

Vendor Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes June 26, 2025

The VAC Meeting commenced at 10:00 am in person, via Zoom
Minutes prepared by Carmen Baltazar (VAC Secretary)

I. Welcome and Introduction by Joel Moreno

- A. Group was addressed zoom etiquette; meeting being recorded and to mark participation on the chat.

II. From the Chair- Joel Moreno- VAC Business and Approvals

- A. Provider Spotlight presenting today, spots to present are still available.
- B. Joel called for motion to approve May 2025 minutes. Minutes were approved.
- C. VAC elections: nominations still going on till 8/1/25. Email nominations to Joel Moreno. Elections taking place in September 2025 meeting.

III. From ELARC Consumer Advocate- Patrick Schattily

- A. Next Meeting on 7/15/25, Topic: Employment presented by George De La Loza (Career Pathways and Employment Specialist) Time: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Hybrid. ELARC Boardroom and Zoom. CAC elections taking place during this meeting and voting for bylaws.
[Click here to view Flyer Link](#)
- B. 7/7/25; Zoom, 2pm-4pm “Where to live in the community”
[Click here to view Flyer Link](#)
- C. 7/18/25; 9:30 am-11:30 am
Meeting at Whittier Office “Caffeinate and Advocate”
[Click here to view Flyer Link](#)
For more information please contact Patrick Schattily at 626-299-4788 or email at pschattily@elarc.org.

IV. ELARC Updates- Liz Harrell

- A. Congrats! ELARC met the 5/30 deadline for the SAF Form.
- B. Rate Reform is still happening, more details coming soon
- C. Provider Directory; ELARC is the best one!
- D. Next steps: regarding rate reform, service coordinators will work with consumers/ families and make necessary changes for authorizations, working on getting rate increases. Administration is in the mix, working on rolling out payments. Veronica, an associate chief overseeing training and early start, discussed the ongoing efforts to support service coordinators in understanding rate reform and managing service code changes, emphasizing a person-centered approach and the importance of collaboration with families and teams. The team is working to complete the necessary training and support by the end of the year, with Veronica providing detailed instructions for service coordinators on handling the changes.
- E. Veronica provided updates on rate reform and hold harmless provisions, noting that the hold harmless period has been shortened to March 1, 2026. She mentioned that service coordinators will receive consistent information and may need to provide documentation for service code updates.

- F. Liz discussed the Provider Directory update and the participation of 7 LA County regional centers in the DSP collaborative, which includes a job posting website and upcoming career events. [Please click here to view site for the Norcal regional centers](#)
- G. Federal actions affecting Medicaid and immigration, with Liz emphasizing the importance of protecting client information and reminding service providers of their responsibilities in handling confidential information. [Please click here to read DDS Directive](#)

V. Future Training/ Presentations

- a. No training today
- b. Chat with ELARC Chief of Consumer Services Edith Hernandez on 7/24
- c. Legislative and Policy Overview: Funding implications on Service Providers with Tony Anderson from ARCA on October 23
- d. Five ACRES: TBD

VI. Legislative and Policy Action

- a. Veronica Valenzuela: Provided link for vendors to subscribe for updates
[ARCA Capital Currents Link](#)

VII. Report from VAC Forums/Work Groups

- A. Residential
- B. Networking
- C. Emergency Operations Planning
Taking place on 6/26- TODAY
- D. SLS/ILS Workgroup
- E. Self Determination Forum
Meeting took place on 5/21/25- David Castaneda shared notes w/ Liz Harrell.
Notes: Independent facilitators and service coordinator interactions, FMS issues occurring, SDP is dealing with FMS getting more standardization in practice.
- F. Early Start
- G. Membership

VIII. VAC Funds

\$329.31 used for refreshments for 5/22 meet and greet. Motion approved at 5/22/25 meeting for the use of funds.

IX. Board of Directors Meeting

Joel shared about meeting that took place on 6/10/25- Gloria Wong shared executive directors report, Liz shared about rate reform, Case Load ratio survey results. Budget updates- May Revise still in progress. Consumer services report shared out. Next Meeting on 7/8/25.

X. Vendor Spotlight- California Mentor FHA

Danika Rosales, the program director for California Mentor FHA, presented their family home agency program, which provides a shared living experience for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities aged 18 and older. The program, which is heavily regulated by regional centers and the Department of Developmental Services, aims to integrate individuals into family life and community activities while supporting their personal goals. Ej Lopez, the recruiter, explained the certification process for mentors, who provide a family environment and support for program participants. Danika emphasized the importance of matching individuals with suitable mentors based on their needs and preferences, and highlighted the program's comprehensive support system, including ongoing education for mentors and 24/7 availability for emergencies. Danika discussed an upcoming open house on July 9th at the Alhambra office to increase program awareness.

XI. Community Comment:

Carmen inquired about service coordinators questions regarding new service codes- Response: If service coordinators inquire about new service codes, vendors must redirect them back to their supervisor or the community services liaison. They can also reach out to Veronica Valenzuela. Joel Moreno inquired about rollover authorizations- Response: no information at this time.

XII. Upcoming Service Provider Forums and Workgroups

VAC Planning/VLF (Vendor Leadership Forum) *different dates but same zoom invite*

VLF is a briefing session 30 minutes (9:30 am) before regularly scheduled VAC meeting to review the meeting agenda. Next meeting is on

VAC Planning focuses on planning the next meeting agenda as well as long term planning for the VAC. It is held the first Tuesday of every month from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

ELARC

2025 VAC Meetings

10:00 am - 11:30 am

(Zoom link will be available once flyer is finalized and will be available on ELARC website.)

January 23	Hybrid (Boardroom and Zoom)
February 27	Zoom
March 27	Zoom
April 24	Zoom
May 22	IN PERSON ONLY- ELARC Assembly room
June 26	Zoom
July 24	Hybrid (Boardroom and Zoom)
August	No Meeting
September 25	Zoom
October 23	Hybrid (Boardroom and Zoom)
November 20	3 rd Thursday due to thanksgiving (Zoom)
December	No meeting

VAC Planning/VLF Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637230931?pwd=Z0RRbGt0ZUFBYnduRTN6aUQ5emRQdz09>

Meeting ID: 896 3723 0931

A. VAC Forums for 2025

Forum/Workgroup	Dates	Time	Contact	Comments
Emergency Operations	2/27, 6/26, 9/25	Immediately follows VAC meeting	Gina Esparza gesparza@elarc.org	
Independent Living/SLS	4/29, 11/21	Immediately follows VAC meeting	Cindy Parras cparras@elarc.org	New-Two Sessions
Residential	7/25, 10/23	Immediately follows VAC meeting	Jennifer Barragan jbarragan@elarc.org	New-Two Sessions
Employment	3/12, 7/9, 11/12	9:30 -11:00	George De La Loza gdelaloza@elarc.org	
Early Start	4/24, 10/23	2:00 – 4:00	Luisana Cruz lcruz@elarc.org	
Self Determination	2/26, 5/21, 8/27 11/19	10:00 – 11:00	David Castaneda dcastaneda@elarc.org	
Behavioral	6/26	Immediately follows VAC meeting	Jessica Barba jbarba@elarc.org	New-One Meeting

II. Remaining 2025 VAC Meeting Dates

All Meetings Held on Fourth Thursday of the Month unless otherwise noted

- July 24, 2025 Hybrid (Boardroom and Zoom)
- No Meeting In August
- September 25
- October 23
- November 20 (*3rd Thursday due to Holiday*)
- No meeting in December

All public notices are posted on ELARC website. Please visit frequently and subscribe to receive alerts to new postings electronically.