

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 13, 2018
Minutes

Present:

Kimberly Terrell, Chair
Michelle Rewerts, Design. Dir.
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Michelle Hulse
Amy Lampe
Karen Young

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

Debby Dillon
Tiffany Johnson
Dana Wentz
Lori Wentz

Absent: (* excused)

Romilda Jones*
Monique Lozano
Steven Sanchez*
Austin Taylor*
Patty Wallace*

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Alfonso Carmona, Director of Adult &
Residential Services
John Decker, Manager of CPP/Forensics
Unit
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Amanda Sanchez, Service Coordinator
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:07 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) "Employment Fist Opportunities for Alta Clients"; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

- *Karen read aloud Alta's Mission & Vision*

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of October 9, 2018 as submitted.

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



- Phil shared that he has a personal connection with Paradise, CA. When he first got married, he and his wife moved there and he became the Executive Director of an agency that served individuals with developmental disabilities. Everyone that he knows in Paradise are now homeless (friends, clients, loved ones), and are spread out over Marysville, Chico, Oroville, etc. Alta is doing a lot to help support folks, however the task is so massive right now. Whatever we do is just short-term at this point. The clients of Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) will be taken care of, however, the direct support professionals (the individuals that help take care of the clients) have lost everything, too.
 - Phil will be going to visit folks up north tomorrow.
 - Several Alta programs are putting together care packages.

- Phil would like to suggest having this committee help someone that has been affected by the fire, instead of adopting an Alta client for the holidays.
 - Those present are in agreement. Gift cards are preferred, so they will be purchased and sent to FNRC.
- Regarding California's Self-Determination Program (SDP), about 180 Alta clients will be part of the initial rollout. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be holding meetings soon about next steps. Phil reminded everyone that in two and a half years this option will be available to every client over the age of three.
 - With this program, clients may become more aware of how much money it takes to fund the services that they receive.
 - The department states that this program will be cost-neutral; it won't cost any more to be in SDP versus how services are currently being provided.
- Five years ago, this committee chose to hold one of our meetings at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Yearly, we did so until that last Alta client moved into their community home in June 2018.
 - John introduced Debby Dillon, who has generously volunteered to help this group with the "Friends Helping Friends" project. His goal was to have a family member as the volunteer coordinator and he shared that Debby's uncle participated in two of the meetings that the CAC had at SDC.
 - Debby shared that her uncle lived in Sacramento, prior to moving to SDC. He has been back in the community for a year now.
 - Amanda Sanchez and Jane Ann Cooper are the two primary Service Coordinators (SCs) that support the individuals that have moved out of SDC.
 - Data shows that while they were in the DC, clients had many friends, but now that they are in the community, they don't have very many.
 - John shared that the completed questionnaires will be given to Debby and she will help set-up the meetings. Debby will have a list of volunteers from this committee with their contact information.
 - John reminded everyone that these visits are client centered and client specific. You just need to be a friend.
 - John would like to suggest that in about a year, this committee can talk about their experience and decide if anything needs to be changed.
 - Phil would like to remind everyone that the individuals who moved out of SDC may have difficulty communicating their wants and needs. We need to make sure that we do what they want to do on these visits.

- We will probably begin in January 2019. Alta will have a small budget for these visits (for food, activities, etc.)

2. **"Employment First Opportunities for Alta Clients"**

- Those present received a presentation from Cindy Le and Andy Ponce, Alta's Community Services Specialists, about employment opportunities for Alta clients.



3. **Updates**

◆ Peer Advocacy Connection

- Amy shared that the group met on October 9th:
 - They rescheduled the Regional Meeting. It will be held on Saturday, January 19th, at the Broderick Restaurant, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 - There will be a 50/50 raffle; Spencer McClay is donating a rug for the raffle.
 - There will be a presentation on fitness & health.
 - They are still looking for speaker for a presentation on relationships.
 - There will also be a presentation on the Self-Determination Program.
 - Rick Hodgkins will be giving a legislative update in December.
 - The Peer Advocacy Connection meets on the second Tuesday of the month, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



◆ ARCA-CAC

- No update was shared.

◆ Alta Board

- Michelle R. shared that at the beginning of this fiscal year (FY), the Board chose to meet every other month.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, November 15th, at 4 p.m.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**

- Capitol People First is having a Christmas Party at the State Capitol on Saturday, December 1st, in Room 125 from 1 to 3 p.m.
 - If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to Tom by November 26th.
- Amy will be in Tahoe from December 8th to the 15th.
- Phil shared that Romilda is coming home today!
- Lisa C. shared that Disability Rights California (DRC) is celebrating their 40th anniversary on Friday, December 7th, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the State Capitol in the Historic Eureka Room. They will be honoring former Senator Wesley Chesbro, who created the Employment First Law in 2013.



- If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to DRC by November 26th.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 8, 2019**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet