

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, July 8, 2025
Minutes

Present:

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

Absent: (* excused)

Kimberly Terrell*
Patty Wallace*

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Board Members:

EunMi Cho

Visitors:

Robert Levy
Jemel Williams
Joseph Wilson

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
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 2:01 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) Caseload Ratio Feedback; 3) Discussion – Alta’s DRAFT Person-Centered Thinking Policy; 4) Updates; and 5) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of June 10, 2025, as submitted.

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori noted that the State’s budget passed the Assembly and the Senate, with the Governor strategically requiring the Assembly and Senate to pass a trailer bill in order for the final budget to be approved. On June 30th, the budget bill was passed statutorily. Regional centers are spared, for now, although advocacy groups believe that the State of California will lose federal funding.
 - The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) collected thousands of stories from across the state to share with the legislature and the state made decisions to make our service system as whole it could possibly be.

- Regional centers were also able to return almost a billion dollars to the state's general fund with dollars that were not allocated within the last few years.
- The federal government is stating that the cuts to Medicaid are to promote the sustainability of the system. They target fraud to preserve the program for those it was intended to support.
- The State of California will likely need to reopen the budget once they realize the federal impact. We need to figure out a way to move forward as a state if the state continues to support undocumented individuals.
 - Lori does not want our community to be ridden with anxiety. She encourages clients to continue their advocacy efforts regarding the services that they receive – your voice matters.

2. **Caseload Ratio Feedback**

- In March of every year, Alta runs our caseload ratios, which averages the number of cases each Service Coordinator (SC) has on their caseload in different categories. This year, Alta met three of the mandated caseloads and did not meet the remaining three. Because of this, Alta must submit a Plan of Correction to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
 - Individuals can provide feedback throughout the year by emailing ratioinput@altaregional.org.
 - Lori noted that Alta must live within the allocated budget that we receive from the department. The core staffing formula that the state created years ago is antiquated – DDS funds each SC position at \$34,000 (including the benefits). Alta uses three allocated positions to hire one SC. The math never works – we need more dollars. Currently, Alta has close to 800 SCs, as the client count continues to grow every day.

3. **Discussion – Alta's DRAFT Person-Centered Thinking Policy**

- Reyva read aloud the draft Person-Centered Thinking Policy.
 - Lori expressed appreciation to Reyva, Jacob and David – she asked Alta's Clients Advocates to draft this policy to show client's value, making sure they feel respected. Tom will be bringing this before the Board in September for their approval.
- This is Alta's practice. This policy is a philosophy that Alta staff will keep in mind with every meeting that they have with clients/families.
 - Lisa C. has shared feedback that this policy should indicate that this process would be throughout the lifespan of clients served.
 - Reyva believes the policy will bring a level of transparency – Alta staff are here to support people.
 - The revised draft policy will be emailed to CAC members in August for review and approval.



- If approved, Tom will present the draft policy to the Board's Executive Committee on September 8th, seeking full Board approval at the September 25th Board meeting.

4. **Updates**



- ◆ PAN
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 28th, from 4 to 6 p.m.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 1st, from 11 a.m. to noon.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
 - The group is scheduled to meet in November.

5. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, July 29th, at 10 a.m. This webinar will focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Registration is required.
- The MIND Institute is holding their 2025 Summer Institute on Neurodevelopmental Disabilities on Friday, July 25th, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Sacramento.
 - Alta is hosting a table at this event.
- Jacob is expecting his second child and will be out on leave for a few months. Reyva and David continue to be available to assist.
- Amy L. was interviewed today about Alta's work on Supported-Decision Making (SDM).
 - Joey Travolta has been deeply involved with the developmental services community for years and developed Inclusion Films, which provides video production and editing opportunities for clients served. He also holds camps and training for individuals that are interested in this vocation.
 - Today was an opportunity, through a grant with CA Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CPCIDD), to talk about SDM.
 - Futures Explored does a great job on these projects too. Lori will share the film when it is complete.
- Alta's Open House, featuring a Microenterprise and Vendor Fair, is this Thursday, July 10th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our Sacramento office. You are invited to stop by.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 9, 2025**.
The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales