

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
Minutes

**Present:**

Amy Lampe, Chair  
Tom Hopkins, Design. Dir.  
Lisa Cooley  
Jacie Oakley  
Michelle Rewerts  
Steven Sanchez  
Kimberly Terrell  
Karen Young

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Tiffany Johnson\*  
Romilda Jones  
Anthony Stone\*  
Patty Wallace\*

**Visitors:**

Robert Levy  
Ashley Robertson  
Jemel Williams

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Tracy Brown, Director of Client Services  
Adriana Castillo Cervantes, Service Coordinator  
John Decker, Director of Community Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical Services  
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services  
Reyva Johnson, Client Advocate  
David Lopez, Client Advocate  
Shannon McConnell, Dental Coordinator  
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) Oral Health Presentation; 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 14, 2023, as submitted.**


1. ***Message from Lori***




- Lori noted that Alta cares deeply about the budget of the regional center. Governor Newsom will be releasing the proposed state's budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) tomorrow. As many of you know, the state's Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is projecting a \$60+ billion deficit. We can expect pauses in spending or reductions. The hearings will begin shortly, and advocacy groups will start to share their concerns. The May Revise will take into consideration all of the input, while looking at the tax receipts that have been received. Hopefully, our statewide service system will be in a better position to see what will happen come June 15<sup>th</sup>, when the legislature has to present a final budget to the Governor. He then has until June 30<sup>th</sup> to sign the Budget Bill.

- We will have opportunities for members of this group to have their voices heard. There is no better message given than from those that receive regional center services.
- This year, Lori wants to focus on sharing the good stories that come out of our service system. We need to take greater control and lean into our responsibility to promote the good. Satisfied individuals need to come forward.
  - Alta will be offering advocacy trainings for those that wish to testify at the State Capitol.
- On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is holding their Annual Grassroots Day. This day provides an opportunity to meet face-to-face with our local legislators.
  - Lori encouraged CAC members to participate; please let Lisa W. know if you are interested.
- One of the CAC's initiatives has been realized – "A Client's Guide to My Individual Program Plan" has been printed in several different languages and is also posted on Alta's website. This is meant to be a companion document that will be helpful to many.
- We continue to work on the Supported-Decision Making (SDM) initiative.
- The CAC can work on additional initiatives in 2024.
  - Lori would like members to consider how they can participate in the People Planning Together initiative.

## **2. Oral Health Presentation**

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- Shannon McConnell, Alta's Dental Coordinator, provided a presentation on oral health. In addition to participating in community outreaches, she helps clients get dental services in a timely manner.

## **3. Updates**

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- ◆ Peer Advocacy Network (PAN)
    - The group met today and talked about how to be active listeners. Being an active listener shows respect for presenters and reflects good leadership.
    - Three members shared their life stories; they will give presentations at the next Regional Meeting, which will be held in either March or April.
    - The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2024, from 10 to 11 a.m.
  - ◆ Alta Board
    - The Board of Directors met on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
      - Alta held its Public Meeting regarding the National Core Indicators (NCI).
      - Board members received an overview of the Legal Department.
      - The group approved the 2024 Board Training Plan, as well as the monthly financial report.

- Lori provided an overview of the Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending September 30, 2023.
- They held a special call Board meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> to approve contracts prior to the year's end.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - The next meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11 a.m.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
  - The group hopes to reconvene for in-person meetings in 2025.
  - The next meeting is scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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



- Reyva, Jacob and David were in an advertisement in the December 2023 Comstock's magazine highlighting Alta.
- Michelle is in another play – "Our Town" opens on February 9<sup>th</sup> and runs through March 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information can be found at [www.actingcompany.org](http://www.actingcompany.org)
- Robert and Lisa C. are participating in the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' (SCDD's) storyteller's blog.
- Coordinated Future Planning Trainings for Alta's Service Coordinators (SCs) will be scheduled soon.
- David asked CAC members to think about ideas for future CAC presentations. We can possibly brainstorm at an upcoming meeting on how we want to shape the meetings for 2024.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales