

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Minutes

Present:

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

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Interpreters:

Brenda Rees
Bethanie Turnbull
Margarit Vignerie

Visitors:

Nichole Baxter
Robert Levy
Amanda Parker
Joseph Wilson

Absent: (* excused)

Anthony Stone*
Karen Young

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services
John Decker, Director of Community Services
Michelle Duchene, Community Services & Supports Manager
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services
Reyva Johnson, Client Advocate
Melinda Kimball, Community Services Specialist
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Michael Mercado, Community Services Specialist
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) People Planning Together; 3) Future Spotlights Brainstorming Session; 4) Updates; and 5) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of January 9, 2024, as submitted.

**Romilda Jones will be removed from the CAC – Amy L. and Lori will send her a letter of appreciation.*

1. **Message from Lori**

- Lori encouraged members to volunteer for the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Grassroots Day that is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2nd at the State Capitol.



- This is an opportunity for us to meet with legislative staff to help promote statewide initiatives. The most important messages that get left with the legislature are your stories.
- Tony Anderson, ARCA's Associate Director, will be presenting at the March CAC meeting about the "Partners in Policy", which is a group of individuals (clients, families and community members) that will be promoting positive stories to counter the negative narrative that is out there.
- Lori has been asked to assist Alta's Board with redesigning their agendas and she asked CAC members to think about the value of the icons that are currently on the agendas.
 - We will be discussing this at the March CAC meeting. She values input from this committee.

2. **People Planning Together**



- Jacob and Reyva shared a presentation on the People Planning Together (PPT) initiative – "It's All About You!"
- PPT will help you develop a plan. Your plan should help you answer at least four questions:
 - What is important TO you?
 - What is important FOR you?
 - What needs to stay the same?
 - What needs to change?
- If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Alta's Client Advocates – David, Jacob or Reyva.
 - Lori noted that PPT is a peer-to-peer opportunity. Jacob and Reyva have completed over 90 hours of training and are now certified trainers, who now need to have practical experience. She is interested in leveraging their experience with clients, starting with CAC members.
 - They plan to share this presentation with the Supported Life Institute (SLI) and then will schedule dates for the next workshop.

3. **Future Spotlights Brainstorming Session**



- Suggested spotlights include:
 - Internet safety/financial awareness
 - How a bill becomes a law
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - How to communicate with your doctor as a disabled individual
 - How to save money
- John encourages CAC members to work with Alta's Client Advocates in drafting the CAC features for Alta's quarterly newsletter, *Alta Connections*.

4. **Updates**



- ◆ Peer Advocacy Network (PAN)
 - The group met today and talked about different ways to be a good, active listener. They also started planning for the next Regional Meeting, which is scheduled for April 6th at the Wyndham Hotel.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2024, from 10 to 11 a.m.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - The Board of Directors met on January 25th.
 - The Board approved the revised Social Rec Policy, the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) contract, and a start-up contract for a Group Home for Children with Special Health Needs (GHCSHN).
 - Board members reviewed and accepted the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY) independent audit report and the monthly financial report.
 - Lori provided an overview of the Dashboard Indicators for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2023. She also discussed the Governor's proposed budget for the 2024-25 FY.
 - Lori highlighted Alta's accomplishments for 2023.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - The group discussed the affordable housing webinar, which was held on December 7, 2023, and the Governor's proposed budget for the next FY.
 - The group plans to hold an in-person meeting in May or July 2025.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 11 a.m.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
 - They are looking for a member to represent Orange County.
 - They had two presentations – one on safety and the other on Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS).
 - The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, February 14th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

5. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- John shared a housing presentation at the South Area People First Chapter Meeting on Saturday, January 20th.
- Joseph shared that the Sacramento Disability Advocacy Group meeting at Resources for Independent Living is scheduled for Friday, February 16th, at 1 p.m. Please contact him at (916) 446-3074 for information and invite.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales