

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Minutes

Present:

Amy Lampe, Chair
Patty Wallace, Design. Dir.
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Tiffany Johnson
Jacie Oakley
Michelle Rewerts
Steven Sanchez
Anthony Stone
Kimberly Terrell
Karen Young

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

Terry Ajuria
Robert Levy
Ashley Robertson

Absent: (* excused)

Barbara Crow
Romilda Jones*

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Robin Black, Legal Services Manager
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client
Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community
Services
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client
Services Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, by Zoom/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Updates; and 3) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Lisa Cooley made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of November 8, 2022 as submitted.

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



- Governor Newsom released the proposed state's budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year (FY) this morning. As expected, the tax revenues are not as much as previous years, along with federal funding. Lori believes that the Governor is preparing Californians for a tighter budget year. While he states that the money that he has targeted for specific projects remains in place, the implementation of some projects may be delayed. January is the start of the long conversation between both houses of the legislature (the House and Senate) and the community. In May, considering all of the input that has been gathered and reviewing the tax receipts that have been submitted, the Governor will then release the May Revise.
 - At this point, the service provider rate study increases will not be delayed.

- Last year, the funding to update the regional center's core staffing formula was pulled from the budget at the last minute. This remains a critical issue as regional center requirements continue to expand.
- Over the last few meetings, this group has concentrated their efforts on housing. The CAC's housing video is a nice product for the succession conversations that our Service Coordinators (SCs) will be having with the clients that we serve. As you know, Alta's Board approved a Conservatorship Policy in November and this policy includes Supported Decision-Making (SDM). Lori invited Robin Black, Alta's Legal Services Manager, to talk to the group about SDM. We are also seeking volunteers from this committee to assist with trainings.
 - Robin shared that AB1663 passed effective October 1st. This bill includes many conservatorship protections, along with plans to meet the legal needs of adult clients. The least restrictive arrangements are deemed necessary by the courts in proceedings.
 - Conservatorship is the legal process of removing or restricting the rights of an individual. Regional centers were pleased with the passage of AB1663. The idea is that all adults need assistance in this process, not just those with disabilities.
 - SDM would put in writing the choices that clients have made through the person-centered planning process. Alta believes that this should be centered around what the client wants. Alta staff will be trained in SDM and, as Lori said, we would like to have the support of CAC members in helping develop and provide the training to Alta staff, education, and our community.
 - Lori noted that Alta's team of Client Advocates will be involved in this process, as well.
 - Volunteers include: Lisa Cooley, Amy Lampe and Kimberly Terrell
 - As the group has discussed in the past, this committee advocates and speaks on behalf of all individuals served by Alta. We want to support all clients, preserving choice and independence.
- The newest edition of *Alta Connections* was released at the beginning of the new year.
- As Alta continues to grow, Lori has named Jennifer Bloom our second Director of Client Services, effective January 30th. She will initially focus on Early Start and Early Intervention, but her job duties will gradually expand.

2. Updates

◆ Peer Advocacy Network

- Amy L. shared that the group met this morning.
 - The group worked on the next Regional Meeting, which will be held via Zoom on Saturday, March 25th.



- The Marysville People First Chapter and Peter Mendoza will give a presentation about advocacy to improve transportation.
 - Green Mountain Self Advocates videos will also be shown.
 - Ross Long, a new Special Projects Advisor, will be working with Chapter Officers and Leaders to make sure that Self-Advocacy Chapter activities are included in member's Individual Program Plans (IPPs).
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2023.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - Patty shared that Alta's Board of Directors met on November 17th.
 - The meeting included the National Core Indicators (NCI) Data Public Meeting.
 - Steven Sanchez was voted on as a new Board member.
 - The Board approved the 2023 Board Training Plan, the 2023 Performance Contract and Alta's Conservatorship Policy.
 - The group reviewed and accepted the monthly financial statement.
 - Alta staff provided information about the Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) that was submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
 - They reviewed Alta's Quarterly Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2022.
 - Lori shared information about the Little Hoover Commission and encouraged everyone to share their stories. We need to continue to promote positive things that happen every day at our regional center.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - Amy L. shared that the group met on December 2nd.
 - Due to attendance issues, they tabled the project discussion regarding affordable housing hearings.
 - The group talked about the importance of emergency preparedness.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
 - Amy L. shared that the group met on November 15th & 16th.
 - The group received a presentation on the Appeals Process, which included changes to the forms that are completed prior to filing a Fair Hearing (FH).

3. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- Mechelle Johnson and Jennifer Bloom will be sharing a presentation on Social Recreation at the February CAC meeting. This is part of Alta's Outreach Project.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 14, 2023**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales