

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, November 18, 2022**

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

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Schantell Williams, DDS; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS & ILS; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Amelia Berumen, Creative Growth Art Center; Ann Ratto, Consultant; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Ashlee Kaigler, Thrive Support Services ILS; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Juan Velasquez, Jr., Pathway to Choices; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Maria Ramirez; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Megan Benando, Trilogy; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Nancy Eddy, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Nicole Doubly, RES Success; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer, Inc.; Stephanie Monica Soriano, LeBlanc Consulting; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community.

60 participants total

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:35.

September Minutes:

Approval of October 14, 2022 minutes - M/Mike Pereira; S/Ramsay Mashy with unanimous approval.

Inclusion Time:

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

Stephanie Soriano shared that her family will be together this Thanksgiving and she is feeling blessed to have them with her.

Sister Marygrace encouraged us to look, long-range, past the three years we've just passed through. We have so much to be grateful for – these times have called on us to bring every virtue in the book forward, and our staff members have shown up so fully, strengthening skills and learning new ones. The Regional Center have been so present, collaborative, and personal, even in such a large agency as RCEB. Sister recalled years when RCEB leadership rarely attended PVAC, and now the relationship is so collaborative. **Donna Feingold** recalled in the chat that some years PVAC didn't wish for RCEB to be there! **Sister** noted we are now in a place of unity, ensuring safety, stability, and well-being for everyone in the system. Collectively, the troubleshoots, the zooms, the meetings – it's clear that you inspire each other and staff members – we're still here and more creative and resilient than ever.

Reports

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Gratefulness** – Lisa gave thanks for the presence of this group and the welcoming environment for RCEB and all the collaborators. Lisa also reflected on how people served by our system may celebrate in diverse ways, or carry trauma and other difficult experiences around holidays, celebration, and family. Especially considering how to share this with younger people, like Lisa's grandchildren or other members of younger

generations. Simultaneously considering the troubled history of Thanksgiving – the idea of thanks, in the area of Wampanoag tribes, was central, and should be remembered as we celebrate the holidays and what they mean for all of us.

- **RCEB report** will mainly be delivered by staff.
- **HCBS guidance** going out in the mail today, with emphasis for providers who have not participated in documentation or HCBS processes.
- **Social Rec** grants also in process; staff report to follow.
- **Alternative Services** ending on December 31; across the state, our catchment area's challenges are not unique – even where economy is different, everyone is challenged to meet this year-end deadline.
- **Little Hoover Commission** disparity and racial inequity research, policy, and planning is active – this commission will issue a report, but another hearing is coming as at the last hearing, not all witnesses were available. In watching the hearings, there is a lack of understanding of how IDD system works, lack of understanding of how disparities have developed, how median rates are determined, how rates have been negotiated differently across the state with higher-cost areas being penalized by the structure of the system. Lack of knowledge although Dion Aroner has been an understanding member of the commission. Important for providers and families to be at the table and influence the way the conversation has developed. RCEB is aware that there's an interest among providers, families, and people served to standardize processes across the systems. Despite the need to look at individuals and their individual needs, standardization may ultimately help us to do this.
- Not quite ready to be **in person for PVAC** again; RCEB is beginning to reopen the building in San Leandro, but it may be a bit longer until PVAC comes together.

Regional Center Staff Report – Steve Robinson

- **Question:** What is the first year the World Cup was played? **Mike Pereira** guessed correctly: 1930 – and he's rooting for Argentina this year! Audience members also rooting for Mexico – good luck teams!
- **Rose Casarez** provided an update on **Quality Incentives for Supported Employment** – Employment Capacity: ACRE certification, SP certification will qualify agencies for Quality Incentives. Employment Access: Incentive payments for people served placed in competitive integrated employment (with additional incentives after the 4th placement), exiting subminimum wage, and internships. For Quality Incentives, subcodes will be added administratively once the qualifications have been met. **Donna Feingold** asked whether the timeframe would be FY 7/1-6/30/23? **Rose** replied that for placements starting 7/1/22 moving forward, the incentives would be paid for placements following that date. She will clarify with DDS whether the 'clock' restarts each fiscal year for the 4th placement incentive.
- **Rose** also gave an update on **Tailored Day Services**. RCEB has developed a TDS addendum template so that providers can move forward, although there is no DDS guidance yet. TDS is currently still indicated at a rate of 1:1 for now. Please reach out to rcasarez@rceb.org and mconti@rceb.org with requests for the addendum template or questions about TDS. **Mike Pereira** asked whether they'd recommend filling out the template now even if providers don't have the capacity to offer these services? What is the timeline? **Steve Robinson** replied that they tried to create a simple and straightforward amendment template, and TDS would be paid through a subcode. He acknowledged the issue that the ratio remains 1:1, and that this is a barrier to using TDS as a solution to Remote Services not being offered. There is no guidance on Remote Services now, but DDS has promised more information soon. **Mike** observed that 30 days is usually the norm for programs to pivot to new models; **Steve** suggested that templates submitted now would begin to be subvended by January 1 earliest – but of course there is flexibility to start later.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** mentioned she expects to see **DDS guidance**, possibly on TDS and Remote Services, before Thanksgiving.
- **Fruc Menchavez** provided an update on **HCBS and Final Rule activities** – ppt is fairly minimal, but will be available from Fruc, including Context, Numbers, DDS Directive, and Q&A. Timeline aims for compliance by March 2023. Statewide Transition Plan recommends process including assessments, site visits, etc., throughout the timeline from HCBS final rule legislation in 2014 to compliance in 2023. Of 507 providers

requiring compliance in RCEB's catchment area, 73% are residential and 27% non-residential. Overall compliance is at 7%, with 31% in remediation, 44% in the validation process, and 18% not having submitted a self-assessment. No-activity group is growing as providers in validation and remediation groups have not taken action, with residential providers as the majority of inactive files. December 5, 2022 is the new due-date for remediation plans and other actions. Lack of submissions may lead to invalidation of new referrals. **Craig Rose** asked about vendor numbers whose surveys may be lost in the system – do they need to do remediation plans? Essentially the self-survey again – for day programs, questions 1-5 – with documentation? **Fruc** responded yes – and to focus on the HCBS language in the remediation plan language and documents. For questions, please contact Fruc at fmenchavez@rceb.org, RCEB's website <https://rceb.org/providers/hcbs-final-rule>, and DDS website <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations/>, and Mains'l Café and Future Trainings.

- **Steve** shared the priorities and projects for which RCEB will request funding from DDS, according to **community needs survey**:
 - Service Provider for Specialized Residential Facility serving 4 individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Last year, RCEB received funding for a housing development organization to renovate a home in Union City; now looking for service provider.
 - Always a need for housing – RCEB requesting funding for 10 affordable housing units in a new development.
 - Special Needs Dental Surgery Resource for dental work under sedation and general anaesthesia.
 - Short-term Stepped-down Specialized Residential Facility Designed to work with adults transitioning from Community Crisis Homes or other crisis situations.
 - Behavioral respite for clients residing in family homes who would require RBT-level staffing.
 - Employment Services to support adult clients in micro-enterprise or self-employment.
 - RFPs to follow once DDS issues approvals – none are assured but RCEB will keep PVAC posted.
- **Social Rec Grants** – RFP is active on RCEB's website. DDS has \$12.5 million statewide, with \$817K to RCEB for enhanced social rec projects. Target group is 3-21YO, diverse monolingual and multilingual communities, with special consideration for rural areas, individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing. For community-based, religious, private rec businesses, city parks, rec centers, camps, afterschool programs. Due date of December 15, although RCEB may extend deadline depending on number of proposals received. DDS will determine awards early 2023, with projects running April – December 2023. Reporting and milestones required throughout the project, with the goal of vendorization at close of project. For more information <https://rceb.org/providers/request-proposal/>
- **Chase Kalbaugh** shared that another rate increase is on the way in January, equal to the amount of the April 2022 increase.

Transportation Report - Priscilla Gomez

- **Priscilla Gomez** gave a transportation update – deadline was 11/14 for transportation routes to start on January 3. Some day programs may be waiting for more information from DDS; please send information as soon as possible so that bus companies can prepare. Reach out to pgomez@rceb.org with questions. Working with Countywide to set up meetings with Day Programs; next up WT transit. Right now these are the two larger transportation providers. No update from EB Paratransit; they are still at capacity. Priscilla will continue trying to add on routes for those who do not have the pickup/dropoff times they requested. **Ember Avalos** asked if there are bus routes on hold, should they re-send the routes for consideration? **Priscilla** responded please do re-send. **Mike Pereira** asked if providers could receive updated COVID guidelines for transportation companies. **Priscilla** responded that Countywide sent out protocols; she will work with WT; and EB Paratransit will follow mass transit guidelines. Masks will continue to be required on vendored contracted transportation companies: Countywide, WT, G&S, Exalpas. **Mike** asked in the event of a COVID-positive situation (drivers, riders) what is the protocol for route suspension, communication?

Regional Center Board Report – Sister Mary Grace

- RCEB Board met on 10/24/22, beginning with AGT audit report draft – clean audit which will be voted on in November.
- Four contracts voted on to add services in the community. DDS D-1 Contract allocation for FY22/23 to fund RCEB for the coming year; Step Up Into Independence – SLS services for 15 participants; Trusting Connections – SLS services for 15 participants who are currently underserved; YAI – 1 x 4-bed enhanced behavioral support home for children enrolled with RCEB and foster care: homes in Byron, Brentwood, and Fairfield.
- Projection of possible 800 new consumers in coming year – need and numbers continue going up as time goes on.
- ARCA – Association of Regional Centers planning priorities and goals for 2023.
- Consumer Advisory Committee challenged like most agencies and services; attendance fluctuates. If agencies would like to encourage self-advocates to join, please connect with Michi to make connections.
- Voting is in process for RCEB Board officers.
- Public comments included comments on racism, retaliatory practices, and discrimination – general comments, no specific instances cited.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Thanks to everyone for the information shared today.
- Thanks to participants in annual ‘There Should be a Law’ survey – 11 submissions in Spanish along with many submissions and diverse ideas from the community. Updates to come on which will be proposed as legislation.
- Looking at two areas for upcoming legislative cycle – welcoming feedback on these: 1 - Employment needs, especially ideas that tie to Competitive Integrated Employment and Employment First policies. 2 - Safety and Abuse prevention/response.
- This year may see fewer bills and more advocacy work around legislation just passed
- Hearing from partners across the state for PPE and antigen tests – supplies are running low; we knew this moment would come, but now it is here – looking into this and exploring options as stock is reduced and need increases during cold/flu season. If you do have antigen tests or PPE needs, please reach out to sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov despite shortages.
- November 28th Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting, 130p – 430p <https://bit.ly/SCDDSAACNov2022>
- November 29th State Council Meeting, 1030a – 4p <https://scdd.ca.gov/events/category/publicmeetings/2022-11/>
- November 30th Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (RAC), 6:30p – 9p <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
- December 14th and 15th Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, 10a – 3p <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/december-2022-ssan-meeting/>, <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/december-2022-ssan-meeting-day-2/>
- December 21st, Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats, 11a- 12p <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/december-2022-california-statewide-self-advocacy-chats/>
- Self-Determination Program Statewide Orientations in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Sign-ups online: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- **Teresa Nold** made the recommendation that SCDD make videos and outreach accessible for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community with ASL interpretation.
- **Dan Hogue** wanted to thank Sheraden for all the work with PPE and testing – question: when submitting a request, we don’t always get a reply when orders don’t go through. **Amanda Eicher** seconded this, and **Dan, Amanda, and Jaynette** all expressed thanks for SCDD’s support with PPE and testing.

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> Treatments for COVID are readily available;

please work with healthcare providers to receive treatment. Everyone over 5YO is eligible for boosters; please seek out the booster shot if you have not received it already.

- **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>
- Schedule a flu vaccine at <https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/> or at <https://myturn.ca.gov/>
- Apply for REACH's Housing Waitlist: <https://trivalleyreach.org/> - **Jamie Renton** mentioned that there are 4 rooms available in Livermore at \$350 or 30% of income, whichever is higher.
- Apply for DHTI Fast Track Respite Training: <https://healthpipeline.wufoo.com/forms/w1lyu8pr198fagg/>
- December 1, 4PM ABLE Benefits training – registration is full; please look for future events!
- Board of Directors Meeting November 9

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Leslie Visbal

- Last Council meeting was November 16; next meeting is January 25.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

Mike shared screen with EBLC PPT on Legislative issues:

- **EBLC Candidate Forum** October 13 – thankful for robust turnout!
 - Liz Ortega and Shawn Kumagai, CA-Dist 20 (San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Castro Valley, Fairview, Hayward, Union City)
- **Legislative Breakfast** coming up on Friday, January 27! AM meeting with presentation and breakout rooms, with two in-person events to follow, one in Alameda County and one in Contra Costa County.
- State elected officials are changing dramatically; our sector's engagement is so important as we move through these changes.
- **Election outcomes:** Certification by Secretary of State will conclude in December. Preliminary results are a clean sweep for Democrats – Gov. Newsom, Incumbent SOS, Atty Gen, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, Superintendent of Schools. New Controller: Malia Cohen.
- **Federal Offices:** Alex Padilla maintains seat, Rep. Garamendi, Rep. Desaulnier, Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Swalwell, and Rep. Ro Khanna maintained seats.
- **State Senate/Assembly:** Aisha Wahab/Senate Dist. 10; Lori Wilson/SA 11; Buffy Wicks/SA 14; Tim Grayson/SA 15; Rebecca Bauer Grayson/SA16; Mia Bonta/SA18; Liz Ortega/SA20; Mike Lee/SA24.
- **Propositions:** P1 – Reproductive Rights PASSED; Casinos/Online Betting – NO; Arts and Music – PASSED; Dialysis – NO; EV high earners – NO; Flavored Tobacco Referendum – PASSED
- 11/16/22 **LAO Executive Summary Budget Outlook** – Inflation-related adjustments vary across budget; reserves are being saved for a recession; recommendation to identify recent augmentations to pause or delay. May impact some of the IDD community's advocacy directions.
- **New speaker** in the California Assembly: Asm. Anthony Rendon remains until 6/23, then Asm. Rivas (D-23) will assume office.
- Wednesday 12/7, 10-12 via Zoom is **next EBLC meeting**. Contact Vi Ibarra to get added to EBLC email list: vi.ibarra@cchealth.org EBLC is looking for content: stories from participants, families, DSPs – stories from the system. Please reach out to stakeholders for stories, messages, and brief videos and send to Will, Mike or Vi.

Day Program Subcommittee – Mike Pereira

- Continues to meet Wednesdays for troubleshoot at 2PM.
- Remote Services letter drafted and submitted to DDS. Still awaiting guidance but thankful for contributors to this process.
- Conversations cover TDS, Remote Services, Transportation – appreciate everyone's advocacy and support.

HireAble – Donna Feingold

- HireAble's next meeting is Monday, November 28th at 3PM with representative from Alameda Workforce Investment Board: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87514867188>
- This month's meeting includes all Business Advisory Committee employers sharing job openings, application processes, and perspectives on employment. So much commitment right now to inclusion and diversity at work – a great time to be supporting employment in the IDD community.
- 2023 ACRE training with focus on Customized Employment: 40 hour training (large time commitment but well worth it – and it's free) beginning in February. DDS provides one \$1900 performance incentive to orgs for each staff member who receives ACRE certification. Flyer is out and half the slots are full – may need to limit to 2 people per org if registration fills quickly. Priority is Alameda/Contra Costa County, but may open up to other counties.
- Anyone supporting job seekers with I/DD is asked to fill out HireAble's survey to help connect jobs with job-seekers. Survey takes around 5 minutes:
- 12/1 ABLE Benefits training is full, but more trainings are on the way!

Membership – Marcie Hodge

- November is the month for proposed PVAC membership roster.
Co-Chair positions: Daniel Hogue and Geneva Ziaoure.
Amanda Eicher, Secretary; Marcie Hodge, Membership Chair.
Members: Jennifer Carper, Esther Chow, Carlos Cienfuegos, Donna Feingold, Daniel Hogue, Samuel Kim, Ramsay Mashy, Michael Pereira, Jamie Renton, Craig Rose, Geneva Ziaoure.
Open Memberships: Transportation, Children and Infant Services, At-Large.
- **Leslie** referred to the bylaws which require a December vote on nominations, with slate going to RCEB Board for approval in January. Terms are three years, eligible to serve two terms, then required to term off before returning.
- **Marcie** reminded everyone to post name and organization in the chat for attendance; attending three meetings or more results in automatic eligibility for PVAC membership.

Announcements and Public Comment

- **Leslie** wished everyone a very happy Thanksgiving with time to reflect, that includes family and friends.
- **Jamie Renton** asked about crediting vendors' accounts for remittances posting after the 16th. **Lisa** mentioned that funds were sent on 11/14, and that banks may have additional advice. **Lisa** will follow up, and **Jamie** will email **Lynne Nguyen** with query.
- PVAC's next meeting will be Friday, December 9.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary