

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes May 11th, 2018**

Members Present: Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass; Ron Halog, CRIL; Julia Lowe, Dunganrvin; Will Sanford, Futures; Maureen Wright, Respite Inn; Craig Rose, CIWP; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Jan Behr, Stepping Stones.

Guests Present: Alex Mountford, Manos; Esther Wong, Consultant; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Michael Minton, RCEB; Lori Ojeda, Sonia Corina; Denise Bradley, Harambee; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Shani Stewart, ARC; Greg Simons, Las Trampas; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Sandi Soliday, DD Council; Amy Houcle, Novelles; Priscilla Law, Ability Now; Susie Passeggi, Castro Valley Adult Ed; Emily Correia; ELM, Inc.; ; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Beth DeWitt, RCEB.

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:42 am. Introductions. March 9th, 2018 minute approval-(M/Will Sanford; S/Ron Halog). April 13th, 2018 minute approval-(M/Rhonda McGlashan; S/Will Sanford); one abstention.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa gave an update on the budget, stating only that the Governor's May revise was expected to be released very soon.
- Lisa mentioned that things are moving forward with Sonoma Developmental Center closure. Initially it was anticipated that all the placements would have been made by the end of July, it's looking like it will trail over into September/October. Delays are coming due to complications with getting housing completed. The extra time is being used for additional transitional planning. Additionally, Lisa reported that another community crisis home opening in Oakley/Brentwood by August. Also, the state is working on the Northstar Homes which are acute crisis for Northern California which will be located someone in the northern part of the state and will do what the acute crisis Northstar Homes at Sonoma Developmental Center currently is doing. They will be state run facilities, but and RFP went out for the property to be developed by a housing developer, which the state will then lease.
- Lisa gave an update on the Burns and Associates rate study. Lisa encouraged people to think about how we can get the most information from our community into the rate study. She asked that if anyone had ideas about how we can get together to ensure that everyone gets support in completing the study. Lisa mentioned that there may be drawbacks to the rate study, but it is what the state is going to be using to develop their proposals around rates for our system that go to legislature. She added that as much as possible, identify good data so the legislature has that to work with. She also mentioned that other regional centers are having open houses with computers set up so people can make their entries together, which may provide beneficial support to smaller providers. Lisa stated that she is interested in getting feedback on how RCEB might be able to implement something similar to support each other.
 - Will Sanford agreed that some sort of peer assistance would be beneficial and added that when the first round of AB2_X funding reports were due, ARCA had done something similar where larger providers came in and offered technical assistance. He further added that since we are in an area with a lot of nuances, especially with local minimum wage issues, it would be in our best interest to get as much data as possible. The rate study spreadsheet is going to be overwhelming with 150+ tabs long, but smaller programs are only going to be

required to fill out three or four tabs. It looks more daunting that it really is, so tackling it together and doing training together could help to alleviate some of the concerns. Will Sanford added that at the Alameda DD Council meeting, Kevin Rath, the Executive Director of Manos Home Care presented an alternate method of data collection, which Will felt would be worthwhile to support because it would provide data that the Burns and Associates doesn't address.

- Geneva Ziaoure added information on the alternative method that the California Respite Association and the California Supporting Living Network, two trade associations, are hiring Armanino, a national accounting firm, and Brightwell, a marketing firm that helped the Lanterman Coalition with their 10 Campaign. Together, they are going to be doing their own rate study, but based on labor and marketing conditions, starting with the Oakland area.
- Sandi Soliday mentioned that the DD Councils would assist in whatever way to get the word out about this alternative study and how to support it.
- Donna Feingold mentioned that she hoped this was the time that people recognize that the jobs for DSPs has changed significantly over the decades, and that it has become a much more complicated and demanding job, with considerably higher outcome requirements. As people are moving away from large congregate settings, staff needs to be autonomous, have good judgement, and have good communication skills. She added that we need high quality people to work with and the people we serve. Our folks are too vulnerable to be supported by people who don't have good qualifications. She stressed that she does not want a workforce that lives in poverty. We need to get away from minimum wage and talk about living wages. We need to come together regardless of the services we provide and make that point with a single voice. We have to raise the bar.
- Denise Bradley mentioned that there is such a huge push on training, but at minimum wage, you can't train a paraprofessional to have a bachelors or masters degree. Without the means to pay a competitive salary, we are not going to be able to attract and retain capable staff. At minimum wage, we have to rely on staff with educational deficits that can be trained away. No matter how much training they receive, they are not going to get to the skill level necessary to work with people who have extremely challenging behaviors.
- Ron Halog asked Geneva if Kevin could give a presentation on his alternative study to PVAC.
- Lisa concluded by indicating that we would need to see what came out of the May budget revise and that until we have living wages, the budget simply isn't going to be enough. Additionally, that there are many places that we can intersect with poverty and education. She said that she is hopeful for an improvement in a way that our services get cost of living increases on a regular basis, and that she wants to see a sustainable model.
- Lisa announced that there's word that Assembly member Frazier's select committee will have a kickoff at the capitol sometime in early June. Jim Frazier will be having meetings throughout the state in the districts where all the people from his committee are located, and can expect to have at least one meeting in our area. Once dates are confirmed, Lisa stated that she would share that information. The goal of the meetings is to have targeted conversations on issues specific to our community.
- Lisa mentioned that Self Determination continues to proceed, but are waiting for approval of the waiver from the federal government. The current plan was returned to the state with a few questions, some around electronic tracking.
 - Will Sanford added that the questions were specifically about remote monitoring and privacy concerns, so rather than address it now, DDS decided to pull that portion from California's plan, and revisit it once the waiver is in place, and amend it.

- Lisa continued that once the waiver is in place, it does not mean that individuals will be immediately chosen, that there is still considerable planning that needs to be done before self determination can be implemented. Additionally, she mentioned that RCEB continues to host and work with community partners to have presentations and meetings for potential enrollees, and that there is also a powerpoint presentation online in English and Spanish, and that there has been a positive response.

Presentations: Recruitment and Retention

Presentation 1 - Recruiting Diverse Staff: Beatrice Lee, Diversity in Health Training Institute

- Beatrice Lee gave an overview of the Diversity in Health Training Institute, and also the possibility of building partnerships to establish a more diverse workforce.

Presentation 2 - Quillo DSP Engagement Software: Video presentation by John Dickerson, www.myquillo.com

- The video presentation by John Dickerson gave an overview of the Quillo software program which focuses on supporting and retaining staff.

Break-10 Minutes

Reports

RCEB Staff - Beth Dewitt

- Beth mentioned that Margy Kane retired at the end of April, and announced that Mike Minton would be taking over the position of Quality Assurance Supervisor. Additionally, Mike will supervise his previous position as HCBS Specialist while RCEB is in the process of looking for someone to fill that role.
- Beth noted that contracts for supported living are being reviewed and modified slightly, and that she and Jacob Hulthage are working with RCEB's attorney to ensure that the correct language is present. In addition to this, Beth asked that everyone review the BAA (Business Associate Agreement), and that will probably be posting a newer version of it because of changes to employment laws.
- Beth thanked everyone for both completing DS1891 forms and getting out the word to other agencies, as RCEB has been receiving them.
- Beth concluded with the announcement that she will be leaving RCEB at the end of May to take on the role of Chief Case Management at North Bay Regional Center, and that the search has begun for her replacement.

HCBS Update - Michael Minton

- Michael announced that in the current round of grants, of the 40 RCEB vendors who submitted proposals, 20 of them received grants, which was well above any other regional center, and will be bringing about in about \$1.3 million to those providers.
- Michael mentioned that he contacted the grant recipients and that he would be scheduling time individually with them to review the specific details in how the grant money needs to be utilized.
- Michael added that with his new role, he is grateful that he will be able to supervise his replacement because he has made such a commitment to the getting out the final rule information to everyone.

RCEB Board - Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace mentioned that the RCEB Board met on April 23rd, and at that meeting it was announced that DDS finally completed RCEB's audit, which covered 2015-2016 and 2016-2017.
- The Board voted for an amendment to the bylaws, that the Board would meet nine times during the year, and one meeting dedicated for training.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee - Sheradan Nicolau

- No report

DD Council - Sandi Soliday & Vi Ibarra

Alameda County

- Sandi reminded everyone that the Annual Award Dinner meeting will be taking place on June 12th, at the Double Tree Hotel in Pleasanton. This hotel was chosen because they started a Project Search, and the council wanted to support their employers. Sandi added that the hotel is near BART and the hotel has a free shuttle. If it is not accessible, Will Sanford announced that Futures would provide assistance to fill that role.
- The next meeting is a planning meeting, and to please note that it will take place on July 23, a Monday.
- The next East Bay Employment Taskforce is on May 25.
- The next EBLC meeting is on June 6.

Contra-Costa County

- No report

East Bay Legislative Coalition - Will Sanford

- Will announced that there really is no new news, and that everything that was in the original budget is still there, including the 14 day mandatory holiday schedule. Will encouraged people to attend hearings to testify, but to write down their comments in the event that they need to leave before they have a chance to speak.
- Will mentioned that the Lanterman Coalition has been hosting gubernatorial interviews. They're being presented on Facebook Live, but also being recorded so they can eventually be posted online for later viewing.
- Will mentioned bills that the ELBC is supporting. Lisa Kleinbub mentioned SB1494 which adds some service codes to Denti-Cal, including behavior management. Ron Halog mentioned AB1990, a budget ask that would create a fund out of proceeds from developmental centers to support low income housing for our folks.
- Lisa mentioned that the only change she saw with regards to rates increases in the DDS budget were in MediCal to fund nursing services at a 50% increase.
- Sandi Soliday added that Assemblymember Jim Frazier is receiving the Legislative Award at the Annual Award Dinner.

Programs - Representative

- Geneva Ziaoure mentioned that no presenter had been selected for June and asked people to send ideas.
 - Will Sanford suggested a presentation on the rate study, and Geneva said that she would reach out to Kevin Rath.
 - Donna Feingold suggested having someone give a presentation on CalABLE.

- o Julie Lowe thanked those who had brought and were bringing the programs to PVAC, and that she had followed up with one of the presenters to do a training at her program.
- o Susie Passeggi asked that bringing in someone with legal expertise to give a training rather than just a presentation when there is disparity between an individual's desire to work vs. a parent who does not want their adult child to work.
- o Will Sanford also suggested a training related to Self Determination to educate traditional service providers and how they can participate in this arena.
- o Donna Feingold asked when there would be a PVAC meeting in Contra Costa County, and Geneva replied that she would be seeking dates.

Day Services Provider Group Subcommittee-Representative

- Dan Hogue reported that the group is currently working on strategic planning and goal setting.

Membership - Nancy Eddy

- No report.

Public Comments - Announcements

- Heidi Bailey from East Bay Innovations announced that they are organizing an industry specific job fair to come together to reach out to potential staff members. They've spoken with One Stop in Hayward, who will host the event and do all the marketing to job seekers. The event is free, and Heidi would like to get at many programs to participate as possible, and had a sign up sheet for programs to receive additional information. The job fair will be hosted on June 26, from 10AM-1PM in Hayward.
- Susie Passeggi thanks Michael Minton and Rose Dowd for giving a training on HCBS and Person Centered Planning for the teachers at nearly all the adult schools with vendorized programs. Additionally, Susie reminded everyone that if they know anyone who is interested in the Dietary Aide Food Service training, the deadline to sign up at Castro Valley Adult School is June 29. The program is a two day a week year long program.
- Lisa Kleinbub added that she is very saddened by Beth DeWitt's departure, and that during her time here that Beth has really advanced a lot of things, such as HCBS and employment, and has really contributed new ideas and ways of thinking, especially serving on the management committee.
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Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary