

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 10, 2017  
Minutes

**Present:**

Austin Taylor, Chair  
Michelle Rewerts, Design. Dir.  
Cindy Benson  
Tom Hopkins  
Michelle Hulse  
Romilda Jones  
Amy Lampe  
Kimberly Terrell  
Patty Wallace  
Karen Young

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk  
Larry Prosser

**Board Members:**

Dan Lake

**Visitors:**

Rhonda Roads  
Cheryl Worthley

**Staff:**

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

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Lisa Cooley\*  
Monique Lozano  
Robert Rogers\*  
Steven Sanchez\*

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 10, 2017, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Collaboration Discussion; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

- *Karen read aloud Alta's Mission & Vision statements*

**Without objection, Cindy Benson made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of September 12, 2017 as submitted.**

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



- With the fires burning across the state, Phil shared that all of the clients who resided at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) were evacuated yesterday. Hundreds of homes have burned down throughout the area and many lives were lost. Half of the clients were moved to a middle school down the road and the other half were moved to a Veteran's Hall. Today, SDC is still under mandatory evacuation. Volunteers are working double and triple shifts to keep everyone safe. They had to bring in beds and cots to the middle school. Many of the individuals are medically fragile, so medical supplies were needed. One individual was hospitalized for smoke inhalation, but everyone else is safe, for now. This is a real crisis. Phil has been in constant contact with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to try to develop a contingency plan in case

SDC burns down. Alta staff have been collaborating with other regional centers and Community Care Licensing (CCL) to make sure that clients will have a safe place to live. This crisis is probably going to be very costly, but it also brings into perspective what these large facilities require when emergencies happen.

- SDC is still closing by December 31, 2018. At the last meeting, Phil discussed possibly developing an "Adopt-a-Friend" program so that individuals moving out into their own community might not be so lonely. He believes it would be amazing if this group sponsored this type of program. This CAC was the first in the State of California to visit a DC. Now, we could be the first to extend a hand to our friends in their new homes.
  - John shared that this idea came about because everyone in our CAC was so active with the individuals living at SDC. He really values the steps that this group took to include these clients and make them feel valued.
  - It's important to note that these clients will only be surrounded by paid staff in their new homes. At their Planning Team Meetings, their Service Coordinator (SC) would ask if they are interested in this new program.
  - Volunteers would be trained to know what is allowed at residential facilities so that there are no issues. Up to five clients could be seen during one visit.
  - Making sure that those of us that are interested can make an impact, it would be nice if volunteers could find out more about what the individual likes to do (e.g., do they like to play games, watch TV, listen to music, etc.). It's important to realize that this program would be about developing friendships, not about becoming their advocate.
  - Remember, sometimes the littlest thing can make the biggest difference!

Phil believes this program will have a positive impact on our clients and their families.

## 2. ***Collaboration Discussion (CAC and Provider Advisory Committee)***

**Issue:** Committee needs to discuss collaboration ideas.



**Discussion and Action:** Austin shared that Alta's Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) is made up of vendors who provide services to Alta's clients. Their Chair, Michelle Ramirez, spoke to him and asked if there are ways for our two advisory committees to collaborate with each other.

Ideas include:

- Survey clients so that providers know if the people that they serve are happy with their services.
  - Have a PAC member attend these meetings and have one of our members attend PAC meetings so that we can establish a partnership.
    - Austin volunteered to attend the PAC meetings on the CAC's behalf.
  - Start a dialogue for practical solutions to every day issues.
  - Going into this, please understand that is not an opportunity to share grievances, it's really about understanding each other's world better.
  - This will be a good way for providers to hear firsthand from those who have disabilities.
- **Austin will share these ideas with the PAC at their November meeting.**

### 3. **Updates**



- ◆ Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) - Sacramento
  - No update was shared.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - The next in-person meeting will be held on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, in Sacramento.
- ◆ Alta Board
  - Michelle R. attended the Board meeting held on September 28<sup>th</sup> in South Lake Tahoe.
    - The Board amended a bylaw regarding Board member terms.
    - They authorized our agency's line-of-credit with U.S. Bank.
    - Alta staff shared information about our agency's outreach efforts.
  - The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

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



- The Neighborhood Center of the Arts is having an art sale on Saturday & Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Michelle R. has been cast in her 12<sup>th</sup> play entitled "Season of Giving", which shows on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are on sale and are going fast! More information can be found at [www.actingcompany.org](http://www.actingcompany.org).
- Easter Seals is having their Annual Haunted House on October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The theme is "Aliens in Space". Everyone is invited to attend.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 14, 2017**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet