

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Members Present:** Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Nancy Eddy, DPAC; Will Sanford, Futures; Ron Halog, CRIL; Craig Rose, CIWP; Rhonda McGlashan, Compas; Jonathan Stickels, Enriching Lives; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Leslie Werosh Visbal, Ability Now; Julia Lowe, Dungarvin; Jan Behr, Stepping Stones.

**Guests Present:** Sandi Soliday, DD Council; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Greg Simons, Las Trampas; Ashanti Moore, CPES/Novelles; Lori Ojeda, Sonia Corina; Salina Patel, George Mark Children's House; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Amy Houcle, Novelles; Beth DeWitt, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Denise Bradley, Harambe; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Jordan Noyes, Maxim Healthcare; Mike Palomino, Maxim; Vi Ibarra, DD Council; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Shani Steward, The ARC; Arden Fredman, NIAD; Kenneth Breedlove, Alternative Learning Center.

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 9:40 am. Introductions. February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 minute approval- (M/Leslie Visbal; S/Nancy Eddy). Approved with corrections.

**RCEB/State- Lisa Kleinbub**

- Currently waiting for DDS to submit its application around self determination for federal approval. There are still many infrastructure issues that need to be resolved, including how it will be rolled out, what kind of Fiscal Management Services (FMS) will be needed, and how caseloads will be established.
  - Vi Ibarra is chairing the local self determination advisory committee.
  - There will be many informational sessions for consumers and families, both live and web based.
- In regards to the Development Center closures, there are approximately 46 RCEB consumers still residing at Sonoma DC, but consumers are moving out weekly. There are homes that are still under construction, but it is anticipated that all RCEB folks will move out by the end of summer
  - There were funds for developing resources for people moving out of the DCs for several years, however, those funds are now going to be available to develop projects to serve the overall community. In the near future, guidelines on how to submit proposals for these projects.
    - It will be the regional centers submitting proposals to DDS for what projects are needed in local areas.
    - Have already begun addressing higher priority needs, such as housing and programs addressing unmet needs.
  - Working with DDS on the development of the Northern California Star Services. Currently, these services are at Sonoma DC and Fairview DC, and they will develop three crisis homes in Northern California to provide services to adults in extreme crisis services. The three 5-bed facilities will be run and staffed by the state, and are intended to be very short stays.

- RCEB is working on developing another community crisis home and hopeful that it will open by the end of the year. It is believed that it will have a delayed egress.
- There are two new Regional Center executive directors. North Bay Regional Center has selected Gabriel Rogin as its new Executive Director and Kern Regional Center has selected Michi Gates as its new Executive Director.
- The governor gave proposed budget in February. In it, there is no proposed increase for rates, but there is growth in the budget for caseloads. There is no proposed increase in salary figures.
- The State Assembly had a budget hearing on March 7th. Last year there was a bill introduced by Holden to allow rates to be adjusted based on local minimum wages, but the governor didn't like the bill, and it ultimately died in the Senate. The issue of local minimum wages was brought up again at the hearing.
  - Advocates discussed a 4% rate increase while waiting for the Rate Study to be completed.
  - It was broadly discussed that in high cost regions where providers are paying higher wages than the state minimum, and submitting requests for minimum wage, are not getting approved because they are already paying higher than minimum wage. Assembly members on the budget committee seemed surprised that that increase was not getting passed through in high cost areas.
  - There was discussion around the uniform 14 day holiday schedule which the governor wants to return to. It seemed as if the Assembly would have rejected the proposal, but it appeared that there was a protocol problem of who could introduce the motion to reject it. Members were directed to look at the cost of a ten day holiday schedule, and also if no uniform holiday schedule is implemented.
  - There were proposals to restore social recreational services and camping services.
  - There was a proposal to increase the age for eligibility for Regional Center services to age 22, which possibly intends to match the Federal definition of developmental disability eligibility.
  - The State Senate will have a budget hearing on March 15th.
- March is when Regional Centers go out into the community and share Purchase of Service data. RCEB has already provided this data in a number of forums. The meetings are posted on RCEB's website and anyone is welcome to attend. The meetings are an opportunity for people to voice needs that not being met and help RCEB to address disparities and develop new services. As a result of last years proposals, RCEB had five projects supported for community services.
- RCEB is currently undergoing it's audit that occurs every two years. It began in mid February and continues through March.
- Will Sanford announced that California's plan for HCBS Settings Rule got initial approval.

#### **Presentation: Person Centered Planning - Trudy Grable**

- Geneva Zioure announced that Trudy Grable is unable to attend due to illness and that her presentation will be rescheduled in the future.

#### **Reports**

##### **RCEB Staff- Beth Dewitt**

- The audit is continuing, but going well, with about two weeks remaining. She mentioned one thing that's been highlighted is that RCEB is out of compliance with their DS1891 forms. They

have been calling and even going out to visit vendors who have not submitted this form. Beth asked for people with concerns over confidentiality to contact her. RCEB is in the process of creating a database to track this so they can be more proactive to stay current. The system will be kept private with limited access, and that the system will allow confidential information to be blacked out and redacted before it's scanned into the system. Will Sanford mentioned that some regional centers had gone totally online, but Beth responded that she's looked into it, and that satisfaction is not very high. Donna Feingold expressed the concern that the file be deleted from the email system once it's been received, to which Beth replied that she would instruct staff to make sure that this is being done. Dan Hogue commented that his board members have requested the documented process that RCEB uses to ensure the information is secured.

- RCEB has set up a system for case managers to more easily encrypt information they are sending out. The new system will send an email that contains a link to open the file. Recipients will need to create a password that they'll use to open the encrypted files. Beth asked that if people are receiving information that is not encrypted to please let her know so she can make sure that RCEB staff are being trained properly.
- RCEB has traditionally vendored homes with six beds. This is based on how vendors want to set up their homes and what RCEB's needs are. However, most of the state have already converted to the four bed model. DDS has increased the rates for homes with five beds or less, so RCEB wants to start the discussion about moving in this direction, which is also in line with the HCBS settings rule. Beth mentioned that existing homes have been converting to four bed homes for various reasons since the rate increase was implemented. This is not something that current home providers are going to be forced to do, but something that would be in place for newly opened homes. Beth requested input from providers. Dan Hogue mentioned that even though the rate is higher for fewer beds, when you factor in the cost of staffing, there is a net loss of approximately \$600 - \$650 per month. Will Sanford added that with the shortage of accessible housing, converting six bed homes to four beds would further impact the system. Beth responded that four beds are better than zero beds. Sister Marygrace voiced the concern that four is not necessarily the best number, and that with more people in the home, there are increased options for support. Nancy Eddy asked that people be consider shared communication when bringing people together in a home. Donna Feingold added that it was about choice and that people should have options.
- Mike Minton gave an update on the status of the HCBS settings rule. Currently there are six states with approved plans. California's plan has contingency approval, however, it is unclear what the next step is. At some point in the future another self survey will go out to providers, and this one will be mandatory. Will Sanford mentioned that since there has been no new survey, final approval for California is most likely still far off. Mike mentioned that person centered planning will be a core to the plan. Currently he is providing person centered training, which is a three hour discussion, open to everybody and anybody. RCEB has started an evaluation committee to review programs that submitted proposals to develop training programs on person centered planning. Of the programs that have submitted proposals, three were selected and the process to of reviewing them has begun. Also, for programs that submitted request for HCBS grants, it should be around mid March that it is know which were approved.

**Break-10 Minutes**

### **RCEB Board- Sister Marygrace**

- The RCEB Board met on February 26. Sister Marygrace invited anyone who's never attend a board meeting to come. She mentioned that the board has a president, Kathy Hebert and that she's easy going, funny, and very observant, and that she's a great example of how to conduct a board meeting.
- Most of the time was spent talking about service that are coming up based on the needs in the community from the closure of Sonoma DC. They reviewed and approved four contracts for supported living housing for 15 people each. Contracts for two community placement programs, with four people in each home which are specifically for the elderly who are moving from Sonoma DC, were also reviewed and approved. These individuals will need extensive medical care and some behavioral supports. The board additionally reviewed and approved the contract from DDS giving more financial support to RCEB.
- RCEB is looking at line of credit for \$13 million.
- The board unanimously voted to extend three existing board members, Chi Lee, treasurer; Mike Treppa, budget and finance chair, and Gwen Butler, consumer advisory VP.
- The Consumer Advisory Committee made a report about self determination. They also would like more consumers to join the group to advise the Regional Center. The CAC meets every other Monday from 4:00pm-5:30pm at the San Leandro RCEB location. Will Sanford asked if the CAC was looking for specific county representation, but Sister Marygrace stated that people from either county would be welcomed. Nancy Eddy asked if interpreter services would be provided, to which Lisa Kleinbub confirmed that if needed, would be provided. Additionally people would need to be able to get to the meeting on their own, but RCEB would transport them home afterwards.
- The Diversity and Equity subcommittee is very active in both counties. A virtual presentation is being offered from March 20th - 31st to explain the data about the number of people being served and how they being served. There are going to be continuing cultural competency trainings to address bias.
- There's a new support group, Madres Unidas, for mothers who are emotionally and physically drained due to the intensity of care for their children. Most of them have younger children. The group meets monthly at Center of Well Being. The format allows them to talk about their children, a session to share resources, time spent doing meditations followed by short affirmations, and session spent on themselves with a practitioner. Referrals come from case managers.

### **SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheradan Nicolau**

- No report.

### **DD Council- Sandi Soliday & Vi Ibarra**

#### **Alameda County**

- The Transition Fair will be held on March 24th, so the council will not be meeting this month. Sign ups for tables at the Transition Fair are still available, but Sandi needs to be contacted immediately.

- The next council meeting will be 4/13. Stephen Dale, from The Dale Law Firm, will be giving a presentation on Life Passage Planning Project. The goal is to improve quality of life.
- The next Health and Wellness meeting is on 4/27. At the previous meeting, people broke up into three work groups. One to increase referrals to Schreiber Center, one to focus on crisis stabilization, and one to engage with public defender and DA's office.
- The next East Bay Employment Taskforce meeting is on 3/23 in San Leandro, adjacent to RCEB. Aaron Coutts, the Work and Incentive Director from Social Security will be giving and in depth look at wages and benefits.

### **Contra-Costa County**

- The next council meeting will be on 3/28 at RCEB in Concord. The board is looking to recruit new members to fill seats for those whose terms are ending, including the board chair.
- The next East & Central Providers Meeting is on 3/12 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm at the George Miller Center in Concord
- Self determination pre-enrollment meetings will be taking place throughout both counties. Vi is happy to partner with any agency that wants to host a meeting. Please contact Vi if you already have groups that are congregating at location and would like to have a present on self determination. If you want self determination, you need to attend one of these meetings. This will be an ongoing effort, and online resources are being considered.
- The Transition Task Force will be presenting the second of the four part Crossroad Series will be on 3/15 at RCEB in Concord from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Stephen Dale will be giving a presentation on getting and protecting benefits.

### **East Bay Legislative Coalition- Will Sanford**

- On a federal level, HR 620 passed out of the House of Representatives. This bill puts the issue of accessibility onto individuals. Not only would individuals have to report, but they would specifically have to report on which areas the business was in violation, so it possess a significant access challenge.
- EBLC met on 3/7 and reviewed several bills, and voted to support three bills. AB 2039 by Fong, which would allow contributions to a CalABLE account to be tax deductible. AB2171 by Frazier which will ensure a coordinated delivery of services from DDS, DOR, and Dept of Ed for youth. AB3074 by Frazier which will allow day services to offer individualized services in addition to day services to better push integrated employment outcomes.
- EBLC is in support of AB2657, which address the use restraints/exclusion.
- CalABLE was targeted to start this month, but the contractor backed out, so it's been put on hold.
- Electronic Verification Visit (EVV) has been delayed. Currently there are huge issues in terms of privacy and confidentiality. California doesn't have a clear plan and it will not make the January 1, 2019. It also poses an increase in costs without the funding to support it.
- The DS Task Force Rate Study Workgroup recently had a public meeting, and will be holding a Workgroup members only meeting on March 16 to go through the rate study materials.
- The State Assembly held budget hearings on 3/7. LOA gave their report on the assets from the DC closures, both on the operating costs as well as the land, and that it should be used for affordable, accessible housing. There was a lengthy discussion on local minimum wages in high costs regions. Opposition to the proposed 14 day uniform holiday schedule was discussed. The request to fund Best Buddies was discussed for the first time in a budget hearing; in which Will

asked why one provider gets funding no questions asked, and this funding is for recreational services, which we have been asking to have restored.

- The State Senate budget hearings are on 3/15. There will be probably a few DDS driven agenda items that will carry over from the Assembly hearing, but there were four or five Assembly member asks which may not carry over to the Senate hearing.
- The next EBLC meeting is on 4/4 at Alameda Public Health in Oakland.
- Sandi Soliday shared pictures from the Legislative Breakfast.
- Ron Halog mention the Federal Senate Bill S.2227, the Empowerment Care Act which extends and strengthens the Money Follows the Person program. Makes sure that if people are moving from a facility into the community, those Medicaid dollars follow that person.

### **Programs- Representative**

- Geneva Zioure announced that Shannon Beatty might be interested in the Programs Chair position, so the board can put it to a vote at the April PVAC meeting
- There will be a presentation on the Schriber Center at the April PVAC meeting.
- Geneva announced that there would be a Day Program providers meeting taking place after the April PVAC Meeting at 12:00pm. Dan Hogue and Greg Simons will be facilitating the April meeting and asked those who are attending notify Dan by email so he plan for food. Geneva mentioned that PVAC has not had the opportunity to officially vote on having the Day Program providers group become a committee of PVAC, and open that idea up for discussion. Will Sanford moved that an ad hoc committee of PVAC be formed called Day and Employment Service Provider Group. It was seconded by Ron Halog. During discussion, Will Sanford mentioned that other regional centers are implementing similar groups to help get out HCBS information and training on compliance to all vendor groups. It passed unanimously and will be brought before the RCEB Board.

### **Membership- Nancy Eddy**

- Nothing to report.

### **Public Comments - Announcements**

- Will Sanford announced that the ARC US is proposing March 29th as a Day in the Community, a day for people with developmental disabilities to be out in the community to be present and raise awareness.
- Will Sanford announced that on 3/20, from 5:00pm-9:00pm at Bankhead Theater in Livermore to premier videos that folks at Futures have produced.
- Dan Hogue announced that Las Trampas conducted a survey for DSPs within their agency to gain insight on what's going on with their DSPs and how those employees feel about the status of their position and work, and the impact of the wages. The survey reflected that morale was high and that people love their jobs, but that they hate the pay. The outcome is to take statistical data when meeting with legislators, and show them that DSPs love their job, but are leaving this field. 109 surveys were given to employees, and 89 completed them.
- Donna Feingold announced the Adaptive Learning Center, in partnership with the TOPS program, will be hosting its annual Autism Walk at 9:30am on 4/21 in Concord. A flyer will be going out.

- Sandi Soliday mentioned that at an Autism Society of Bay Area meeting a fact sheet was shown revealed 37% of the DDS caseload is people with autism. Also that March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month.
- Denise Bradley from Harambe announced that they will be holding a listening session for parents with children who have had behavioral crisis situations where they've gathered data on the types of crisis they're dealing with. The session will be held in San Leandro on 3/25, from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Registration by phone is required.
- Beth DeWitt announced that RCEB offering diversity training. It will be held at the Concord office on 3/20 and the San Leandro office on 3/29. The workshop runs from 9:00am-3:00pm at both locations. The workshop is free to attend. Email Karen Shuttleworth to confirm attendance.
- Sylvia Yee FCSN is presenting it's 4th annual Special Needs Talent Showcase on 3/24, from 7:00pm-9:00pm at the Santa Clara Convention Center Theater.
- Lisa Kleinbub announced an autism event that the San Leandro Police Depart is holding on 4/2. They are selling patches for police officers to wear about autism awareness. The money raised will go to RCEB's Helping Hands fund.
- Jan Behr announced that Stepping Stones is holding a disability awareness event on 3/30 from 10:00am-2:00pm at their space at 311 MacArthur in San Leandro. Their campaign is called Better Together and they will be selling t-shirts.
- Ron Halog announced an event to raise money for Special Olympics called Tip a Cop. The event is taking place at Don Jose's in Castro Valley on 3/9, from 6:00pm-9:00pm. Tips to the officers goes to Special Olympics

Meeting Adjourned at 11:46 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary