



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Kern Regional Center, 3200 N. Sillect Ave., Bakersfield CA 93308
Malibu Room

General Business		
1. Call to Order and Introductions		Tracey Mensch, President
2. Review and Approve Agenda of April 22, 2025	Action	Tracey Mensch, President
3. Review and Approve Board Minutes of March 25, 2025 (Attachment 1)	Action	Tracey Mensch, President
4. KRC Self-Determination Program: Goals, Progress, Projects, Outcomes (Attachment 2)	Info	Julio Romero, Program Manager, SDP Team; Yesenia Mackie, Assistant Director; and Omelia Trigueros, Director of Client Services
5. Public Input	Info	
Reports		
6. Board President's Report	Info	Tracey Mensch, President
7. Consumer Advisory Committee Report	Info.	Tracey Mensch, President and CAC Chairperson
8. Executive Director's Report	Info.	Enrique Roman, Executive Director
9. Financial Reports a. POS Report for February 2025 (Attachment 3) b. Operations Report for February 2025 (Attachment 4)	Info.	Tom Wolfgram, CFO
10. Vendor Advisory Committee Report	Info.	Tamerla Prince, VAC Representative

Please click the link or QR code below to join the webinar:



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxde7d2>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89479232052?pwd=S6lzbfbvHAPwdl56adobKR6DCDjIIN0.1>

Webinar ID: 894 7923 2052 Passcode: 426077

Dial-In Number: (213) 338-8477

The next KRC Board of Directors meeting is
May 27, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Attachment 1



Kern Regional Center Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 25, 2025 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

This was a hybrid meeting conducted in-person at Kern Regional Center, 3200 N. Sillect Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93308, in the Malibu Conference Room and online via Zoom. Spanish interpretation was provided by Nidya Madrigal-Navia, an Independent Contractor, and ASL interpretation was provided by Karen Lujambio and Diamond Bryant of LifeSigns, Inc.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Tracey Mensch, President, called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Roll call of board members was done and a quorum established.

Board Members:

Ana Alonso, KRC Board Vice President
Fernando Fermin, Board Treasurer
Carlos Isidoro, Board Member
Ryan Jones, Board Member
Tracey Mensch, Board President
Donald Tobias, Board Member
Mark Tolentino, Board Member
Simon Verdugo, Board Member
Martin Vasquez, Board Secretary

Board Members Absent:

Ruth Watterson, Board Member

KRC Staff Present

Freddy Cantu, IT Manager
Lynn Clark, Director of Community Services
Tomas Cubias, Director of Admin & Compliance
Yesenia Mackie,
- Asst. Director of Client Services (Adult)
Lori Molhook, KRC RN Consultant
Darlene Pankey, Executive Assistant

KRC Staff Present (continued)

Ana Pena,
- Asst. Director of Client Services
(Early Start/Early Childhood)
Gabriela Rodriguez,
- Asst. Director of Client Services (Transition)
Isis Rasmussen, Program Manager/Cultural Specialist
Enrique Roman, Executive Director
Omelia Trigueros, Director of Client Services
Tom Wolgram, Chief Financial Officer

Guest Attendees:

Tyrone Botelho
Cindy Cox, Support Person for Donald Tobias
Debbie Escobar, All-in-One Care
Milton Fuentes
Jill Green
Adriana Gutierrez
Tiffany Hoang, Circle Up Presenter
Suzana Montoya
John Noriega, Support Person for Simon Verdugo
Scott Rice, Assistant to Tracey Mensch
Sandra Van Scotter, Chair of SDP Advisory Committee

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Presenter: Tracey Mensch, President

Action: Approval of the agenda for March 25, 2025

Outcome: The agenda for March 25, 2025, was approved as presented.

Motion made by: Mark Tolentino **Seconded by:** Ana Alonso

In Favor: 9 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 0



3. Review and Approval of Board Minutes

Presenter: Tracey Mensch, President

Action: Approval of the board minutes from the meeting held on February 25, 2025.

Outcome: Approved board minutes from the meeting held on February 25, 2025.

Motion made by: Ana Alonso **Seconded by:** Donald Tobias

In Favor: 9 **Nays:** 0 **Abstentions:** 0

4. Linguistic and Cultural Competency Activities and Current Outcomes

Presenters: Tomàs Cubias, Director of Admin & Compliance, and Tiffany Huang, Circle Up

Discussion: Presentation by Circle Up and the Spring Vendor Fair

Circle Up Training Presentation to the Board of Directors: Circle Up trains KRC staff on implicit biases and cultural sensitivity. Over 300 service coordinators attended training last year, with ongoing training in 2025. The presentation at this meeting provided the Board of Directors with training on Linguistic and Cultural Competencies and aimed to familiarize the Board of Directors with Circle Up's training content and to inform them of efforts taken by KRC to educate staff in the area of Linguistic and Cultural Competencies.

LACC Grants: Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) grants are used to help the community engage with KRC services. The Vendor Fair, scheduled for April 16 at the Kern County Museum, is an example of such efforts. The fair will include community-based organizations and other entities that can support KRC consumers and families.

Purchase of Service Expenditure Community Meetings: The final Purchase of Service Expenditure community meeting will be held in Delano on March 26. Meetings were already held in Bishop, Ridgecrest, and Bakersfield. These meetings are conducted in both English and Spanish.

Grass Roots Day: The Service Access and Equity department coordinated attendance at Grass Roots Day in Sacramento in March, with participation from several board members and community representatives. Special thanks to Ana Alonso, Vice-President, Board of Directors, John Noriega, Tamerla Prince, VAC Representative, Mona Lisa Ironshield and Socorro Carrillo who attended.

Everbridge Platform: Everbridge is used for emergency communication with consumers. We have recently been able to add the services Everbridge offers to non-emergency communications as well. This addition will enhance KRC's outreach through flyers, text messages, and meeting notifications.

5. Public Input

Sandra Van Scotter: Provided an update on the SDP meeting of March 10, 2025, noting an increase in participants. Grants from the 2022-23 budget helped 23 individuals enroll in SDP. The next meeting on April 7 will focus on the Request for Proposal.

Ana Alonso: Promoted the Padres Unidos meeting on April 1 at 10:00 AM in the Malibu Room.



6. Board President's Report

Presenters: Tracey Mensch, President, and Enrique Roman, Executive Director

Discussion: Topics discussed at the past ARCA Meeting

Board Recruitment: Recruitment for the KRC Board of Directors is ongoing. Regional centers are required to reflect community demographics and the KRC Board of Directors works toward its members mirroring the 52-53% Hispanic population in Kern, Mono, and Inyo counties. This is a challenge as smaller boards struggle to meet percentage requirements as the loss of even one member significantly impacts compliance. Other requirements we seek include representation of individuals served, disabilities, as well as expertise and experience in various fields. ARCA is reviewing board composition best practices, and the impact of losing board members on required percentages. They are hoping to develop guidelines for effective board management to hopefully help address some of these challenges.

Budget Uncertainties: Making changes to the Core Staffing Formula has been an ongoing goal for regional centers. The current formula provides about half the funding needed for service coordinator positions. ARCA is working on a revision, but has postponed presenting it due to current budget uncertainties. Hopefully, we will be able to move forward with our proposals in the near future.

Public Records Act: The Public Records Act, effective January 1, 2026, will impact all regional centers. Preparations are underway to comply with the new requirements.

Budget Hearings and Master Plan: Upcoming budget hearings are scheduled for March 26 and April 24. The Master Plan will be published on March 28 in English and Spanish, with subsequent language publications to follow. The Master Plan will be implemented over a 10-year period with ongoing 6-month updates to DDS.

7. Executive Director's Report

Presenter: Enrique Roman, Executive Director

Discussion: KRC Fiscal Audit

The Fiscal Audit will begin on April 28. The audit will be conducted by DDS auditors who will work both in-person and remotely over a six-week period, involving a thorough review of KRC's financial records and processes to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and financial accuracy. The Accounting Department, led by Chief Financial Officer Tom Wolfgram, is preparing for the audit by organizing necessary documentation and coordinating with various departments. Vendors may be asked to provide additional information to support the audit process. The goal is to achieve a positive outcome and address any identified issues promptly.

8. Financial Reports

Presenter: Tom Wolfgram, Chief Financial Officer

Discussion: POS and Operations Reports for January 2025

POS Report: Total spent in January 2025 = \$24,478,812 YTD = \$177,128,493.

This represents a significant expenditure, with an estimated \$3 million still unbilled. The report highlights the financial commitment to providing services to consumers, reflecting an increase in spending compared to the previous year.



Operations Report: Total expenses in January 2025 = \$4,524,888 YTD = \$21,818,673.

January expenses were higher due to three pay periods occurring this month versus two pay periods. Mr. Wolfgram anticipates \$2 million surplus by year-end. The report includes a detailed breakdown of operational costs, such as salaries, administrative expenses, and other operational activities.

9. Vendor Advisory Committee Report

Presenter: Enrique Roman for Tamerla Prince, VAC Representative

Discussion: HCBS Compliance, Self-Determination Training and Spring Vendor Fair

HCBS Compliance: All KRC providers are currently compliant; the next phase focuses on maintaining this compliance. DDS provides funds to KRC for vendor training to assist in maintaining HCBS compliance. Positive Purpose, in conjunction with Bakersfield ARC, was awarded contracts to provide these training services. Positive Purpose is renewing their contract for another year, while Bakersfield ARC still has slots open for training. These trainings include continuing education credits and are invaluable to KRC. All those who are able to are encouraged to take advantage of these open slots that are available at Bakersfield ARC.

Self-Determination Training: Sandra Van Scotter provided training to the vendor community on Self-Determination, specifically the role of vendors, how SDP works, and how vendors fit into the process. SDP allows vendors to have more freedom in working with participants and their families to develop unique programs. They can break from traditional program designs and have more financial flexibility as agreed upon with the client.

Spring Vendor Fair: Scheduled for April 16 at Kern County Museum, the fair will expand to include more space and invite community organizations. It is open to vendors, nonprofit organizations serving the community, individuals served, and their families. The Spring Vendor Fair aims to foster collaboration and provide valuable resources to the community.

10. Adjournment:

Time: 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: April 22, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 PM at Kern Regional Center, Malibu Room.

Attachment 2

Self-Determination Program Basics

April 22, 2025

What is Self-Determination

The Self-Determination program is a voluntary, alternative service delivery option to the traditional service system.

Who is eligible,

- Have a developmental disability and currently be receiving services from a California regional center OR be a new client of a regional center (disability must be under the Lanterman Act; Status 2)
- Be over the age of three or, if under, be qualified for services through the Lanterman Act (Status 2)
- Live in the community and have free choice in your life. You are not eligible if you live in a licensed long-term health care facility, unless you are using it to transition from that facility.

Service Delivery Options

Traditional Services	Self-Determination Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person-Centered Planning• Individual Program Plan• Regional Center coordinates services• Vended services<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participant Directed Services (PDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person-Centered Planning• Individual Program Plan• Regional Center <i>might</i> coordinate services• Vended or non-vended providers• Individual budget• Independent facilitator• Financial Management System

Person-Centered Plan

In Self-Determination, a client has the option to develop a “stand alone” Person Centered Plan (PCP).

The PCP is a personalized plan that focuses on an individual's goals, dreams, and desired lifestyle, allowing them to actively participate in making decisions about their own support and services, essentially putting them at the center of their own life planning process, promoting autonomy and choice.

The PCP “informs” the IPP.

Individual budget

- The individual budget the money that is allocated to the participant to purchase services.
- The IPP Team determines the budget based on the past 12 months of expenditures. If a client does not have 12 months of expenditures, then the budget is developed based on the average cost of services.

Spending Plan

The spending plan details how the available funds, as approved on the budget, will be used to purchase services and supports necessary to implement the participant's individual Program Plan (IPP).



Independent Facilitator

Participants in the SDP may choose a person to help them in the following ways:

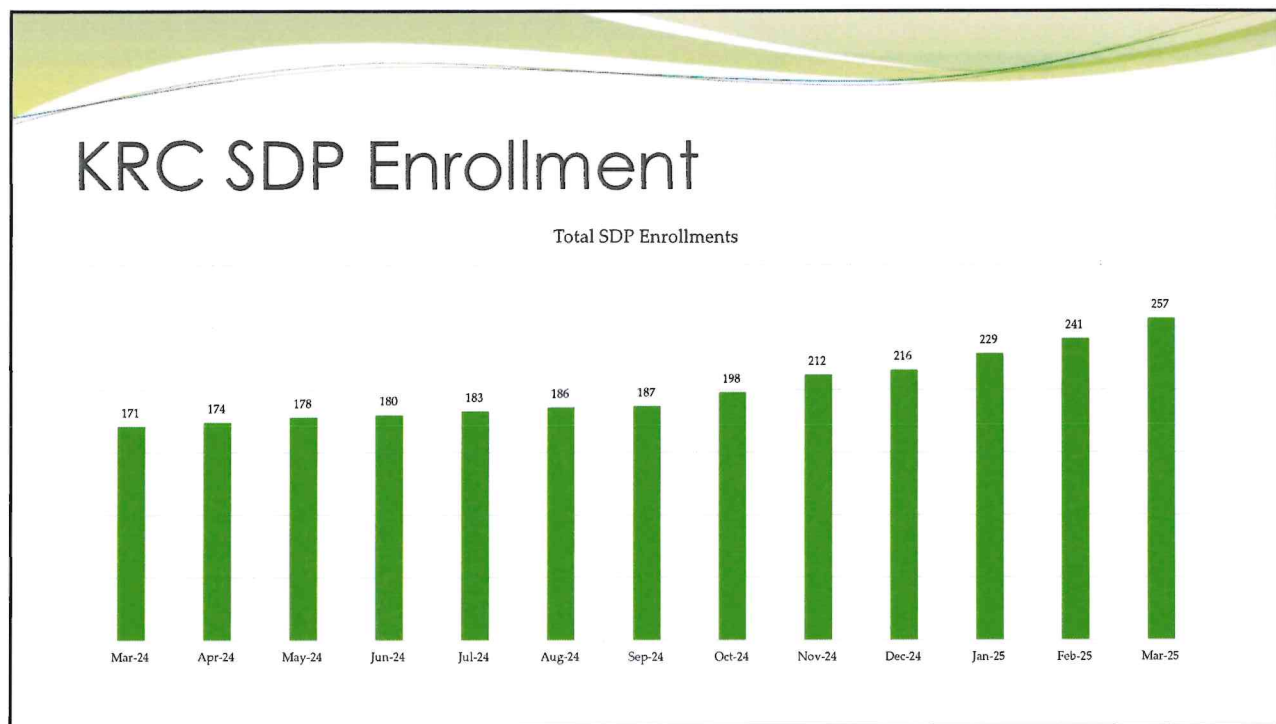
- Assisting the individual with making informed decisions regarding their individual budget
- Locating, accessing and coordinating services and supports consistent with the participant's individual program plan (IPP)
- Identifying immediate and long-term needs and developing options to meet those needs
- Leading, participating, and/or advocating on behalf of participants in the person-centered planning process and development of the IPP
- Obtaining identified services and supports



Financial Management Service

The Financial Management Service (FMS) provider, plays a key role in supporting people who choose to get their regional center services through the SDP. Everyone in SDP must use an FMS provider to help:

- manage the individual budget and pay for services, including paying employees;
- assist with hiring employees;
- make sure providers are qualified to deliver services; and,
- help providers get a criminal background check, if needed.



Outreach activities

- Service Coordinator trainings/New IPP Signature page
- Follow-up calls clients/families upon completion of Learning Management System (LMS) Self-Determination Program Orientation.
- KRC's Intake & Assessment informs new clients about SDP as a potential service delivery model. Clients/families are encouraged to discuss service delivery options with their assigned service coordinator.
- Vendor Fair
- SDP staff available for additional support
- Q&A sessions

Collaborative Work with SDP partners

- Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committee
- Independent Facilitators (Round Table/Bi-weekly/Monthly meetings with individual Independent Facilitators)
- Padres Unidos de Kern
- Family Resource Centers
- Office of Clients Rights (OCRA)
- DDS

KRC Goals for SDP

- Provide ongoing training to service coordination staff on SDP
- Continue to inform clients of the available service delivery models; if SDP is chosen, shepherd the client/family through the process
- Continue to refine internal processes related to SDP to,
 - transition clients into SDP as seamlessly as possible
 - address issues that might arise during the budget year and prevent service interruptions
 - process budget renewals timely to prevent service interruptions
- Continue or collaborative work with or partners (SDPLVAC, IF's, etc.)



Questions?

