

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

**Members Present:** Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Will Sanford, SC & CS; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; ; Shannon Beatty, George Mark Children's House; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care; Claire Palmer, Maxim Healthcare Services.

**Guests Present/by Phone:**

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa County DD Council; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Carol McCrary, VistAbility; B.J. Cottrell, Jaqui' Foundation; Carin Hewitt, Alift LLC; Cecilia Connolly, the Arc of the East Bay; Celeste Rodriguez, Sonia Inc.; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Cheryl Hill, Mason Tillman Associates; Christine Ibia, Aveanna Healthcare; Danon Jenkins, Futures Explored; Eddie Olayo, A&S, Inc.; Emily Correa, Enjoy Life More; Eva Muñoz, Good Samaritan RCF; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Joe Cashel, Las Trampas; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House ILS/SLS; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Kelly Nguyen, Asian Resource Network; Kipi Iscandari, A & K Residential Homes; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Pam Temple, One Step Closer; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Sirkka Wirkki, Jaqui' Foundation, Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area.

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:35 a.m. with one change to the agenda – Legislative update from Will Sanford following the RCEB Board report.

Approval of November 12, 2021 minutes with Will Sanford observing that his initials were out of order in the minutes. M/Will Sanford; S/Craig Rose; passed unanimously with the correction.

Sister Marygrace opened with a reflection on the special quality of this time of year, amidst all the lists and busyness, observing Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa with prayers and celebration.

**RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub**

- As we come to the end of the year, Lisa encouraged reflection on both the optimism brought by the rollout of vaccines and lower COVID rates, and the losses we may have experienced – friends and family members, but also the daily connection that our participants cherish and that is so meaningful in all of our lives. Also at the end of the year, considering uncertainty - of what the next day brings and what will happen. As a result of this uncertainty, we are experiencing exhaustion: may the end of the year include rest and self-care as we prepare for a hopeful year with a lessening of restrictions and exciting new opportunities, such as the rate changes and the many other new initiatives on the horizon. After almost two years since the last PVAC meeting in March 2020, when we received training on emergency preparedness from Ron Halog, we are looking forward to being back together in 2022.
- Assemblymember Jim Frazier, instrumental in community in both positive and challenging ways, is resigning and we will see a special election to decide the seat – he is the founding chair of the Committee on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, so ensuring continuity of this committee is part of advocacy in the coming year.
- Assemblymember Quirk will also not be running for reelection next November – we as a community may have some influence on these seats and elections, so it will be interesting times for advocacy.

- One of our children served by RCEB was selected to light the capitol Christmas tree: Hadi Esmat, a first-grader from Dublin of Afghan heritage, was selected to represent the population with I/DD served in California. Lighting the tree is a tradition that goes back 100+ years, last performed by a person served in our region decades ago – and it is so good to see this incredibly inclusive ceremony take place again with the support of the First Partner for raising visibility for our state’s diverse populations including Californians of Afghan descent, an opening ceremony led by Native Californians, and the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah.
- January budget projects new programs: Performance incentive programs, DS Task Force and Quality Incentive Group meeting dates coming up. A link to register for upcoming DS Task Force meeting on 12/17/22 is here: [https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ecT7zsZNQuO6EMnC8I9jWA](https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ecT7zsZNQuO6EMnC8I9jWA)
- Please look out for emails coming from RCEB and DDS over the coming month re: Rate Adjustment; RCEB is asking providers to read, respond to emails which will impact how rates are calculated by Burns and Assoc.
- Right now, COVID rates low – 11-12 cases per month among people served; still pushing for booster vaccinations throughout the community; RCEB has completed vaccination certification for all employees. Continuing to test is a challenge but holds great benefits – thanks to programs keeping up this practice.
- Cheryl Hill from Mason Tillman is looking at concerns from providers who are Black re: equity and access; attending PVAC meetings and will be reaching out to focus groups to continue this work.
- Question from Carlos Cienfuegos: If providers are having trouble contacting Case Managers and Supervisors, what is the next step? Lisa: Please cc Associate Directors. There are many retirements and departures in December, but Associate Directors will help with follow-up. Associate Director for Adult Services is Christine Hanson; Associate Director for children up to age 22, La Familia, and 2A and 3A language teams is Elvia Osorio Rodriguez.
- RCEB is hiring, as well as many providers!
- Question from Mike Pereira: For delayed POS questions, what is the best follow-up? Lisa: Will do some research at RCEB.
- Question from Karen Lingenfelter: Email for missing POS hasn’t generated response – what is the process? Lisa: RCEB reviews, sends to case managers overseeing POS’s. There were quite a few, with some very old, and RCEB is trying to clear the oldest POS first, but also trying to assess what the issues are and why some are not renewed. One challenge is double-POS for traditional and alternative services.

## Reports

### RCEB Staff Update – Steve Robinson

- Missing the potluck feeling of meeting during the holidays but glad to be here with everyone!
- EVV – for those who have not signed up, please register through CalEVV under SanData by January 1. Service codes 062, 858, 860, 862, 864, 465, 896
- Rate Implementation – receiving quite a holiday gift from DDS, which is the batches of data for rate changes to verify. Steps include: Clarify the rate, staffing level, and staffing qualifications. RCEB has been able to work independently on verification for Batch 1, but Batch 2 / Day Programs will require Provider input. Batches 3 and 4 on the way; please stay alert for emails, questions, and verification that providers can contribute to make the process quicker and easier for everyone.
- Question from Emily Correia re: program design and rate study – does DDS want responses reflecting Alternative Services Delivery, or future program model post-COVID-19? Answer: Reflecting non-pandemic averages.

### RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace reported that RCEB Board met virtually on November 22.
- Approval for Board of Directors Work Plan 2022, Master Calendar 2022, and topics for discussion at Board Meetings. Also approved performance Contract for RCEB 2022, Board Member Elections for 2022, and Dr. Steve Whitgob and Brian Blaisch for second term, with Kathy Hebert reelected as President and Lilian Ansari as Vice-President. Gerald Tamayo as Treasurer, Steve Whitgob as Assistant Treasurer, and Renee Perls as

Secretary. Supports and Services Committee preparing to report on drafts on brochure concepts describing comprehensive service options for various age levels.

- Consumer advisory committee reporting on booster shots and their importance as well as isolation challenges for people served.
- Presentation on Medicaid Waiver – services covered, importance of, role in RCEB service provision.

### SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden Nicholau zooming in from the field today.
- Update on National Core Indicators: mailing out surveys for upcoming section of NCI – surveys for folks living in family home, living outside of family home; waiting on final wording of surveys and will be coming out in January/February.
- Coming up – today/Monday flyer coming for regional advisory for the bay area informed listening session re: policy recommendations re: conservatorship reform. Interested in hearing more from the community; listening sessions 12/20 at 10AM and 6PM with English captioning, Spanish translation and additional languages as needed. All are welcome to share recommendations.
- December 15 at 11AM – Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat. Links coming later today.
- December 23 next RAC meeting.
- January 18, next Legislative and Public Policy Meeting via Zoom.
- State Plan for California meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- State Council Advisory Meeting.
- January 25 – next meeting. For updates this month, please see SCDD's website at <https://scdd.ca.gov/>.
- Still getting requests for PPE, and SCDD happy to help! Some delay as requests increase, but SCDD ready to receive more requests and will process as soon as possible – email [Sheraden.Nicholau@scdd.gov](mailto:Sheraden.Nicholau@scdd.gov).

### DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
  - Happy Holidays from the Alameda County DD Council!
  - COVID updates – currently focused on schools, high priority areas re: census tract, ethnic disparity group.
  - Omicron variant: release out from AlCo and Berkeley – lots of unknowns, please continue to practice the safety measures we know work – wear masks, wash hands, ensure adequate air circulation.
  - With case rates expected to rise with winter, AlCo is encouraging everyone to get booster vaccinations – link to vaccine information here: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>.
  - With limited exceptions, masks still required indoors. Beginning to look at criteria to modify mask mandate; link to info dashboard is here: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/data.page?#mask-mandate>
  - AlCo COVID-19 vaccine advisory group coming up on Dec 14 – 5:30pm to 7pm. Register here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_E08hNZZ3R6-BRc749x635w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E08hNZZ3R6-BRc749x635w).
  - AlCo held several train-the-trainer sessions including Ability Now; thanks to Maureen DeCoste and Mike Pereira for helping coordinate! While no additional sessions are scheduled right now, there are test kits available through Alameda County DD Council. To borrow N95 test kits in Alameda County, contact [Benjamin.Chen2@acgov.org](mailto:Benjamin.Chen2@acgov.org).
  - Advisory Committee Meeting coming up re: Law Enforcement and I/DD Community. Register for Alameda County BoS Community Engagement Meeting on Sheriff Oversight: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-engagement-meeting-on-ab-1185sheriffs-oversight-district-5-tickets-214192915777>.
  - Congreso Familiar session in Spanish on basics of RCEB coming up on Dec 16, 5pm – 7pm: Register for Congreso Familiar, Basics of Regional Centers: [https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_1T1BhN2ETBO\\_ukL4fOci9g](https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1T1BhN2ETBO_ukL4fOci9g)

- Dec 18, 10am – 12pm: Register for Congreso Familiar’s Christmas Celebration: [https://thearca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TQmcaAvzTPiMXldGjcUSSQ](https://thearca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TQmcaAvzTPiMXldGjcUSSQ)
- AlCo DD Council Board Meeting on January 12th from 9:30am – 12pm.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
  - From the health department: gearing up to rollout 5-8 YO vaccination clinics in the new year at schools. For help accessing vaccination sites, testing, please reach out to Vi.
  - CCC DD Council also has access to supplies including N95 Fit Test Kits.
  - Vi is off starting Tuesday December 14.
  - Council doesn’t meet in December; working on Board Development with nominations in January for new members – recruitment is ongoing.
  - Presentation in January from the Hume Center – need for mental health services for individuals with I/DD in CCC.

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

- Changes and moving parts: Longtime legislators like Jackie Spear not running for reelection; Jim Frazier resigning 12/31 with special election and winner standing for election in November. Special election will be in old district with regular election in redrawn ‘new’ district.
- Federal government and Congress demonstrating Senate managerial (calm) role, with House being more dynamic – reached agreement on continuing resolution to fund Fed Govt through February; debt ceiling also on the road to passage; Congress as part of the management team of the Fed Govt needs to come to the table to run the business of the government – have allowed passage of Medicare bill providing for a one-time majority vote to move action in the Senate, raising the debt ceiling high enough to get through coming midterm elections in November. Ultimately money is promised, but limits on spending stand while ‘sausage-making’ continues. Not an especially transparent process to get to this point.
- Build Back Better is waiting in Senate; some hesitancy for swing Democrats to move it forward. For our sector, it provides \$ for DSPs and we would advocate to move forward.
- Requesting for someone to step into Disability Committee to advocate for our sector in the state legislature.
- Full DS Task force meeting next Friday, with work groups all meeting this month. For full info, link is here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/stakeholder-events/>.
- 4 – 5 year delivery of new funding to disability system; important to hold legislators’ feet to the fire as new legislators are elected, we will need to advocate for new folks to uphold prior legislative promises.

### **Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira**

- Day Program Subcommittee and Transportation group continues to meet – invitation to participate stands for all providers.
- Discussing rate implementation and related webinars, while larger community in the state determines how to address codes not included in the study, and how to do this formally through DDS. Encouraging providers with codes not covered to gather information to advocate for missing codes to be included moving forward. These are known to include ILS, Child Care, and potentially more. Please reach out to Mike Pereira if you are included in this group!
- Question: DDS Alternative Services Survey is set to run through November – is there an update planned? Steve R: RCEB hasn’t heard anything.

### **Membership – Marcie Hodges**

- Marcie Hodges welcomed new members; those attending three meetings in a row will automatically be added as members. Marcie advised that Leslie is terming out as Co-Chair this month, but Leslie advised she will continue as needed. Interested Co-Chairs should email Marcie or Leslie with their intent to have name

placed on ballot; Co-Chair is shared with Sister Marygrace, co-chair. Open positions: Contra Costa transportation committee.

- Happy holidays from Marcie and PVAC Membership!

#### **Announcements**

- Donna Feingold announced that next meeting she will be attending PVAC in her new role as consultant to HireAble, and that ALC has hired a new ED who starts 12/20, Anthony Rowe, with lengthy experience in our system – welcome Anthony!
- Looking forward to 2022 with Zoom meeting in January, and tentative planning for in-person meetings later in the winter/early spring.
- Next PVAC meeting on Friday, January 14 at 9:30AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:39 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary