

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Members Present:** Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center, Ramsy Mashay; California Autism Foundation; Leslie Visbal, Community Consultant, Amanda Eicher, NIAD; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care;

**Guests Present:** B.J. Cottrell, Jaqui' Foundation; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Greg Simons, Las Trampas; Maria Davila, Passport To Learning; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Carolyn Murphy, Pleasanton Adult & Career; Amy Kudenov, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed; Will Sanford, PCP Vendor; Scott Brooks, Future Explored; Beth Cutter, Pleasanton Adult & Career Ed; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Vi Ibarra, Developmental Disabilities Council, Contra Costa County; Adriene Gaudet, ADE; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Christina Trucks, Aim High; Melissa Stockton, Community Support Options; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Carol McKinney, Harmony Home Associated; Ron Halog, Listos California; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Kim Clapshaw, IMAGINE Functional Living Skills Services; Debbie Hoeven, VistAbility CCS Concord; Ousha Reed, DABS Inc.; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Kelsey Hansen, Futures Explored; Angelique Goldberg, Futures Explored; Allen & Selina Henry; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Jaynette Underhill, Clausen House; Cassandra Curry, Lily House ARF; Wendy Lieu, Helping Hands East Bay; Ceril Belen, Summerfield Homes; Zach Lupton, Kaleidoscope Community Adult Day Program; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Maria Rodriguez, Thrive Support Services; Carol McCrary, VistAbility; Valisha Fullard, California Autism Foundation; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Mo Gilhooly, PIP Program; Ceclia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay

**Guests by phone:**

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. Introductions. Approval of May 8<sup>th</sup> minutes. M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Michael Pereira. Passed with corrections.

**RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub**

- Lisa mentioned that the senate is holding budget hearings today and to expect trailer bill to be released soon, and that it must be made public 72 hours before the release of the budget. She added that there is a conversation happening between the legislature and the governor about what the final version of the budget will look like.
- Lisa asked that people advocate at both the state and federal level to maintain services.
- Lisa mentioned that RCEB is hosting community calls every other week giving updates and information. One is scheduled for service providers and another for individuals and their families.
- Lisa gave information on the Covid-19 related news statewide and at a county level. Lisa mentioned that within the statewide developmental disabilities service system, there are 450 cases of Covid-19 and 44 deaths. At the county level, Lisa stated that there were 10 cases of Covid-19, and 1 death associated with it. Lisa added, that of all the people that had positive cases of Covid-19, only two of them had been hospitalized in intensive care.
- Lisa mentioned that with county readiness, Contra Costa county is far ahead of Alameda county when it comes to testing capacity.

- Lisa added that at a statewide level, there has been a lot of discussion around billing for Covid related absences for non-residential services during the state of emergency. Additionally, she said that yesterday, DDS Developmental Services Taskforce workgroup stated that they expected the absence related billing to end on June 30<sup>th</sup>. However, she said that nothing has been put in writing.
- Lisa noted that the DS Taskforce is looking at a plan for re-entry, and would require that every day service provider submit plans of reopening to regional centers, and must also have a strategy for dealing with a Covid outbreak.
- Lisa shared a graphic that was on DDS website, that provided a rethinking about re-entry, and to take a slow, measured approach. Lisa did not know of a date when a final document would be released, so encouraged people to prepare. Lisa recommended that people also continue to refer to county health department websites.
- Lisa mentioned that between the State Council and RCEB, they had a large supply of PPE available for the community, and they would be hosting distribution sites in the coming weeks for individuals and families, but also for service providers.
- Mike Pereira asked if public health would allow accommodations for someone to wear a face shield in lieu of face coverings. Lisa responded that research is being done to determine the efficacy of face shields.
- Ron Halog asked about transportation and the 6' guidelines. Lisa responded that there are no guidelines yet, but moving forward, would be looking at who else can transport; such as the home or day program staff.
- There was a question in the chat box asking how to acquire the PPE to which Lisa said that the regional center would be getting in touch with providers soon.
- Sylvia Yeh asked Lisa to hold weekly meetings with service providers to discuss updates as they are released.

#### **Presentation – Day Program Re-opening – Mike Pereira, Executive Director of Ala Costa Centers**

- Mike Pereira gave an overview of work that had been completed by the groups, and an explanation of the materials the work group had generated.
- Mike identified the materials as guidelines to create a potential reopening plan. The tools were designed to be used by all types of services, and should not be considered ready made for any one program. However, they were designed to be easily adapted to for the needs of a specific program.

#### **Reports**

##### **RCEB Update – Mike Minton**

- Mike addressed a question that came up in the chat asking if RCEB and CCL were communicating; stating that although RCEB is meeting with their local CCL folks, it's the conversation at the state level with DDS where directives are being addressed. Mike said that with the local CCL folks, he said that he asked if he were to send a provider to CCL to get permission to reopen, what would they say. The local CCL said they would send them back to RCEB.
- Mike said that they are coordinating the distribution of the PPE to accommodate the large numbers of people they are expecting. Mike did add that if a home provider was totally out of PPE and desperate for supplies, to contact QA so some items can go out in the meantime.
- Mike announced that the deadline for the HCBS self-assessment had been extended to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace**

- Sister Marygrace reported that the RCEB Board met remotely on 5/18, which had been adjusted due to the holiday.
  - Three contracts were approved
    - Satellite Affordable Housing Associate in Berkeley will operate a new program called SAHA which will start up 12 rental apartments for people with extremely low incomes.
    - A contract with the Hume Center was approved to develop mental health clinic for individual with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health conditions in Contra Costa County.
    - A contract was signed with Brilliant Corners to develop three community crisis homes, with at least one being an enhanced behavioral support home.
  - The CAC report focused heavily on how the Shelter-in-place orders were affecting the council members.
  - The Diversity and Equity Committee reported that Madre Unidas met to give assistance to Spanish speaking families. The intent has been to share, not simply just giving out, and to focus on dignity. There has been sharing of essential items, such as supplies of hand sanitizer, masks, and soap. Also, they were sharing gift cards for food purchases.
  - Enhancing Life Agency has been developing different resources, particularly for people of Vietnamese and Cantonese cultures.
  - Sister Marygrace added that Anna Wong FCNS shared about how to connect with people remotely and could make those resources available.

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

- Sheraden discussed the notice about PPE as a prevention noting that it was a success for everyone, and that counties would need to supply EPG (emergency protective gear), and that providers could get access to that gear when needed, and not just in cases of actual infection.
- California Volunteers Neighbor to Neighbor program is being launched statewide with campaign materials targeting individuals with disabilities to help with issues of isolation.
- There will be some messaging regarding the census, and some resources in a variety of languages. There will be resources specifically for administrators of group quarters that will be posted on the e-billing site a regional centers around the state. Tools are being generated to make it easy for providers to make sure their residents are being counted.
- The State Council is wrapping up the Core Indicator work in the RCEB area; and have collected about 1160 surveys.
- The Movers Longitudinal study which is tracking the smoothness and satisfaction of people leaving developmental centers and establishing their lives in the community. Sheraden mentioned that it had been put on hold for the past few months because they were unable to do in-person interviews. They are trying to get everyone on the same page, so they can use the tele-health platform.
- The next Regional Advisory Committee meeting is on June 24<sup>th</sup>, with networking at 6:30 and the meeting start time of 7:00pm. There will be a zoom line and a call in line. Topics will include updates on special

education and social/racial justice. They are expecting about 7 different legislative offices attending, including Senator Nancy Skinner and Assembly member Kansen Chu.

#### **DD Councils -**

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
  - He is the new coordinator for the council.
  - Sandi retired, but is going to stay on for coordinating.
  - The next meeting is on 7/8, and will be a planning meeting. It will run from 9:30-12:00pm.
  - Ben shared his email in the chat: [Ben.chen@acgov.org](mailto:Ben.chen@acgov.org)
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
  - Vi gave an update on testing.
    - In Contra Costa County, there are 8-9 testing centers, but are working on increasing the number of sites throughout the county.
    - Testing is for everybody, including asymptomatic individuals.
    - Testing is by appointment only.
    - Vi announced that she is working on a task force to increase awareness to historically marginalized populations. The taskforce is discussing how to increase testing.
  - The Vision for the Future Conference has been postponed, but there will be a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> at 10AM to talk about what they might want to do about post-secondary opportunities.
  - The next DD Council meeting will be on 6/24 at 10AM, and we will be voting if we want to conduct meeting during the summer.

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

- Will announced that the legislature is in agreement and will vote on a budget, that will go to the governor on Monday. Will described it as a two way agreement, because the both houses have agreed on a budget, and will negotiate with the governor. The likelihood is that legislature will pass a budget and it will go to governor. Will did add that we would still need to wait and see what the governor has to say.
- Will mentioned that the pivot point is to focus on the governor, and keep pressure on his office.
- Will added that pressure needed to be kept on the federal level as well.

#### **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**

- No report.

#### **Announcements**

- Mike Pereira repeated his request for emails from people who would like the re-opening materials.
- Geneva Ziaoure announced that she is working on a Google drive as a resource where people can get materials.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:41PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary