

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Minutes

Present:

Zach Miller, Chair
Austin Taylor, Desig. Dir.
Cindy Benson
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Michelle Hulse
Romilda Jones
Sheryl Ledford
Karen Miller
Steven Sanchez

Absent: (* excused)

Amy Lampe*
Monique Lozano
Spencer McClay*
Robert Rogers*

Facilitators:

Monique Avers
Jana Chapman-Plon
Eloise Dixon
Amy Fulk
Ed Plon
Larry Prosser
Regina Scott

Staff:

Phil Bonnet, Executive Director
Cristina Barrios, Community Services
Specialist
John Decker, Supervisor of
CPP/Forensics Unit
Elijah Jenkins, DC Liaison/Service
Coordinator
Dan Kilmer, Community Services
Specialist
Johnny Xiong, Community Services
Specialist
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

Visitors:

Aleana C.
Abigail G.
David K.
Delia R.
Fred E.
Gregory P.
Karen E.
Ken C.
Krystal B.
Laura C.
Michelle R.
Robert B.
Russ L.
Sandra H.
Scott B.
Scott S.
Sherry T.
Sonya B.

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 12:01 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Presentation from Ross Long & Tobias Weare; and 3) Our lives in the community as CAC members/tell us about your lives at SDC. All present provided self-introductions.

M/S/C (Cindy Benson) **To approve the CAC meeting minutes of March 10, 2015.** (10 in favor)

1. **Executive Director's Report**



- Phil shared that this is the CAC's third trip to SDC. This visit is important to all of us – it's a time to show the people who reside here that their lives matter. When we visit, we try to bring a sense of community to them. We want to show them that every voice matters, no matter where they live or even if they can't vocalize. Committee members are not here for themselves, but they advocate for all 20,000+ clients that are served by Alta.
 - The CAC's visits do make a difference! Elijah shared two stories:
 - Jeff, who has been in the DC system since he was nine years old (57 years total), recently moved into his own group home.
 - Cliff, who has lived in the DC system since he was an infant (for over 60 years), is getting ready to move out into the community.
 - Alta needs more providers that are willing to serve individuals that are moving out of DCs. Hearing this from CAC committee members might mean more.
 - It's important to mention that we all have a contribution to make. If we take away that opportunity, we have silenced you for that reason and basically said that that contribution is not valuable.
 - The disability does not make the person and not everyone is the same, just because they have a developmental disability.
 - You cannot treat help like a four letter word. We all need support from time to time.
 - Suggestion was made for the CAC to make a video and invite individuals that use assistive technology to join in on our CAC meetings.
 - Johnny shared that he, Cristina and Dan work to develop resources for the individuals who reside in DCs. We need to make sure that we understand the needs and develop the services to support the client in their own community.
- Phil shared that Governor Brown is getting ready to release his May Revision. The push this year has been the "10 for 10" campaign – a 10% rate increase for provider rates and regional center operations.
- Phil and Sonya Bingaman, the Manager of the SCDD Sacramento Office, are selecting the members for Alta's Self-Determination Advisory Committee. They will be relying on members of this committee to help get the word out regarding this new service option. 175 Alta clients will be part of the initial pilot project. It's important to note that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be selecting those individuals that get to participate in this. One thing we do know is that you have to sign up in order to participate. The idea is to provide more options/choices for clients.

- Phil shared that this committee will be electing the CAC Chair and the designated representative to Alta's Board of Directors for the 2015-16 fiscal year (FY) at the June 9th meeting.
- John attended the legislative hearing this last week and shared that one of the things that was very apparent was that people were not being negative about the DCs. An individual who had lived at SDC for 57 years was transitioned into the community within six weeks – record timing! We need to remain positive; the individuals that reside here – this is their home. He expressed appreciation to the group for always remaining so positive.

2. **Presentation from Ross Long & Tobias Weare**



- Ross shared a presentation about the Volunteer Advocacy Services Project, which provides advocacy services for people living at SDC who do not have family or conservators to represent them.
- Tobias shared that he consults with teams on the Lanterman Act and the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities. He also consults and oversees any denial of rights at SDC.

3. **Our lives in the community as CAC members/tell us about your lives at SDC**



- Committee members shared stories about their lives out in the community. A staff member read aloud a poem.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 9, 2015**, from 2 to 4 p.m.
The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Phil Bonnet