

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, September 9, 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; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Jennifer Parsons, DDS; Karina Cruz, DDS; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Schantell Williams, DDS; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa County DD Council; Alicia Curran, Compass; Alisa Cartner, Davis Street Resource Center; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Debbie G, Clausen House;; Emily Correia, E.L.M.; Erika Gonzalez, 24 Hour Home Care; Eva Muñoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Francisco Ruiz, Sonia Inc.; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Juan Velasquez, Jr., Pathway to Choices; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House ILS/SLS; K. Medina; Kipi Iscandari, A and K Residential Homes; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Lauren Fuentes, Commercial Support Services Antioch; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Maria Ramirez, Families United for Equity; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Mayra Hernandez, Aveanna Healthcare; Nancy Eddy, DPAC; Robert Jo, Agape Care Homes; Samuel Kim, We Thrive SLS; Sonia Berber, Sonia Inc.; Veronica Santana, Clausen House; Zackery Wheeler, UCS; Will Sanford, SC&CS

52 participants total

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:33

June Minutes:

Approval of July 8, 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 after the August recess.

Leslie mentioned that she went to Spain for two weeks, and didn't get COVID!

Donna celebrated that her daughter got married!

Sister Marygrace noted that although we are still in the middle of the 'C-time', there is healing in the present moment, and the people we serve personify that enjoyment of the now, and acceptance of others exactly as they are.

Reports

Regional Center Board Report – Sister Marygrace

- No meeting in August.
- During the Board Meeting recess, they received a daylong Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training from an excellent trainer (Wanda). Sister Marygrace described some information shared – Equity including access and equitable distribution of opportunity; Diversity as a fact of living in community, and the importance of

Respect in communications surrounding diversity, along with the three pillars: Respect, Value, and Trust, and the continual issues of bias/prejudice and microaggressions - all via Youtube videos and interactive exercises.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- **SCDD Trainings** being offered statewide; reach out to sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov for updates
- **Legislative and Public Policy Committee** implements the policy-related State Plan objectives and activities of the Council. Next meeting is Tuesday, September 13 from 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM.
Details: https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative_and_public_policy
- **Self-Advocates Advisory Committee** is comprised of self-advocate members of the Council. The Committee advises the Council on policies, programs, and other matters affecting California self-advocates.
Next meeting is Monday, September 19 from 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM.
Details: https://scdd.ca.gov/self_advocates_advisory_committee/Statewide_Council_on_September_20
- **Council Meeting** - Tuesday, September 20 from 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Details: https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/Bay_Area
- **Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Zoom Meeting** - Collaboration is key and all are welcome! We invite members of the community to share input, issues, and concerns. Topics include: voting rights updates, mid-term election preparation, RAC member updates, and much more!
Wednesday, September 28 — Networking from 6:15 PM – 6:30 PM / Meeting from 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Zoom meeting link: <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
- **Employment First Committee** is a statutorily created body responsible for identifying and promoting strategies that increase the number of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities who engage in competitive integrated employment. The next meeting is Thursday, October 20 from 10:30 AM – 3:30 PM
Details: https://scdd.ca.gov/employment_first_committee/
- Still working with Health Departments to access **PPE and antigen tests** for programs and families served.
Email Sheraden with questions: sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- **Annual Planning Meeting July 13:** thanks to those who joined for the annual meeting while AlCo DD Council was on break for summer!
- **Bivalent Vaccines Available Now!** Contain MRNA of original strain plus new variants; **Mike Pereira** and **Louise McClellan** posted links in chat: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-moderna-pfizer-biontech-bivalent-covid-19-vaccines-use> and <https://eziz.org/assets/docs/COVID19/TalkingPatientsBivalentBoosterDoses.pdf>
- **Monkeypox/MPX/MPox:** Around 198 cases in Alameda County; Alameda County MPX webpage now available: <https://mpx.acgov.org/>
- Register to attend **FCSN's Disability Resource Festival** on September 25, 11am – 2pm:
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejc5es0y0b00fc39&llr=kz4dcz6ab&showPage=true>
- Register for **Disability Vote California's** Info Sessions on the November General Election:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcemorz4rEtJpL96kAgnVsiCnQmjhpY54>
- **REACH Housing Opportunities** – Duplexes, Condos, Single-Family Residence waitlist open:
Apply for **REACH's Housing Waitlist:** <https://trivalleyreach.org/housing/>
Complete CA SILC Needs Assessment Survey by September 30th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K8BKKJT>
- **2022 Vision for the Future Conference** on formal education after high school for the disability community, including lifelong learning, community college, etc and more. Save the date: October 22.
- Next **Alameda County DD Council meeting** Wednesday, September 14, 9:30-12:30AM.

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- Here is the agenda for Tuesday's Board of Supervisors' meeting, with a recognition of **Care Parent Network** for their 30 years of service to families in Contra Costa County:
http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL&get_month=9&get_year=2022&dsp=ag&seq=2043
- **Central County Resource Fair** October 13 – replaces Willow Creek High School resource fair. Email coming next week with specifics on participation.
- **Board recruitment** – emphasizing participation from families with school-age children, noting that the majority of information shared tends to be about adult resources.
- **Centered on Me** is a platform to assist self-advocates in planning their own lives; presentation coming up from Jamie Markey at Mains'.

Presentation:

EVV with Jennifer Parsons, Karina Cruz, DDS EVV Program Team

- **Back to basics: What is EVV?**
- **Project activities - Definitions and updates:** Personal Care; Home Health Care; Self-Determination

EVV is a Federal requirement under the 21st Century CARES Act – requires a telephone and computer based system to electronically verify when services are provided in the home.

EVV collects 6 data points: type of service provided; individual receiving service; location of service delivery; person providing service; time service begins and ends.

As of January 2022, after several extensions, California is now ready to implement EVV.

How EVV reflects feedback from people served: Uses either the state solution (CalEVV), or alternative solutions already in place. (Open-vendor model.) All visit data must be transmitted to the State's CalEVV Aggregator. Providers can also change systems if necessary.

EVV provides data collection at no cost to providers; provides CalEVV Aggregator; provides tech assistance; provides data analysis.

EVV does not change how/where services are provided; does not replace or communicate with eBilling; required for services starting/stopping in the home; however, live-in staff are not required to capture EVV data.

Project Activities –

October 2018 – stakeholder meetings began; **2021** – work with SanData to implement Personal Care services data collection; **January 2022** – providers beginning to upload data; slow start but increasing participation; **Summer 2022** – Home Health Services implementation; **September 2022** – Provider onboarding for HHS; January 2023 – HHS going live; **Summer 2022** – Self-Determination Program services (Personal Care Services and Home Health Care Services); **January 2023** – goal of going live for SDP.

DDS notes that training and onboarding will be ongoing for new staff, new instances.

Currently 727 out of 1,604 total statewide providers were registered and reporting at ~45% by 3/28/22.

Regional Centers are currently contacting providers who are not providing EVV information.

DDS is now improving data; reviewing provider identifiers, client information for completeness, correct linkages.

Home Health Care Services - Provider registration opens September 2022.

Nursing – 460, 742, 744; Home Health – 854, 856; Speech – 707; Occupational Therapy – 773; Physical Therapy – 772.

Onboarding – trainings, webinars, office hours, EVV inbox is EVV@dds.ca.gov, SanData customer care at CACustomerCare@sandata.com or 855.943.6070.

Self-Determination Program – EVV Registration opens in September 2022.

Current status – 7 out of 10 FMS providers are registered; 6 of 7 registrants already using an alternate EVV system; 1 registrant using CalEVV. 1:1 conversations in August to gather feedback.

Feedback takeaways: Early and often communication will streamline implementation; start communicating with consumers and families re: what to expect; provide plain language materials; understand different FMS models' caregiver compliance with EVV matters; and maintenance/audit/connectivity may all be barriers.

Currently DDS is developing plain language materials, improving DDS EVV webpage to include info for caregivers and families, and will host SDP-specific webinars and targeted office hours.

Next Steps:

Information, webinar, and meeting recordings available here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/>
For alternative EVV data providers: CalAltEVV@sandata.com

Question from Will Sanford: Independent Facilitators can help families understand how EVV will work – they spend time bringing folks on board and can help answer questions – Independent Facilitators maintain a Slack Network to stay in touch, and are often on the Disabilities United every-other-week calls.

Question from Steve Robinson: Thanked Jennifer for the presentation, and asked about what happens to service providers who don't sign up? Also, noticing providers may have signed up, but not for all vendor numbers – do they need to register for all of their vendor numbers? **Jennifer** responded that providers will not be Federally compliant, and this is required for all vendors. There is information on the way about remediation, but DDS is currently focused on onboarding, training, troubleshooting, and hasn't moved on to remediation yet. For vendors who haven't registered all ID info, instructions have been improved, and this can be fixed in CalEVV's Security Menu > Manage Provider Identifiers. CADDs should be the payer, Jurisdictional Entity should be the Regional Center(s), and double-check that all vendor numbers are provided for all regional centers. Courtesy Vendor relationships should also be entered. Do not provide EIN, Tax ID, or national provider identifier – these numbers do not help CalEVV to report to CMS. Pop in for office hours to troubleshoot further – these can be so helpful on all sides. Additionally, a quick-reference guide on all of these things is forthcoming.

Juan-Carlos Velasquez asked about ADP – they mentioned their timekeeping is not compliant; how should ADP users integrate ADP-based data for SanData data collection? **Jennifer** responded that not all alternate systems include the components needed for EVV, including ADP – does not include all 6 required data points. Providers either switch to another timekeeping system that's certified with SanData, or check in/check out twice. She would encourage providers to share information about what compliant systems are working for them. **Alicia Curran** mentioned that QSP (Quick Solve Plus) is compliant.

Website Orientation –

DDS.ca.gov >> Scroll down to tabs >> EVV >>

Meeting Tab is sticky at the front -

1. Office hours (10 in September, click to join, no registration, password, code required).
2. Stakeholder meetings do require registration and are recorded.
3. Town Hall Meetings hosted by SanData – alternate systems info presented in a webinar style with Q&A.
4. All previous stakeholder meetings, slides, powerpoint presentations are located at the bottom of the page.

Consumers and Families Tab – Plain Language information for families.

Providers Tab – Information on timelines, steps to take, getting started.

Alternative EVV Solutions Tab – SanData Website links, document downloads, guides, contact info for help with AltEVV.

Guidance/Notifications Tab – News, forms, and requirements including exceptions.

Resources/Training Tab – FAQs, EVV Newsletters, CalEVV System Training with short video clips, customer care contact info.

Lisa Kleinbub – RCEB and State

- Lisa thanked Jennifer and Karina and noted that federal funding – and rate increases – depends on being compliant, so this information is so important.
- Lisa noted that guidance is coming mid-month on program design post-alternative services to integrate remote service options, including Tailored Day Services.
- Meeting upcoming for residential providers in licensed care homes and supported living – figuring out how to support participants, families, and providers after alternative services end so that there is support at home for people participating online.
- Upcoming from the state: some movement on the **rates for larger providers** – residential providers with more than 6 beds were not included in the rate study (presumed due to HCBS non-compliance although now many large facilities are being re-examined), and rate advice is forthcoming on these, to include consideration of Title 17 requirements. Anticipating to be retroactive to April 1.
- **Budget Trailer Bill:** Regional Centers have not received budget information for staffing from DDS yet; recruiting has started however. Hiring staff position to track authorizations alongside other responsibilities as missing POS are addressed and capacity is freed up.
- Highlighted in recent media – **conservatorship process bills** are in the legislature, including scrutiny on conservatorships by DDS rather than family members. DDS will likely require Regional Centers to monitor DDS conservatorships and assessment of need for conservatorship. RCEB has a very small number, <20 people with majority conserved more than 20 years – many moved from large developmental centers 20+ years ago. Some also conserved as protection from abuse and neglect. Legislation on the way to change unlimited conservatorships with families to require greater review and legal input. Lisa opined that supported decision-making might not be supported by this bill, but the language is a start in that direction.
- **Re: June audit of Regional Centers by state auditors:** <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/factsheets/2021-107.pdf>
Examined three RCs and support from DDS to RCs to assess whether DDS was fulfilling legally required responsibilities. One of the larger gaps was in staffing; not a lot of power in terms of enforcement but a dialogue in the state administration is motivating consideration of new legislation.
- **Additional audit considered respite care:** <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/factsheets/2021-120.pdf>
 - <https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2021-120.pdf>
 - Assessed experience with agency, employer of record, and FMS respite – saw fuller use of respite with FMS, possibly due to rates being lower than EOR, creates barrier to services in RCEB's catchment area.
- **CalAIMS:** Support for housing and other services through MediCal, navigating prohibition on 'double-dipping' on federal funds. Conversation between DDS and DHCS on how CalAIMS moved forward. ICFs have been traditionally through MediCal and now will be managed care through CalAIMS.
- **DDS Service Access and Equity Grant Opportunity** – Bidders conference being posted to DDS Website; seeking projects for language and cultural access; supporting consumers in different cultural communities including LGBTQ and Deaf+ Communities.

- **Language Access and Cultural Competency Plan** approved by DDS; available on RCEB website under transparency portal, and includes funding for translation of documents and assessment of POS policies meeting current needs of families and consumers beginning with Respite, ILS, and Day.
- RCEB is hiring a manager of Equity and Access, as well as several Specialists, with emphasis on translation of documents – RCEB has highest number of languages in any Regional Center.
- Rates of COVID are down, giving all of us an opportunity to engage more. Considering January start date for in-person PVAC Meetings again – hybrid technology will hopefully be updated in the interim.
- **Jeannette Underhill-Levingston** asked who is working on the larger residential rates, and Lisa responded that DDS and Burns and Associates are working together on this.
- **Will Sanford** asked whether social rec policies have been approved by DDS; **Lisa** responded that they were approved in November by RCEB Board but they have not received approval for updated version with new language standardizing access. Learning through experience, new changes may be required, e.g. pulling out nonmedical therapies from Social Rec.

Steve Robinson – RCEB Staff Report

- August 24 deadline just passed for **employment grant funds**: DDS received 17 total apps for RCEB; 13 local and 4 statewide.
- **Rate Implementation**: Cleaning up rates in system; September 17th deadline – please send questions on rates from RCEB as soon as possible to Chase Kalbaugh at ckalbaugh@rceb.org. Next increase is coming for January 2023; need to complete current rate increase first. July 2024 will be final increase to benchmark rate.
- **Fruc Menchavez** provided an update on validation/remediation for HCBS; all information is uploaded to state portal and is being reviewed by DDS. While PCG (contractor) does validation for DDS, no rubric is available for guidance for compliance.
- **Final Rule** webinar coming up on September 22 at 2PM.
- **RCEB** collected data to develop proposal for DDS funding for objectives: How do we create greater visibility for Final Rule in our communities? How do we promote collaboration? How do we reach a broader group? Marketing plan being developed.
<https://www.rceb.org/providers/request-proposal/> - RFPs due October 7 by 5PM to fmenchavez@rceb.org.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

Legislative Session 2022 is over; bills are now on Governor’s desk for signature by 9/30:

- AB1663 - Conservatorship law changes as Lisa detailed above.
- AB1720/SB1093 – Simplified background check bills; in conflict in certain areas; final one signed will override conflicted sections in former.
- AB2806 – Changes to expulsion rules for child care
- SB870 – Change IDD eligibility age to 22 from 18; also may include ppl with TBI who become eligible after 18.
- SB882 – Additional law enforcement training around disabilities
- EBLC Candidate Forums coming up for Districts 20 and 10:
 - Assembly District 20 forum: 10/13/22, 6-7:30PM
Includes Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, Union City, Fremont
 - Senate District 10 forum: TBD
Includes Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro, Union City, Fremont, and parts of Santa Clara
- Preparing for Legislative Town Hall meeting in January

Day Program Subcommittee – Mike Pereira

- Seconding Will – everyone is welcome to candidate forums; constituent voices so helpful in making an impact.
- Two candidates up for candidate forum are: Liz Ortega, local organizer, Shawn Kumagai, former District Director in Rebecca Bauer-Kahan’s Assembly District 16 office.

- Conclusion of Alternative Monthly Billing is a topic of interest for Day Programs; TDS may be helpful for some folks' needs being met, but no blanket solution for the barriers that participants and providers experience for receiving/providing services. Focus is on preserving remote services for those who need them.
- Transportation-based issues can be raised in weekly troubleshoot Zooms at 2PM Wednesdays; Fridays at 11AM.
- Appreciating RCEB for listening and receiving feedback from Providers.

HireAble – Donna Feingold

Donna wrote in the chat: Since we are running out of time, I just wanted to say that I will be sending out an agenda for September's HireAble meeting later today. It will be on September 26th at 3pm and the presentation will be on Tailored Day Services. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, you can reach me at donna@hireable.org and here is the link to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87514867188>

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 next meeting will be October; will advise on date of November meeting, which falls on a holiday!

Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary