

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
Minutes

Present:

Amy Lampe, Chair
Lisa Cooley
Barbara Crow
Tiffany Johnson
Jacie Oakley
Michelle Rewerts
Steven Sanchez
Karen Young

Absent: (* excused)

Patty Wallace*, Design. Dir.
Tom Hopkins
Romilda Jones
Anthony Stone*
Kimberly Terrell*

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk

Visitors:

Stephanie Fassov
Robert Levy
Ashley Robertson

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client
Services Director
Tracy Brown, Associate Client Services
Director
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake &
Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client
Services
David Lopez, Client Advocate
Hewitt Matanari, Emergency Response
Coordinator
Johnny Xiong, Associate Client Services
Director
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Emergency/Disaster Preparedness; 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 11, 2022 as submitted.

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



- Lori shared that it's been over two years since this group has been able to meet in-person. Last night, the Governor announced that the State of California is moving forward and that fully vaccinated individuals will soon no longer need to wear masks indoors.
 - The state isn't seeing as many deaths due to the Omicron variant. Those that have passed away are largely individuals who were not vaccinated.
 - It looks like we may be moving from a pandemic into an endemic. Lori explained that COVID will be more like how we deal with the flu; people will still get sick.
 - An endemic will allow businesses, as well as regional centers, to determine when they will begin to move into the norm.

- It's important to note that cities have the ability to make their own rules.
- At last month's meeting, John shared information about Alta's quarterly newsletter, "Alta Connections". Lori would like committee members to think of ideas that would be meaningful to them. She would like to include a "client's corner" in the next issue.
- Those of you that are on Alta's Board of Directors, knows that we are working on the agency's strategic planning process. Last month, this group discussed how they would like to assist with the housing focus area.
 - Lori wants to make sure that this group has an opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The strategic planning survey was released yesterday and Mechelle shared the letter that was sent out with the link on the screen. Lori explained that the Board is working with a consultant and questions were developed in order to gather input from clients, families, service providers and community partners. The survey is in several different languages.

Interested individuals can access the survey from our agency's website at: www.altaregional.org/post/strategic-planning-we-need-your-feedback

We are hoping to get input from all the different people that interface with the regional center. The Board and Alta staff will be looking at this plan each year to see how the agency has progressed in each of the four focus areas.

- Lori encourages CAC members to complete this survey. If you need assistance, please reach out to your Service Coordinator (SC).
- There has been a great deal of interest regarding Alta's Coordinated Future Planning Initiative. Subgroups are meeting regularly. Other regional centers have expressed an interest in following Alta's lead in this area.

2. **Emergency/Disaster Preparedness**



- Hewitt Matanari, Alta's Emergency Response Coordinator, has been with Alta for the last four months. His main focus is to assist clients and families in being prepared for major emergencies, such as wildfires, power outages, earthquakes, flooding, etc.
- He gave a brief overview of his background and role at the regional center. Alta utilizes the Everbridge system to get automated phone calls out to specific groups during emergencies/disasters. Alta is also updating our agency's website so that you can learn about what you can do to be prepared for emergencies.
- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is working on initiatives to assist clients/families in preparing "Go" kits. They are also securing batteries and generators for those that are in wildfire areas.
 - These kits should be personalized for you – it doesn't have to be standardized. You can include medications, extra food, water, etc., but you should check the expiration dates on the contents regularly.

- Hewitt encourages clients to attend county/townhall meetings to stay in touch with their own community. Once COVID restrictions have been lifted, becoming more involved is a great idea.
- Please be aware that disasters are happening more frequently.

3. **Updates**

◆ Peer Advocacy Network

- Amy L. shared that the group met today and discussed the next Regional Meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 26th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presentations will include David Lopez talking about COVID vaccines and "Affordable Housing" by John Decker.
 - Everyone is welcome to attend this virtual event.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th.

◆ ARCA-CAC

- Michelle invited John Decker to share Alta's Housing Presentation at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Friday, February 11th.

◆ DDS-CAC

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**

- Ashley shared that the CASA group is meeting on Saturday, February 19th, at 12 noon, to watch the movie "Influence" on YouTube.
- The MIND Institute's LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental & Related Disabilities) Training begins in September 2022 and runs through May 2023.
 - More information will be emailed out to everyone.
- David shared that Alta's Client Advocate position has been filled and the new employee will be attending the next CAC meeting.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 8, 2022**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales