

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 11:02 a.m. Introductions. Approval of April 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Sister Marygrace. Passed with corrections.

**RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub**

- Lisa mentioned that throughout the state in the service system, 212 people have tested positive for Covid-19, which is a very low number. Lisa said that she attributed the low number to people taking necessary precautions such as frequent handwashing, sheltering-in-place, and maintaining social distancing. Additionally, Lisa mentioned that there had been approximately 20 deaths.
- Lisa mentioned an update in state guidelines which confirmed that support personnel can accompany individuals with developmental disabilities at the hospital settings, and it was considered essential.
- Lisa mentioned that every community across the state along with DDS has been participating in surge planning for situations when there is not enough capacity in hospitals and people who tested positive for Covid-19 were not able to go back to their homes. Lisa added that there the plans for surge capacity will most likely remain in place until there is a vaccine.
- In terms of the budget, Lisa stated that the Governor expected a budget shortfall of 54 billion dollars over this and the next fiscal year. This is based on predictions due to high unemployment and the large amount of spending on Covid-19 related emergency response. Lisa mentioned that the Governor is really pushing for the federal government to release another relief package for the state. Lisa expected to see cuts in the Governor's May revise, which should be releasing the following.
- Lisa warned that everyone needs to prepare knowing that the state budget is facing significant shortfalls, and that things we had hoped for will not be there. She did note that the at least in California, we are seen as an essential service.
- Lisa mentioned that one question that keeps coming up is where are we in the stages of reopening, to which she said that it still something being talked about, suggesting that different people may be able to return to activities at different points in time; but to expect continued guidance regarding individuals who were medically fragile.
- Lisa predicted that in our area, the local public health is going to give the primary guidance on how we move through stages, and when the ability to go back to some normal functioning is there.
- Lisa mentioned additional guidance that had been release the day before regarding payments for non-residential services during the state of emergency. She reminded that the payments originated in the memo from March 12. She stated that the additional guidance provided more clarity on what the expectations from DDS were regarding documentation will be as they move forward. She stated that for one, that the claims should be reduced commensurate with any reductions in payroll. Another directive as for any claims submitted for May 2020, there's guidance that absence funds are provided based on the expectation that other sources aren't currently available. There is language that providers are expected to seek and apply for relief funding before receiving absence funding.
- Lisa responded to a question from the chat box regarding payments for non-residential services, stating that there was not an end date on the pay order because it is tied to the state of emergency. Lisa did add that on May 11, delivering remote services was set to expire; however, she said that she expected that to be extended.

- Will Sanford asked for more clarity on the new guidance that added language on seeking relief funding first, that for the loans in particular, are a business level decision, and not a program decision; so what a business applied for under PPP, might not have been for services that are covered for non-absences, so how was DDS going to differentiate.
- Will also asked for clarity on the remote services. He said that as of now, even providers who had implemented some remote programming were still billing for covid related absences. Going forward, he asked that DDS make clear guidelines on what remote service could be billed for.
- Dan Hogue expressed concern over the wording, explaining that a loan might applied over an entire organization, not just one particular program, so what would the impact be if reductions are applied based on the entirety of the loan instead of the portion related to a specific program.
- From the chat, Elizabeth Broderson asked how the new directive will impact April billing that has already been submitted. Lisa responded by stating that the directive mentions April, but maintaining documentation of the efforts made to reach out to people served.
- Donna Feingold asked if Lisa knew how long it would take to get clarity on the new directive. She stated that she had been approved for PPP, but after seeing the new directive, is uncertain if she even wants the loan.
- Sylvia Yeh asked what is RCEB's expectation once the shelter in place is lifted. She additionally asked, if the shelter in place is lifted on May 31<sup>st</sup>, are we expected to start serving clients on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lisa responded by saying that programs really need to start planning for what their services are going to look like based on safety guidelines such as social distancing and mask wearing.
- Dan Hogue made a comment in the chat expressing his concern that DDS was injecting itself into general business decisions.
- Sylvia Yeh asked if it was possible for RCEB to hold weekly meeting to discuss updates.

## Reports

### RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve stated that yesterday, they had sent out a survey for the community resource development plan. Once the surveys are received, RCEB does intend to still request funds from DDS; however, Steve added that his is not confident there will be much funding for resource development for next year's plan.
- Steve had received several additional program design amendments for services providing remote services for day program.
  - Steve asked people to continue to inform case managers that participants are in agreement to receive remote services.
- Mike Minton added that QA has reported that there are homes which are still resistive about remote services. Mike mentioned that at the previous week's providers' meeting, he had asked providers to let him know if they were getting resistance from homes.
  - Mike did note that some of the resistance was due to a lack of technology, a misunderstanding about funding, and some was attributed to general fears.
- Mike mentioned one big fear for group homes, was that they would be sending people out of the home, with the risk that they would return positive for Covid; so it's something that everyone just needs to be sensitive to.
- Fruc Menchavez stated that there has been no word on the next set of HCBS grants.

### **RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace**

- Sister Marygrace reported that the RCEB Board met remotely on 4/27, and that they approved two contracts from DDS.
  - A D5 which had to do with POS allocations, Sonoma placement allocation, and CPP placements.
  - An A3 which dealt with SB81 supplemental rate increase and regulations for CPP funds.
  - The board voted unanimously for both contracts.
- The Board had a vote, and voted unanimously for Evangeline Imura to continue as treasurer for another year.
- The CAC met to talk about shelter in place and all the impacts around that.
- The RCEB performance contract was presented by Ronke Sodipo, and that it is posted on the RCEB website. Sister Marygrace reported that the contract identifies how the regional center meets or exceeds DDS standards.

### **SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau**

- Sheraden thanked everyone who signed on to the PPE letter sent to the governor.
- The last RAC meeting was about a week ago. It was joined by five legislative offices.
- Sheraden announced the following upcoming meetings.
  - Statewide Self Advocate Advisory Committee meeting on 5/11 and will be held via Zoom.
  - Council meeting on 5/12 and will be held via Zoom.
  - On 5/15 and 5/20, the State Council is holding Covid-19 fraud awareness training.
  - The next statewide self-determination advisory committee meeting is on 6/9.
  - The next statewide advocacy network two-day meeting is on 6/24-6/25. These meetings will most likely be held via Zoom.
- The State Council is continuing to plan trainings and webinars. Sheraden added that if any individual or agency had a training topic they'd like presented to send her an email.
- The regional grant cycle 43 is issuing up to \$20,000 per region. People can apply for one or more regions towards a project. The proposals are due May 20<sup>th</sup>. In the bay area, the proposal focus is on areas of employment and health and safety.

### **DD Councils -**

- Alameda County – Geneva Ziaoure
  - Geneva announced that last Friday was Sandi's last day with Alameda County Department of Public Health.
  - Her replacement will start on June 1<sup>st</sup>, but is currently serving as a board advisor.
  - Ron Halog announced that the next meeting is on 5/13, and the discussion topic will be Breaking Barriers to Employment.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
  - Vi made an announcement that was from Contra Costa Health Dept.
    - There is hiring taking place for Covid tracing, with 25 positions being open for people not currently employed by the county.
      - Information is on the website
        - Minimum of a high school diploma
        - 6 months in health care or some college

- Vi mentioned that there had been ongoing questions about Covid testing, and that now testing in Contra Costa County is open to anybody who wants to get tested, regardless of insurance, but it is by appointment only.
- The next DD Council meeting will be on 5/27 via Zoom.
- Due to the cancellation of the Joint Annual Dinner meeting, the council will hold a regular meeting on 6/24, also via Zoom.

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

- Will announced that the Governor did a prerelease of Dept of Finance current projections, which was showing a \$54 billion shortfall over the current and next fiscal years.
  - Will put a link in the chat to an update sent out this morning from the LAO, that showed numbers are slightly lower, and provide greater detail on their assumptions.
  - There will be a second EBLC meeting in May, which will be on 5/20 at 10AM to review the budget and plan advocacy in the short term.
  - Will mentioned that Jim Frazier had a hearing for subcommittee 1, and spoke strongly that our system is kept as whole as possible going forward.
  - On a federal level, there is a push by several senators that our direct service professionals are considered as essential to have adequate PPE.

#### **Programs – Geneva Ziaoure**

- Geneva Ziaoure opened up discussion regarding any program concerns.
  - Amanda Eicher posted in the chat that getting documentation to RCEB on remote services programming we faxed to CCL, but it was bounced back. Amanda mentioned that they had difficulty keeping CCL in the loop when they made changes to their services. She added that just this week, however, CCL has made a push to check in with providers. Amanda added the if providers are having difficulty getting in contact with CCL, there is a specialist charged with knowing what is happening with programs.
  - Mike Pereira posted in the chat that the issues of reopening are being tackled by three-day program provider work groups and the hope is to address the nuances of each topic and create best practices to open safely for participants and staff. The goals of the workgroups will be designed to adapted to all service types, and the intent is share all the documents and findings to RCEB, as well as the local counties of public health; both Contra Costa and Alameda. He asked that you email him if you would like to participate.
  - Donna Feingold mentioned the monthly HireAble meeting that was held in April. The meeting is held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday.

#### **Membership - Leslie Visbal**

- Leslie announced that there were two individuals who were interested in joining the board. Leslie made a motion to approve Jennifer Carper and Amanda Eicher to join the PVAC membership. It was seconded by Craig Rose. They were unanimously approved via response in the chat.

#### **Announcements**

- Geneva made a comment about Governor Newsom's executive order allowing Covid worker's comp cases to go through, and putting the burden of proof on the employer that the employee did not

contract it through work. She added that normally the burden of proof is on the employee. She mentioned that she had heard a number of concerns from providers.

- Ron Halog announced that was coordinating with Deaf Plus to hold an Emergency Preparedness training on 6/19 at 2:00PM. It will be done completely in ASL. On 6/20<sup>th</sup>, Ron will be conducting a general training, as well.
- Sylvia Yeh repeated her request that RCEB would host a weekly meeting with updates.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:32PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary

DRAFT