

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Minutes

**Present:**

Amy Lampe, Chair  
Tom Hopkins, Design. Dir.  
Tiffany Johnson  
Jacie Oakley  
Amanda Parker  
Steven Sanchez  
Kimberly Terrell  
Patty Wallace  
Karen Young

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Lisa Cooley\*

**Visitors:**

Mirela Bere  
Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez  
Robert Levy  
Ashley Robertson  
Jemel Williams

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk  
Naomi Smith

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client  
Services  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake  
& Clinical Service  
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, March 11, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) CalABLE; 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 February 11, 2025, as submitted.**

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori welcomed everyone to our new office space. We had a soft opening last week and welcomed staff back yesterday.
  - Alta's Sacramento office is our largest and we plan on holding an "Open House" soon. She will look to this group for some ideas to make the event special.
- She apologized for missing last month's meeting, but she reviewed the minutes and would like to continue the discussion about drafting a person-centered thinking policy for the CAC to review, so that Tom, as the CAC's representative, could bring it before Alta's Board of Directors for consideration. This policy would present a framework for the agency to practice.
  - David, Reyva and Jacob will work to draft a policy, after reviewing similar policies from other regional centers.

- Lori met with Mechelle and Jennifer this morning to discuss a press release that came from the Social Security Administration, which speaks specifically to SSA survivor benefits. If there is an overpayment after March 31, 2025, this federal agency will recapture that overpayment in its entirety. This would not apply to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) overpayments.
  - Lori will address this with the other regional center Executive Directors across the state. We want to make sure we have the correct information to provide to clients and their families.
  - She will share more information with CAC members as it comes in, since we do not meet in April.
- Mechelle provided an update on Alta's quarterly Supported Decision-Making (SDM) trainings and workshops that are being held across our ten-county catchment area. SDM was created by legislation and designed to be the least restrictive decision-making process for individuals with disabilities. The individual chooses a group of people that will help explain information so that they can make the best decision for themselves. SDM is the least restrictive option compared to conservatorship.
  - Two weeks ago, Alta held a virtual training and in-person workshop in Yuba City. The virtual training was for the community at large, and the in-person workshop provided clients with an opportunity to create their own plans.
    - Approximately 40 attended the virtual training.
    - Lori noted that these plans are considered legal documents.
  - The second community training and workshop is scheduled for May in Roseville.
- Last Thursday, John had an opportunity to attend the Choice Neighborhood Partners Kick-Off Meeting in Woodland. The group consists of members from various committees that support Woodland residents. During the meeting, John explained what Alta believes is important to clients and shared the features that they might want available in housing developments.
  - This ongoing partnership with Yolo County is getting recognition from clients and families served by Alta.
  - At the next meeting, John will share feedback from this committee to make sure that clients' voices are heard; it is important to have representation from the developmental disability community during these discussions.
  - John continues to show the CAC's housing video during community meetings.

## 2. **CaIABLE**

- This presentation will be rescheduled.



### 3. **Updates**



#### ♦ PAN

- The group met today and finalized the jobs for the March 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- They also received a presentation on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) wage reporting.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### ♦ ARCA-CAC

- The group met on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and discussed:
  - The Housing Symposium which was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Master Plan for Developmental Services Stakeholder Committee Meetings.
  - The implementation of the service provider rate study.
- The next meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### ♦ DDS-CAC

- The group is scheduled to meet on June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

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



- The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is hosting a webinar on March 27<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 5 p.m., via Zoom. With March being National Disability Awareness Month, the group wanted to share a presentation entitled "The Choices we make Together: Understanding Limited Conservatorships and Less Restrictive Alternatives."
  - Registration is currently open.
- The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Supported Life Conference entitled "Follow The Yellow Brick Road to Self-Advocacy" is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Wyndham Hotel in Sacramento.
  - Early bird registration closes on April 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Kim is excited – she has a new power wheelchair coming today!

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 13, 2025**. The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales