

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9, 2017  
Minutes

**Present:**

Austin Taylor, Chair  
Tom Hopkins  
Romilda Jones  
Amy Lampe  
Michelle Rewerts  
Robert Rogers  
Steven Sanchez  
Kimberly Terrell  
Karen Young

**Facilitators:**

Tepola Fisilau  
Amy Fulk  
Cheryl Worthley

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
John Decker, Manager of  
CPP/Forensics Unit  
Barbara Friedman, ACRC Staff  
Physician  
Chaé Conary, DC Liaison/Service  
Coordinator  
Elijah Jenkins, DC Liaison/Service  
Coordinator  
David Lopez, Client Advocate  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Cindy Benson\*  
Lisa Cooley\*  
Michelle Hulse\*  
Spencer McClay  
Monique Lozano\*

**Visitors:**

Theresa Arnold, SDC  
Cathy B.  
Kathy Brian, SCDD  
Aleana Carreon, Exec. Dir. of SDC  
Scott D.  
JJ Fernandez, SDC  
Matt H.  
Sandra H.  
Steven K.  
Lois Orcutt, UCP  
Brendan Peacock, Alta's Board  
President  
Michelle Ramirez, On My Own  
David S.

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 12:46 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Update on Alta's Community Placement Plan (CPP) – How are we doing?; and 3) Our lives in the community as CAC members. All present provided self-introductions.

*\*This is Alta's CAC's fifth time meeting at SDC! This time we said goodbye to Sheryl L. As we attend possibly our last meeting at SDC, this one will hold particular significance in our lives! Sheryl gave much of her life to being an advocate & always had a smile on her face. She loved coming to these meetings and participating in community life. Sheryl lived in a developmental center much of her life, but didn't take "no" for an answer.*

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



- Phil shared that Governor Brown will be releasing his May Revision on Thursday morning. Our service system's budget for a year is approximately \$7 billion. Regional centers need to figure out how to take care of the more than 300,000 clients statewide; Alta serves over 22,000. Secretary Diana Dooley will be holding a conference call Thursday afternoon to discuss in more detail the proposed budget. Then the hearings will begin on Monday and continue until June 15<sup>th</sup>. Phil may be asking committee members for assistance in testifying before the legislature on particular issues that may affect our clients.
- Many of the individuals living here at Sonoma will be moving into the community in the next year.
  - Austin shared that committee members have faced physical and mental challenges throughout their own lives and they want everyone to know that you don't have to always have control over everything in your life – it's what you make of your life that's important.
  - For everyone that moves out of SDC, Alta staff will do everything in their power to make sure they live a wonderful life; we want to make sure that clients have access to quality services.

## 2. **Update on Alta's Community Placement Plan (CPP) – How are we doing?**



- John oversees Alta's liaisons and Service Coordinators (SCs) that work with the developmental centers across the state. He's been doing this for over five years now and Mr. Scott was the first SDC client that he met all those years ago.
- When the announcement of SDC's closure was released, Alta had 54 clients who resided here. John is proud that Alta has had successful placements for the clients that have moved out of this center. We currently have 39 clients and have accepted 18 clients from other regional centers since the announcement of the closure.
- Alta is doing a lot of development in the Sacramento area. We are lucky to have affordable real estate and we have excellent services in our catchment area.
  - Many of the homes that we are developing are very spacious.
  - Currently, we have 22 homes that are being developed. Alta has a surplus of beds which allows us to offer choices/options to clients and their families.
- Since the announcement of SDC's closure, Alta has moved 17 clients into the community; 11 since July 1, 2016.
- We are developing a lot of specialized services; one of which is a dental clinic that will have staff that are trained to work with individuals with developmental disabilities. The clinic will have equipment to assist clients who are in wheelchairs, so a transfer does not have to happen. The

University of the Pacific is providing the dental training for the staff that will be working in this clinic.

- The clinic will be able to serve individuals that do not require IVGA (intravenous general anesthesia) for their dental procedures.
- This clinic will be available to all of our clients, not just the ones that have moved out of the DCs.
- It's important that Alta plays a training roll for the providers that serve our clients. Increasing the competency of everyone that serves our clients is key.
- Syd Castain, Elijah Jenkins and Chaé Conary play a critical role in the success of moving our clients out of SDC.
  - We have five more placements that will be occurring before June 30, 2017.
  - Chaé will play a role in Alta's quality assurance. She will visit our clients that have moved out, at a minimum of quarterly.
  - Alta staff meet with the clients almost weekly for the first month, then monthly for the first quarter. SDC staff do a 5-day and then a 30-day meeting to make sure that the placement is successful too.
- The clients are very involved in their own placement process. This is why it's so important to work closely with the SDC staff because they have known the clients longer than Alta's SCs.
- John was asked how long a placement usually takes.
  - He shared that it varies from client to client. A lot of it relies on the community service provider and how much they learn about the individual's care. Alta does not want to rush a placement; we cannot make any mistakes.
  - The shortest took 6 weeks, and the longest is going on 18 months.
  - It's important to remember that everyone is an individual and we have to make sure that all of the systems are set-up in the community so the placement is a success.

### 3. ***Our lives in the community as CAC members***



- CAC members shared their own stories about their lives in the community.
  - Some attend day programs, while others have jobs.
  - They participate in Special Olympics!
  - Some live with their families, while others live on their own.
  - They are members of various self-advocacy groups and also speak up for others.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet