

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
Minutes

**Present:**

Amy Lampe, Chair  
Patty Wallace, Design. Dir.  
Lisa Cooley  
Tom Hopkins  
Tiffany Johnson  
Michelle Rewerts  
Steven Sanchez  
Anthony Stone  
Kimberly Terrell  
Karen Young

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Michelle Hulse\*  
Romilda Jones\*

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Visitors:**

Selene Anderson  
Barbara Crow  
Jacie Oakley  
Amanda Parker  
Kimi Peshon  
Ashley Robertson  
Cindy Ruder  
Steven Ruder

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
John Decker, Director of Community  
Services  
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client  
Services  
David Lopez, Client Advocate  
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) New CAC Applicants; 2) Executive Director's Report; 3) "Coordinated Future Planning"; 4) Updates; and 5) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Lisa Cooley made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of June 8, 2021 as submitted.**

**1. *New CAC Applicants***



- Amy L. shared that two individuals have expressed interest in joining the CAC – Barbara Crow and Jacie Oakley.
  - They both introduced themselves and shared why they want to join this committee.

**Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to nominate Barbara Crow and Jacie Oakley to the CAC for membership.**

**2. *Executive Director's Report***



- Lori shared that she worked with Phil for many years and is ready to lead this agency as its new Executive Director.
- Alta has several projects that we are working on to better support our clients and she will be asking this committee for input. She reminded members that they need to think of clients of every age, county, and diagnosis that are served by the agency, not about themselves specifically.

Lori will be relying on CAC members as Alta plans for the future; the client perspective is the most important and valued perspective. You, as clients, are our primary stakeholders. She wants everyone's commitment to help her as Alta's Executive Director.

- Lori plans on attending all of the People First Chapters' meetings. During her interview with Alta's Board of Directors, she shared her six-month plan and she wants it to come to life.
- The Board will be working on developing a Strategic Plan. This process will allow them to establish goals that the regional center will focus on for the next several years. It will be a journey, but the Strategic Plan will be our roadmap moving forward.
  - Lori will be utilizing the CAC and the Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) to gather input on planned activities throughout this process.
- Since last week, Alta has had nine clients test positive for COVID-19 and two clients have passed away. Lori stressed that we must make every effort to provide each and every person with the necessary information to make an informed choice. As members of the CAC, please make sure that you direct any clients that have questions to their Service Coordinator (SC), or to Mechelle Johnson, David, Lisa W., or herself. The State of California needs to reach herd immunity and we are clearly not there yet. Lori needs everyone's help to keep spreading the word.
  - John shared that Alta has made connections so that in-person vaccinations can happen. If you email [vaccineinfo@altaregional.org](mailto:vaccineinfo@altaregional.org), you can receive local information about vaccine clinics.
- Alta staff are working on the Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) initiative. The Blueprint came out a few years back, and the Roadmap was recently released and is now posted on Alta's website. With this initiative, SCs will have meaningful conversations with clients/families and school districts to ensure that prevocational skills can be met in education.

### 3. **"Coordinated Future Planning"**



- John shared that the "Coordinated Future Planning" initiative is being put into place to prevent housing insecurity due to the loss of an aged primary caregiver.
- Lori noted that discussions need to happen during Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings so that caregiver succession plans can be created. Alta is currently focusing on those clients that live with primary caregivers that are 70 years or older.
  - Currently, Alta's Coordinated Future Planning Task Force is developing trainings that will assist SCs with these discussions.
- Alta staff will continue to update the CAC throughout this process.

*\*A few years ago, the CAC created a "Friends Visiting Friends" outreach so those individuals who moved out of the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) could*

*have someone to talk to. Because most of these clients are older, John believes that this project should remain suspended through this calendar year. We could invite Debby Dillon back to the January meeting to reintroduce this project and have the group discuss our options.*

#### 4. **Updates**



- ◆ Peer Advocacy Network
  - Regional Meeting – Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This will be virtual or hybrid.
  - Today, the group met and they talked about “Let the Good Times Roll” – topic of Regional Meeting.
- ◆ Alta Board
  - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 4 p.m. David will be sharing information about Client Advocacy.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - The next meeting is scheduled for this Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon – the group will be discussing “Advocacy Toolkits for Self-Advocates”.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
  - Their Legislative meeting is scheduled Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 3 & July 16-17 from 10 a.m. to noon.

#### 5. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- “Shakespeare in the Park” will be starting back up soon. Michelle will be auditioning again!
- Beginning next month, Karen will be able to go back to work as a volunteer.
- John shared that one of the biggest concerns of our service provider community for reopening day programs is COVID safety. Unfortunately, they are also experiencing a worker shortage. As many of you know, Alta’s population grows each year by approximately 1,000 new clients, which requires our service providers to hire more staff. One thing we are looking forward to is the implementation of the rate study.
- Amy L. is joining the Special Olympics Walking Club for six months. Over this past weekend, she won 1<sup>st</sup> place for flutter kicks and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for squats in their virtual fitness season.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, September 14, 2021**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales