

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
Minutes

Present:

Austin Taylor, Chair
Cindy Benson
Lisa Cooley (via phone)
Michelle Hulse
Romilda Jones
Amy Lampe
Monique Lozano
Michelle Rewerts
Steven Sanchez (via phone)
Karen Young

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Larry Prosser

Board Members:

Retha Seabron

Visitors:

Patty Wallace
Cheryl Worthley

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Helen Thomas, Cultural Diversity
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Absent: (* excused)

Tom Hopkins*
Robert Rogers*
Kimberly Terrell*

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:03 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Cultural Diversity/Outreach Discussion; 2) Updates; 3) Executive Director's Report; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

- *Austin read aloud Alta's Mission & Vision statements*
- *Due to lack of attendance, Spencer McClay will be removed from this committee. He can reapply in the future if he wishes.*

M/S/C (Amy Lampe) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of March 14, 2017 and May 9, 2017 as submitted.** (9 in favor)

****change in agenda was noted***

1. ***Cultural Diversity/Outreach Discussion***

Issue: Committee will discuss cultural diversity and outreach efforts.



Discussion and Action: Helen Thomas gave a brief introduction of herself as Alta's Cultural Diversity Specialist. Over the last several years, there has been a reported gap in services for the diverse populations that receive services from the regional centers across the state. Our initial plan is to hold competency training for Alta's Service Coordinators (SCs) and service providers. We will be holding an orientation for the Hmong and Spanish populations, as well.

****Steven Sanchez joined the meeting***

This is the first year for regional centers to have the Cultural Diversity Specialist position; Helen has held this position since January 2017. She has been holding focus group discussions to gather more information from providers about what they need to be successful in working with the diverse populations that we serve. Helen has found that providers are having difficulty finding staff who are bilingual and/or bicultural.

Austin asked what the CAC could do to assist her in her work at Alta. When Helen starts having meetings and projects in the community, it would be helpful to have the CAC's support and partnership.

Helen asked for CAC members to reach out to their friends that are of other ethnic groups that may not receive services from Alta. This group could start by doing that.

Lisa C. suggested possibly developing a bookmark in Spanish, Chinese, or other languages that has Alta's information on it. There could be a few sentences that explain what a developmental disability is and have the agency's phone number printed on it.

****David Lopez joined the meeting***

It's important to get the word out about who we are and what we do. This is a new process and we are just in the planning stages.

- **Information only.**

2. **Updates**

◆ Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) - Sacramento

- No update was shared.

◆ ARCA-CAC

- The next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, July 14th, in Sacramento.

◆ Alta Board

- Austin attended the Board meeting held on May 25th.
 - The Board held a half-day training on team building and Board Committee responsibilities.
 - The group discussed Alta's caseload ratios.



- The nominees for the slate, which will be voted on at the June Board meeting, gave brief introductions of themselves.
- Phil gave a budget update and talked about the staff's efforts to support the clients moving out of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC).
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22nd, at 4 p.m.

3. ***Executive Director's Report***



- Phil asked how those present deal with change. Members shared that they have had changes in SCs over the years. Some have moved too. It's important to be able to adapt to changes.
 - The leadership of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) is in the midst of change.
- Our last meeting was held at SDC. It was a great opportunity for us to share our own experiences and one of the clients who was at the meeting now lives down the street here in Sacramento. She is enjoying her new home and life in the community! Change can sometimes be good.
- The new Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rules are all about inclusion, inclusion, inclusion! Once implemented, they will give people the option of being integrated into their own community. All the changes that are coming are going to be tough on people, including service providers. The timeline for everyone to come into compliance with the new rules has been pushed to 2022.
- With the DCs closing across the state, the secured treatment program at Porterville DC will remain open. If an individual commits a crime and doesn't understand what they did, they are held at Porterville instead of going to jail or prison; this special program has a waiting list.
- Alta currently has 35 individuals residing at SDC. We are making great progress in moving everyone out by December 31, 2018.
- The state budget is about to be handed over to the Governor. He will then review it and decide whether he will veto any portion(s) of it prior to signing it before June 30th. Phil shared that some families that we serve utilize respite (caregiver relief). The legislature is planning on removing the "cap" of 90 hours per quarter, which means that families might be able to receive more hours if they need it. If clients live in a group home or live on their own, they do not receive respite. The statewide service system will not receive any extra funding to hire SCs, but we will get money for growth positions. Regional centers will still not be able to purchase social and recreational services for our clients and families. But all things considered, there will be more money because our service system continues to grow.

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



- Karen shared that Easter Seals will be holding their next talent show on Wednesday, July 19th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Hope Point Nazarene Church in Yuba City.
- Amy asked for prayers for her friend's sister who is sick.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 11, 2017**, from 2 to 4 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet