

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 4, 2014
Minutes

Present:

Zach Miller, Chair
Austin Taylor, Desig. Dir.
Cindy Benson
Tom Hopkins
Amy Lampe
Monique Lozano
Karen Miller
Robert Rogers
Kimberly Terrell

Absent: (* excused)

Lisa Cooley*
Michelle Hulse
Romilda Jones*
Sheryl Ledford*
Spencer McClay*
Steven Sanchez*

Facilitators:

Jana Chapman-Plon
Amy Fulk
Larry Prosser

Visitors:

Sonya Bingaman
Rebecca Cassibba
Bethany Green
Phillip Kihlthau
Jon Lomax
Virginia Siababa
Dan Wheeler

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Greg Carr
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:03 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Continue Employment First Discussion – How do we move forward?; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

M/S/C (Tom Hopkins) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of October 14, 2014 as amended.** (8 in favor)

*** Phil shared that back in 1998, Greg Carr was a member of the CAC. At that time, someone came and spoke to committee members about employment opportunities at Alta. David Lopez heard through his Service Coordinator (SC) about the job opportunities. Both David and Greg eventually interviewed for a job at Alta and have now been with the regional center for 16 years!*

*Greg shared his success story with those present. Phil noted that it's a pleasure to have them both as employees of Alta and they help remind him how important employment is to the clients that we serve. ***

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

- Phil shared that this group has committed to visiting Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) on a yearly basis until there are no more Alta clients who reside there. He would like this committee to possibly consider



- a “road trip”, in addition to the SDC visit, to help increase awareness and provide outreach to one of Alta’s outlying counties. Suggestions include:
- Talking to high school students who are currently in transition programs.
 - Reach out to our community service partners (i.e., visit fire stations in West Sacramento) and teach first responders how to interact with individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - Austin shared that he has done this on his own as a self-advocate.
 - Visit day programs to help spread the word.
 - Meet with younger age groups so that they are more familiar with individuals with disabilities.
 - Hold joint meetings with other regional center’s CACs.
 - Host Town Hall Meetings or informational summits:
 - Possibly have one about the Self-Determination Pilot Project.
 - Invite one of our newly elected legislators to come and speak.
 - Alta is currently developing a new website. Phil encouraged members to send photos to him that they want to share. The new website will have a “Client Corner” where this committee can share information.
 - It’s Election Day! Those present discussed how you vote to make sure that your voice is heard.
 - Zach shared that he is worried about SB 577. This new piece of legislation requires job training for programs that are already in existence and does not include any rate increases.
 - Integration and choice are both a part of the new Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) Rule. Federal money is also attached to this. Phil shared that in the next five years, we will see the biggest changes to our statewide system – the CMS Rule and Self-Determination.
 - Phil shared that Alta is hosting a “Holiday Art Sale” on Thursday, December 11th, from 1 to 4 p.m., here at the Sacramento office. He will be sending invitations to committee members. Come join in on the fun – everyone is invited!

****Monique joined the meeting***

2. *Continue Employment First Discussion – How do we move forward?*

Issue: Committee needs to discuss Alta’s Employment First Policy.

Discussion and Action: Phil shared that this committee first brought this topic up for discussion. Copies of the draft “Employment First Policy” were distributed for review. Austin read it aloud to those present.



Phil explained that this policy would make employment the first option of choice for regional center clients. Currently, the rate of employment for clients served by Alta is about 10%.

This policy doesn't state that every client has to have a job, it just means that regional center staff have to talk about it with the clients that we serve. The conversation also has to include talk about a trade that an individual may want to pursue.

Those present shared that high school students no longer have the option of Regional Occupational Programs (ROPs). Committee members who have jobs shared that work gives them more money, but it also gives them a sense of accomplishment and some independence.

Phil shared that Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) and Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC) both have an Employment First Policy. Once this policy is adopted by its Board of Directors, Alta will be the third regional center in the State of California to have such a policy.

Kimberly would like this policy to reference the client's Individual Program Plan (IPP).

M/S/C (Zach Miller) To support the Employment First Policy with the suggested change. (9 in favor)

- **Phil will share the approved policy with this group in January 2015.**

3. *Updates*

◆ Peer Advocacy Connection

- Amy shared that the Regional Meeting was held on Saturday, November 1st. The theme of this meeting was "Emergency Preparedness: Don't be caught by surprise!"
 - A firefighter came and discussed how first responders interact with individuals with developmental disabilities. He explained that they are initially given 15 minutes of training for this purpose.
 - The group met a service dog named Tilly.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Supported Life Institute.

◆ ARCA-CAC

- Cindy shared that the next telephone meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 21st. The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 9th, in Sacramento.



◆ Alta Board

- Austin was not able to attend the September 25th Board meeting.
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20th, at 3 p.m.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- Robert shared that he is now a Board member of Area Board III and will be providing monthly updates to this committee. The Area Board III hold their Board meetings on the third Thursday of last month.
 - They are taking nominations of a child or adult with a developmental disability who has achieved a goal in his/her life, however small or big, this year. The winner will be invited to attend the December 9th Board meeting and will receive a Certification of Recognition.
 - They would also like to hear client's anesthesia dentistry stories. These stories will be shared with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and other government and private agencies working to improve access to care for those who need this specialized level of dental care.
 - Sonya would like to invite everyone to the December 9th Board meeting. Tilly, the service dog, will also be there.
- Monique did her first CAC presentation today at her day program. Austin was there and spoke about his journey to Yosemite; he talked about what it is like to have a goal and have people help you achieve it.
- David shared that the Holiday Art Show invitations are being reprinted. They will be sent to committee members as soon as we receive them.
- Zach shared that DDSO is having an Open House on December 17th, from 3 to 7 p.m. He will send Lisa a flyer that can be forwarded to everyone.

The next CAC meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2015**, 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