

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes September 10th, 2021**

Members Present: Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting;

Guests Present: Joe Cashel, Las Trampas; Shannon Beatty, George Mark Children's House; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Celia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay, Natasha Mosley-Simpkins, Enriching Lives FHA; Chris Hanson, RCEB; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Juan Velasquez Jr, Pathway to Choices; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Erika Gonzales, 24 Hour Home Care; Claire Palmer, Maxim Healthcare Services; Chandreve Clay, Clear Creek Services; B.J. Cottrell, Jaqui' Foundation; Jaynette Underhill, Clausen House; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Celeste Rodriguez, Sonia Inc.; Lynn Galliano, DABS Inc; Michael Minton, RCEB; Christine Schwab, Working Wonders; Kaitie Thammalangsy, VistAbility; Linh Ngo, Asian Resource Network; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program, Inc.; Christine Grabowski, East Bay Innovations; Judy Hunter; Las Trampas; Ciara Vasquez, Futures Explored; Lindsay Reynolds, Alameda County District Attorney's Office; Francine Limperis; Sheraden Nicholau State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Bhakari Gates, DABS; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Tiffany Speerbrecker, VisitAbility; Baggie Romabiles, Alameda County DD Council; Dominique Mellion, Social Day Services, Inc / Broadmoor Community Services; Christine Ibia, Aveanna Healthcare; Vivian Largusa, FCSN; James Mercado, Open House Center; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Gay Paris Arndt; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Jay Gamez, Mission Hope Day Program; Amy Berumen, Creative Growth Art Center; Vi Ibarra, DD Council Contra Costa County; Angelique Goldberg, Futures Explored; Veronica M. Santana, Clausen House; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.; Purvi Knopf, RES Success; Alex Mountford, Manos; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Lita Marie Guerrero, A Brighter View; Kipi Iscandari; Claudia Acosta, Clausen House; Maureen Wright, The Respite Inn; Tanya Barreto, Omelagah Inc; Diana Pardo, DABS, Inc.; Ron Carter, DABS Inc.

Guests by phone:

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m. Introductions. Approval of the July 9th, 2021 minutes. M/Sister Marygrace; S/Donna Feingold. Minutes were passed with one abstention.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa mentioned that Covid-19 cases are going within the community.
- Lisa mentioned the president's mandate requiring all businesses with over 100 employees to require staff to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing.
- Lisa stated that RCEB is able to approve health and safety requests for rate changes due to Covid impacts, but there is an expectation that things are going to change. Additionally, Lisa mentioned that for September, any health and safety requests that have been approved that for service code 109, which is generally used for additional staff in residential facilities, if RCEB approved a higher rate than the median rate, there is a requirement to submit those to DDS. Lisa added that the current system allowing regional center executive directors to approve health and safety during Covid will remain in place until October 3rd, and are anticipating that will go back to DDS in the near future, so regional centers will not be able to automatically approve them but will advocate.

- Lisa mentioned that at the state level, there is an interest to roll back some of the things that have gone on during Covid, so expects a slow, gradual shift away from alternative services. Lisa gave a reminder that the participant engagement must be completed for each participant receiving alternative services by November 1.
- Lisa announced roll out of self-determination for any regional center consumer who wants it. She added they are seeing interest and people are attending orientations, and thought it would be good to have another presentation at PVAC. Additionally, Lisa encouraged programs to implement a self-determination option.
- Lisa mentioned provisional eligibility for children ages three and four which allows them to receive Lanterman services without being fully eligible, and are not required to have a diagnosis of a developmental disability, but must have some functional limitations. They will have to be reassessed at 5 years of age.
- Lisa mentioned that the state is going to be pulling together some work groups for planning around the rate implementation for the rate changes taking place in April. Lisa added that the rate changes will not be an across the board change because they are going to be provider by provider.
- Lisa reminded that the last portion of the rate changes will be based on outcome measure and may be implemented 2-3 years out. In order to get this last portion, providers are must have met specific outcome measures, although it's not clear what those are.
- Lisa mentioned that she has met with the consultant developing the provider focus group looking at experiences of providers of color; black providers in particular. They will be reaching out to providers who completed the survey and setting up work groups. Lisa added that they had received 200 responses and will be closing the survey.
- Lisa announced that on September 30 at 5:30, there will be a meeting reviewing the performance contract for year 2022, and will be reporting out how well they've done with compliance audits and areas of employment and equity in terms of purchases of service for consumers. There will be opportunities for people to give feedback.
- Sister Marygrace asked for clarification regarding the date to meet with participants regarding needs and interests. Steve Robinson responded that DDS gave a directive that all providers and case managers need to engage with participants regarding current needs and services, and their desire to continue with alternative services. Steve added that the directive stated that providers are required to document this engagement, and that this is required to happen by November 1st.
- Dan Hogue asked about the vaccine testing mandate, and if there would be a vaccination requirement. Lisa answered that it was uncertain at this point.

Presentation – New Follow Up Process for Missing POSs – Christine Hanson – Associate Director for Adult Services.

- The presentation highlighted the current ongoing issues with the process for reporting missing POSs.
 - RCEB is looking to streamline the process.
 - There is a form on the website in the section for Providers.
 - Christine gave a demonstration of the online form, including that the system will issue a receipt that the missing POS has been submitted.
 - Christine mentioned that the first step is still to reach out to the case manager, recommending that the supervisor be contacted/notified as well.
 - Christine announced that the link is now live, and that RCEB will be sending it out to providers later in the day.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve announced that the Service Provider Portal has been open to day programs, SLS, ILS, day program providers, respite, and day care, but will be available to early start, service codes 116, 805, and probably 056. He added that they will be notifying early start providers by email so they can sign up.
- Steve mentioned the DDS direction that came out August 24th that has to do with CIE and PIP.
- He mentioned that Competitive Integrated Employment incentive payments have doubled. Steve mentioned that the subcodes still need to be set up in the system. Rose Cásarez will be developing a policy and procedures for case managers that will be going out in the coming weeks.
- Steve announced for the Paid Internship Program, will change from \$1040 annually, but will be switching to 1040 hours, and the hours are multiplied by the hour salary. Steve added that there are now incentive payments for providers; \$750 if in the placement for 30 days, \$1000 if in the placement for 60 days.
- Donna Feingold made the correction that it was \$10,400 annually.
- Steve mentioned Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) mandate that is coming January 1, 2022, which comes from the 21st Century Cares Act, a federal law requiring each state to comply with the EVV system. By January 2022 this includes respite, SLS, home maker services, and personal assistant, including day care. By January 2023 will including nursing care, home health aides, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy.
- Steve mentioned that DDS has contracted with a state electronic verification vendor, who will be helping with uploading all of the providers' information. Steve noted that they had sent an email to all required providers on a list provided by DDS. These providers were asked to list one person as the contact, and those that responded were added to a spreadsheet and returned to DDS. Steve added for those who hadn't responded are still able to sign up manually at a later date.
- Steve mentioned that DDS will continue to have webinars, and he will send out notifications when they are scheduled.
- Dan Hogue asked if this would be free to providers, and Steve Robinson responded that this will not be an additional cost to providers, and that more information would be coming.
- The question was asked if an agency was unsure if they had signed up, how could they verify. Steve indicated that he could be contacted individually by providers who were unsure.
- Mike Minton gave an update in PINS for visitations in group homes stating for ICFs, the rule right now is anybody that comes into the house needs proof of vaccination or a negative covid test within 72 hours. Mike continued that for all licensed facilities, stating essentially the same thing, but provided some individuals who were exempt including licensing, regional centers, and some mental health agencies. Mike explained that a wellness check would still be done, but they are exempt from proof of vaccination or negative covid test results.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board did not meet in August.
- The board had a training on July 26th with a very comprehensive presentation by Elvia Osario Rodriguez on Transition to Adult Services, and a presentation on Employment First by Rose Cásarez.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden mentioned that they have PPE available.
- Sheraden gave a list of upcoming events.
 - Prepare You, 7-week training session that go 12PM-1PM two days a week, that focuses on emergency preparedness. The upcoming sessions are on 9/14 and 9/16 and are specifically for people with disabilities and access and functional needs for various disasters.
 - Employment and Fair Housing and SCDD will be holding an update for renters with I/DD and disabilities in general on 9/22 at 5PM
 - Mental Health I/DD Symposium with behavioral health and mental health departments, and regional centers on 9/23 from 8:30 – 1:00.
 - Regional Advisory Committee on 9/29 at 6:15. One of the agenda items will be mental health and behavioral health.

DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
 - Ben gave an update on Covid-19.
 - Daily case rate is down from a month ago.
 - Currently, there is no vaccine verification process in place.
 - Third doses of the vaccine can now be scheduled.
 - Ben mentioned that PGE is offering address alerts to non-account holders who want to be notified about planned power shutoffs.
 - PGE mentioned the medical baseline program for customers who may rely on power for medical equipment and living needs who can sign up and may benefit from lower bills.
 - At the board meeting, they had a presentation on agency emergency planning and a video recording is available.
 - On 10/16 and 23rd is the 2021 Vision for the Future conference for students and families to learn about post-secondary opportunities.
 - The next council meeting on 10/13 from 9:30-12PM, with a presentation on employment.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi announced a bi-county effort to form the committee on aging being spearheaded by Bill Pelter and Marianne Iverson. The committee is looking at issues and ways to support people we serve. The next meeting on 9/24 with a focus on life planning for later in life.
 - There is a Helping Hands vaccination effort to recruit residents to encourage and expand on vaccination efforts. Through the program, any individual or organization that encourages someone to get fully vaccinated will receive \$100 per individual.
 - The council took a break over the summer, but had a board member meeting in August.
 - Future meetings will continue to be virtual.
 - A deputy health officer will continue to present at meetings through the end of the year.
 - The next meeting will be on 9/22.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned that next Tuesday is the last day to vote in the recall election.

- Mike mentioned that SB 639, the bill to phase out the use of 14c wage certifications passed, so will go back to the senate for a vote, and then on to the governor to sign or veto.
- On a federal level, Mike mentioned the Presidents vaccine mandates. Mike also mentioned the debate to increase the debt ceiling. This would need to be done by mid-October, and if they do not, there will be implications.
- In January, EBLC will start ramping up for the Legislative Breakfast in January.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned that most of the discussion revolved around vaccine mandates.

Membership – Leslie Visbal

- Leslie mentioned that there was no actual report, but there are still openings for members.
- The board is looking for a co-chair.
- The secretary position is open.
- Leslie explained the process to join membership to the board is for a provider to have attended three consecutive meetings in the course of a year. Membership is individual participation and not an agency.

Announcements

- Donna Feingold announced that she will step down at the end of the year as the Executive Director at the Adaptive Learning Center to start private consulting and also manage HireAble for at least one year.
- Leslie announced that the next meeting is Friday, October 8th at 9:30AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:02 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary