

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
Minutes

**Present:**

Romilda Jones, Chair  
Austin Taylor, Desig. Dir.  
Cindy Benson (via phone)  
Lisa Cooley (via phone)  
Tom Hopkins  
Michelle Hulse  
Amy Lampe  
Sheryl Ledford  
Monique Lozano  
Zach Miller  
Robert Rogers  
Steven Sanchez (via phone)  
Kimberly Terrell (via phone)  
Karen Young

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Spencer McClay

**Facilitators:**

Jana Chapman-Plon  
Eloise Dixon  
Amy Fulk  
Ed Plon

**Visitors:**

Laura Coit  
Janet Norton

**Staff:**

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

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in the Brenda Smith Conference Room at Alta California Regional Center (Alta) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Election of CAC Chair & Designated Rep to Board; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

**M/S/C** (Tom Hopkins) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of February 9, 2016 as submitted.** (12 in favor)

**1. Executive Director's Report**

- Phil shared that for the last two years the legislators have been working on increasing the State's budget for regional centers and providers. The Managed Care Organization (MCO) Reform passed both houses and Governor Brown signed it into law last week. This will add over \$400 million into our statewide system. It includes:
  - 7.5% increase for salaries and benefits for both direct care providers and regional center staff
  - 2.5% increase for administrative costs for both regional center Purchase of Services (POS) and Operations (OPS)
  - 5% increase for Supported Living Services (SLS), Independent Living Services (ILS), in-home and out-of-home respite, and transportation services
  - 10% increase to supported employment
  - 5% increase to Medi-Cal funded group homes
  - funding for bilingual staff at regional centers



- Nancy Bargmann was recently appointed as the new Director of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Phil will be inviting her to one of our upcoming CAC meetings.
- Lori Banales and Alfonso Carmona will be Alta's Directors of Client Services after David Rydquist retires on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- DDS is still working on the waiver for the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Alta currently has over 600 clients on our "interest" list. Only 175 will be able to participate in the initial rollout. There are so many questions that still need to be answered. Phil hopes that this option will be available to our client by Christmas 2016.
- Our friends at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) are still there and this committee promised that we would go back and visit them each year. Phil would like to suggest that we go in May or June of this year.
  - Committee agreed to hold the June 14<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting at SDC. We will continue to discuss at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Lisa C. volunteered to contact staff at SDC.
  - The group wants to invite the families to this meeting.
    - We will develop a flyer to distribute to the parents/families and ask John Decker to help with the distribution.
    - Possibly call the day "Pathway to Possibilities".
  - Phil will invite Nancy Bargmann to the June 14<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting at SDC.
  - As always, committee members will share their stories to help ease fears that the clients/families may have.
  - If you have any ideas, please send them to Phil and/or Lisa W.
- The Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA's) Grassroots Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, at the State Capitol. If you are interested in joining "Team Alta", please let Lisa W. know.

## 2. ***Election of CAC Chair and Designated Rep to Board***



**Issue:** Committee needs to hold elections for the Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2016-17 fiscal year (FY).

**Discussion and Action:** Romilda shared that members need to express their desire to serve as the CAC Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the next FY.

- **Austin Taylor is elected as the CAC's Chair and Designated Representative to the Board of Directors for the 2016-17 FY.**

## 3. ***Updates***

### ◆ Peer Advocacy Connection

- Amy shared that the last meeting was held on February 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - The group was given a legislative update:



- Members were encouraged to sign up for the CDCAN email list so that they would receive timely updates.
- Individuals were asked to find out who their local legislators are by visiting <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>.
  - The next Regional Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Lions Gate Hotel in Sacramento.
- The next meeting will be held tomorrow, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Supported Life Institute (SLI).
  
- ◆ Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) - Sacramento
  - Robert shared that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the State Council's Sacramento office.
  
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - Cindy had difficulty connecting to the telephone meeting which was held on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - The next in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.
  
- ◆ Alta Board
  - Austin shared that the Board met on February 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - Phil spoke about the State Budget and the extraordinary session of the legislature.
    - Alta staff continue to develop resources for those individuals who are moving out of SDC.
    - The Board continues to hold Board Sponsored Trainings just prior to their monthly meetings. February's was entitled "The Power of the Planning Team".
  - The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4 p.m.

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



- As David mentioned at last month's meeting, if you are interested in having Alta pay for the registration to either the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, or the 2016 People First Statewide Gathering from June 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, please contact your Service Coordinator (SC).
- David received an email from DDS' CAC Chair, who has reached out to several regional centers for representation on DDS' CAC. In the near future, Alta's representative's seat will become available. David will share more information in the next year. This might be a great opportunity for someone on this committee.
- Lisa C. shared that the next local Self-Determination Advisory Committee is scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon at Alta.

- Laurel Ruff Transition School is holding an Open House and Information Fair on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- The MIND Institute is holding a workshop entitled "Working and Saving with Social Security – Yes you Can!" on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Phil brought David Rydquist, Alta's Director of Adult & Residential Services, into the meeting so that everyone could wish him well with his retirement. He has been serving the developmentally disabled for many year. David R. expressed appreciation for this committee's dedication to the thousands of individuals that Alta serves.
- Amy L. will be going into Mercy General Hospital on March 21<sup>st</sup>. She will be there for a few days to have some tests done.
- Zach attended Cal-TASH's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and learned a lot. He nominated himself for their Board of Directors and will find out at the end of March if he is accepted as a member.
- Zach has an interview on Thursday morning with a work training program.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 10, 2016**, from 2 to 4 p.m.  
The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Phil Bonnet