Attachment 3

KERN REGIONAL CENTER
PURCHASE OF SERVICE
FY 2024-2025
AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2025

PURCHASE OF SERVICES	12/31/24	01/31/25	02/28/25	2024-2025 Total
OUT-OF-HOME				
Community Care Facility	6,544,648	6,755,118	6,578,986	51,476,160
ICF/SNF Facility	237,174	255,515	224,409	1,870,309
TOTAL OUT OF HOME	6,781,822	7,010,633	6,803,395	53,346,469
DAY PROGRAMS				
Day Care	53,340	53,602	36,987	441,226
Day Training	4,514,783	5,592,715	4,815,550	37,654,093
Supported Employment	424,725	510,317	429,612	3,140,884
Work Activity Program	2,040			43,682
SUBTOTAL DAY PROGRAMS	4,994,888	6,156,634	5,282,149	41,279,885
OTHER SERVICES				
Non Medical Services Prof	1,045,824	1,154,358	1,179,240	8,981,226
Non Medical Services Prog	1,926,778	2,243,223	1,948,102	16,732,429
Home Care Services Prog	15,767	11,620	5,605	134,748
Transportation	552,979	591,795	581,678	4,419,350
Transportation Contracts	903,319	968,156	878,474	7,375,250
Prevention Services	790,558	753,454	705,125	6,161,972
Other Authorized Services	4,348,633	4,422,222	3,720,453	34,473,053
P & I Expense	10,518	11,321	11,500	85,053
Hospital Care				-
Medical Equipment	20,382	6,025	6,777	100,282
Medical Services Prof	232,806	202,666	180,431	1,882,038
Medical Services Prog	30,576	29,121	30,576	259,868
Respite Care - In Home	4,041,468	3,758,154	2,007,332	28,952,739
Respite Care - Out of Home	11,729	15,085	19,384	187,293
Camps	7,225	6,530	6,595	66,055
				-
TOTAL OTHER SERVICES	13,938,562	14,173,730	11,281,272	109,811,356
TOTAL PURCHASE OF SERVICES	25,715,272	27,340,997	23,366,816	204,437,710
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN				
Community Care Facility	98,691	98,669	98,669	733,676
ICF/SNF Facility				-
Day Training				-
Non-Medical Services		3,034	3,132	7,166
Non-Medical Services-Programs	4,984	5,347	5,622	42,009
Transportation				
Other Authorized Services				-
Other Services				-
Medical Care - Prof				-
				-
TOTAL COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN	103,675	107,050	107,423	782,851
TOTAL PURCHASE OF SERVICE	25,818,947	27,448,047	23,474,239	205,220,561

Attachment 4

KERN REGIONAL CENTER
 OPERATIONS
 FY 2024/2025
 AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2025

	PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	PROPOSED YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	12/31/24	01/31/25	02/28/25	TOTAL	(OVER)/UNDER
OPERATIONS							
Salaries & Benefits	29,744,051	20,592,035	2,169,247	3,367,344	1,782,580	17,865,034	2,727,001
Operating Expenses	8,868,000	5,912,000	720,374	1,020,500	619,616	5,696,970	215,030
SUBTOTAL OPS	38,612,051	26,504,035	2,889,621	4,387,844	2,402,195	23,562,005	2,942,030
COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN							
Salaries & Benefits	518,006	358,620	52,872	95,361	69,686	425,008	(66,389)
Operating Expenses	19,400	12,933	57,347	1,333	4,283	85,635	(72,702)
SUBTOTAL CPP	537,406	371,553	110,218	96,695	73,969	510,643	(139,090)
FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM							
Salaries & Benefits	95,402	66,048	7,543	10,122	7,486	60,526	5,522
Operating Expenses	183,401	122,267	10,330	13,965	11,706	93,826	28,441
SUBTOTAL FGP	278,803	188,315	17,872	24,088	19,192	154,352	33,963
SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM							
Salaries & Benefits	71,970	49,825	5,690	7,636	5,647	45,621	4,205
Operating Expenses	137,594	91,729	5,364	8,626	6,814	53,871	37,859
SUBTOTAL SCP	209,564	141,555	11,054	16,262	12,461	99,491	42,063
TOTAL OPERATIONS	39,637,824	27,205,457	3,028,765	4,524,888	2,507,818	24,326,491	2,878,967