Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
Minutes

Present:
Romilda Jones, Chair
Austin Taylor, Desig. Dir.
Cindy Benson
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Michelle Hulse
Sheryl Ledford
Zach Miller
Robert Rogers
Kimberly Terrell
Karen Young

Facilitators:
Jana Chapman-Plon
Eloise Dixon
Amy Fulk
Ed Plon
Larry Prosser
Cheryl Worthley

Absent: (* excused)
Amy Lampe*
Monique Lozano
Spencer McClay
Steven Sanchez*

Visitors:
Sonya Bingaman
Laura Coit
Kevin Terrell

Staff:
Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Updates; and 3) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

> **M/S/C** (Karen Young) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of March 8, 2016 as submitted.** (9 in favor)

1. *Executive Director's Report*
   - Phil shared that a lot of things have happened since we last met. There is additional funding that is coming into our statewide system.
     - The funding that came out of the extraordinary session of the legislature will fund a pay increase for direct care staff at regional centers and with service providers. Alta is working closely with providers during this time. The funding has been signed into law.
     - On Friday, Governor Brown will be releasing his May Revision. With the 2016-17 fiscal year (FY), additional monies will be coming into the regional center system to fund new Service Coordinator (SC) positions in hopes to decrease the high caseload ratios that we have been experiencing over the last several years.
     - There was a concerted, collaborative advocacy which assisted in securing this additional funding.

- For the first time this FY, Alta is not projecting a deficit in our Purchase of Services (POS) budget; we will have enough money in our budget to pay all of our bills this year.
- This group will be holding our June 14th meeting at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC).
    - If we want to invite families, Phil will have his staff reach out to them.
    - Possibly invite some of the clients who have already moved out of SDC back to share what they are doing now.
    - We should draft an agenda and come up with a list of individuals who would like to share their stories, but we need to make sure that we focus on the positives!
        - Volunteers include: Austin, Kimberly, Sheryl (via her speech device) & Zach
    - John Decker will attend and share some of the work that is being done here at Alta to assist with clients who are moving out.
    - Phil will speak with Nancy Bargmann, Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), tomorrow & invite her to join us.
    - Lisa W. will be sending out the day's schedule to committee members.
- Phil shared that Mark Starford is not able to make it today to share information about his "Abuse Prevention Project".
    - Individuals around the table shared their personal stories of financial abuse.
    - This discussion will be rescheduled to our July meeting.

2. **Updates**
- Peer Advocacy Connection
- Zach shared that the last meeting was held on April 13th.
    - Rick Hodgkin's gave the legislative update.
    - The Regional Meeting was held on Saturday, April 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Lions Gate Hotel in Sacramento.
    - The group was given updates from the different chapters and heard about all of the things they are working on.
    - Different advocacy groups provided updates (i.e., Alta's CAC, Self-Determination/SSAN, Employment First Committee, DDS' CAC, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and ARCA).
- The next meeting will be held tomorrow, May 11th, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the SCDD Sacramento office located at 2033 Howe Avenue, Suite 160.

- Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) - Sacramento
- Robert participated in an Emergency Preparedness presentation at the 21st Annual California Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference last week. We

spoke to 100 self-advocates and informed them about making a plan, preparing a kit, and being ready for an emergency. He also helped with the State Council information table.
- SCDD has printed up new brochures. He asked for help distributing them.
- The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24th, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the State Council's Sacramento office.

◆ ARCA-CAC
- Cindy shared that the last meeting was held on Friday, April 8th.
    ▪ The group talked about the bills that were recently passed in the State legislature.
    ▪ They had a big discussion about how to vote someone on as Chair that they had never met, so they decided on someone else.
- The next telephone meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 20th, and the next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, July 8th.

◆ Alta Board
- Austin shared that the Board met on March 24th.
    ▪ Phil spoke about the additional funding that is coming into our statewide system.
    ▪ The ARCA Grassroots Day was held on Wednesday, March 30th, and was well attended. The "Thank You" rally was a success, too!
    ▪ Alta held two public meetings to discuss our POS expenditure data.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26th, at 4 p.m.

3. *Public Comments/Announcement*
- Robert shared that the theme of this year's Self-Advocacy Conference was "Get Connected". He loved that they brought in people from other states.
- Michelle shared that Toastmasters does have scholarships for people who need assistance with the fees. There is help out there if you are interested in learning how to speak better.
- David is happy that the 21st Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference went so well! He reminded everyone that the 2016 People First Statewide Gathering is coming up in June. If you are interested in attending, please contact your SC.
    ▪ Cindy attended last year's conference and she shared a picture.
- Sonya shared that the National Core Indicator (NCI) Child and Family survey is wrapping up. They are also participating in the Movers Project, which requires them to have a face-to-face with individuals who moved to our catchment area from the DCs within the last five years. They will be checking in with those individuals to make sure they are getting their needs met.
- Zach and Ed shared that there is a job fair at the UC Davis Extension by Sutter Hospital tomorrow, May 11th, from 3 to 6 p.m.

- Zach and his friend, Theodore, are working on a web show called "Triumph for Change", where they talk about different advocacy issues. They received a $30,000 grant working with DDSO. The show will air on Access Sacramento (Channel 17) and YouTube.
- The Disabled Students and Professionals Project is looking at students and the obstacles that they encounter. Part of a video was shown at the conference this last weekend. Ed is working on this project and will be shooting some video.
    - The project is looking for groups to view the video; this could possibly be a spotlight for our meeting in September.
- Karen and Romilda participated in the Bocce Ball Special Olympics on Sunday, May 1st, in Martinez; Karen came in third place & Romilda came in second. Karen also participated in the Track & Field Special Olympics in Roseville on Saturday, May 7th; she received two silver medals and one gold.
- On Monday, May 16th, Lisa C. is going on a tour of our local Independent Living Center. She will be discussing with them a program that can assist individuals who might be falling through the cracks.
- Sheryl's birthday party will be held on Saturday, June 18th, at Leatherby's on Sunrise, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 14, 2016,** at Sonoma Developmental Center from noon to 2 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

                                            Lisa West
                                            Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
      Phil Bonnet