento, California 95826 Hours of Operation: Weekdays - 8am to 4pm phone (916) 542-4066 @woa_ceramics Work of Art Studios | Sacramento CA | Facebook



WELCOMING NEW STAFF

October New Hires

Amanda Kirk (SC - Early Childhood)
Amreen Kaur (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Angela Flores (Associate SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Ellen Kelly (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Jackie Muratalla (SC - Early Intervention)
Jane Calcagno (SC - Developmental Center Liaison)
Jeanette Navarro (SC - Children's)
Kaitlyn Fox (Intake Specialist)
Karina Granados Onate (SC – Intensive Case Management)
Maic Lee (SC - Early Childhood)
Martha Her (SC - Early Intervention)
Mason Yelton (Community Services Specialist)
Melissa Sipsy (SC – Residential)
Monique Maraviglia (SC - Children's)
Parveen Kaur (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Perla Valdovinos Galvan (SC - Early Intervention)
Samantha Nunez (Associate SC - Residential)
Sandra Angulo Cruz (SC - Early Intervention)
Shamsullah Salik (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Sharon Collins (SC - Enhanced Service Coordination)
Sharon Vang (SC - Early Intervention)
Stacey Ballard (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Sydney McAdams (SC – Residential)
Javier Rosas (SC - Adults and Adolescents)

November New Hires

Christopher White (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Elenoa "Nono" Haunga (SC – Residential)
Jeremy Couch (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Jimmy Hoang (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Paola Arriaga Ochoa (SC - Early Intervention)
Rebekka Moreno (Intake Specialist)
Virginia Gabby (Community Services Specialist)
Courtney Bautista (SC - Early Childhood)
Erica Espinoza-Lopez (SC - Children's/Transition)
Gunnar Skoog (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Jessica Mauricio Marcos (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Merly Juliana Navarro (SC - Early Childhood)
Katherine Ramos (SC - Early Childhood)
Rae Stocker (Nursing Consultant)
Yesenia Cervantes (Office Assistant)



December New Hires

Jaydee Asuncion (SC - Intake)
Monica Chadwick (SC - Children's)
Boyd Smith (Community Services Specialist)
Michelle Hill (SC - Early Intervention)
Genevieve Hill (Controller – Finance)
Sheridan Renfroe (SC - Early Childhood)
Noor Ali Baheej (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Ximena Prado (SC - Children's)
Haley Simmons (SC - Early Childhood)
Tyler Stewart (SC - Adults and Adolescents)
Quan Zhang (SC - Intake)



Alta California
Regional Center