

Alta California Regional Center
Client Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Minutes

Present:

Amy Lampe, Chair
Amanda Parker, Design. Dir.
Lisa Cooley
Tom Hopkins
Tiffany Johnson
Jacie Oakley
Kim Terrell

Absent: (* excused)

Steven Sanchez*
Patty Wallace
Karen Young

Visitors:

Robert Levy
Emili Lua
Yadir Morales
Daniel Perez

Facilitators:

Amy Fulk
Naomi Smith

Staff:

Lori Banales, Executive Director
Jennifer Bloom, Director of Client Services
Tracy Brown, Associate Client Services Director
John Decker, Director of Community Services
Camelia Houston, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
Mechelle Johnson, Director of Client Services
Reyva Johnson, Client Advocate
Sharon Kurpinsky, Victim Advocate
Jacob Miller, Client Advocate
Lisa West, Executive Secretary

The Client Advisory Committee (CAC) met on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss: 1) Message from Lori; 2) "Abuse Prevention and Safety"; 3) Updates; and 4) Public Comments/Announcements. All present provided self-introductions.

Without objection, Amy Lampe made the motion to adopt the CAC meeting minutes of July 14, 2026, as submitted.

1. ***Message from Lori***



- Lori shared that CAC members received an email on August 28th forwarded from the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)-CAC asking for your opinion on terms that are acceptable to use when referring to a group of people with developmental disabilities. ARCA wants to hear back from those that are served by regional centers. Years ago, this group discussed this same issue. Those that shared their thoughts landed on "clients." Lori noted that there is no wrong answer – it is whatever your desire is.
 - Prior to ARCA's request to send the survey out to regional center's CAC groups, they received over 160 responses. The preferred terms from those responses were "consumers" or "clients."
 - Lori encouraged CAC members to complete the survey. Tony Anderson, with ARCA, is tabulating the results. As a community, we want to make sure we get this right.

- Of the three deferred areas of the Trailer Bill Language (TBL), the acuity scale/needs assessment did not get signed into law. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) presented this along with the Intake process, when they are two separate issues – to operationally define “substantial disability” is part of the Intake process, whereas the acuity scale/needs assessment is part of ongoing services.
 - The intention was for Service Coordinators (SCs) to use this tool to determine the level of need for those we serve during the Individual Program Plan (IPP). The community had questions and concerns about what it would be used for. This next year, the department will work with community stakeholders and regional centers to discuss and develop next steps.

2. ***“Abuse Prevention and Safety”***

- 
- Sharon Kurpinsky, Alta’s Victim Advocate, shared a presentation on this topic.
 - Stalking is defined as a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for the person’s safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress.
 - She discussed motivations for online harassment and encouraged everyone to always have the most up-to-date virus and firewall protection from a reputable source, to never share personal information in on-line profiles or public spaces, and password protect all accounts.
 - If you use dating websites, think about setting up a dedicated e-mail for that purpose. Never give out any personal information. If you arrange to meet someone, do so in a safe, public environment, and let someone else know what you are doing in advance. Be aware of your surroundings and be careful not to be followed home.
 - Please reach out to your SC for assistance/resources.

3. ***Updates***

◆ CAC Workgroups

- 
- Open House
 - We will hold the CAC Open House prior to the CAC meeting on October 13th. The Open House will start at 12 p.m. with catered food. Members of the workgroup will present the CAC PowerPoint at 1 p.m., with the CAC meeting starting at 2 p.m.
 - This is a great way to attract new members. Please help distribute the flyer which Lisa W. will send out to everyone.
 - Videos
 - On August 11th, Futures Explored videotaped a roundtable discussion, which included David Lopez, Lisa C., Amanda, Kim and Steven.

- A snapshot of the video will be ready to share at the CAC's Open House.
- ◆ PAN
 - The group will meet in the new year.
- ◆ Alta Board
 - Alta's Board of Directors met on July 23rd.
 - Our "Meeting Our Mission" segment highlighted a client and her mother who came to share how Alta has helped the client navigate their home with greater independence and safety by assisting with installing a ceiling track system and a bathroom modification.
 - Lori shared information about the TBL that DDS released on July 14th.
 - John provided an overview of Alta's Ray-Ban Meta Supported Employment Pilot – the smart glasses are being used as a job-coaching and workplace-support tool for up to ten individuals with developmental disabilities.
- ◆ ARCA-CAC
 - The group met on August 28th and discussed the ARCA Academy Breakout Session, which will share the ARCA-CAC priorities and how to ensure people with disabilities engage in Board dialogue.
 - They may change their name to "People with Lived Experience".
 - The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18th, from 10:30 a.m. to noon via Zoom.

4. **Public Comments/Announcement**



- Alta is hosting a virtual Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Training on Friday, September 11th, from 1 to 2 p.m. Registration is required.
- California Autistic Self Advocates (CASA) will be voting for their new Officers for the 2027 calendar year. Elections will be on November 2nd.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Lisa West
Executive Secretary

cc: ACRC Board of Directors
Lori Banales