

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
Minutes

Present:

Romilda Jones, Chair
Austin Taylor, Desig. Dir.
Cindy Benson
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Michelle Hulse
Zach Miller
Steven Sanchez (via phone)
Kimberly Terrell
Karen Young

Board members:

Jon Nelson
Brendan Peacock

Absent: (* excused)

Amy Lampe*
Sheryl Ledford*
Monique Lozano
Spencer McClay*
Robert Rogers

Facilitators:

Jana Chapman-Plon
Amy Fulk
Ed Plon
Larry Prosser
Cheryl Worthley

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
John Decker, Supervisor of
CPP/Forensics Unit
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) April meeting?; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

**Phil introduced a group from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Finance who are here visiting Alta today*

M/S/C (Tom Hopkins) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of June 9, 2015 as presented.** (10 in favor)

1. Executive Director's Report



- John hasn't seen some members of this committee since the CAC's visit to Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in May. Alta finished last year's fiscal year (FY) on June 30th. The agency's goal was to move 12 clients out of the DCs and we were able to place 18 out into their own communities; nine from SDC alone!
 - Phil went out to visit the clients before they were moved out of SDC, and he spoke with them about where they were moving to and the services that they would be receiving.
- 51 Alta clients remain at SDC, and Alta's Community Services & Supports Department (CSS) already has plans to move out another 18 clients by the

end of the 2015-16 FY. This agency has been preparing for the closure of the DCs for several years now, and we have been developing services for the individuals that reside in them. John shared that the ideas that were shared at the last CAC meeting are being considered. He also provided an overview of the services that are currently being developed for clients coming out of the DCs. By December 2018, there will be no more Alta clients residing at SDC!

- John provided further explanation as to why it will take three years to close the DCs. It takes time to develop the services and supports to meet all of the individual's needs. Success is key to this, because clients cannot be moved back into a DC if their community placement does not work out.
- Committee members discussed SBX2 1 (Beall) – Developmental services: funding. This bill would require DDS, subject to an appropriation by the legislature, to increase the funding paid to regional center's operating budget by 10%. It would also increase funding to enable regional centers and providers to fund certain costs related to minimum wage requirements.
 - Committee members expressed their support for this bill.
 - A suggestion was made to have a representative from the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) come and speak with this committee about what they do.
 - Cindy, as Alta's ARCA-CAC representative will follow-up on this request.
- Phil attended a parent meeting at SDC a few weeks ago where some parents expressed their fear of having their child moved out of the DC; some believe that their child is a danger to themselves or their community.
 - Committee members discussed how they could support these parents/family members during this transition.
 - A suggestion was made to invite the parents of the clients who reside there to the next CAC's meeting at SDC.

2. **April Meeting**



- Romilda and Austin explained that members need to decide whether or not to hold an April meeting.
 - Alta's Board of Directors have chosen not to meet in April, as well as August and December.
 - Those present discussed this issue further and suggested that April may be a time where committee members may want to vacation with their family during the Easter break or plan for the annual trip to SDC.

M/S/C (Austin Taylor) **To have the CAC not meet in April.** (10 in favor)

3. **Updates**

◆ Peer Advocacy Connection

- Zach shared that the next Regional Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th beginning 10 a.m.
 - There will be a Mexican taco buffet.
 - Presentations will include:
 - Robert will provide a housing update
 - California Health & Wellness
 - "Gimme Five" update will speak about making healthy choices
 - Self-Determination Program
 - Chapters Updates – discuss what happens when people pay & then they don't show up; possibly give out Chapter Awards

◆ Regional Advisory Committee - Sacramento

- No update was shared.

◆ ARCA-CAC

- No update was shared.

◆ Alta Board

- Austin shared that he wasn't able to attend the June Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23rd, at 3 p.m. He will be not be able to attend that meeting either but will resume his attendance at the September Board meeting.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**

- Karen shared that Easter Seals is holding their 8th Annual Talent Show tomorrow, July 15th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Hope Point Church of the Nazarene in Yuba City. Everyone is invited to attend.
- David has been in touch with the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') CAC and Nicole P. would like this committee to develop a list of topics that Santi Rogers, Director of DDS, could come and speak about. Any suggestions can be called or emailed to David and/or Austin.
- Zach has applied for a scholarship through Disability Rights California (DRC) to attend the Alternatives 2015 Conference in Memphis, TN from October 14th to 18th.
- Cindy shared that the Nevada County Fair will be held from August 12th – 16th. Disability Day is scheduled for Friday, August 14th – free admission. The Nevada People First Chapter has an emergency preparedness booth. The Neighborhood Center of the Arts will also have artwork displayed.



- Larry shared that the booth will have the support from the Office of Emergency Services in Nevada County, the American Red Cross and the FREED Center for Independent Living.
- "Our Community: An Aging & Disability Conference" is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Grass Valley.
- Brendan shared that he is happy to be serving on Alta's Board of Directors for another year, along with Romilda, Austin, Cindy and Jon. He believes that this committee's perspective is critical to the work that we do!
- Lisa C. shared that Paratransit is having a Disability Awareness Fair on Friday, September 18th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Last month, Karen participated in the Special Olympics – her team came in 1st place in bocce ball! Yesterday, the torch for the Special Olympics World Games ran through Marysville – they begin in Los Angeles later this month!
- Cindy's birthday is this next Sunday – she will be 65! Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to her.
- Kimberly visited Los Angeles last weekend to celebrate the ADA. She was part of the group that fought for this years ago and is glad she did it!

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 8, 2015**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet