

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, July 8, 2022**

Members Present: Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Sister Marygrace Puchac, Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Ed; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Schantell Williams, DDS; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services; Cecilia Connolly, the Arc of the East Bay; Cheryl Hill, Mason Tillman; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Debbie Rieza, ABC Care Home; Dominique Mellion, Broadmoor Community Services; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Emily Correia, E.L.M.; Eva Muñoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Heather Manes, H.A.T.C.H.; Heidi McFadden, Fremont Adult School; Ian Bremner, RES Success; Jonathan Davis, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Juan Velasquez, Jr., Pathway to Choices; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed; Kinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Lynn Galliano, DABS, Inc.; Maria Ramirez; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Natalie Valdovinos; Samuel Kim, We Thrive SLS; Stacy Apolinar, 24 Hour Home Care; Stephanie Featherstone, CA Mentor; Tiffany Speerbrecker, VistAbility; Tony Green, CA Mentor; Victor Silva; Will Sanford, SC&CS; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care;
52 participants total

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:35

June Minutes:

Approval of June 10, 2022 minutes - M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Will Sanford with unanimous approval.

Membership Vote:

Approval of Jamie Renton as PVAC Member – M/Donna Feingold; S/Will Sanford with unanimous approval.

Inclusion Time:

Leslie Visbal invited those in attendance to share good things happening in the community, to invite the sense of participation we might miss from in-person meetings.

Dan Hogue shared that Las Trampas is beginning services in their new facility – congratulations to Las Trampas!!

Sister Marygrace shared a visit to an emergency room at John Muir Health where 'it is not a drive-thru', it takes time. There was a lot of intention given to the intake process, and in this instance Sister and the person served received so much kindness and graciousness – it's a pure gift.

RCEB State Update - Lisa Kleinbub

• **Statewide issues:**

ARPA funds were designated by DDS/state budget trailer bill to develop 'Coordinated Family Support.'

DDS is meeting with family advocates to identify intent for the model and pilot participants.

DDS has not yet met with community groups in RCEB's area; anticipating meetings coming up soon.

Focus will likely be emphasizing stability in family homes – mainly for older adults and older family members – through SLS-type supports, across language groups. Aiming to begin in early fall.

- **MediCal Changes:**
Service plans moving toward more comprehensive services, increasing services through CalAims program. RCEB meeting with service teams to ensure things don't fall through the cracks as services align between MediCal waivers and CalAims. Especially supportive for folks struggling to maintain housing. Intermediate care facilities have been funded directly through MediCal; now funded through individual MediCal managed care.
- **SB 188 Trailer Bill update:**
No core staffing formula language for Regional Centers.
Moving up next 25% of the rate increase to January 2023 – 6 month acceleration.
Moving up completion of rate implementation by one year.
Still waiting for information on regulatory changes, changes to staffing requirements.
Early Start, ILS, and 6+ bed rate concerns not addressed yet; may require further advocacy.
- **Alternative Service Delivery:** Scheduled to end on December 31, 2022; instead Tailored Day Services received more support in budget; however TDS can not be provided on same day as other services are provided – may be an option for some of the alternative services that have been so helpful. Many questions to navigate.
- **Sharing Employment Data:** DDS-EDD increasing sharing.
- **Early Start Eligibility:** Traditionally 33% delays create eligibility; now lowered to 25%; another category includes expressive and receptive language; fetal alcohol syndrome identified as a risk for I/DD.
- **Increased Case Management:** Reducing caseload ratios; tied to performance measures for RC's; details coming from DDS to include ensuring Service Coordinators reflect language and ethnic diversity of the community; ensuring provider capacity is enough to meet consumer needs.
- **For children under 6:** Caseloads reduced to 1:40.
- **RC Hiring** will be robust as a result of caseload changes.
- **Self-Determination:** Fees for fiscal management have been permanently moved out of individuals' budgets.
- **One-year delay** for family cost-sharing for services; DDS had proposed assessing fees for families over 600% of federal poverty; currently on hold for another year; may return in January.
- **Bureau of State Audits** is auditing the Regional Center system; released audit focused on RC's and DDS.
www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2021-107/index.html
Examined inability to meet caseloads, vendor monitoring, complaint processing, in Alta, North LA, and North Bay. Identified that RCs are not funded adequately to meet caseload ratios, calling out core staffing formula which is frozen at 1991 salaries. DDS being held responsible, as they should be, for these decisions.
Follow-up around QA for vendors; RCEB does require QA visits to licensed residential homes – these are the only required visits; however, vendor file monitoring has not always been a priority and paperwork is sometimes not up to date. New directives coming. Usually state audits are viewed as a negative thing, but this one identifies an important issue that has been known for many years.
- **Outstanding POS and Authorizations:** July 1, RCEB has identified 3 services where authos will continue until canceled – doesn't mean that reports don't need to be continued; just that POS will roll over from fiscal year to fiscal year. These are Residential Services, 062 Respite Services, and ILS. There may be other categories to add to these. Also looking at Day Services, which are more complex – moving out of Alternative Service Delivery, there's a need for more cautious movement.
Thanks to those who have submitted missing POS surveys – working to locate invoices and back-pay on six cases with identified missing POS; there are others that continue to be challenges but more work is being done.

RCEB Staff Report – Steve Robinson, Mike Minton, Fruc Menchavez

Fruc Menchavez spoke to HCBS validation and remediation –

- Thanks to those who submitted validations - all have been uploaded into state portal; late submissions may not have been added as RCEB is trying to adhere to DDS deadlines and directives on due dates.
- Remediation deadlines vary; 45 days from notification and Fruc is submitting as they come in.

- No concrete next steps; those who are out of compliance will likely need to go through mediation; compliant programs will not need to do anything else.
- RCEB has until March 2023 to ensure that vendors under remediation complete compliance.
- Some providers have submitted self-assessment that are not visible in the system or do not have an assessment in the system; waiting for directive from DDS for next steps on these cases.

Will Sanford asked about self-determination; do these consumers need to go through assessment or remediation?

Fruc responded that if someone is already compliant through validation process, this is the easiest path to self-determination. If non-compliant just yet, ID team assesses how to make program offerings compliant for the individual.

Will responded that some HCBS specialists have required individuals to prove compliance for every service received.

Steve Robinson provided an update on rate Implementation -

- Next 25% increase in January 2023; hopefully less complicated than Round 1.
- Final rate implementation scheduled to be complete in July 2024 rather than 2025 – up to 90% increase; remaining 10% based on performance incentives.
- Specialized Residential – 113, Enhanced Behavioral Supports, Community Crisis Facilities, Family Home Agencies – working with Burns and Associates to determine rates.
- For SLS, providers with rates pre-2008 on the A & B schedule, RCEB is working with DDS to calculate hourly rates rather than monthly budgets; recalculated and sent rates last Friday.
- Rate review request form is also available to dispute rates if vendors see a problem – please send within 60 days: <https://www.rceb.org/announcements/rate-review-process-for-4-1-22-rate-adjustment/>
- Reminder that if you have not received a rate increase, please email Chase Kalbaugh at ckalbaugh@rceb.org

Uniform Holiday Schedule – seeking input:

Both Lisa and Steve mentioned that RCEB is looking for feedback on the ten days contracted services will not provide services.

Work Activity Programs will have eleven days, including Juneteenth.

Many providers weighed in on the importance of retaining the Veterans Day Holiday, but not adding another day to the holiday schedule; others suggested swapping Presidents' Day as a holiday for Juneteenth.

Lisa and Steve agreed to discuss further at RCEB; possibly engaging a survey for providers, and will get back to the group as the uniform holiday schedule is decided for 2022-23.

Adding another holiday is a budgetary issue, as holidays represent lost income for day providers and additional expenses for providers who need to pay 1.5-time for workers covering holiday shifts.

Regional Center Board Report – Sister Marygrace

- RCEB Board Met on June 27, 2022.
- **Four Contracts Approved:** Aurelian Corners for one 4-client home for adult women with co-occurring mental health and behavioral support needs. Many questions about monitoring with responses.
- Lifespring, LLC – Seely, Inc.: One 4-bed specialized residential facility for mental health, behavioral support, and forensic needs.
- Contract with two registered nurses to support folks moving into community from development centers.
- DDS: C-2 contract amendment with Regional Center of the East Bay.
- Diversity and Equity Committee report: 39-page report from public counsel re: inequitable access for DD services through regional center system. Saadia, the committee chair, committed to connection with Families United for Equity to maintain communication and develop understanding.
- Supports and Services Committee report: Brochures being refined and photos being selected for English/Spanish/Vietnamese/Simplified Chinese versions as well as web-accessible versions.
- Plan of corrective action for case management – RCEB very committed to looking at enough case management, enough services to fulfill promises. In the past year, people served increased by 1,090 –

numbers are going up without similar increase in case management resources:
<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2021-107/index.html>

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- **Statewide Grant Cycle open until July 27** – Employment, Education, Housing, or Health and Safety, focusing on underserved communities defined as – socioeconomically challenged, ethnic and racial minorities, co-occurring conditions, tribal and native communities, experiencing homelessness, non-English speaking, people in foster care; up to \$260,000 in grant funding available. <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>
- Order **Antigen Testing** through SCDD: email Sheraden at sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov
- **PPE**: SCDD continues to maintain connection with Cal Emergency Services – email Sheraden for this.

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- **Annual Planning Meeting July 13**: 9:30-12PM: Annual Planning Meeting; welcoming folks to join and give feedback on the coming year's focus points.
- **New Staff Member Schantall Williams**:
- **Employment Spotlight**: Highlighting success stories in Employment for individuals with I/DD. Make a submission for Alameda County DDC's Employment Spotlight:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeAQN1xzFBIPiA1jYwMlx8HikDbXSTA5VpWckNV8DZ60EKx6Q/vie_wform
- **Trainings from DHTI**: Interested in DHTI's Basic Behavioral Trainings or DSP Trainings for Asian Language Speakers? Call 510-575-0386 or email Hue.Ly@dhti.org
To apply for DHTI Fast Track Respite Training: <https://healthpipeline.wufoo.com/forms/w1lyu8pr198fagg/>
- **Housing Opportunities in Livermore/Pleasanton**:
Apply for REACH's Housing Waitlist: <https://trivalleyreach.org/housing/>
- **National Access and Functional Needs Symposium re: Emergency and Disaster Planning**
Register for the National Access and Functional Needs Symposium, July 19th and 20th, 12PM – 3PM ET :
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-access-and-functional-needs-symposium-tickets-362727677247>

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Leslie Visbal reporting for Vi Ibarra

- No July Contra Costa County DD Council Meetings. August 24th is the Summer Planning Session for the Council and the next full meeting is on Sept 28th at 10:00am.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

- Governor signed both Budget and Trailer bills June 30; now effective July 1.
- Legislation and DDS taking on part of Fairview Developmental Center to create supported housing.
- Rate increases January 1 – percentage of where dollars are spent is matched with potential for audit.
- July of 2023 – 10%; Direct Service Provider survey is considered one of the incentives. Must be compliant to be eligible for 10%. Lisa mentioned that RCEB had 39% completion – not the best in the state, but we really caught up!
- Hold-Harmless date was not changed, so if existing rates are higher, the deadline still holds.
- IPP meetings may be held remotely until next year.
- TDS may no longer be provided in conjunction with other day services; will be established using rate study model using community-based day 1:2 services; double the rate x 80%. For providers with higher rate than this, their rate is also subject to hold-harmless.
Half-day billing for day programs and work activity programs ended.
- Workforce Stabilization: DSPs may receive 2 x \$500 stipends for completing training and development courses – must be available by November of this year; allows for administrative fee.

Provides paid internships for DSPs, particularly for underserved populations.
RC staff to promote learning and ed development up to \$10K/year for up to 3 years, with employees providing 1 year of service after completion for each year.

- Budget provided \$50M to increase dental facility capacity for consumers with I/DD.
- Roughly 40 pages for revising appeal process; bills by Disability Rights California and SCDD still being decided.
- Legislature on recess until August, then bill passage will be robust.

Day Program Subcommittee – Mike Pereira

- Interest from SLS community to meet as a group with Regional Center to discuss issues in depth.
- Weekly troubleshoot Wednesdays at 2PM; group meetings Fridays at 11AM; Transportation Fridays at 9AM.

HireAble – Donna Feingold

- No HireAble in July
- Presentation from HireAble in June – lots of Regional Center staff, family members on this call.
- Next Meeting August 22 at 3PM
- Lots of resources including an enhanced grant system for upcoming grant opportunities.
- Link to survey on needs assessment <https://forms.gle/Jb42S2WGuXbFry6L8> – 3 mins and really helps assess employment needs in I/DD community!

Membership – Marcie Hodge

- Please provide information and name in chat for attendance purposes.
- Leslie's position as Co-Chair is available, as well as Contra Costa County and Alameda County transportation providers. Please email Leslie or Marcie with interest!

Announcements and Public Comment

- PVAC will break for summer in August, with next meeting on Friday, September 9.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:52 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary