

PUBLIC MEETINGS
May 31, 2019
Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)

Report on the implementation of the requirements of California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4519.5.

Required data for 2017-2018 was posted on the RCEB internet web site by December 31, 2018. This information remains posted as does the data for previous years.

The law (W and I Code, Section 4519.5 (e)) requires that the regional center meet with stakeholders in one or more public meetings regarding the data.

“The meeting or meetings shall be held separately from any meetings held pursuant to Section 4660. The regional center shall provide participants of these meetings with the data and any associated information, and shall conduct a discussion of the data and the associated information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for that community, including providing alternative communication services, as required by Sections 11135 to 11139.7, inclusive, of the Government Code and implementing regulations. Regional centers shall inform the department of the scheduling of those public meetings 30 days prior to the meeting. Notice of the meetings shall also be posted on the regional center’s Internet Web site 30 days prior to the meeting and shall be sent to individual stakeholders and groups representing underserved communities in a timely manner. Each regional center shall, in holding the meetings required by this subdivision, consider the language needs of the community and shall schedule the meetings at times and locations designed to result in a high turnout by the public and underserved communities.”

In order to identify times and locations designed to result in a high turnout by the public and underserved communities, input was requested from the monthly meeting of the Diversity and Equity Committee of the RCEB Board of Directors. This process was utilized last year. Suggestions included holding the meetings paired with a training, identifying events that are already happening in the community, holding meetings on weekends, and having translation in multiple languages.

Based on this input, potential locations and times were identified and confirmed with hosts. Translators were scheduled. The meetings were properly noticed 30 days in advance. The public meetings were announced on the RCEB website. The announcement was updated as additional meetings were added. Several groups requested to have presentations held at their locations. Information was included in RCEB board packets and sent to a board mailing list. Announcements were made at community meetings attended by staff prior to the scheduled dates of public meetings. For meetings in conjunction with other groups, the meetings were also announced by the groups to their regular attendees. The posted schedule is included as Attachment “Schedule” to this report.

Seven public meetings were scheduled:

- 1) Saturday February 23rd at 1:00 PM at La Familia Counseling Services in Hayward, California. The presentation was conducted in Spanish.
- 2) Saturday, February 23rd at 4:30 PM at Friends of Children with Special Needs in Fremont. This session was at the same time as a regular support group is held. Translation was offered in Mandarin and Cantonese. Families routinely attend, and childcare/dinner were provided.
- 3) Saturday, March 2nd at 1:00 PM in Oakland, CA in conjunction with a regularly attended support group. Translation in Chinese was announced.
- 4) Tuesday, March 5th at 9:00 AM in Concord, California. This session was conducted in Spanish.
- 5) Friday, March 15th at 4:00 PM in the RCEB San Leandro office. This location was announced with translation in Vietnamese. Announcements were sent by case managers to families with follow up phone calls. Dinner was provided. The location is accessible by public transportation.
- 6) Thursday, March 21th at 10:00 AM in Richmond, California. This session was conducted in Spanish during a regular morning support group for Spanish speaking parents.
- 7) Saturday, March 30th, at 10:00 AM in Brentwood, California.

Meetings:

PowerPoint Presentation Available at www.rceb.org

Minutes in Attached Minutes 19

February 23, 2019

Attendees: 29

February 23, 2019

Attendees: 200

March 2, 2019

Attendees: 42

March 5, 2019

Attendees: 13

March 15, 2019

Attendees: 32

March 21, 2019

Attendees: 13

March 30, 2019

Attendees: 90

Total attendees at Public Meetings in February-March 2019: 419

Summary of comments:

- Need to develop programs to address the needs of consumers living in East and far East Contra Costa, including Day Programs, Housing, Job Training, and community events, among others.
- Concerns about inability to use much needed services such as respite due to restrictive policies.
- Need for service coordinators to adopt a proactive approach and inform families about services available that can make a difference for the consumer/family.
- More efficient process during diagnosis so that young children do not miss early intervention services.
- Need to restore social recreational services
- Better preparation for parents before attending IEP and IPP meetings and provide access to RC information through social media.

It appears that meetings held at familiar locations and/or in conjunction with other events generated a larger turnout of attendees. The comments from each meeting are included in the attached minutes (Minutes 19).

Identified Disparities in the POS data

Annual authorizations and expenditures for consumers 22 and over are provided in the table below:

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$34,737	\$30,462
Asian	\$27,242	\$23,395
Other	\$32,011	\$26,924
Latino	\$26,692	\$22,759
White	\$46,814	\$40,182

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2016- 2017 Annual Authorizations	2017 – 2018 Annual Authorizations
African American	\$33,925	\$34,737
Asian	\$25,624	\$27,242
Other	\$31,713	\$32,011
Latino	\$25,932	\$26,692
White	\$43,850	\$46,814

Among those from age 3 through 21, there are also disparities although not the same pattern.

2017- 2018

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$9,352	\$7,024
Asian	\$8,930	\$5,897
Other	\$7,159	\$4,451
Latino	\$5,727	\$3,960
White	\$10,256	\$7,142

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2016-2017 Annual Authorizations	2017 -2018 Annual Authorizations
African American	\$9,624	\$9,352
Asian	\$8,980	\$8,930
Other	\$7,537	\$7,159
Latino	\$6,225	\$5,727
White	\$10,568	\$10,256

Adults At Home:

Among adults living at home, authorizations and expenditures are highest for those who identify as white and lowest for those who identify as Asian. Other groups are more consistent in authorizations and expenditures. What contributes to this disparity is unknown.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$17,320	\$12,966
Asian	\$15,014	\$11,598
Other	\$17,647	\$12,622
Latino	\$15,829	\$12,197
White	\$19,978	\$14,510

Year to Year

Ethnicity	Authorizations 2016-201	Authorizations 2017-2018
African American	\$ 16,876	17,320
Asian	\$ 13,760	15,014
Other	\$ 17,070	17,647
Latino	\$ 15,462	15,829
White	\$ 18,577	19,978

Adults Out of Home:

For adults living out of home, the authorizations and expenditures are similar among all groups except for African Americans. Out of home includes several types of living arrangements and supports. Are there differences in where people live based on ethnicity? Is this related to availability of services or another factor? This difference needs to be explored to identify whether there are unmet needs contribute to this disparity.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$50,168	\$45,963
Asian	\$61,300	\$56,250
Other	\$58,497	\$53,296
Latino	\$54,021	\$49,330
White	\$62,842	\$55,515

Year to Year

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations 2016-2017	Annual Authorizations 2017-2018
African American	\$48,480	\$50,168
Asian	\$59,105	\$61,300
Other	\$57,246	\$58,497
Latino	\$50,982	\$54,021
White	\$58,735	\$62,842

Among those from age 3 through 21, there are also disparities although not the same pattern.

	Annual Expenditures 2016 – 2017	Annual Expenditures 2017- 2018
African American	\$7,022	\$7, 024
Asian	\$6,226	\$5,897
Other	\$4,820	\$4,451
Latino	\$4,418	\$3,960
White	\$7,612	\$7,142

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2016-2017 Annual Authorizations	2017-2018 Annual Authorizations
African American	\$9,624	9.352
Asian	\$8,980	8,930
Other	\$7,537	7,159

Latino	\$6,225	5,727
White	\$10,568	10,256

Children At Home:

We assume most children residing at home receive educational and other services that are not funded by the regional center. In these groups, Asians and African Americans have the highest authorizations and expenditures. Latinos have the lowest expenditures in this group. Spanish speaking families have expressed difficulty in finding workers for respite and this may contribute to this disparity.

Are there socioeconomic factor that impact the identified needs of families.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$7,149	\$4,902
Asian	\$7,509	\$4,551
Other	\$6,410	\$3,688
Latino	\$5,313	\$3,544
White	\$6,662	\$3,885

Ethnicity	Authorizations 2016--2017	Authorizations 2017-2018
African American	\$7,541	\$7,149
Asian	\$7,664	\$7,509
Other	\$6,623	\$6,410
Latino	\$5,744	\$5,313
White	\$6,938	\$6,662

We believe the reduction in authorizations across ethnic groups may be explained by the transition of ABA services from the regional center to health insurance policies

Language:

The impact of language on purchase of service is significant. Disparities in purchase of service exist by language. In most cases, expenditures for those whose family language is other than English have lower purchase of service expenditures than those who speak English only. RCEB sorted our expenditure data by age/language/ and ethnic group. These are expenditures for adults by ethnicity and language.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$33,996
Spanish	\$19,330

Asian/Mandarin	\$30,497
Asian/Korean	\$26,067
Asian/Japanese	\$39,722
Asian/Cantonese	\$19,461
Asian/Vietnamese	\$11,897
Asian/Cambodian	\$10,072
Asian/Tagalog	\$20,788
Asian/Mien	\$6,225

Below is the chart of expenditures for Asians by language and ethnicity for children 3 years through 21 years. Disparities exist, however these are different than in the adult group.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$6,099
Asian/Cantonese	\$7,861
Asian/Japanese	\$9,759
Asian/Tagalog	\$6,430
Asian/Korean	\$8,897
Asian/Mandarin	\$5,675
Asian/Vietnamese	\$5,418
Asian/Mien	\$4,506
Asian/Cambodian	\$1,925

A reduction in the percentage of overall Asian consumers by language with no POS is evidenced in the following chart. We attribute this improvement to the adult services programs made available through the disparity funds program.

	2016-2017		2017-2018
ASL		6.7%	10.3%
English		12.8%	24.1%
Spanish		20.7%	26.8%
Cantonese		27.3%	25.8%
Mandarin	5.2%	29.5%	
Vietnamese	54.3%	37.0%	
Korean	25.6%	29.0%	
Cambodian	57.9%	57.1%	
Other Asian	15.4%	36.6%	
Mien	68.4%	50.0%	
Tagalog	31.7%	37.4%	
Arabic	30.8%	25.4%	
Farsi	29.4%	19.8%	
Hindi	8.7%	26.9%	

Urdu **25.0%** **20.3%**

Regional center's recommendations and plans to promote equity and reduce disparities:

These numbers have remained stable year to year. One of our projects funded this year is to support the development of services for those adults who are from monolingual families who have no purchase of service. We look forward to changes in the near future.

Implemented Strategies:

1. Three day programs funded through RCEB's Disparity Funds Program continue to provide services to adults with low or no POS. The populations served by these new programs include consumers who speak or whose family's primary language is Mien, Cambodian, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Spanish.
2. Three promotora/mentorship programs for populations affected by low or no POS were completed. The populations being served by these projects include: families whose primary language is Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Spanish. A similar program was implemented to serve Latino and African American families living in the far east of Contra Costa County. Finally, a child find project was implemented with an RCEB grant for families whose primary language is Farsi or Arabic.
3. Community Events: Several CBO have been awarded funds to implement community events for communities impacted by the inequities in the POS.
4. Translation of materials: several documents for the Early Start program have been translated into languages spoken by at least 50 families.

Progress reports as well as reports on completed projects from the list above, have been submitted as required by DDS.

Recommendations:

The following recommendations continue for our regional center based on our review of current data. There are definitely disparities between ethnic and language groups. We continue to work with our consumers, families, and community partners to identify solutions to promote equity. While we look forward to a more detailed understanding of the data in the future as the Department of Developmental Services conducts analysis, we are committed to addressing these issues now.

- 1) Continue to hold monthly Diversity and Equity committee meetings of the Board of Directors. These meetings regularly include 15-20 individuals representing the RCEB Board, staff, community partners, and service providers. This group serves as a way to get input on potential activities and to plan for outreach to our community.
- 2) Continue to employ staff who are bilingual to serve our consumers and families who are monolingual. Continue to use one contract delegate case management agency to provide case management to consumers and families who are monolingual Spanish speaking. RCEB is not

always able to identify trainers who speak multiple languages and will plan to request funding for translation headsets so that more languages can benefit from simultaneous translation.

3) Support conferences and other events in our community which provide education and information about regional center services to our diverse community in multiple languages. RCEB has historically supported Congreso Familiar in our Spanish speaking community. We have identified additional events for support including events in the Arabic and Farsi speaking communities, the Asian community, and others.

4) The purchase of service expenditures in Early Start vary by ethnicity and primary language. Within those identifying as Asian and white, overall expenses are highest. There are certain language groups who have lower expenditures including those who are Spanish speaking, Cantonese speaking, and Mandarin speaking. We would like to be able to provide startup funding for a provider who can serve these monolingual families to provide Early Start services in their natural environments in the family's language.

5) Recommend that sharing data for public comment on purchase of service expenditures not be limited to the first quarter of the year. RCEB's experience in holding meetings that were timed with other events allowed for increased attendance and the opportunity for a broader number of individuals to attend. However the requirement to complete this prior to March 31 of each year doesn't allow for information to be shared at many naturally occurring events.

6) Continue to increase the availability of materials in multiple languages and multiple modalities to explain potential services and the individual program plan/individual family service plan. We have been funded to translate Early Start materials into additional language. We intend to seek additional funding for more efforts for all ages.

7) Continue to update the RCEB website to make it easier to obtain information both on RCEB and community resources. Our website is now easily accessible on smart phones. During a number of our diversity and equity meetings, there has been discussion of the importance of increasing the use of text messaging and other hand held device communication methods.

8) Continue to actively work with community agencies to ensure that information and education on self-determination is provided to a broad range of communities. Self-determination may be a mechanism for individuals to access alternative services that are culturally and linguistically congruent.

9) Development of Residential and or ILS type services in new communities.

10) Continue efforts to address disparities that result from geographical isolation, especially in East and Far East Contra Costa County