

Alta California Regional Center  
Client Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, September 14, 2021  
Minutes

**Present:**

Amy Lampe, Chair  
Patty Wallace, Design. Dir.  
Lisa Cooley  
Barbara Crow  
Tom Hopkins  
Romilda Jones  
Jacie Oakley  
Michelle Rewerts  
Steven Sanchez  
Anthony Stone  
Kimberly Terrell  
Karen Young

**Absent:** (\* excused)

Tiffany Johnson\*

**Facilitators:**

Amy Fulk

**Visitors:**

Phil Bonnet  
Peter Mendoza  
Ashley Robertson

**Staff:**

Lori Banales, Executive Director  
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Client  
Services 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, September 14, 2021, by Webex/teleconference to discuss: 1) Executive Director's Report; 2) Updates; and 3) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

**Without objection, Lisa Cooley made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of July 13, 2021 as submitted.**

*\*Amy L. noted that Michelle Hulse will be removed from the CAC roster; she may reapply for CAC membership in the future.*

1. ***Executive Director's Report***



- Lori is concerned about the Delta variant, which is highly contagious. Around July 6<sup>th</sup>, this variant started showing up in our communities. Since then 160 clients have tested positive, with five deaths; four clients remain in the hospital. Four of those five that passed away were not vaccinated. Vaccinations are the best way to stay healthy and keep out of the hospital. 71 direct support professionals (DSPs) have tested positive, with one death. Alta also has had 13 staff members test positive, with two deaths. Lori noted that 51% of our eligible client population has been vaccinated.
  - After the last Board meeting, Michelle spoke with Lori and a group of clients and Alta staff got together and shot a video to promote vaccinations.

- The video was shared with everyone and will be posted on our social media tomorrow.
- Janet Brandon, with A.I.M. & Associates, suggested having other service providers assist additional groups of clients and have them sing the same tune and post their video, as well.
  - Suggestion to possibly post a video in American Sign Language, too.
- Lori welcomes ways to multiply the way we get this message out to our clients. She shared that Alta staff have the resources to assist those clients who would like to get vaccinated at their home, rather than going to a clinic.
- The Caldor Fire has affected 423 clients, as well as some Alta staff. The Bridge Fire is about 95% contained right now and affected 23 clients.
  - Lori would like CAC members to think about ways that this committee can assist the clients that have been affected by the fires.
  - Mechelle shared that Alta's Medicaid Managed Care partners have assisted clients/families that have been affected. She also noted that the Center for Independent Living has assisted families when PG&E initiates emergency power safety shutoffs.
    - We will continue to talk about possible support at next month's meeting
- The Governor's signed budget includes funding for an Emergency Coordinator for each regional center. Alta's Emergency Coordinator will be starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Lori will invite this staff person to one of the CAC's meetings so that we can talk about how to assist clients that live independently to make sure they have their Go Kits ready. It seems like every year we get hit by a disaster, whether it's fires or floods. She would like to promote this opportunity so that clients can learn how to stay safe.

## 2. Updates

- ◆ Peer Advocacy Network
  - Amy L. shared that the group met today and talked about waiting to hold in-person meetings until it's safe. The positives about holding Zoom meetings are that more people are joining in on the discussions and you don't have to arrange for transportation.
  - They worked on details for the upcoming September 25<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting, which will include presentations from Kelsey Handcock, from the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA), and Peter Mendoza from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).
- ◆ Alta Board
  - The Board does not meet in August. The Board Training/Retreat is scheduled for Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Board meeting begins at 3 p.m. that day.



- ◆ ARCA-CAC
  - The next meeting is scheduled for this Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10 to 11 a.m.
- ◆ DDS-CAC
  - The next meeting is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to noon.

### 3. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- Michelle's play starts this weekend and runs thru October 3<sup>rd</sup>. She asked for everyone to hold her and her friends in prayer.
- The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is scheduled to meet on December 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> over Zoom.
- Lori shared that at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Training/Retreat, the Board is going to start the strategic planning process, which will identify the goals for the agency. Once the goals are established, Lori would like to have CAC members partner with Alta staff to work on how to reach some of the goals. We want to make sure we do something that is connected with the Board, not separate.
  - Lori and Patty will report back to this committee at the CAC's October meeting.

The next CAC meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 12, 2021**, from 2 to 4 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Lisa West  
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors  
Lori Banales