

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes June 11th, 2021**

Members Present: Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Marcie Hodges, St. John Boy's Home; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Will Sanford, CS&SC; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting;

Guests Present/by Phone: Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Allen Henry, Henry Adult Day; Vivian Largusa, FCSN; Claudia Acosta, Perkins with Clausen House; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Joanne Rolle, The Arc of the East Bay; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Debbie G, Clausen House; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Alex Rivin, Care Provider; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Robert Jo, Agape Care Home Inc.; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Amy Kudenov, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Amber Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Armando Valadez; Carin Hewitt, alift llc; Carol Anne McCrary; VistAbility; Chase Kalbaugh, RCEB; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More, Inc.; Doreen Khan, Sutro Home; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Gabby Romabiles; Heather Manes, H.A.T.C.H.; JC Velasquez; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.; Kim Clapshaw; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult; Lynn G, DABS Inc.; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Maureen Wright; Michael Minton, RCEB; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Priscilla Gomez, RCEB; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass; Shelly Crayton, Family Support Services; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Vanessa Aguilera; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa County DD Council; Pam Temple; Asia Humphries; Cecilia Connolly; Anna Willis; Samantha Noorgard; Patricia Harris; Maria Mendiola; Darice, Harambee Community Services

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. Introductions. Approval of May 14, 2021 minutes. M/Donna Feingold; S/Will Sanford. Minutes were passed unanimously.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa announced that there seems to be a lot of support for the service system coming from both the legislature and the administration.
 - Lisa mentioned that there it is unclear at this time between the governor's May revise and what the joint assembly/senate budget was produced, with what is in the spending plan and American Rescue Act. She continued stating that one of the questions is how much money in the legislature's budget was included from the American Rescue Act, and how much money is really out there, and what things will we end up seeing.
 - Lisa stated that the budget needs to be sent to the governor by Tuesday night, so 72 hours before, there must be published language for the budget legislation. Lisa added that legislature is coming to an agreement on the budget, and that because of the recall, there doesn't seem to be any interest in having any prolonged battles, and an interest in unity.
 - Lisa stated that at the end of May, RCEB received notice at the from DDS regarding vendor independent audits and reviews. She reminded that the independent review is required if dollars received from all regional center sources by a vendor are equal to, or more than \$500K and less than \$2 million; and that an independent audit is required if the dollar amount is over \$2 million. Lisa
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- added that the reviews and audits must be completed by the end of July. Additionally, the DDS letter requires that regional centers develop a plan to ensure that all these reviews and audits are received, and the plan must be submitted by the end of July.
- Lisa stated that to prepare for this, RCEB has been sending out letters to vendors who are supposed to complete the audits, but haven't.
 - Lisa provided the email address where vendors could send independent reviews audits, asking vendors to submit for fiscal years 18/19 and 19/20.
 - VendorAuditedFinancialStmnt@rceb.org
 - Mike Pereira asked if the email for audits will generate a receipt so vendors will have a receipt for their records. Lisa responded that was not something implemented, but said that she would check to see if was possible.
 - Lisa mentioned that DDS is really going to start looking at these, but don't know if this is going to be a basis on who they audit.
 - Lisa announced that email is going out to all vendors with a survey looking for interest in participating in the experiences of providers, especially black providers and people of color. She added that all information will be kept confidential, and session will not have regional center staff so people can feel comfortable to speak freely, and that only a summary of the meeting will go to RCEB. Lisa noted that listening sessions will take place over the next 3-4 month.
 - A question was asked how many people could complete the survey, and Lisa clarified that it should be one person who represents the organization.
 - Lisa announced that self-determination will open for everyone over the age of 3 beginning July 1st, and that RCEB is holding an update for the community. Lisa added that all case managers will be retrained so they are refreshed and up to speed.
 - Sylvia Yeh asked if there was an update to the rules on transportation. Steve Robinson clarified that at this time masks must continue to be worn, and that 6 feet distance needed to be maintained.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve reported that in regards to transportation, East Bay Paratransit will be implementing 3 feet distancing with masks required.
 - Steve mentioned that he had received questions regarding transportation and confusion about ebilling and forms required to be completed by transportation providers, so would be setting up a zoom meeting specifically for transportation providers to explain the forms.
 - Steve clarified Paratransit's "no strand" policy, that they would not be doing temperature checks, but if someone was brought to a program who had Covid-19 symptoms or a high fever, to call Paratransit, and they will send out another driver to pick up that individual and take them home. Steve asked that vendored transportation providers should do temperature checks.
 - Steve mentioned that DDS sent a letter to RCEB that they are to resume in-person visits to individuals who live outside the family home. Beginning in July, Steve stated that RCEB staff will start visiting. Steve explained that RCEB staff will be calling prior to the visit to ask Covid related questions such as outbreaks and symptoms. He added that it will be slightly different for QA because they do unannounced visits; however, they will call approximately 15 minutes in advance to ask Covid related questions. Steve noted that initially, RCEB staff will only be spending 15 minutes in the home, but
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the meeting could move out doors. Steve concluded that RCEB will be sending out a letter to the provider group with a summary of the process.

- Steve mentioned that RCEB has received resumption of in-person services plans from most of day service providers. He added that occasionally they have follow up questions that require a call to the provider. Steve noted that they are reaching out to day service providers who have not yet submitted a plan for resumption of in-person services.
- Sylvia Yeh asked if a participant is set to resume in-person services, was a new IPP meeting required. Steve clarified that the case manager needs to be informed, but a meeting would not be required.
- Angeleter Pringle asked the question who makes the determination about when an individual is ready to return to in-person services, if the individual is not able to clearly make that determination. Lisa said that a conversation needs to happen with case manager, but if necessary, bring in the supervisor.
- There was a question in the chat asking if an ILS provider is transporting an individual to day program, would they be able to get reimbursed under Covid-19 expenses. Steve asked that he be contacted directly to fully understand what was happening.
- There was a question in the chat asking if homes currently providing home based day programs will continue to get fully funded even if residents go back to program a few days per week. Steve stated that for now, there will be no reduction in home day program funding.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board met on May 24th.
 - A contract with EDS was approved.
 - The contract was for approximately \$456,000.
 - Resources will be used for the community placement plan for leaving Sonoma, Fairview, and Porterville DCs.
 - There was report from the Diversity and Equity Committee regarding how best to support a diverse community with self-determination.
 - The subcommittee on communication is looking at the status of equity in POS expenditures.
 - The Supports and Services subcommittee continued to refine the draft of the brochure which will clearly spell out the service options for individual from 3 – 18.
 - The board meeting in July will have a training.
- Sister Marygrace mentioned that the board is in the process of the annual performance appraisal of the Executive Director, and also contract discussions.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden announced they have PPE available, so programs who are in need can contact her so she can put in an order for them.
 - Sheraden announced that the Vaccine Advisory Committee will be meeting on June 23rd, from 3pm-5pm, and is a good time to provide feedback on how vaccine access has been going.
 - Sheraden mentioned that the requests trainings the State Council has been consistent with the previous month, which included:
 - Trainings for DSPs to better understand self-determination.
 - Training in crisis response from law enforcement.
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- Technical assistance for housing rights, accessible healthcare settings, CIE, mental health care.
- Sheraden provided a list of upcoming meetings.
 - 6/15, State Plan Committee meeting.
 - 6/30, Local Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting, from 6:30PM-9PM.
- Sheraden mentioned a self-advocate survey, which is being completed in collaboration between RCEB and the State Council to do one final round for self-advocates to give feedback to create self-advocacy leadership development program

DD Councils ~

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
 - Ben gave an update on Covid-19.
 - Alameda has moved into the yellow tier.
 - Still in line with the state’s mask mandate until the June 15th transition.
 - The county is hosting webinars for reopening, Moving Beyond the Blueprint.
 - There is one for community members on 6/15, from 6PM-7:30PM.
 - There is one for employers on 6/21, from 6PM-7:30PM.
 - Ben mentioned that in conjunction with the State Council and RCEB, Alameda County is conducting a survey to assess the needs for sensory friendly vaccine sites, and ask for assistance to distribute and complete the survey.
 - Ben noted that fire season is approaching and potential public safety power shut offs, PG&E is offering updates for non-account holders to receive notifications. He clarified that these could be people not listed on the account, to check on a family member, or to check if business might be affected.
 - The next Alameda County DD Council board meeting will be on 7/14, from 9:30AM-12PM. Ben added this meeting will be the annual planning meeting.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi mentioned that the next Contra Costa County DD Council will be on June 23rd, which will wrap up the fiscal year; with no meeting in July, and resuming in August.
 - Vi gave an update on Covid-19.
 - CCHHealth.org is still the site to visit for the most current information.
 - If information can’t be found on the site, Vi asked that people reach out to her.
 - Vi thanked all the people who attended the Joint Award Meeting, and expressed gratitude to the sponsors and agencies who donated resources.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

- Will mentioned the legislature needs to submit their balanced budget to the governor by June 15th.
 - Will mentioned that EBLC reviewed the May revise which just came out, and didn’t have really any new dollars added, so the EBLC was pleased that legislature’s plan filled in some of those gaps.
 - Will highlighted some additions in the legislature’s planned budget.
 - Support for all the proposals the governor put in his May revise.
 - Implementation of the rate study over time.
 - Significant funding to address the case manager shortage.
 - Restoration of funding for social/rec and camp.
 - Expanded funding for implicit bias training; not just for regional center intake staff, but all regional center staff and providers.
 - Funding for the deaf community.
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- Funding for other trainings.
- Funding for DSP incentive payments; which are increases to the baseline wages.
- Investment in housing for our folks to get added into existing housing program.
- Funding to develop more integrated services.
- Funding to re-invent work activity programs.
- Will added that the real challenge is determining the integration of the various components to fit them all together, and that the message is to push for the legislative package.
- Will mentioned that the next legislative join meeting is next Monday.
- The next EBLC meeting is on July 7, at 10AM.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned that discussions have been on the conflicting and changing rules coming from Cal-OSHA; specifically, the rules on mask wearing that were in direct conflict with governor's June 15th transition.
- Bill Pelter stated that when Cal-OSHA came out with the rules, the businesses expressed immediate and aggressive concern, then OSHA revised the rules one week later. Bill then provided a link in the chat with the most current rules.
- Mike reminded that the group is open to all and meets Fridays at 11AM, except for the week of PVAC, and there is an additional trouble shooting meeting every Wednesday at 2PM.

Membership – Marcie Hodges

- Marcie Hodges mentioned, and then Geneva confirmed that there was a nomination for Leslie Visbal to become the meeting facilitation chair for PVAC.
- Will Sanford made the motion to make Leslie the meeting facilitation chair of PVAC. Marcie Hodges seconded. The vote passed unanimously.
- Leslie Visbal announced that she, along with a Amanda Eicher, Donna Feingold, and Shannon Beatty would work together to support facilitate the meetings with Sister Marygrace through the end of the year. She added that someone had expressed possibly taking over the chair role permanently in 2022.
- Geneva mentioned that there are two seats we are recruiting for; a transportation provider in Alameda County and an employment provider in Contra Costa County.

Announcements

- Several people offered congratulations and appreciation to Geneva Ziaoure.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:31 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary

