

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020  
Minutes

**Present:**

Kimberly Terrell, Chair  
Michelle Rewerts, Design. Dir.  
Tom Hopkins  
Tiffany Johnson  
Amy Lampe  
Steven Sanchez (via phone)  
Anthony Stone  
Patty Wallace

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Lisa Cooley\*  
Michelle Hulse  
Romilda Jones\*  
Monique Lozano  
Karen Young\*

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Visitors:**

Terry Ajuria  
Marsha Stone  
Kevin Terrell

**Staff:**

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director  
Lori Banales, Deputy Executive Director  
David Lopez, Client Advocate  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:01 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Update on "Friends Helping Friends" Project; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Tom Hopkins made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of November 12, 2019 as submitted.**

- *Kimberly read aloud Alta's Mission & Vision*

**1. Executive Director's Report**



- Phil asked if those in attendance know the difference between the Mission and Vision of Alta.
  - The vision is where we see Alta in the future and the mission is what we do every single day to obtain our vision.
- Next Monday, the *MLK 365 March for the Dream Diversity Expo* will be held in Sacramento. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream about all people being treated equally, regardless of background.
  - Phil asked those present if they have seen the video entitled "We're Here to Speak for Justice" – it's the story of the founding of the statewide regional center system. He believes we owe Dr. King a debt of gratitude because he opened the door for people to say that all people are created equal, and should be treated so.
- Earlier this month, Governor Newsom released his proposed 2020-21 fiscal year (FY) budget for the State of California. For the next five months, legislators will be hearing from their constituents and then the May Revise

will be released. The final budget needs to be signed by the Governor by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

- The proposed budget includes an increase of \$1 billion for our statewide regional center system over last year.
- Regional centers will be receiving performance incentives based on feedback from their clients/families.
  - Phil is hopeful that one or two CAC members will join the workgroup that will develop the questions for Alta's "report card".
- Most service providers received an 8.2% rate increase on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
  - Independent Living Services (ILS), Early Start specialized services, and Infant Development Services will receive rate increases beginning in January 2021.
- All of the developmental centers (DCs) are now closed, except for the Secure Treatment Program at Porterville DC, which remains open for those individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. The proposed 20-21 FY's budget includes 20 additional beds for this program, since there is a waiting list.
- More homes are being developed for those individuals with behavioral problems.
- Additional money is coming into the service system for growth. Alta receives about 100 new clients per month.
- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requiring that service providers begin to provide services that are integrated in the community. Our service system has two years until this New Rule takes effect – April 2022.
- Phil is hopeful that the CAC will grow in membership.

## 2. **Update on "Friends Helping Friends" Project**

- In December, David, Tom and Michelle H. visited some clients that used to reside at Sonoma DC. It was a very positive and uplifting experience.
- David is currently working with John Decker's staff and Debby Dillon to schedule additional visits to different homes.
- If you are interested in being added to the list, please let Lisa W. know.

## 3. **Updates**

### ◆ Peer Advocacy Network

- Amy L. shared that the group met today.
  - Thalia, Alta's Communication Specialist, came to introduce herself to the group and share what she does with Alta's social media – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
  - The group worked on the March 21<sup>st</sup> Regional Meeting. The theme is "Housing, Community, and Census...Oh My!"



- There will be a presentation from *A Touch of Understanding*. The group will also learn about employment and the 2020 Census.
  - Members shared fundraising ideas from their Chapters.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - Michelle R. attended the meeting which was held on January 10<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.
    - Members gave reports of what is taking place at their regional centers.
    - The group discussed the ARCA-CAC's 2020 Priorities, which include:
      - Funding and Sustainability
        - Public Relations Campaign
      - Inclusive Communities
        - Housing
      - Flexible and Sustainable Service Models
        - Person-Centered Thinking
    - They did a mock hearing so members could learn how to communicate with their legislators.
    - The group reviewed some questions that have been gathered about the upcoming ARCA Grassroots Day.
    - They received information on a new bill that was passed on January 1<sup>st</sup> about apartment complexes having to accept Section 8 housing vouchers.
    - They reviewed how a bill is passed and what Service Coordinators (SCs) do (e.g., prepare Individual Program Plans (IPPs), assist clients with transportation, know about each person's disability and help with other health issues, etc.).
  - The next teleconference is scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>. The next in-person meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento.
- ◆ Alta Board
  - Michelle R. attended the Board meeting which was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>.
    - Members received a training on "Person-Centered Thinking".
    - A new Board member was voted on – Johnny Deng.
    - Thalia Castro-Vega, Alta's Communication Specialist, shared information about Alta's social media – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
    - The Board reviewed and approved the monthly financial report.
    - Phil shared information about the 8.2% rate increase that most service providers received beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>.
    - Jackie Armstrong and Anwar Safvi completed their seven years of service on Alta's Board.
  - The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4 p.m.

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



- Kimberly asked members to think about possible spotlights/presentations for upcoming CAC meetings. Suggestions include:
  - The Self-Determination Program (SDP)
  - Self-advocacy
  - Transportation
  - How to improve community perception of individuals with disabilities

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 11, 2020**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet