

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, May 12, 2023**

Members Present: Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Amanda Eicher, NIAD; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Samuel Kim, We Thrive SLS; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility.

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Priscilla Gomez, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Amanda Bybee-Ramos, Wayfinder Family CDS; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Arden Fredman, NIAD Art Center; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services ILS; Carla Hernstrom, Alegria Community Living; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Debbie Rieza, Ohana Home Care; Eddie Esquivez, Manos; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Erika Gonzalez, 24 Hour Home Care; Eva J. Muñoz, Good Samaritan ARF; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jay G., Mission Hope Day Program; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Lee Lyons, Resilience through Creativity (Scotland); Leah Whatley, Enriching Lives; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now; Merfe Bailey, A Step Above; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Nicole Doubly, RES Success; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Ron Payne, Office of Congressman Eric Swallow; Sarah Hillen, Toolworks; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Wendell James.

65 participants total

Call to Order:

Geneva Carlos-Valentino and Dan Hogue called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. Marcie Hodge called attendance, and all but Jennifer Carper were in attendance, with Mike Pereira and Samuel Kim delayed but present.

Inclusion Time:

Geneva Carlos-Valentino noted that Mother's Day falls on Sunday, May 14th, and recognized the extraordinary role mothers play in our lives, and that mothers come in many shapes and forms. She also acknowledged that this day can also bring mixed or difficult feelings for some, and expressed support for those who might experience Mother's Day in that context. Geneva Carlos-Valentino also expressed recognition for Mental Health Awareness Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Older Americans Month, National Foster Care Month, and National Military Appreciation Month. She invited continued acceptance of the diversity of opinions, and encouraged the openness from last month's meeting to continue.

January Minutes:

Approval of 4/14/23 minutes - M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Donna Feingold; with unanimous approval by members present.

Presentation:

No Presentation today; Reports begin with RCEB/State Update.

Reports:

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Lisa Kleinbub will step out early from PVAC to attend the opening of Avance Housing in Livermore**, a project with 44 units for people with I/DD developed by Mid-Penn that, while not funded by RCEB because not >25% people with I/DD, will be an important housing asset to our community. She also noted that RCEB's webpage 'Write To Us' includes a housing listserve, and RCEB website also includes a link to housing resources as well as RCEB's Facebook page where a Berkeley housing development

by Satellite Affordable Housing, slated for completion on San Pablo Avenue in 2024, will include 12 units for individuals with I/DD and their families.

- **May revise is scheduled for today, with Governor Newsom speaking at 10AM** - looking for areas of increased support; hoping for few reductions or none.
- **Statewide DDS information re: January rate increases** – provides percentage of rate increase that must be applied to direct services, wages, and benefits –varies depending on rate categories in Burns & Assoc. study.
- **Annual staffing survey is open** – please complete this survey, which provides an \$8,000 stipend for each provider responding (not, unfortunately, for each service provided). Is a service improvement area, and DDS is hoping to see increased participation throughout the system.
- **May update on Financial Management Service provider rate increases** – enables FMS to better manage budgets through Self-Determination.
- **Presentation 5/12/23 on Service Access and Equity Grant Presentation** – register via RCEB website; projects will be detailed with great insights for applicants on DDS’s funding strategy for next round of grants. RCEB eager to provide data to support grant proposals.
- **Dan Hogue asked about rate increases** – does this directive apply retroactively to receipt of rate increases? Lisa Kleinbub replied that it would likely be retroactive, and that there are several retroactive directives and letters from DDS coming out right now. Donna Feingold added that this was a topic of discussion at CDSA. Lisa Kleinbub apologized to providers on the retroactive nature of the directive and the relative lack of clarity.

Regional Center Staff Report – Mike Minton, Priscilla Gomez

- **Mike Minton mentioned that the rate increase directive** would be sent out from his office following PVAC.
- **Effective May 1st – Incidents of Behavioral Restraints reporting requirement:** Please see attached DDS Directive link regarding reporting requirements for Incidents of Behavioral Restraints, Seclusion, and Involuntary Emergency Medication: <https://www.rceb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Incidents-of-Behavioral-Restraints-Seclusion-and-Involuntary-Emergency-Medication.pdf>
This is required for all Regional Center vendors that provide Crisis or Residential services or Supported Living Services, long-term health care facilities, and acute psychiatric hospitals.

To be reported:

- (A) The number of incidents of seclusion and the duration of time spent per incident in seclusion;
- (B) The number of incidents of the use of behavioral restraints and the duration of time spent per incident of restraint;
- (C) The number of times an involuntary emergency medication is used to control behavior; and
- (D) The name, street address, and telephone number of the facility.

The form: https://caddsprod.servicenowservices.com/orc?sys_id=574b6b8c87f02d50fd7733f50cbb350b

Do not need to report unless an incident happens.

- **RFP for HCBS Compliance** – RCEB is looking for a developer to create an app for Q/A compliance, with a deadline of 5PM on June 9; Q & A on May 26, 2023; RCEB will host an RFP Question and Answer Session on May 26, 2023 from 10AM to 11AM:
RCEB has identified a need for a contract application/platform/tool developer with substantial experience in creating applications/platforms/tools that will help in automating, expediting and coordinating the Quality Assurance process and paperwork. The funding awardee will collaborate with the Quality Assurance team to create this application/platform/tool to ensure that it meets Title 17 requirements as well as the current QA process. Ideally, RCEB would like to move such process towards being more automated in order to simplify and operationalize (standardize) and reduce redundancies within the paperwork component. The application must also demonstrate HIPAA compliance.

RFP: <https://www.rceb.org/providers/request-proposal/> and news: <https://www.rceb.org/news/request-for-proposals-for-fy-2022-23-is-here/>.

- **Priscilla Gomez requested updated COVID protocols from Day Programs** to be able to share with transportation providers, assist in updating protocols, and return updated protocols to Day Programs.

- **New routes are once again in the process of being confirmed** to start Monday, 5/15 and throughout the month of May.

Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue

- **Dan Hogue reported from the April 24th Board Meeting.**
- **Contracts:** Approvals for SLS contracts created a longer discussion. First contract approval included a recusal by a Board Member with a family member served by the SLS provider; a question was then raised about the length of contracts (5 years); then approvals continued with all SLS contracts being approved despite length of contract. A discussion about length of SLS approvals and Q/A oversight will follow in a future meeting; however, this month, both providers were approved for contracts of 5 years.
- **Approval for Union Bank Line of Credit postponed** until next meeting.
- **Finances** – RCEB and most RC's will not be able to fulfill regular POS due to lack of staffing/provider capacity.
- **No report from Equity Subcommittee** which did not meet between RCEB board meetings.
- **Supports and Services Committee** included a lengthy discussion around supports for people served who are unhoused; FUFU proposed several solutions and Lisa Kleinbub is in conversation with Families United in order to activate solutions.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau

- **Updates on Federal Assistance – NEON Competitive Integrated Employment Community of Practice** keeping customized and integrated employment vibrant amidst changes in SB639. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sb639-ca-neon/>
- **State Council grant cycle proposal due 5.22.2023:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>
The Council has allocated a total of \$300,000 to fund Cycle 46 projects in any of four (4) proposed focus areas: Education, Employment, Health and Safety, and Self-Advocacy.
- **PPE/Testing:** For antigen tests or PPE needs, please continue to reach out to sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov.
- **US Citizenship and Immigration Services Training - A CONVERSATION ON HOW TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN.** When: Tuesday, April 18, 2023; Two options to join, via Zoom. You Choose: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, or 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. See event flyer: <https://files.constantcontact.com/be05f332501/4b7a3482-c6cb-46dd-b5d0-6d7ec10291a7.pdf>
- **Self-Advocates Advisory Committee Meeting, May 22:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/january-2023-saac-meeting/2023-05-22/>
- **State Council meeting, May 23:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-scdd-council-meeting/2023-05-23/>
- **Statewide Self-Advocacy Network online chat, May 31:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/california-statewide-self-advocacy-chat/2023-05-31/>
- **Statewide Self-advocacy Network Meeting, June 7-8:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-statewide-self-advocacy-network-ssan-meeting/2023-06-07/>
- **Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, June 28:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
- **Please reach out to Sheraden Nicholau** with additional questions and needs before next month's PVAC.

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- **Board Meeting 5/10** with presentation from Darren Lounds, Housing Consortium of the East Bay on housing.
- **Board Meeting 6/14** with presentation from Alameda County Senior Services Coalition
- **Golden Village Family Conference:** May 13th 8:45am -3pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/golden-village-family-conference-tickets-602628095857> Conference at Ed Roberts Campus – designed for Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese-speaking families with children in special education ages 3-21.
- **CIL Emergency Preparedness Program:** For more information or to get involved, please contact 510-841-4776 or DisasterHelp@centerforindependentliving.org
- **AC Transit Needs Survey:** https://www.actransit.org/realign?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- **Digital Equity Ecosystem Map (DEEM) Survey:** <https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1>
- **State Digital Equity Planning Workshop**, June 8: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/broadband-for-all-digital-equity-and-bead-planning-workshop-bay-area-tickets-601092693427?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>
- **For Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Digital Devices** information, email: digitaldivide@acgov.org or call 5105771907; Eligibility is for folks 18+ with a disability and do not have an internet connected device.

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- **Joint Awards Committee:** both counties received a record number of nominations! Notifications of awards are going out now to nominators and nominees. Please consider attending the awards ceremony!
 - DD Councils Awards event flyer in English: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aneniPR6n-YLzVuS_tt92OAwVA1eK-5o/view?usp=share_link
 - DD Councils Awards event flyer in Spanish: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d2YAsgEasWrijULu9lxm--UAUiuvEgu/view?usp=share_link
- **Autism Star Conference is being organized now;** organizers are looking for parents who are relatively new in their autism journey, with young children or recent diagnosis, to help inform the topics and content presented at the conference.
- **Next Board Meeting May 24 with a discussion of families' transition at age 3;** in-person at Las Trampas; hybrid options available.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

Budget process is occurring as we meet:

- **Now is the opportunity for legislature to gather input and provide feedback on May revise.**
- **Beginning of presentation from Governor** – projected budget shortfall of \$23B will likely be higher as a result of reduced capital gains tax, movement of tax deadlines due to state of emergency. Projection of additional \$9.3B for a total of \$31B. Likely revenue update once taxes are received in the fall.
- **IDD community protected in initial January budget proposal.** Rate implementation will continue to be honored; Assembly and Senate have echoed this priority.
- **EBLC Review of May Revise 5/17, 11AM - 12PM:** <https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/91070076056?pwd=NGp6Q0c4TnByNzd2SndlYTRNU0lxZz09>
- **June 30 budget will be signed** – because of revenue delay, a special budget session with additional trailer bill language may happen in August/September.
- **Donna Feingold added in the chat that \$15M has been included for ILS providers** to increase their rate as of 1/1/24. Ben Chen added the Governor's Livestreaming May revise information: Governor's Livestream on May Revise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbEZKZzZmNw>
- **Mike Pereira added that the \$15M** addresses some significant issues with the rate models for ILS services. This is the result of rigorous advocacy throughout the state, and especially by EBLC on this issue.

Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Anthony Rowe

- **Anthony Rowe** provided an overview of the April 28th meeting regarding RFP processes.
- **Subcommittee reviewed meeting** between Anthony Rowe, Dan Hogue, and Lisa Kleinbus to problem-solve equity concerns in RFP process.
- **Review of letter** to be submitted to RCEB Board and RCEB leadership.
- Also digging into **review of SLS provider oversight and approvals.**
- **Anthony Rowe asked for questions regarding the RFP process letter**, and noted that the subcommittee chairs will continue to meet with Lisa regarding equity issues.
- **Provider Equity Subcommittee Meeting May 26 at 1 p.m.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84413826731>
Passcode: Equity

- **Lisa Kleinbub thanked the Equity Subcommittee’s work on RFPs, and** added that the recommendations on the RFP process include many do-able actions; and that current RFPs with very few responses have activated more discussion on developing the pool of applicants and increasing equity in RFP processes statewide – especially in statewide issues of concern like housing.

Day Providers Report – Mike Pereira

- **Reminder that all are welcome to join the Wednesday 2PM troubleshoot meetings;** Day Providers welcome input from providers of all services.
- **Discussion currently centers on DDS Workforce Survey** – sharing experiences from last year, and troubleshooting issues with the new portal. DDS seems to be struggling with sending direct links to providers. A reminder that the incentive payment for completion is \$8,000 – prior participation was 43%; aiming for fuller participation in this round. Mike Peirera predicts that this will become a permanent quality assurance measure; currently it is an incentivized opportunity to participate.
- **Appreciating folks for contributing to troubleshoot conversations** including RCEB staff, officials from throughout the provider community.
- **Merfe Bailey asked if there is any movement on the rest breaks bill** – AB1031; has been moved to Labor Committee and is currently stalled. Labor is examining aspects of the bill and it may end up having a two-year window to pass. CDSA is following this as well. Donna Feingold added that it will likely not be resolved this year – it’s meeting more opposition than hoped. Merfe Bailey added that the issue of 30-minute breaks has been a difficult issue to manage without the protections of the bill. Mike Peirera added that it’s an area of concern for people served, and has led to many law suits that could be avoided. The bill doesn’t appear to be dead, but advocacy will be needed over the now-longer route to passing this bill.

HireAble Report – Donna Feingold

- **HireAble completed second session of trainings for family and people served on earnings and how income impacts benefits.** Shout out to Rose Casares for attending and participating on behalf of RCEB!
- **HireAble's monthly meeting** on May 22 at 3pm. **May monthly HireAble meeting features Dr. Nancy Dome,** presenting on compassionate dialogue in difficult conversations based in equity and inclusion. All are welcome to attend HireAble: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980621111>

PVAC Membership Report – Marcie Hodge

- **Reminder to put email and name in chat for attendance purposes,** and that after three meetings, attendees may be appointed for openings, run for office with PVAC as members.

Public Comment

- **Mike Pereira shared the [May Revise document](#)** – Significant adjustments include: system maintained intact; not just additional \$15M to adjust for this year’s ILS rates, but acknowledgment of continued longterm cost of these services. Continued extension for family participation, allowing Regional Centers to restart assessments, alleviating costs for families. Allocation for Coordinated Family Supports. Very exciting to see that no cuts have been planned for this system; advocacy is working to maintain funding, despite significant turnover of elected officials.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:28

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary