

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes July 9, 2021**

Zoom Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDo9YHSTvK8>

Members Present: Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; 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; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care

Guests Present: Merfe Bailey, A Step Above; Kelly Nguyen, Asian Resource Network; Carol Anne McCrary; VistAbility; Michael Minton, RCEB; Amy Simons, A Brighter View Day Program; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Pam Temple, One Step Closer; Juan Velasquez Jr, Pathway to Choices; Cecilia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Heather Manes, H.A.T.C.H., Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer, Inc.; Christine Ibia, Aveanna Healthcare; Vanessa Aguilera, IMAGINE Functional Living Skills; Angelique Goldberg, Futures Explored; Sukhbeer Singh, Sonia INC Respite Services; Patti Costa, Las Trampas; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Amber Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Joe Cashel, Las Trampas; Veronica M. Santana, Clausen House; Karen Lingenfelter, Paige Endo, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Amy Kudenov, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Erin Hanley, East Bay Innovations; Arlene Ruiz of Malama Home; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass SLS & ILS; Wendell James, AET; Gloria Brown, Pinewood Care ARF, Duarte Care; Gabby Romabiles, Alameda DD Council; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS & ILS; Danon Jenkins, Futures Explored; James Mercado, Open House Center; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Amy Berumen, Creative Growth; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Terry Goodwin, Toolworks; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Tanya Barreto, Amador Home, Omelagah Inc.; Elicia Denmond, Elicia's SLS; Gwen Captain, Visions; Asia Humphries, IMAGINE Functional Living Skills; Doreen Khan, Sutro Home/Shepherd House; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Patricia Cortez, Accentcare; Sharolyn Babb, Developing Personal Resources Center; Geraldine Olazabal, Sentry Living; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Joanne Rolle, The Arc of the East Bay; Maureen Wright, The Respite Inn; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Dominique Mellion, Social Day Services Program; Valisha Fullard-Harris, California Autism Foundation; Jennifer Rocha, Castro Valley Adult and Career Education; Maria Cumiskey, Harmony's ARF; Guy Houston, Mission Hope Day Program; Maria Mendiola, Royal Palm Residential Home; Gloria Brown; Lori Surney, FRIENDLY JUNCTION; Leticia Wiesner - Futures Explored; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB.

Guests by phone: Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Interim Co-Chair Leslie Visbal. Introductions.

Approval of June 11, 2021 minutes. M/Mike Pereira; S/Sister Marygrace. Minutes were passed unanimously.

Agenda modifications noted: Gabby Romabiles present for Ben Chen, Alameda County; and PVAC meeting time change to 9:30 start time, beginning in September 2021. No additions or changes.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

State budget approvals:

- Exciting opportunities coming up in the next 1-5 years for everyone in the system. The budget outlines what we'll see in spending for the next year; more decisions to come with input from stakeholder groups as implementation rolls out.

- First item being the opportunity to implement and modify the rate study – some rate increases coming in April 2022. Not enough, but a step forward.
- Also, a commitment in the state budget to enhancing service coordination at Regional Centers next year – not all we wanted but it's there to be built on in the future.
- New metrics coming to measure performance:
Additional standards for RCs as part of performance incentive program, as well as implementing outcomes for providers, and ensuring we know what indicators are right to measure quality outcomes for services to individuals through POS funding. Hat tip to Kevin Rath at Manos for presenting on these outcomes and indicators.
- Positive news for families:
Restoration of social recreation, camping, non-medical therapies limited since ~2011.
- Presumptive eligibility for 3- & 4-year-olds:
These children will not continue to receive Early Start, but for children who have no diagnosis but impairments necessitating services in two or more areas will be eligible for RCEB Lanterman services at 3-4 years of age and will be re-evaluated for long-term eligibility for services after that.
Children who have lost out on Early Start services during the pandemic and who have been 'made not eligible' because it's hard to decide about lifelong eligibility at such a young age. Will provide support in accessing education system.
- Additional funding for DSPs who are bilingual and who have undergone other trainings.
- Funding for Implicit Bias training for RC staff, with expansion for service providers depending on funding – an increase from May revise so that more ppl can benefit.
- After May Revise and Legislative Approval, American Rescue Act funds were utilized to determine how the entire state budget would roll out – unsure whether more may be covered under ARA.
- Summer will likely see activity with diverse stakeholders and DS Task Force to determine how initiatives will move forward (like the rate study) and how funds will be used.
- Expecting DDS info on attestation for PPP loans, no word yet.
- Also funding for emergency coordination staff at RCs – one position each, along with Resource Coordination for Deaf consumers.

Self Determination:

- Opened to all on July 1 – some changes in how the program looks moving forward vs the pilot. Case Managers at RCEB are training on Self-Determination, more info for families and individuals served. Can offer trainings for service providers as well. New requirements coming up for independent facilitators and financial management services. Otherwise, similar to the pilot.

Questions:

- Maureen DeCoste asked about timing of rate study funding release in April – Lisa responded that the first release of funds is much smaller; subsequent years larger and so the budget covers only a partial year; Will Sanford offered that it takes time to unfold the rate study as well.
- Jennifer Carper asked where can providers get training for Self-Determination?
Monday, July 12 the local advisory committee meets and can share info; RCEB can also offer training if there is interest.
- Juan Velasquez asked whether there is an update on Alternative Services?
Lisa thought ASD would extend until end of state of emergency, but it is unclear – it's a decision of the administration how long they will continue. For Day Providers, since there is an increase in positive cases, we'll have to see how this plays out. Not expecting changes before August but it's possible. Lisa's question for providers: how will we go back to traditional services and retain the positive benefits developed during Alternative Services?

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Uniform Holiday Schedule for FY21/22 is posted on RCEB website.
- EVV is being implemented by the state in two phases.
Phase 2 affects RCEB & RCEB vendors depending on services provided – these are the dates to begin using EVV to sign in/report services:
Jan. 1, 2022 – Respite, SLS, Personal Assistance
Jan. 1, 2023 – Nursing, Home Health, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy
- Day programs reopening: Many have started – this is great; cautioning everyone to follow safety protocols as COVID-19 cases going up even for those vaccinated. Please maintain social distancing, face coverings, and on transportation 3-foot distance.
- Sukhbeer Singh asked who is the PVAC or RCEB liaison for respite services? Not getting through to case managers for billing services – Steve recommended to elevate request to Elvia, Associate Director for Services.
- Tanya asked if Day Programs are not opening up, how do providers get ‘the patch’ back – 091/At-Home Day Program funding ended in April and participants are not going back to program. Steve replied that funding for At-Home Day Program is continuing; case manager should ensure the POS is still active.
- Dan Hogue asked whether programs that close on Juneteenth will continue to get funding for that day, since it was not added to the RCEB uniform holiday schedule. Lisa replied that it is a staff holiday for RCEB but, like Cesar Chavez Day, it is not one of the uniform holidays and Day Programs are not funded for this day if they are closed.
- Question: what is happening with HCBS surveys? Mike Minton replied that there’s not a lot of movement – more are coming in and being processed, but until DDS aggregates data, there’s not a lot to report.
- Lori Surney asked if participants can be 3 feet apart? Answer: Only for transportation services - following East Bay Paratransit and public transportation guidelines. Lisa K: If you’re transporting people from the same home, they can be closer together - they don’t have to maintain the 3’ distance.
- Leslie Visbal asked a question from the chat: if it is true that providers can revive a POS to transport consumers to and from their program? You have to be vendored to provide transportation. Homes can transport to and from, but it’s situation-specific. If a home is getting 091 In-Home Day Program, they could use that time - or they could receive POS to become a transportation vendor by contacting Priscilla Gomez.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board met on June 28.
 - Four contracts were approved, with 2 of them coming from DDS.
 - DDS - B-3 series: Community placements, HCBS
 - DDS - C-series: POS allocations and operations allocations
Both were approved.
 - La Familia contract to provide Spanish-language services - 700 cases
 - Brilliant Corners: renovation for 2 children’s homes - enhanced behavioral services and community crisis homes.
Both were approved.

- Reference was made at the meeting that 18 agencies were still not audit-compliant, and RCEB Board is hoping to see that number move a little bit.
- Supports and Services are winding up with a relevant, useful bilingual brochure addressing school-age children - a training tool for new case managers and navigation tool for supports and services available to school-age children.
- Employment - Board training will center on employment and transition to adulthood in July.
- No RCEB Board meeting in August.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- CPUC Shutdown Moratorium has been extended until September 30, 2021. PG&E will continue providing information on managing unpaid energy bills, 24-month payment plans, opt-out options, etc.
Information on Shutdown Moratorium:
<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M389/K401/389401945.PDF>
- Next week, July 13, 10:30-1PM is a Day of Action for \$400billion for HCBS - ILCs, domestic workers have been organizing. Under the Better Care, Better Jobs Act, states would be eligible for permanent 10% increase in federal Medicaid match for HCBS, enhanced funding for admin for HCBS as well. 2 rallies and events in LA and Oakland (Oscar Grant/Ozawa Plaza) featuring 400 stories from people served re: HCBS direct impact on individuals.
Info on Better Care, Better Jobs:
<https://www.aging.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Better%20Care%20Better%20Jobs%20Act%20One%20Pager%20SBS%2006223.pdf>
Info on Day of Action: https://actionnetwork.org/forms/july-13th-day-of-action-for-400-billion-for-home-and-community-based-servicesaccion-el-13-de-julio-para-400-b-para-medicaid-cuidado-a-largo-plazo?source=direct_link&
- Sheraden announced they still have PPE available, so programs who are in need can contact her for an order form, but also - SCDD is moving offices and hoping to give away gowns to help make space!
- Sheraden mentioned that the State Council has continued to receive requests for the training topics below:
 - Trainings for DSPs to better understand self-determination.
 - Training in crisis response from law enforcement.
 - Technical assistance for housing rights, accessible healthcare settings, CIE, mental health care.
- Sheraden provided a list of upcoming meetings.
 - 7/22, CA Employment First Committee meeting.
 - 7/26, Self-Advocates Advisory Committee meeting.
 - 7/27, SCDD Meeting.
 - 9/29, Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting.

Questions:

- Dan Hogue asked whether RCEB can develop an org chart with staff contacts, so that we can know who to reach out to for supervisor questions and troubleshooting? Lisa Kleinbub: we are working on that, hopefully will be out very soon.
- Mike Pereira asked Sheraden: \$400billion for HCBS?? Sheraden: that's the potential nationwide. Very exciting! This is the time to let the feds know how important HCBS is! Dan Hogue posted this link to more info in the chat: <https://p2a.co/IAFTwCz?p2asource=empower>
- Who should we contact for PPE? Sheraden invited folks to contact her office.

DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Gabby Romabiles, ACDD:

- Gabby mentioned next Wednesday July 14, 9:30-12, ACDD will hold its annual planning meeting via Zoom. Review officers, reflect on accomplishments, plan for 2021/22.
To sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BreakOutGroupSurveyfor2021JulyPlanningMeeting>
- DD Council is working with Sutter Health, SCDD, RCEB to plan for a disability-friendly and sensory-sensitivity friendly clinic to receive COVID-19 vaccine. Surveys in English, Spanish, Filipino, and simplified Chinese are available.
English version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sensoryfriendlyclinic4covidvaxsurvey>
Spanish version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EncuestaParaInformarnosSiLasClinicasDeCovid-19HanTrabajadoCordialmenteConLaDiscapacitada>
Chinese version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sensoryfriendlyclinic4covidvaxsurveyCHINESEtranslation>
Filipino version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Sensory-FriendlyatDisability-FriendlyKlinikaPagisiyasa>
- PG&E is offering address alerts to non-account holders who would like to know about fire season Public Safety Power Shutoffs - encouraging everyone to sign up to learn about PSPS that impact consumers, loved ones, schools, others. More info here: <https://pgealerts.alerts.pge.com/outages/psps-address-alert/>
- PG&E is hosting Wildfire Safety webinars to learn about Wildfire Safety in community and meet PG&E representatives who can help in planning. More info here: https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-wildfire-safety-open-house-meetings.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_firesafetywebinars
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra.
 - No report this month - Vi is on vacation; NO meeting in July; next meeting is general planning meeting in August; next public meeting is in September. Stay tuned!

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

- Hat tip to Lisa who mentioned most items in the budget.
- We do have a signed budget bill - AB128. Governor has not signed “Budget Bill, Jr.” which makes significant adjustments; it’s a little odd that it’s been unsigned for so long.
- To date, there are 14 trailer bills. Basic Budget puts dollars out there for our basic services, admin, operations, have all been approved - but changes come through Trailer Bills such as SB136 which covers some of the points Lisa outlined.
- Examples:
 - RCEB’s Uniform Holiday Schedule reflects 10 holidays - 4 additional days did not get funded under legislative adjustments.
 - Sunset language on the 8.2% rate increases from 2020/2021 is gone - which we pushed for.
 - Changes to the paid internship program. Limit changes from \$10,400 to 1,040 hours/year. Former was based on state minimum wage; now based on hours.
 - Competitive Integrated Employment payments are doubled from 30 days/6 months for the next 3 years.
 - Incentive payments for PIP program for 30 and 60 days.
 - Families and primary consumers can request to continue remote ISP/IPP meetings, and their requests must be honored through June 30, 2022.
- ABA12 about outcomes has been brought into the budget, as has a bill on Family Resource Centers.
- Bottom line: SB136 still has not been signed; makes it hard for RCs to begin making changes.
- Additional trailer bill language may be coming on ARA spending. This funding includes \$700million increase in expenditures that should be focused on our sector: housing, rental assistance, add’l case management. It now must be submitted by July 12.

- EBLC will identify 3-5 items to follow, e.g., Rate Study, and will keep track of spending over the long term since these dollars may take multiple years to spend.
- EBLC meetings are on first Wednesday of each month, at 10AM.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned that there are 3 weekly meetings - Transportation on Fridays at 9:30AM; Troubleshoot and Support on Wednesdays at 2PM; and Provider Weekly Call on Fridays at 11AM. Goal is to support one another as we resume in-person service, provide a forum for shared challenges, success, and problem-solving.

Membership – Marcie Hodges

- Marcie Hodges thanked Leslie Visbal for accepting the co-chair position for PVAC.
- Secretary position is still open. Craig Rose is Secretary at present.
- One position open for Work Program in Day Services for Alameda County.
- One position open for a member in Transportation.
- One position open for Employment Services in Contra Costa County.
- Leslie Visbal mentioned that there is still plenty of room on PVAC membership! Need to attend at least 3 consecutive meetings each year to vote as a member. To join, contact Marcie Hodges, PVAC Membership Chair.
- Leslie Visbal terms off in 2022, so PVAC is still looking for a co-chair in 2022!

Meeting Times for 2022 - Leslie Visbal

- Leslie Visbal mentioned several logistical questions about meeting for 2022:
 - Return to 9:30AM meeting time going forward?
 - No August meeting per historical PVAC schedule?
 - In-person, Zoom-only, or hybrid for September and going forward?
- Sister Marygrace offered that it might work well for the group to go back to 9:30AM.
- Leslie Visbal asked for opposition; none was offered.
- Mike Pereira reminded the group that PVAC moved to align with 11AM provider group meetings and 10AM RCEB provider updates during the pandemic.
- Donna Feingold reflected that participation is better via Zoom.
- Lisa Kleinbub mentioned that RCEB is not having in-person meetings in their offices, but they are improving their tech set-up for hybrid.
- Sister Marygrace asked whether the group would like to approve a break with no PVAC meeting in August.
- Leslie Visbal proposed a return to 9:30AM meetings beginning Friday, September 10, on Zoom, with more information on hybrid meeting tech to follow. No opposition was offered.

Announcements

- Sister Marygrace mentioned that this Sunday, July 11 is the Indigenous Red Market in Oakland at International and Fruitvale Boulevards, and she encouraged the group to join our indigenous neighbors, possibly pray for rain, and enjoy the vendors and activities.
- Leslie Visbal wished everyone a wonderful summer without rolling power shutoffs, since hot weather was on the way. She wished everyone continued health and safety before closing the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:21 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center