

August 2015

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 2013-2014 was posted on the RCEB internet web site by December 31, 2014. 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. Suggestions included holding the meetings paired with a training, identifying events that are already happening in the community, holding meetings on weekends, having translation in multiple languages, holding meetings during daylight hours for safety, and having a web based virtual meeting.

Based on this input, potential locations and times were identified and confirmed with hosts. Translators were scheduled. The meetings were properly noticed. The public meetings were announced on the RCEB website and to community groups. Information was included in RCEB board packets and distributed to a mailing list for board packets. Announcements were made at community meetings attended by staff prior to the scheduled dates of public meetings [Click here for the posted schedule](#).

Four public meetings were scheduled.

One on a Saturday morning as part of a Lunar New Year celebration with translation in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Mien. This was at a location in Oakland familiar to many monolingual Asian speaking consumers and families.

One on a Wednesday at 4 PM at the RCEB Concord office. This meeting announced with translation in Spanish.

One meeting at 10:30 AM on a Thursday. This meeting was scheduled at a time and location of a regularly scheduled meeting of a Spanish speaking parents group. Translation in Spanish was announced.

One meeting on a Saturday at 4: 30 PM in Fremont at a Friends of Children with Special Needs program site where monthly family trainings are held. This meeting was announced with translation in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Korean.

RCEB posted a video sharing the data on our web site from March 20<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>.

A meeting was also held with Japanese and Tagalog translation at 10 AM on Saturday March 21<sup>st</sup>. Since the location wasn't confirmed thirty days in advance, this was not posted as a public meeting.

### **Meetings:**

#### **Link to Presentation**

March 7, 2015

Attendees:140

Minutes

March 18, 2015

Attendees:1

Minutes

March 26, 2015

Attendees: 25

Minutes

March 28, 2015

Attendees:50

Minutes

#### **Additional Meeting**

March 21, 2015

Attendees:18

Minutes

Total attendees at Public Meetings : 216

It appears that meetings held at familiar locations and /or in conjunction with other events generated a larger turnout of attendees.

### **Does the data indicate a need to reduce disparities ?**

The data indicates differences in purchase of service expenditures between ethnic groups and primary language groups. The data does not explain the reasons for these differences or provide analysis of the contributing factors. Socio-economic and educational background information is not collected. Only services purchased through regional centers are included however many consumers receive multiple services from other entities.

By age, the RCEB population under the age of 22 is far more ethnically diverse than the adult population. In reviewing both the data and outcomes from meetings, we find that since the diversity of the younger population is higher, we would expect differences in purchase of services authorizations between ethnic groups when looking at all ages combined Few children of all ethnic groups reside outside of the family home. In the population of adults , purchase of service expenditures often include out of home living arrangements. In addition, most youth receive services during the day through education. Adults are more likely to have regional center funded day time activities. Authorizations would be expected to be higher among adults. It is important to review this data looking at age groups sorted by ethnicity. There are differences in purchase of service amounts by ethnicity in the adult age group. Annual authorizations for those 22 and over are listed below

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations
Caucasian	\$36, 890
African American	\$29, 715
Other	\$27, 453
Latino	\$24, 163
Asian	\$21, 058

Among the group of children under age 22 , there are also disparities although not the same pattern.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations
African American	\$9,227
Caucasian	\$9,206
Asian	\$8,985
Other	\$8,667
Latino	\$7, 565

There are differences between ethnic groups although why these differences exist is not clear. We have observed differences in where adults reside among adults of different ethnicities which may account for some disparities. Living arrangements outside of the family home are more costly than supports provided to individuals residing with family. Other services not funded by the regional center that support those individuals living with family such as in home support services (IHSS) are not reflected in this data. These issues need to be explored further. It is not clear why the disparities do not appear as large between different ethnic groups in the population of children. The annual authorizations for Latino children are clearly lower than other groups.

## Language.

Disparities in purchase of service exist for certain linguistic groups. 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	\$28,235
Asian/All	\$17,567
Asian/Mandarin	\$25,772
Asian/Korean	\$21,237
Asian/Japanese	\$25,772
Asian/Cantonese	\$13,770
Asian/Vietnamese	\$7,006
Asian/Cambodian	\$5,163
Asian/Tagalog	\$14,247
Asian/Mien	\$9,436

Among Asian adults, there are definitely disparities between all consumers who speak English and Asians as an aggregate group. There are also disparities between individuals who are Asian and have varied primary languages. The disparities appear greater depending on individual's primary language . The intersectionality of ethnicity, language, and other socioeconomic factors needs to be considered. Are there cultural and language factors that need to be addressed to provide services for some language groups.

Below is the chart of expenditures for Asians by language and ethnicity for children 3 years through 21 years. There are disparities however these are different than in the adult group. Why is not clear from the data.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$6352
Asian/All	\$6328
Asian/Cantonese	\$8836
Asian/Japanese	\$8591
Asian/Tagalog	\$6970
Asian/Korean	\$6181
Asian/Mandarin	\$5890
Asian/Vietnamese	\$4986
Asian/Mien	\$4,731
Asian/Cambodian	\$499 ( 3 individuals)

RCEB also reviewed the data for Latinos in a similar manner as with the Asian population. . Below is RCEB expenditures for the group over 22 years. Disparities exist between expenditures for all consumers and those who are Latino and there is a more significant disparity for those who use Spanish as the primary language. We know that more Latino adults reside with their families and this may account for some of the difference.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$28,235
Latino/All	\$20,415
All/Spanish	\$18,039

The data below is for children ages-21 years. . The disparities between groups based on ethnicity and language exist but don't appear as significant as in the adult population. This need to be explored further.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$6,352
Latino/All	\$5,383
All/Spanish	\$5,121

#### Recommendations and Plans.

- 1) Continue to hold monthly Diversity and Equity committee meetings of the Board of Directors. These meetings regularly include 15-20 community members who report to the Board of Directors on serving our diverse community.
- 2) Continue to employ staff who are bilingual to serve our consumers and families who are monolingual. Continue to use two contract delegate case management agencies to provide case management to consumers and families who are monolingual.
- 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.
- 4) Support the creation of support groups in diverse communities . Plan to support the development of a support group for families whose primary language is Farsi.
- 5) Identify communities that may not be represented in expected numbers in the population of regional center consumers and consider outreach events.



- 6) 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. RCEB did share the information at a Congreso Familiar event for Spanish speaking families in April however this is not considered a public meeting due to the time frames in law.
- 7) Increase the availability of materials in multiple languages and multiple modalities to explain potential services and the individual program plan/individual family service plan .
- 8) Update the RCEB website to make it easier to obtain information both on RCEB and community resources. Website to be easily accessible on smartphones.
- 9) Focus on resource development that will address the needs of our diverse community including those that are able to meet language needs and are culturally congruent . RCEB will work with our community to identify innovative models of service that meet the needs of consumers and families.
- 10) Recommend that the data on our purchase of service expenditure and input from public meetings be shared with our Provider Vendor Advisory Committee so they are aware of the needs of our community.
- 11) 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 appropriate.