

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
Minutes

Present:

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

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Board Members:

Kelly Pennington

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

Absent: (* excused)

Amanda Parker*
Kimberly Terrell*
Patty Wallace*
Karen Young*

Visitors:

Yasmin Herrera-Vilchez
Robert Levy
Ruben Medina
Daniel Perez
Joseph Wilson

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 2:05 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) CAC Chair & Designated Rep to Board for 2026-27 FY; 3) Strategic Thinking; 4) Updates; and 5) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Tom Hopkins made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of March 10, 2026, as submitted.

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori shared that Governor Newsom will release the May Revision on Thursday morning. We must be prepared as we anticipate the impact of the deficit that the state is facing. Following the May Revision, the hearings will begin. We will monitor everything as things can change up to the day that the Governor signs the budget. Per the statutory requirement, the legislature must place an agreed upon budget on the Governor's desk by June 15th; he has until June 30th to sign. Lori reminded everyone that this is not the first time that our statewide service system has faced challenges, but we remain resilient and will continue to serve the clients/families that rely on us every day. Because there is no better advocacy than from those that receive the services and supports from regional centers, we may call on you to share your advocacy skills.

- Alta is seeking input that will help shape our planned activities for the performance measures that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has put forward. This year is different from others. Alta has posted on our agency's website a link to submit your comments/suggestions. We also created a survey for each of the different performance measures – [Regional Center Performance Contract Measures Feedback](#). Feedback is needed by May 29th, so that the Board's Executive Committee can approve Alta's 2026 Performance Contract at their June 8th meeting.
 - Suggestion was made to include sharing counseling services/support groups with 18- to 25-year-olds.
 - Lori requested that each CAC member share at least one idea. If you need assistance, please contact Lisa W.
- Alta's Executive Team is available to share information with advocacy groups. Please reach out if you would like them to present on a specific topic.
- Lori thanked Jennifer Bloom and Mechelle Johnson for sharing information about Alta at the Supported Life Institute's Conference last week.

2. **CAC Chair & Designated Rep to Board for 2026-27 FY**

- Amy Lampe and Steven Sanchez have expressed interest in serving as the CAC Chair, and Amanda Parker is interested in serving as the CAC Designated Representative to Alta's Board of Directors for the 2026-27 fiscal year (FY).

Without objection, the committee nominated Amy Lampe as the CAC Chair and Amanda Parker as the CAC Designated Representative to the Board for the 2026-27 FY.

3. **Strategic Thinking**

- Jacob shared that Amy L. requested that he revisit the idea of "Strategic Thinking", which is the ability to look beyond day-to-day tasks and make decisions with the long-term mission, risks, and opportunities in mind. It focuses on *where you're going, why, and how today's choices shape future outcomes*.
- Some additional suggestions include:
 - Having instructions on how to use adaptive equipment.
 - Explain the differences between respite and babysitting for families that are new to the regional center.
- Jennifer reviewed the ideas from the March CAC meeting that this committee discussed. We will share the mock-up of the "Client Advocate Corner" that will be posted on Alta's website at the June meeting.

4. **Updates**



- ◆ PAN
 - The next meeting is scheduled for June.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - Alta's Board of Directors met on March 26th.
 - A mother and daughter came to share how Alta services and supports have changed their lives in the "Meeting Our Mission" portion.
 - They approved a new Board member – Terri Scheufele.
 - The Board approved bylaw revisions, the financial report and a housing contract.
 - Alta staff presented the Strategic Plan End of Year Reports for 2024 and 2025.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - They are holding a face-to-face meeting on May 18th & 19th in Sacramento.

5. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- The Special Olympics NorCal's Summer Games will be held June 26th-28th at Santa Clara University.
- Alta is holding a virtual Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Training on June 1st, from 1 to 2 p.m. Registration is required.
- Reyva shared that the Best Buddies program just finished teaching individuals, ages 18 to 27, job skills at UC Davis Hospital. She attended a graduation ceremony for the 12 participants, three of which already have secured jobs.
- The 2026 Summer Institute on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities will be held virtually on Friday, July 24th, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration will open in June. Interested individuals can find additional information on their website.
- The 40th Annual Supported Life Conference is scheduled for October 8th & 9th, at the Wyndam Hotel in Sacramento.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 9, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales