

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Minutes

Present:

Amy Lampe, Chair
Tom Hopkins, Design. Dir.
Tiffany Johnson
Jacie Oakley
Amanda Parker
Steven Sanchez
Kimberly Terrell
Patty Wallace
Karen Young

Absent: (* excused)

Lisa Cooley*

Visitors:

Alexa Guerrero
Robert Levy
Ruben Medina
Joseph Wilson

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Board Members:

Akkia Pride-Polk

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
John Decker, Director of Community Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Sharon Kurpinsky, Victim Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) "Keeping My Money Safe"; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of November 12, 2024, as submitted.

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori shared that March will be this committee's first meeting at Alta's new office space.
- Governor Newsom released the state's proposed budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year (FY). Due to the wildfires in Southern California, the Department of Finance provided the presentation and noted that they are projecting a modest surplus of \$360 million. In contrast, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is projecting a \$2 billion deficit.
 - The legislative session now begins, and hearings will be scheduled.
 - The number of individuals served by the statewide service system is expected to increase to nearly 505,000 in the 2025-26 FY.
 - Lori noted that after all of the hearings are completed and the tax receipts are received, the Governor will release the May Revise.
 - As it stands now, regional centers are targeted to receive \$19 billion in funding, which is an increase of 20.2% since last year.

- Every year, regional centers focus on policies that are embedded into the budget. This year, regional centers are focusing on AB 1147, which was backed by Disability Voices United (DVU), and includes the Public Records Act (PRA). Regional centers are developing a plan for this requirement, which will take effect on January 1, 2026.
 - Currently, regional centers have a “Transparency” tab on their websites, which provides required information. This tab is the same on all 21 websites. Lori noted that there are several items that are “standard” across the state.
- Lori has noticed that it is more impactful to have clients and their families speaking on behalf of the services that they receive at legislative hearings. She remains hopeful that CAC members will be willing to go downtown and share their experiences, if needed.

2. ***“Keeping My Money Safe”***



- Lori introduced Sharon Kurpinsky, Alta’s Victim Advocate, who has been at Alta for almost 20 years. Sharon shared a presentation entitled “Keeping My Money Safe” and explained that this training is meant to be helpful to the clients that Alta serves; feedback is welcome.
 - The presentation discussed financial abuse, identity theft, and ways to minimize risks.
 - If something happens to your money, you may notify your Service Coordinator (SC), call the police to file a report, and/or contact your bank to put a freeze on your account and file a report.
 - Please send feedback/suggested revisions to Lisa W.
- This committee may want to have a CalABLE presentation at an upcoming meeting.

3. ***Updates***



- ◆ PAN
 - The group met today and continued to plan for the March Regional Meeting. Self-advocates will share presentations about their jobs and microenterprises.
 - Members will review the presentations at the next meeting on February 11th.
 - They also talked about a possible “Speakers Bureau” for members and recruitment. All of the Chapters are seeking new members.
 - PAN members noted that personal invitations are an effective way to recruit members.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - Alta’s Board of Directors met on November 21st.
 - Alta staff shared two presentations – the 2023 Performance Contract End of Year Report and the National Core Indicators (NCI) Data.

- The Board voted on two new Board members – Akkia Pride-Polk and Ceasar Seabron.
- They approved the 2025 Board Training Plan, the Delegated Conservatorship Policy and the revised Resource Development Policy.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - The group met on December 13th and discussed the Affordable Housing Symposium scheduled for February 5, 2025.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for January 24th, from 11 a.m. to noon.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
 - The group met yesterday and reviewed the Lanterman Act document and the National Core Indicators (NCI) in-person survey. DDS is seeking feedback on ways to make both client-friendly.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- Mechelle shared that Alta is rolling out its Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Trainings to our outlying offices. The first training session will be held at our Yuba City office on Tuesday, February 25th. The virtual training is scheduled from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. that day and an in-person workshop follows from 1 to 2 p.m., where interested individuals will have an opportunity to start drafting their plan.
- Joseph shared that advocates are watching a Power Wheelchair Repair bill, which would eliminate the requirement for prior authorization. They are hopeful that this bill will become law.
 - If you are interested in joining in on this advocacy, please contact him.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 11, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales