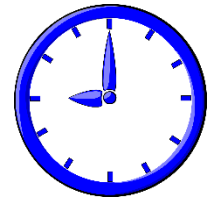




# Client Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Agenda



May 20, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM



Kern Regional Center  
Malibu Conference Room  
3300 N. Sillect Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
Or



Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85984599282?pwd=ZzKY22gGcoT30ZY74Z622b4467Epbb.1>

Webinar ID: 859 8459 9282

Passcode: 499622

Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): International numbers available:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85984599282?pwd=ZzKY22gGcoT30ZY74Z622b4467Epbb.1>

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## AGENDA

1. Introduction

Tracey



2. Ice Breaker Question

Open Discussion



- How do you find events in the community, and what kind of events do you like?

3. Chair Report

Tracey



4. KRC Website Navigation

Tracey/  
Open Discussion

5. Activity / Game

Tracey and KRC  
Staff



6. Upcoming events  
and future Topics

Open Discussion

7. Meeting Adjourned

Tracey



## **Client Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes**

**Facilitators:** Tracey Mensch

**Leadership Member(s) Present:** Tomas Cubias, Gabriela Rodriguez, Isis Rasmussen, Sarah Fechner

**Languages Interpreted:** Spanish

**Platforms:** In person and via Zoom-Hybrid

**Translated Documents:** CAC April Meeting Agenda and March Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 4/17/25

**Number of attendees:** In person -8, via ZOOM -5, attendees present in person at Ridgecrest office- 4.

The following discussions took place during the meeting:

Introductions were made by temporary chair Tracey Mensch. Tracey welcomed all attendees, both in person and online. This was followed by introductions from Kern Regional Center (KRC) staff members, any agencies present, and attendees.

First topic in the agenda:

- Discussions began with an icebreaker question, “What is your dream job or volunteer opportunity?” Answers varied from working at an animal shelter, working in animation or on computers, being an airline stewardess, volunteering at a homeless shelter, being a zookeeper to take care of penguins, having a job within the community that allows to make positive changes, interpreting for the President of the United States, and sitting on the Board for the Department of Public Health to advocate for patients and treatments. Tracey then shared that her dream has been to help and educate others on disabilities to show people how those individuals live their lives.

Next topic in the agenda:

- Tracey shared that the next topic was employment experience. She began by sharing her personal experience. She shared some opportunities she has had have been working with H.E.A.R.T.S. Connection, speaking to legislators in the state Capitol to make others aware of things that affect individuals with disabilities locally and statewide. She shared other work opportunities she has had were working at a café where she learned skills such as running a business, counting money, and running a register. She explained she is currently employed at the Bakersfield Arena.

- Tracey asked attendees if there were any questions or comments about employment. An attendee commented that they currently work in window washing and shared that he likes to share to young people to not be ashamed of their job, what matters is if they like their job, and they are doing it well. He stated that if a person is happy with what they do, it is what matters. Tracey agreed and shared the importance of individuals having support from people around them to support their decisions. Tracey asked if anybody else had questions or comments. None online or in person.
- Tracey shared that she had a few questions for attendees regarding employment. She asked attendees, “If you have a job or volunteer opportunity, what is one of the things you had a challenge with that you had to ask for help in?” Isis, shared that rules and guidance can change and that can be difficult, but it is important to ask questions to perform their best.
- Tracey asked, “What is one thing that is important to know about a company when going to a job interview in order to ask questions?”
  - One attendee shared researching about the company to know their mission statements and the services they help with.
  - Another attendee shared the importance of researching the position, such as understanding what it is like to work with individuals with disabilities.
  - An online attendee shared researching the company and job description to know your own limitations. Tracey agreed and shared that knowing one’s own skill set is important.
  - An attendee shared that looking at the ratings of a company and how they perform is important to them.
  - Another attendee shared the importance of addressing barriers and if there are accommodations that will be needed. Tracey agreed and stated she needed accommodations to make her job more accessible for her.
  - An attendee shared that preparing questions to ask when going into an interview is important.
  - An attendee shared when going into an interview it is important to have a growth mindset and understand they will learn other things. Tracey agreed and shared that it is important to have a growth mindset as people may think they cannot do something, but it is still possible to learn and improve.
  - Chief Equity Officer, shared that seeing how you can contribute to an agency and knowing how to lead by example is important.

Next topic in the agenda:

- Tracey shared there was a speaker for today, Sarah, Program Manager in the Adult unit. She explained she would speak about employment programs at KRC, such as the Paid Internship Program (PIP). She explained that individuals could learn skills such as interview skills, internship opportunities, and other work opportunities available.

- Sarah shared that work opportunities can come through KRC vendors. She shared some successes that she has had are that individuals have learned soft job skills such as interacting with customers, counting money, and building a resume.
- Tracey shared the importance of remembering Person Centered thinking when assisting individuals to find job opportunities they want to do in the community.
- Tracey asked if any attendees had any questions for Sarah. Tracey asked Sarah “If clients need more assistance with their internships, how does it work?” Sarah answered that it depends as it is tailored to individuals. No other questions.

Next topic in the agenda:

- There was a game of “Hangman” played for 3 rounds.

Next topic in the agenda:

- Tracey shared the Chair Report. She shared she had an upcoming Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) meeting, where she would share more information and updates for that in the following meeting.

Final topic in the agenda:

- Tracey shared some updates with attendees. She shared that the next Board Meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 22nd, online and in person.
- Tracey shared KRC had held their 2025 Spring Community Fair and shared that it was great to see the community be present and be able to connect with vendors and other resources.
- Tracey asked if there were any questions or comments about any updates. An attendee shared that there would be rallies held to help save Medicaid. She shared the rally in Bakersfield would be on April 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Disability Voices United, and shared their website [disabilityvoicesunited.org](http://disabilityvoicesunited.org).
- Isis shared some upcoming events: English Listening Session April 24, and the Spanish Listening Session April 29, in person and online. She shared another upcoming meeting is the Self Determination Committee being held on May 5 via ZOOM.
- Isis shared the [SAE@kernrc.org](mailto:SAE@kernrc.org) email for attendees to share questions or future topics.
- Meeting adjourned.

Facilitators: The next meeting date to be announced online in the KRC website and social media.