



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, November 13, 2024
6 to 8 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 | x | | |
| Carmen Delgado, FA | x | | |
| Daniel Meadows, SA | | excused | |
| Kelsey Handcock, DRC | x | | |
| Kimberly Terrell, SA | | excused | |
| Lisa Cooley, SA (Chair) | x | | |
| Meena Kalyanasundaram, FA | | x | |
| Tanishia Hubbard, <small>Community Resource Partner</small> | x | | |
| Tom Hopkins, SA | | x | |
| Tracy Ligtenberg, FA | x | | |
| William Reed | | x | |
| Margaux De Leon, FA | x | | |
| Non-members Present: | | | |
| Mechelle Johnson, ACRC | Joshua Kier | Rosie Lasca, IFTA | |
| Jennifer Bloom, ACRC | Georgina Kier | Yadir Morales | |
| Kenisha Hurd, ACRC | Jaclyn Balanay, DDS | Rachel Palmer Teefy, PEC | |
| Tracy Brown, ACRC | Mirela Bere | Amanda Pelaccio, PEC | |
| Faye Tait, ACRC | Beth Beswick | Kayley Proenza, DVU | |
| Johnny Xiong, ACRC | Chelsea Coffin | Emily Scholl | |
| Melissa Schuessler, ACRC | Cindy Cox | Coushatta Seymore | |
| Anne Shayler, ACRC | Pam Haney | Kitty Sutcliffe | |
| Kizi Smith, ACRC | Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez | | |
| Sophia Mogannam, ACRC | Natalie Cooper | | |
| Lisa Hooks, SCDD | | | |
| Peter Mendoza, SCDD | | | |

1. Call to Order by Benita Shaw, Vice Chair

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

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

A quorum was established at 6:22 p.m. Vice Chairperson Benita Shaw requested the committee vote on the approval of today's agenda and the September 11th and September 24th SDAC meeting minutes.

M/S/C (Kelsey/Margaux) Made the motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting and the September 11th and September 24th meeting minutes.

The committee approved the agenda for today's meeting and the minutes for the September 11th and September 24th meetings.

3. Public Comment Period

- Joshua Kier shared that he is starting his third year of SDP with Mains' Financial Management Service (FMS). Joshua shared some challenges he has experienced with the change from Co-Employer to Sole-Employer, including some miscommunications regarding paperwork. Joshua and his mother, Georgina, have learned helpful information along the way but still have questions regarding liability insurance, labor laws, and completing taxes as a Sole-Employer.
- Natalie Cooper shared that she has experienced some confusion regarding California labor laws as a sole employer and asked what the sole employer's responsibility is for breaks and lunches. Natalie recommended that a handbook with this information be available. Also, she noted that she is experiencing ongoing issues with SDP timelines.
- Georgina Kier, Independent Facilitator (IF), shared an email on behalf of her client, Emma, regarding Cambrian's failure to communicate a change from Uber to Lyft.

4. ACRC SDP Updates

A. General SDP Update

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- Kenisha shared that as of November 1st, 2024, ACRC has 444 individuals who have fully transitioned to SDP. Of those, 266 are White, and 178 are Non-White. The Ethnicity breakdown is Asian (67), Black (24), Latin (30), Mixed (47) and Other (10).
- ACRC currently has 14 vendored Financial Management Service (FMS) Agencies: ACE, Action, Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, GT Independence, Essential Pay, FMS Pay, Laurence F. Padway, Mains'I, Public Partnerships, Ritz, Sisk Financial, and Sentinel Four. Their contact information is listed on the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') website. We continue to work on adding additional FMSs.
- Aveanna FMS is vendored for Self Directive Supports, which is up to 40 hours of Pre-Enrollment Training and Supports. In addition, Action FMS and ACE FMS, are vendored with their vendoring regional centers to provide these services. Our Community Services Department is in the process of obtaining rate information from those vendoring regional centers so Action and ACE can provide this service to individuals in our catchment area. We have found that there are no Purchase of Service (POS) dollars being spent on this particular service, which could be due to the temporary reimplementations of Option A, which allows up to \$2,500 in reimbursement for Transition Supports through December 31st, with enrollments ending on November 1st.
- Coordinated Family Supports is a service that was made available to SDP participants but must be rendered through the traditional model (rather than being added to the budget- reference DDS Directive November 2023).
 - Therefore, the FMS wouldn't be involved in this process. Lastly, rates for the budget (IBCCT) are based on regional center vendored rates (including rates that are negotiated, median, and rate reform implementation). As the client and IF work together to secure service providers, they can negotiate rates based on the client's needs and the expectations of the service providers. The spending plan rates are developed based on those conversations and agreements and are not determined by the regional center.
- The Statewide SDP Orientation continues to be 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. If clients/families cannot make the times of the SCDD orientation, we are able to provide the LMS training in its place.

- There are seven PCSs currently supporting all case management units, with plans to hire two more for the Woodland and Grass Valley offices.

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.
- Monthly Statewide SDP meetings continue.
- PCSs continue to attend unit meetings to share information, resources, and technical support.

Outreach

- SCs continue to discuss the SDP program with clients (documented on ACRC's IPP Services and Supports page) and assist with SDP Orientation registration and follow-up.
- We are interested in your ideas and suggestions on where outreach may be helpful.
- Several Alta staff members attended the Supported Life Conference on October 17th and 18th. They had a booth and gave out lots of swag and information. Kenisha shared a photo of Lisa, Carmen, and Amanda (PEC) taken at the conference.
- Benita asked how the rate is determined when accessing an individual's budget. Kenisha noted that the median rates are used for individuals when creating the 12-month expenditure. If a client is participating in a service where we have a vendor identified, then we would use that rate. In the case of an unmet need for a service that wasn't identified in the 12-month expenditure report, we would then use the median rates. Melissa added that if an individual was in

traditional services and already receiving day program services, this rate would go on the budget sheet.

5. SDAC Public Comment Discussion

- Jennifer shared that at the last meeting, a member of the public suggested we have monthly SDAC meetings.
- Benita shared that the SDAC previously held monthly meetings. Due to SDP participant growth and positive meeting outcomes, the committee voted to transition to holding meetings every other month, including an evening meeting every third month. We encourage clients/families to contact their Service Coordinator when there are urgent discussion items. In addition, Alta encourages clients/families to utilize the public comments inbox, which is monitored regularly.

6. SLI Promotional Items Invoice

- Jennifer shared that the committee approved up to \$3,500 on SDAC swag for the Supported Life Institute Conference at the last SDAC meeting. With tax and shipping and applying coupon codes, the total was \$209.71 over the \$3500, totaling \$3709.71. This was a time-sensitive order, as we needed the promo items with the logo well before 10/17.
- Lisa C., the SDAC Chair, and Benita A., the co-chair, emailed in support. They requested that the committee approve the updated total of \$3,709.71.

M/S/C (Tracy/Carmen) Made the motion to approve the updated amount of \$3,709.71 for SDAC swag for the Supported Life Institute Conference.

The committee approved by roll call vote. Tracy, Carmen, Kelsey, Benita, Margaux, Lisa, and Tanishia approved the updated amount of \$3,709.71 for SDAC swag for the Supported Life Institute Conference.

7. Update on SLI Conference

- Lisa C. shared that the committee members were able to give out a lot of swag and information, and she hopes to see more of the community at future SDAC meetings in the year to come.

8. Grant Funding Sub-Committee Update

- No updates at this time. Deferred to next meeting.

9. Explore Next Steps to Attract Members from Rural Communities to Attend the SDAC Meetings

- Carmen noted that several months ago, she noticed rural communities' participation at SDAC meetings was very low. Carmen reached out to friends in the community and invited Nancy L. to share her experience as a parent of a client and resident of South Lake Tahoe. Nancy shared her concerns regarding the need for more support from the regional center and the lack of knowledge about SDP in the South Lake Tahoe community. As a next step, Carmen would like to explore the data to identify the barriers and what can be done to increase the resources in rural communities.
- Jennifer thanked Nancy for sharing her concerns. She noted that Alta has contracted with Rosie Lasca, Independent Facilitator Training Academy (IFTA), to help increase participation and awareness for SDP and recommended that Rosie and Nancy connect to coordinate outreach in the South Lake Tahoe community.

10. Independent Facilitator Training Academy Proposal Update

- Rosie L., IFTA, shared an update regarding the in-person Self Determination workshops. The workshops will take place starting on December 9th. All but two locations have been secured. Flyers will be shared with the date, time, and locations. Rosie is excited about sharing the completed Self Determination workbooks with the attendees, which are being translated into different languages. Several free locations were secured, allocating more money to incentives. Local vendors have also donated gifts and raffle prizes. Virtual meetings will also be held for those unable to attend in person. More information will follow soon.
- Rosie added that one of IFTA's goals is to reach the rural areas and would like to create a focus group to identify these areas.
- Rosie hopes to hold in-person workshops in more rural communities.
- Rosie shared that a focus group was created to identify what individuals want to see in the workbook. Several features to mirror

the new IPP template, including emergency preparedness, were added to incorporate the needs of individuals transitioning to SDP, SCs, and IFs.

11. Proposed SDAC Meeting Dates for 2025

The committee approved the Proposed SDAC Meeting Dates for 2025 by consensus as follows:

January 8th, 2025, 1-3 pm

March 12, 2025, 1-3 pm

May 14th, 2025, 6-8 pm

July 9th, 2025, 1-3 pm

September 10th, 2025, 1-3 pm

November 12th, 2025, 6-8 pm

12. Action Items from Prior SDAC meeting:

a. Carmen would like to explore the next steps to attract members from rural communities to attend the SDAC meetings.

●Completed

b. A recent SDAC public comment email will be discussed at the November meeting.

●Completed

c. Update on SLI Conference.

●Completed

d. Request to hold Monthly SDAC Meetings.

●Completed

13. SDAC Member Comment Period

● Lisa shared that she would attend The Master Plan of Developmental Services Committee meeting in December and encouraged clients/families of rural communities to attend.

● Benita shared the Office of the Ombudsman as an additional support resource.

14. Dates for Future meetings:

● January 8th, 2025, 1-3 pm

● March 12, 2025, 1-3 pm

● May 14th, 2025, 6-8 pm

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- July 9th, 2025, 1-3 pm
- September 10th, 2025, 1-3 pm
- November 12th, 2025, 6-8 pm

15. Identify agenda items for the next meeting

- Lisa asked that agenda items be shared with Alta's Executive Assistant, Kizi Smith, to add to the next meeting agenda.

16. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.