

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2019
Minutes

Present:

Kimberly Terrell, Chair
Michelle Rewerts, Design. Dir.
Tom Hopkins
Michelle Hulse
Tiffany Johnson
Amy Lampe
Steven Sanchez (via phone)
Karen Young

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

Terry Ajuria
Kathy Brian
Kira Gilbert
Anthony Stone
Peggy Wakefield

Absent: (* excused)

Lisa Cooley
Romilda Jones
Monique Lozano
Austin Taylor
Patty Wallace

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
John Decker, Manager of CPP/Forensics
Unit
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) *A Touch of Understanding* Presentation; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Tom Hopkins made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of March 12, 2019 as submitted.

- *Tiffany read aloud Alta's Vision*

1. ***Executive Director's Report***



- Phil asked committee members how they see Alta's Vision as our future.
 - Michelle H. shared that her family helps others. After many years of trying, Alta is helping clients get food stamps.
 - Karen believes moving the clients out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is a perfect example of our vision.
 - Amy L. shared that the Yuba/Sutter Mall holds an annual event with performances from clients.
 - Michelle R. was recently invited into her friend's home while her apartment was being worked on.
 - Alta helps promote People First groups. They also help with supported employment and peer/self-advocacy programs.
- Phil shared that each CAC committee member is the voice of about 2,000 clients; that is a big responsibility and is what peer-advocacy is all about.

Visiting SDC and advocating for those individuals was a big project that this committee took on.

- It has been a long, slow process on getting the “Friends Helping Friends” project up and running, but it will be here soon.
- Phil doesn’t personally know all of the clients that Alta serves. This committee’s input is important to him; he is able to find out what is happening in our catchment area. The CAC is an advisory committee to Alta’s Board of Directors and helps make things better for all of the clients that Alta serves.
 - A suggestion was made to provide a tutorial on how to use our agency’s website to clients.
 - Phil shared that Alta will be bringing back a Public Information Officer (PIO). This suggestion might be a good project for them.
- Alta is holding their next All Staff Meeting in two weeks across the street at the Hilton. Phil has invited one of our clients to come speak at this meeting. A few months ago, our client ran in the Boston marathon and finished the race! He is coming to the meeting, with his mom, to share his story.
- Governor Gavin Newsom released his May Revise on May 9th, and is proposing \$8.2 billion dollars to the developmental services system. The good news is that there is more money, but concern remains because there are more people to serve. Since Phil became Alta’s Executive Director twelve years ago, we have grown by 11,000 clients.
- Alta has received funding from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP). John Decker explained that the CRDP is starting to take the place of the Community Placement Plan (CPP) and funding is available for regional centers to develop more resources. In August of 2018, Alta asked folks to complete a survey and identify what Alta’s priorities should be.

Suggestions included:

- Supported Employment Services
- Supported Living Services (SLS)
- Day Programs w/social skills and behavioral components
- Behavior Intervention Services
- Transportation Services
- Independent Living Services (ILS)
- Level 4 Residential Care Homes
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Health Services
- In-Home Respite

Alta chose to focus on four priorities:

- Affordable Housing
- Medical support services to promote participation in day programs

- The development of specialized homes to assist clients who are in crisis
 - Counseling Services for our clients, including the utilization of telehealth to serve areas outside of the Sacramento area
- Alta will be posting our priorities on our website soon.

2. ***A Touch of Understanding***



- Meghan Adamski and Jeneanne Stover, with *A Touch of Understanding*, shared a brief presentation about their organization. Jackie Armstrong, one of Alta's Board members, also shared what she talks about with third graders.

3. ***Updates***



- ◆ Peer Advocacy Network
 - Amy shared that the group met earlier today to discuss the next Regional Meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 1st. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento. The theme will be "Networking Together"; they have several presentations planned.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - Michelle R. attended the Board meeting which was held on March 28th.
 - The Board approved new members of the CAC and Provider Advisory Committee (PAC). They also approved the Chairs and designated representatives to the Board for the next fiscal year (FY) for both advisory committees.
 - Phil shared that Alfonso Carmona was retiring in April; Lori Banales will now be the Director of Client Services.
 - Alta grows by approximately 100 new clients per month.
 - Phil gave updates on new resources that are being developed.
 - Rita Walker, Alta's Board Vice President, gave an update on the latest Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Board meeting.

4. ***Public Comments/Announcement***



- David shared that Lisa Cooley had a wonderful presentation on CalABLE at the Supported Life Conference earlier this month. He would like to suggest having her present it as a spotlight at a future CAC meetings.
- Kimberly encouraged everyone to sign up for the CalFresh Program as soon as possible.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 11, 2019**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet