

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, October 14, 2022**

Members Present: Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; 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; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Schantell Williams, DDS; Amy Simons, A Brighter View Day Program; Ann Pringle; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills; Ashlee Kaigler, Thrive Support Services ILS; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Danon Jenkins, Futures Explored; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; David Nettles, Empowerment for Success; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Eva Muñoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Francisco Ruiz, Sonia Inc.; Ivy Flores, Aveanna Healthcare; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Juan Velasquez, Jr., Pathway to Choices; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House ILS/SLS; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Kiptiatu Iscandari, A and K Residential Homes; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Nancy Eddy, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Samuel Kim, We Thrive SLS; Sarah Angelo, Victim/Witness Div., DA's Office; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; ; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care

44 participants total

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:35 with several changes to the agenda: some regular reporters absent and no presentation this month. Leslie also mentioned that there will be a new slate of officers in November, with Leslie's chair open for those interested!

September Minutes:

Approval of September 9, 2022, minutes - M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Jamie Renton with unanimous ayes except for Geneva Ziaoure's abstention.

Inclusion Time:

Leslie Visbal invited those in attendance to share positive things happening in the community.

Lisa wanted to have something wonderful, but Leslie mentioned that nothing came to mind – hoping everyone's well!

Jamie shared that a new intern was celebrating his very first paycheck at Pleasanton Adult Education!

Teresa Nold shared that she made it through her first week as the new ED at Deaf Plus Adult Community, and PVAC members congratulated her warmly.

Karen celebrated that it is Friday!

Reports

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Little Hoover Commission** – mostly retired state assemblymembers, senators. Hearing on disparities in Regional Center system, mainly re: race and ethnicity though also including geographic disparities. Includes testimony from family members as well as Disability Rights California, shaking up expectations about how we do things in our system – especially accessing generic resources vs. IDD-specific resources, how it impacts

Medicaid funding. Roundtable coming up Oct 27; additional hearing in November with short public comment at end.

- **RCEB Performance Contract Meeting**, 10/18 @ 4pm: <https://rceb.org/event/rcebs-draft-2023-performance-contract/>
This contract year will be January 2023-June 2024, then moving to fiscal year rather than calendar year. RCEB will share measures to be rated, inviting feedback from community. Includes measures tied to case management, related to performance incentives that may not be formalized yet – e.g. ChildFind in Early Start; assessing how many children served vs total in age group; family satisfaction with Regional Centers statewide – talking about these measures, then convening a second meeting once these measures are more formally established. Will be tied to release of remaining 10% of increased funding.
- **Community Resource Development Survey** is up on RCEB's webpage under new announcements: <https://rceb.org/news/crdp-survey-encuesta-del-pdrc-2/> Encouraging anyone interested in seeing new services to complete this survey. RCEB will be asking for startup funds as well as safety net and housing project funding. **Dan Hogue** suggested RCEB setting up a Constant Contact or other outreach mechanism to boost survey participation. **Lisa** thanked Dan and mentioned that one of the biggest obstacles is folks who do not access email or electronic surveys, so there may be a public meeting coming up.
- DDS webinars this month on **Coordinated Family Support Services** for family homes of adults with IDD, aimed at coordinating IHSS, emergency backup. Regulations are not available yet but hoping service providers will stay tuned about how to participate in this program supporting (in particular) aging participants and parents. A reminder that staying in one's own home or family home is one of the measures RCEB is rated on. **Donna Feingold** asked a question about this measure, and **Lisa** clarified that the incentive is to live in their own home or a family home, not only in family homes.
- **Service Access and Equity Grants** due to DDS by October 25th; please let RCEB know that you are submitting a proposal, as RCEB reviews for conflicts with what RCEB is able to support. **Samuel Kim** asked who to contact at Regional Center, and **Lisa** said to contact herself kleinbub@rceb.org or Jairo Guiza jguiza@rceb.org.
- **Quality Incentive Payments**: Staff Stability and Turnover Survey (June) – list has been submitted to RCEB and RCEB is awaiting the payment processing code. Still sorting out cases with multiple homes/locations under one tax ID but will be able to send payments through.
Enclosure B-Initial List of Awarded Programs who have a validated Staff Stability Survey and will receive a \$8K stipend: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Enclosure-B-FINAL-1st-Phase.pdf>
- **For homes larger than 6-bed residential**, RCEB will pay October billing at increased rate, just received from DDS, and will proceed with retroactive billing to April 1 to match the 25% rate increase for all providers.
- Directive just out reviewing all **State Trailer Bill language**; RCEB will post on website ASAP.

Regional Center Staff Report – Mike Minton

- October 25 at RCEB Concord: **Commercial Support Services will distribute PPE (gowns)**; please RSVP to mminton@rceb.org.
- **RCEB will begin in-person visits to residential providers** again next week; case managers and QAs will be coming to houses for the first time since licensing changes for licensed homes – no longer need to verify vaccination or negative tests for visits now. **Jaynette Underhill-Levingston** asked whether there is still a time limit for in-person visits, and **Mike** said he doesn't know. **Leslie Visbal** asked whether participants could choose not to have case managers come in person, and **Mike** said for SLS and ILS, best locations for meetings are still being worked out. **Lisa** said that regulations require quarterly monitoring for individuals living outside the family home, and they will need to do this in person now that remote monitoring is no longer authorized. June trailer bill language allowed for remote visits for another year for individuals living in family homes, and we might see an extension of this for some time due to families' preference to work remotely with service providers.

Regional Center Staff Report – Fruc Menchavez

- First batch of **HCBS validation reports** has been sent out; next batch on Monday, October 17. Those not deemed compliant will have one month to complete remediation plan or submit more documentation. Fruc

will host office hours on Wednesdays for Q&A. Next phase will be remediation; pool is growing and RCEB will be working to define effectiveness in remediation plans and progress before next March 17.

- During DDS HCBS Office Hours, DDS indicated a directive is coming out with repercussions of sorts for providers who have not participated in any kind of HCBS activities.
- **Dan Hogue** asked about providers who submitted surveys but have received no feedback at all. **Fruc** received permission to fill spreadsheet manually; sending this information to DDS now, and likely to move through remediation rather than the 2-step process of validation/remediation.
- **Marcie Hodge** asked about the lack of a baseline for remediation standards – has RCEB created its own baseline or rubric to maintain equity from provider to provider? **Fruc** responded that they are trying to create a system where people can, accessibly, achieve compliance, since creating a flat benchmark might result in all providers undergoing remediation.
- **Mike Pereira** asked the RCEB team about how soon TDS directives might come out. Is there any information about ratios, as Lisa had mentioned hearing 1:2, and Disability Thrive webinar shared a 1:1 ratio. **Lisa** responded that there is not clarity yet, but that Steve Robinson was attending a statewide community services directors meeting that might result in new information. This would be the moment for DDS to provide this information, but nothing new has emerged. **Mike** reasserted that while TDS is a wonderful option, the need remains for Remote Services to meet the needs of our consumers.

Transportation Report - Priscilla Gomez

- **Transportation requests** are still taking up to 5-6 weeks to fulfill, so please submit transportation requests for January 2023 by November 15th at the latest. Requests for 2-3 individuals may be filled in 2-3 weeks, but larger groups will take longer. Please reach out to pgomez@rceb.org to work out details, as necessary.

Regional Center Board Report – Sister Marygrace (No Report)

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau (No Report)

Alameda County DD Council Report – Schantell Williams

- **COVID-19:** Overall case rates have declined over the past two months; Alameda County is now in the low tier: Alameda County COVID-19 Webpage: <https://covid-19.acgov.org>
- **9/23 State Masking Policy Recommendations:** Everyone is recommended to mask indoors at high transmission rates; vulnerable people recommended to mask at medium-high levels. CDC Community COVID-19 Level Tracker: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
- **California COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave:** Extended to December 31, provides 80 hours of paid sick leave to those unable to work due to COVID; includes all employers with 25 or more employees.
- **Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccines:** Available to all over the age of 12; MRNA components of original strain + BA4 & BA5.
- Coming up: Expect continued rollbacks of local, state, and federal COVID-19 restrictions currently in effect.
- Coming up: Expect rising rates of COVID-19 and cold/flu throughout fall and winter cold season. May be a harder flu season than previous years; please get the flu shot!
- **MonkeyPox Update:** Current rates of infection in Alameda County are low; stay alerted but cases have decreased. More information on Alameda County Monkeypox Website: <https://mpx.acgov.org>
- **Newsletter Highlights:** Always looking for nominations for employment stories; stay tuned for employee spotlights and other news. Make an Alameda County DD Council Employment Spotlight Submission: <https://forms.gle/qrcz7flj3cEKQZ2n9>
- Register for Vision for the Future, October 22, 9AM – 2:30PM: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_K_vg68NoRh2F7CK7u5RIWw
- Register for 2022 Bay Area UASI Public Safety Preparedness Summit, November 1st – 3rd, 2022: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-public-safety-preparedness-summit-tickets-416226172687>

- La Familia Events (all will be in Spanish):
 - Register for La Familia's Monthly Orientation – Regional Center Services and Generic Resources, October 18th, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: <https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/j/85888510651?pwd=Z0VMUHJTTUJYK2N3VlhJV1RvbXJVUT09>
 - Register for La Familia's Immigration Workshop, October 27th, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm: https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2XvL9VgvRBSHMoiv0JODQ
 - Register for La Familia & MIND Institute Conferencia 2022 "Learning Together", October 12th - October 15th: <https://ucdavishealth.zoom.us/j/98115252543>
 - Apply for REACH's Housing Waitlist: <https://trivalleyreach.org/>
 - Apply for DHTI Fast Track Respite Training: <https://healthpipeline.wufoo.com/forms/w1lyu8pr198fagq/>
- Board of Directors Meeting November 9

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Leslie Visbal

- Great presentation last month on <https://centeronme.com/>; question from **Carol McCrary** whether Centered on Me will receive courtesy vendorization through RCEB, and **Lisa** and **Leslie** are working on it.
- Contra Costa County Transition Fair coming up – it is a virtual event.
- Next month's DD Council meeting Wednesday, October 26 at 10AM.
- Free Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinic at Mt Diablo Adult Ed adult center on Saturday, 10/22. Please see the flyer: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kp14x7kJWh0DCKxET20RvFjtUNTun2sp/view?usp=sharing>

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

Mike shared screen with EBLC PPT on Legislative issues:

- September bills signed by Governor Newsom impacting DD system:
 - AB207 (Ting) Extension of State Internship Program
 - AB1663 (Maenschein) Modifies Conservatorship; adds guidelines for supported decision making
 - AB1720 (Holden) Allows simplified Background Checks by DSS if there is a clear pattern of noncriminal activity
 - SB1093 (Hurtado) Similar to AB1720 but signed after, so its changes to the law are effective
 - AB2806 (Rubio) Revises requirements for expulsion/Suspension of children in Child Care due to 'behaviors'
 - SB882 (Talamantes-Eggman) Creates Advisory Council on improving interactions between people with IDD and Law Enforcement
 - SB717 (Dodd) Department of Technology – Broadband access report
- Vetoed Bills:
 - SB870 (Portantino/Wilk) Changes the age by which a Developmental Disability must be identified from 18 to 22, matching the Federal definition
 - Governor is supportive but citing need for disciplined spending, existing obligations
- EBLC Candidate Forum – thankful for robust turnout!
 - Liz Ortega and Shawn Kumagai, CA-Dist 20 (San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Castro Valley, Fairview, Hayward, Union City)
- Register to Vote! Deadline is coming up!
- Contact Vi Ibarra to get added to EBLC email list: vi.ibarra@cchealth.org

Day Program Subcommittee – Mike Pereira

- Continues to meet Wednesdays for troubleshoot at 2PM
- Discussing TDS and hoping for resolution to be able to serve consumers post-Alternative Day Services.
- TDS is a great option for some but will not fit for all.

- Troubleshoot includes program design questions, conversations among all providers.
- Providers forum meets on Fridays at 11 when there is no PVAC.

HireAble – Donna Feingold

- October is National Disability Awareness Month!
- HireAble’s next meeting is October 24 at 3PM with representative from Alameda Workforce Investment Board: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87514867188>
- Many employment incentives out there this coming year!
- November: Panel of Employers speak on available jobs, what works, what isn’t working.
- HireAble’s HCBS Grant-funded Business Advisory Committee met for employer outreach the first time October 13; Raley’s, Chevron, CVS, Workforce Investment Boards.
- January: Attracting and Retaining Workers and Employers with trainer Larry Robbins
- 2023: ACRE training with focus on Customized Employment: 40 hour training (large time commitment but well worth it – and it’s free). DDS provides one \$1900 performance incentive to orgs for each staff member who receives ACRE certification.
- Federal Social Security Income COLA is out, State SSI on the way. In terms of ‘substantial gainful employment’ for folks with disabilities, benefits trainings provides deeper detail, but briefly: in 2022, anything above \$1350 can jeopardize benefits. Going up to \$1470 in 2023 – a significant jump to more hours without fear of losing benefits. Trainings coming up in late January/early February.

Membership – Marcie Hodge

- Please provide information and name in chat for attendance purposes. If you are new and have attended three meetings, you will be listed as a member.
- **Jamie Renton** asked whether members filling terms for other members would need to reapply; **Leslie** responded they would be placed on the slate for the next year.
- Leslie’s position as Co-Chair is available, as well as many other membership positions. Please email Leslie or Marcie with interest!

Announcements and Public Comment

- **Mike Pereira** mentioned that the public health emergency has been extended by the US Government to January 11, 2023, despite COVID regulation rollbacks.
- PVAC next meeting will be Friday, November 18.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary