

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Minutes

Present:

Amy Lampe, Chair
Tom Hopkins, Design. Dir.
Lisa Cooley
Tiffany Johnson
Jacie Oakley
Amanda Parker
Steven Sanchez

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Visitors:

Robert Levy
Alexis Martinez

Absent: (* excused)

Kimberly Terrell*
Patty Wallace*
Karen Young*

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services
John Decker, Director of Community Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services
Reyva Johnson, Client Advocate
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) Strategic Thinking; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of January 13, 2026, as submitted.

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori shared that the Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd. This day provides an opportunity to meet with local legislators to present our priorities for the statewide service system. Lisa W. works to schedule the appointments for the day. If you are interested in participating, please contact her so that you can be included. It is important to share your stories – there is no more valuable information to share than stories from those individuals who receive regional center services.
- The proposed budget that came from the Governor's office included growth funding for regional centers.
 - The Senate's Budget Subcommittee Hearing is scheduled for March 26th, at 9:30 a.m.
 - The Assembly's Budget Subcommittee Hearing is scheduled for April 15th, at 1:30 p.m.
- During last month's meeting, Kim Terrell spoke about direct support professionals (DSPs) that come to her home every day and help her and

her husband. She asked why regional centers do not lean into increasing the DSPs for clients instead of focusing on the mandated caseload ratios for Alta staff. Kim's concerns impacted Lori and she wanted to share Alta's efforts in this area.

- Alta and Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) have been working together for four years to lift the DSP Collaborative. After COVID, there was a decrease in the number of individuals who were working for clients. The DSP Collaborative works to professionalize the workforce, with the assistance of the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS') DSP University. Lori wanted CAC members to know that we know of the need. Alta's funding is to employee regional center staff, not DSPs.
- The DSP Collaborative now includes the seven Los Angeles regional centers and will be launched statewide by the end of this calendar year. Lori heard what Kim said and wants everyone to know that Alta is making efforts to affect change for the clients that need staff to assist them.
- Lori noted that the California Policy Center for Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD) is also working to research and elevate the issue to influence state policy.
- John, Lisa C. and Peter Mendoza have been chosen to sit on a client-centered panel for the Annual Housing California Conference in March, which is the biggest conference on affordable housing development. Lending your voice to advocate for others with developmental disabilities is valuable. It is such a better message when you have those that are impacted join in on the presentation.

2. ***Strategic Thinking***

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- Lori reminded everyone that Strategic Thinking is about planning for the future but allows for some flexibility. At last month's meeting, CAC members were asked to bring forward ideas for each focus area.
 - Client and Family Supports
 - Self-advocacy
 - Peer support
 - Self-advocacy that reaches the youth
 - Employment
 - Making internships easier to get for clients (Paid Internship Program [PIP])
 - Invite Carly to speak about employment and include the CAC in projects
 - Housing and Living Options
 - Helping increase housing opportunities for those clients outside of the Sacramento area
 - Community Inclusion and Engagement

- Create a "CAC Corner" on Alta's website
- Lori, John, David, Jacob and Reyva will meet with Amy L. and Amy F. prior to next month's meeting, to discuss ideas for CAC projects.

3. **Updates**

◆ PAN

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23rd, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

◆ Alta Board

- The Board met on January 22nd.
 - Alta recognized staff that have worked at the agency for five, ten, 15, 20 and 25 years.
 - The Board approved the independent audit report and the financial report.
 - Camelia Houston, Alta's Intake & Clinical Services Director, shared a presentation entitled "Intake, Assessment & Eligibility Determination – Lanterman Eligibility."
 - Lori noted that the state is in the early stages of the budget process. She also reviewed the Regional Center Performance Measures (RCPMs) for the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25.

◆ ARCA-CAC

- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 20th, from 11 a.m. to noon.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**

- Amy L. shared that the Women's Club held a Valentine's Dance last Sunday – it was awesome!
- David, Jacob and Reyva will be sharing an announcement with Alta's Service Coordinators (SCs) about the upcoming Supported Life Conference in May. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to your SC.
- Alta is holding four more virtual Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Training Sessions throughout the year for clients and families – information is posted on our website.
 - The next training session is scheduled for March 2nd, from 1 to 2 p.m. Registration is required.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales