

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes February 14th, 2020**

Members Present: Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Will Sanford; SC&CS; Leslie Visbal, Ability Now; Craig Rose, Vistability; Donna Feingold, ALC; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation;

Guests Present: Vi Ibarra, DD Council Contra Costa County; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Kenneth Breedlove, Alternative Learning Center; Cinthia Flores, Sonia Corina Inc; Emily Correia, E2M; Ron Halog, ALCO VOAD; Greg Simons, Las Trampas; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Dan Strickland, 123 Home Care; Stan Higgins, Therap; Michael Minton, RCEB; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now; Esther Chow, HHEB; Linda Mev, Addus/Arcadia; Jennifer Carper, Addus/Arcadia; Ronnia Archeta, Open House Center; Julie Lowe, Dungarvin; Bridgette Young Harry, Clausen House; Amanda Eicher, NIAD; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus; Carlos Cienfuegas, Sentry Living Solutions, Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB.

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:41 am. Introductions. The January 10th, 2020 minutes approval (M/Will Sanford; S/Donna Feingold). Passed with one abstention.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa announced that comments about the rate study were released on January 10th and can be viewed on the DDS website. Additionally, Burns and Associates made changes to some of the assumptions used to determine rates.
 - One change was for independent living services with less towards personal care, but more towards recreational and other aid services.
 - Changes were also made to infant development services with regards to specialized therapeutic services, bringing them closer to realistic rates, but still less than what is currently being paid.
- Lisa added that there is now a rate proposal, but the question to DDS is what they are going to do with it is still ongoing.
- In terms of the Governor's budget, Lisa mentioned that the 8.2% rate increase would be extended for an additional 18 months for the services codes that were included. Additionally, she announced a plan to provide the 8.2% increase to ILS services, early start services, and early start specialized therapeutic services, but would not take effect until January 2021 because Federal approval is required. She added that there is advocacy to make it retroactive to the current year.
- The budget proposal also included support to fully fund 3- and 4-year-olds served by regional centers at a 1:45 caseload.
- Lisa mentioned that there is also proposed funding around safety net services for developing enhanced behavioral support homes with secure perimeters to move people from Porterville developmental center into the community, which will open spots in the secure portion of the developmental center.
- The budget proposal also included something performance incentive, which includes \$78 million and is tied to regional centers' operational budgets. This is intended to achieve quality outcomes for individuals, person-centered services, competitive integrated employment, and integrated community services. It appears that this money is designed to look at a regional center's performance contracts and then have goals if achieved, would result in performance incentives. However, no trailer bill languages around this have been revealed.

- Lisa also mentioned a report put out by the Legislative Analyst's Office. A report stated that the Legislature should reject the performance incentives because the infrastructure to support them is not there, and instead recommended that the Legislature looks at implantation of portions of the rate proposal.
- Lisa noted that the budget also includes some funding for DDS around their technology infrastructure.
- Lisa announced that the DDS Taskforce workgroup is now open to the public, and will have call-in numbers to listen in; however, they will not be able to comment unless you are a member.
- Lastly, Lisa announced that RCEB's 17-18 fiscal year is closing, so March is the deadline for those services to be funded.

Presentation: Are you prepared in handling emergencies/disasters – Ron Halog with AICoVOAD and Sylvia Yeh with FCSN

- Ron and Sylvia gave an overview of training opportunities on emergency and disaster preparedness training.
- The highlights in the presentation included
 - Identifying trusted allies to share the plan with
 - Prioritizing health needs and creating lists
 - Creating emergency supply kits
 - Planning how and when to evacuate.

Break-10 minutes

Reports

RCEB Staff – Mike Minton

- Mike explained that there are glitches with the HCBS provider self-assessment, and with RCEB, there are approximately 450 providers who are either not in the system or are in the system, but not showing up. He did state that sooner or later vendors will receive an email invitation on how to log into the site, and how to take the survey.
- Fruc Menchavez explained a process to manually going to the survey through a link that vendors are reportedly receiving through e-billing. He then passed out instructions on the pathway to manual elf register.
- Mike added that he will continue to send out updates as he receives them, and that the self-surveys must be completed by March 31, 2020.

RCEB Board - Sister Marygrace

- The Board met on 1/27/20
- The Board approved the audit by Markham and Associates. There were no deficits or recommendations in the audit.
- Gwen Butler was voted in as a returning member of the board.
- A report by the CAC noted that attendance is going down, so are looking for new members, specifically from people who receive services and are good advocates.
- Diversity and Equity had a discussion about the words for the mission statement
- The next meeting will be on 2/24.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden mentioned the State Council’s 5-year plan, and thanked people for input on the survey. She noted that over 4000 surveys had been completed across the state, and over 600 completed for this region. The deadline for the survey through the end of February, and is located on the front page of the website.
- Sheraden asked that people have legislative advocacy talking points ready and bring those to meetings with legislators. Review existing reports, bills and points to develop these, such as the LAO report, SCDD’s legislative platform, the bills that EBLC supports and the EBLC talking points from the recent legislative breakfast.
- Sheraden shared the dates of upcoming meetings.
 - The next State Council Regional Advisory Committee meeting will be held on 2/26.
 - The Statewide Self Advocacy Network on 3/4 -3/5.
 - The Legislative and Public Policy meetings on 3/12 and 4/9.
 - The next full Council meeting will be on 3/17.
 - The next Employment First Committee for California 4/23.

DD Councils - Representative.

- Alameda County – Representative
 - Geneva shared information provided by Sandi Soliday
 - The meeting was moved to February 19th, due to the county holiday.
 - The presentation will be on tenant rights and resources.
 - The deadline to register for the Transition Fair has been extended to February 18th.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi announced that the next Contra Costa County DD Council meeting will take place on 2/26 at 10AM at RCEB in Concord. At the meeting there will be two presentations; one on the 2020 census, and another by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority discussing its accessibility strategic plan.
 - The DD Council has been working with the local advisory committee for self-determination, along with the local area office of the state council, to offer some independent facilitator trainings. One is taking place on 3/7 hosted FCSN.
 - The Autism STAR conference is taking place on 3/28 at Contra Costa College, primarily for parents and family members with children on the autism spectrum.
 - Contra Costa is working on putting on a FAST training; potentially in early June
 - The 31st Joint Annual Dinner will be held on June 9th, and will be back at Scott’s.

East Bay Legislative Coalition - Will Sanford

- Will announced that the Legislative Breakfast was very successful; highlighting that two representatives not only spoke, but stay for about 45 minutes to engage in conversations.
- The key talking points that were targeted are:
 - Implementing the rate model; to fully fund regional center case manager positions;
 - AB2024, the minimum wage bill that would trigger a 3.3% rate increase whenever minimum wage increased by \$1.00, or percentage thereof;
 - Supporting the 8.2% rate increase for ILS, early intervention, and early intervention therapies to become effective January 2020 rather than 2021;
 - Pushing for the repeal of the suspension language.

- The next EBLC meeting will be on March 11th instead of March 4th.
- On 3/4, the Assembly Subcommittee 1 will hold its first budget hearing, slated to start at 2:30PM. This is when community members have the most opportunity to make public comments.
- On 3/19, the Senate will hold its first budget hearing, usually start in the morning.
- In April, the Assembly will have a meeting on the rate model, the impacts, and how it will move forward.
- Lobbying groups are putting on a campaign to have Legislators be a DSP for a day, where the legislator would come out ask do what DSPs do.
 - If organizations would like to participate, reach out to Mike Pereira from EBLC.

Programs - Geneva Ziaoure

- The next meeting will have a presentation by Therap on security.

Day Service Providers subcommittee - Mike Pereira

- They will be discussing the HCBS self-survey.

Membership - Leslie Visbal

- Leslie mentioned that the Board could use more members, but that after looking through the by-laws, a maximum number of members was not listed; however, there is a minimum number that must be maintained.
- Leslie stated the criteria for becoming a board member; the candidate must be a provider and have attended at least three PVAC meetings.
- Leslie announced that the Board is still seeking a new membership chair.
- For those interested in becoming a member or seeking the chair position, Leslie asked people to reach out to her or Sister Marygrace.

Public Comments - Announcements

- Craig Rose announced that Contra Costa ARC has changed its name to Vistability.
- Sylvia Yeh announced that the FCSN Talent Showcase will be taking place on March 14th, from 2:30PM-5:30PM. For tickets, Sylvia asked people to see her. She also announced that she had left some fliers on the table.
- Julia Lowe announced that Dungarvin will be closing its program in Hayward. She cited unsustainability due to being frozen at a temporary rate, and the inability to attract any new staff in over a six-month period as reasons that contributed to the decision to close. Julia mentioned that she had shared this information at the Legislative Breakfast to serve as a warning about the consequences due to insufficient funding.
- Donna Feingold issued a thanks to RCEB and its accounting department for getting the system updated early to account for the 8.2% rate increase.
- Leslie Visbal announced that she will be leaving her position as Executive Director at Ability Now effective March 31st, and the new Executive Director will be Maureen DeCoste. Leslie did let the group know she will be doing strategic consulting for non-profits, so will remain an active participant within the community.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary