

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes Friday, July 9, 2023**

**Members Present:** Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility.

**Guests Present/by Phone:**

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS and ILS; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills Agency; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group; Ashley Laqui, Compass Creative Arts; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Christine Grabowski, East Bay Innovations; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Eva J. Muñoz, Good Samaritan ARF; Gwen Captain, Visions Adult Day Program; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Megan Larsen, Communication Works; Mindy Hughes, Passport to Learning; Nicole Doublesy, RES Success; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community.

37 participants total

**Call to Order:**

Geneva Carlos-Valentino called the meeting to order at 9:35AM.

Dan Hogue is on vacation; Will Sanford and Mike Pereira also absent, with Geneva Carlos-Valentino providing reports on their behalf.

No quorum for minutes approval.

**Presentation:**

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

**Reports:**

**Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director**

- **Lisa Kleinbub** repeated the DDS/State warnings about excessive heat.
- AB121 signed 7/10/23, covering most DDS budget items for the year.
- Highlights/DDS directives to watch:
  - Remote IPP Meetings based on family preference continue until next June;
  - Family-pay fees (except for children living in residential out-of-home placements) still suspended until next June.
  - Re: ABA/Behavioral Services in the family home: Requirement for parent participation recommended but not required for payment.
  - DDS now reports to legislature on SIRs from Regional Centers, with retroactive reporting on MediCal/MediCare claims from hospitals.
  - **Maureen DeCoste** asked about increased interest in SIRs, and **Lisa Kleinbub** responded that federal Office of Inspector General had found some issues with reporting and follow-up, and this can impact federal funding alongside HCBS rules, ensuring client rights and protections are in balance.
  - Changes in POS data reporting at year-end.
  - Change in eligibility for all children under 5: new category of provisional eligibility for ages 0-3 that is less rigid than traditional Lanterman eligibility.
  - Burns and Associates formula for ILS rates to be adjusted to account for minimum wage changes.

- o If people served cannot access dental services within 60 days, RC's can authorize this. Lack of providers continues to be an issue regardless of how care is accessed.
- o **Antonio Navarro** asked re: DentiCal/MediCal, does this cover providers' costs out-of-pocket to ensure dental care? **Lisa Kleinbub** recommended to follow up with the ID team for review and potential POS if needed.
- RCEB Plan for Cultural Humility and Equity Training approved by DDS; required by RC Performance Measures.
  - o September 8, 2:30-3:30: Focus Group with Service Providers.  
Requesting PVAC members to participate or recommend participants to attend via Zoom.
  - o Circle Up will provide trainings over the coming year to all RCEB staff.
  - o **Geneva Carlos-Valentino** encouraged providers to reach out if they would like to participate.
  - o **Lisa Kleinbub** asked whether small residential providers should be included as a PVAC category if they are not already. **Geneva Carlos-Valentino** agreed and noted it for a future meeting topic.

## Regional Center Staff Reports – Steve Robinson

- **Rate Implementation**
  - o Per DDS, there should be guidelines for conversion of 055 programs (and others not included in rate study) to other rates by September.
  - o October is the time to submit Program Design Addendums, rather than completely new designs.
  - o Waiting for more guidance on format, otherwise Regional Centers will provide.
  - o Clarifying that no services are intended to be eliminated, just recategorized to new service codes.
  - o Vendors without program designs will sign an affirmation confirming they meet criteria.
  - o An example: Service Code 117-Specialized Therapeutic Services will move to behavioral service codes and sign an affirmation confirming they meet set criteria of board-certified certificates.
  - o Much work ahead, many questions to be asked in DDS-RC office hours.
  - o **Lindsey Dyba** asked about 055 being included in the rate tables, but not included in the rate study. **Steve Robinson** confirmed that although they had been assigned a rate, it was clear they will go away. There are other service codes that will need to transition that have been assigned a rate, *and* those that do not have a rate.
  - o Starting July 1, if an SLS POS remains the same, or decrease in hours, case managers or CM supervisor can approve and send to accounting, rather than having one RCEB staffmember review all changes.
  - o If there are retroactive SLS POS or POS increases, or 2:1 staffing, then case manager or CM supervisor will send to internal email box to approve. Looking to include SLS in POS module; this is still forthcoming in collaboration with Sandis.
  - o **Maureen DeCoste** asked re: 055 1:2 ratio program, and a higher ratio program with a code that continues. Would they now lose the higher rate 1:2 ratio program fee? **Steve Robinson** replied that no, they can carry the ratio into the new rate code.
  - o **Donna Feingold** complimented RCEB on being at the forefront of this discussion and sharing this with vendors. For Day Programs, they will likely experience little change in how services are offered or paid. We are a big state with so many programs.
  - o **Donna Feingold** also asked about 094-Art Centers, and the concern for individualized services that are highly valued by participants. **Steve Robinson** replied that this question is in process between DDS and RCEB, as well as GGRC, since 094 was not included in the rate study. No answer yet.
  - o **Steve Robinson** also asked whether new vendor numbers would need to be created during the transition, and what the impact might be when all services aside from residential are calculated hourly – there are many questions to work through before July 1, 2024. Happy to hear that minimum wage adjustments will be made in an ongoing way aside from the traditional worksheets submitted annually.
  - o **Steve Robinson** mentioned employment services, and **Donna Feingold** reflected that the delayed guidance on this *is* frustrating to providers.

- **Antonio Navarro** asked how to follow up on audit exemptions, and **Lisa Kleinbub** referred providers with audit questions to [VendorAuditedFinancialStmt@rceb.org](mailto:VendorAuditedFinancialStmt@rceb.org)

#### **Regional Center Staff Reports – HCBS: Fruc Menchavez**

- Coming to a decision re: Q/A App RFP; applicants receiving news soon.
- Technical Assistance Teams RFP has updated due date of August 11; updated RFP will be coming out via PVAC listserv.

#### **Regional Center Board Report – Geneva Carlos-Valentino for Dan Hogue**

- Reporting from the June 26th Board Meeting.
- Contracts:
  - RCEB Board reviewed 19 transportation contracts, all starting July 1, 2024, all carrying same rate, with contracts being added to the consent agenda since contracts are more or less the same. Board would like more information about quality of services being provided. Contracts are approved.
  - La Familia account services contract proposed; providing case management at a rate of 1:65 and 11 total case managers. Discussion on relationship with La Familia: RCEB; liability; responsibility for services; Contracts approved.
  - Four contracts presented under Family Home Agency model. Discussion on frequency of QA visits vs case manager visits; RCEB QA Report submitted as reference material; concerns about QA Report and that the client was not present for QA Visit; counterpoint that contract should not be held up for conditions beyond contractor's control; suggestion of placing conditions on contract approval was declined. Approval potentially withheld, but ultimately approval passed for all FHA contracts.
  - Strategic Planning Contract approved with Helen Sanderson and Associates for a 6-month planning process.
  - Two SLS contracts approved.
  - DDS E-Series contract for FY24 approved for \$46,811,327 operations; \$553,000,000 for POS allocation, for a total of \$6,541,026.
- No formal meeting in July; training session on RCEB operations scheduled for 7/24, 5PM.
- RCEB Board implementing a tracker to keep tabs on concerns, projects, and progress that the Board requests of staff. Sadia Mumtaz, Board Vice President, reviews and ensures all RCEB Board members have access.

#### **State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau**

- Anyone who receives coverage through Medicaid or CHIP, including MediCal recipients and beneficiaries, will need to renew coverage – make sure information is updated with MediCal office. Department of Health Care Services has created a streamlined home page: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/pages/keep-your-medi-cal.aspx>
- Upcoming Committees and Councils:
  - July 17: Self Advocates Advisory Committee Meeting, <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/january-2023-saac-meeting-2023-07-17/>
  - July 18: State Council Meeting, <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-scdd-council-meeting-2023-07-18/>
  - July 26: CA Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat, <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/california-statewide-self-advocacy-chat/2023-07-26/>
- SCDD celebrating California's Employment First Office! Collaborators include California APSE, Disability Rights California, Integrated Resource Institute, Pathpoint, Progressive Employment Concepts. SB-121 regulates activities of this office. **Lindsey Dyba** asked which department houses the Employment First Office, and **Donna Feingold** responded it is part of Health and Human Services.

#### **Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen**

- New program year starts in July with annual planning meeting. Off during August; returning September 13 for next Board Meeting.

- Alameda County Public Health seeking part-time staffmember supporting Public Health Department; job description forthcoming via PVAC listserv; or apply here: <https://jobapscloud.com/Alameda/>; or submit a cover letter and a PDF of the application to [phcommission@gmail.com](mailto:phcommission@gmail.com).
- DHTI Direct Service Professional (DSP) Training | August 21 – October 9 | <https://healthpipeline.wufoo.com/forms/p1ustck217f232s/>
- REACH Housing Opportunities | <https://trivalleyreach.org/housing/>
- **Jamie Renton** also posted in the chat that REACH has an opening coming up in September in Livermore for a male and will have more openings in the fall. Application is on the website to go on the waitlist.
- Digital Equity Ecosystem Map (DEEM) Survey (For Providers) | <https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1>
- Digital Equity Survey (For community members) | <http://bit.ly/CADigitalEquitySurvey>
- Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Free iPads for those without connectivity | Email: [digitaldivide@acgov.org](mailto:digitaldivide@acgov.org); Phone: 5105771907
- The following events are being hosted by La Familia Aprende, Promueve y Actúa (APA) in Spanish:
  - Monthly Orientation | Regional Center Services and Generic Resources | Tuesday, July 18th, 2023 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | <https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/j/85888510651?pwd=bnNKczdxQzB0eGpBc05RWnZRSmFXT09>  
Orientación mensual sobre Servicios del Centro Regional y Recursos Genéricos | Martes, 18 de julio de 2023 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | <https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/j/85888510651?pwd=bnNKczdxQzB0eGpBc05RWnZRSmFXT09>
  - La Familia APA also provides support to families through our 10 (ten) parent support groups in Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, with peer support services, information, and resources. For additional information contact Yoana Guerra, [Yguerra@livelafamilia.org](mailto:Yguerra@livelafamilia.org), 510-935-6668.
- **Sheraden Nicholau** responded: speaking of dating and sexual health and safety-- a relatively newer resource has been created through ASAN's Proud and Supported series on A Self-Advocate's Guide to Safer Sex, What to Know About Sexual Assault, and more: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/resources/proud/?emci=c72f2ed2-8516-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&emdi=2c797086-b716-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=7863048>
- Alameda County Medi-Cal Renewal Resources: [https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/acssa-assets/PDF/ACSSA\\_Medi-Cal\\_Unwinding.pdf](https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/acssa-assets/PDF/ACSSA_Medi-Cal_Unwinding.pdf)

#### Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- Please contact [vi.ibarra@cchealth.org](mailto:vi.ibarra@cchealth.org) if you would like to be included on my distribution list to receive informational announcements.
- July 29 and 30, Friday Night Out is hosting an Exceptional Dating workshop with Jeff and Kara Teach. Registration is required. There is a fee for the 2-day session, and you may contact Kara and Jeff through their website for further information.
  - Friday Night Out: [www.fridaynightout-eastbay.com](http://www.fridaynightout-eastbay.com)
  - Exceptional Dating: [www.exceptionaldating.org](http://www.exceptionaldating.org)
  - Event registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5CMMC0sKe9VyxRu8nKt63rM6ccXG7rvhirhzWtz7EYmjMQQ/viewform>
  - **Jamie Renton** posted in the chat accolades for Friday Night Out, and added that Friday Night Out was started by Noralyn Giles, who just retired as a WorkAbility Specialist from San Ramon Valley Unified School District. Her adult daughter has a disability.
- RCEB has posted RFPs to fund a variety of projects to increase access to the Self-Determination Program. Submissions are due by July 31. [www.rceb.org/providers/request-proposal](http://www.rceb.org/providers/request-proposal)

- Contra Costa Specialty Health Ambassador job description:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17SPSgNbMIUfE214oJWECgicKD7XJVEvB/view?usp=sharing>
- Summer planning in August; regular meetings resume in September.

**East Bay Legislative Coalition – Geneva Carlos-Valentino reporting for Will Sanford and Mike Pereira**

Slide deck will be sent with video and chat from PVAC listserv.

- June 28<sup>th</sup> budget signed.
- SB-101 Appropriations: dollars allocated, with AB-121 covering IDD dollars.
- No recession yet – IRS filing delayed until October; potential for Special State Budget session to review October budget receipts.
- California Economic Status: No intention to touch budget resources; instead delaying spending and reallocating resources.
- California's IDD System: 2022-23 total pop. of 396,375; in 2023-24, this will rise to 420,927.
- SB-101 Appropriations for IDD include \$14.1B, this estimates that approx. 421,000 individuals with IDD will receive service in 2023-24.
  - ILS: \$15M beg. Jan. 2024 will go to adjust ILS rate assumptions; ongoing \$60M beg. 2024-25.
  - CFSS (Coordinated Family Support Services): \$18M for pilot program through June 2024.
- AB-121 Trailer Bill Provisions:
  - Transitioning Federal Education Grant Funding for Department of State Hospitals from pass-through via DDS to direct funding through DSH.
  - LEAP (Limited Examination and Appointment Program): Permanently extends LEAP to permit people with IDD to complete internships, written exams, or readiness evals to qualify for state service.
  - Extends remote options for IPP Meetings as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Recommendation, but not requirement for parent involvement with ABA or intensive behavioral interventions as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - New requirements for DDS to report to legislature on SIRs as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Provisional eligibility for children ages 0-2 as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Updated POS data requirements for Regional Centers as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Adjustments to rate models to reflect updated minimum wage requirements as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Updates on progress toward a person-centered, outcomes-based system via updated reporting requirements from DDS to Legislature.
  - Access to generic services through Regional Center authorizations if services are not available through MediCal or DentiCal as detailed by **Lisa Kleinbub** above.
  - Rate model Hold-Harmless Clause and Quality Incentive provisions.
  - Employment First Office as detailed by **Sheraden Nicholau** above.
  - Canyon Springs Admissions prohibition extended until licensed homes for complex needs are approved.
- EBLC Letters of Support for Assembly/Senate Bills:
  - AB-339/Irwin: ABLE Age Eligibility to align with Federal Age of 46
  - AB-438/Rubio: Adjust transition age for IEPs from 16 to 14 years.
  - AB-447/Arambula: Inclusive programs for people with IDD in 4-year Universities and Colleges
  - AB-649: Improves access to Regional Center services
  - AB-1031/Rubio: Employee Rest Periods for DSPs providing IDD Services
  - SB-246/Ochoa-Bogh: Include representative for Disability Community on California Interagency Council to Address Homelessness
  - SB-37/Caballero & Wicks: Housing Stabilization to end homelessness among older adults and people with disabilities; Competitive Grant process to subsidize housing and promote more people to be permanently housed or move into more permanent housing
- Next EBLC Meeting: Wednesday, August 2, 2023 10AM-12PM.

### **Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Anthony Rowe**

- **Anthony Rowe** provided an overview of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting and process.
- **Anthony Rowe, Dan Hogue, and Lisa Kleinbub** met to review RFP comments and the perceived lack of movement.
  - Many RFPs were already in the pipeline, and were sent out without updated language; now RFPs are starting to be issued with updated language, and it is encouraging to see more inclusiveness and encouragement to people outside of the Bay Area, people with disabilities, and with more diverse language capabilities being encouraged to apply.
  - Work moves on at the policy level to implement as many suggestions as possible.
- Discussion on referral process and options for recommendations on more equitable referral process. This will take more time, syncing up what is currently being worked on and suggestions to include new solutions.
- New issues include:
  - The need for more training for Spanish-speaking providers on QA, RFPs, and getting more trainings back up and running at RCEB.
  - Referrals for youth residential homes and individuals giving up parental rights in exchange for placement, and how this corresponds to demographics. An intersectional issue between RC's, law enforcement, and county agencies – more work to be done as this conversation continues.
- Next meeting scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 1-2:30PM.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** appreciated the opportunity to meet and work together, and pointed out that work is active on RFP process, with the exception of publishing RFP information more widely, and that policy work would continue with the RCEB board in the fall. Re: referrals, system is not very clear on where vacancies exist; RCEB looking to be more systematic about openings and referrals esp. in Residential and SLS that will require nuanced systems work.

### **Day Providers Report – Mike Pereira**

- Reminder that all are welcome to join the Friday, 11AM Zoom Provider Meeting, and the Wednesday 2PM troubleshoot meetings; Day Providers welcome input from providers of all services.

### **HireAble Report – Donna Feingold**

- HireAble is on hiatus during July; reconvening end of August.
- HireAble's monthly meeting on August 28th at 3pm with a presentation on 'Employment 101' from DoR and RCEB. Aiming to include discussion on Customized Employment in our catchment area.
- Celebrating the California Employment First Office! And clarifying the LEAP state internship program – allows individuals with IDD to be hired following internship/exam/assessment; kudos for getting this passed!
- Series on What Comes Next: The Value of Employment coming up in the fall with dates next month.
- Reminder that HireAble can provide benefits planning via POS authorization, to families and individuals to troubleshoot income and SSI/government benefits.

### **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.
- In September PVAC will be looking for providers offering services in Transportation, Employment.

### **Public Comment**

- **Juan Velasquez** asked re: IHSS implementation of EVV; not possible to have staff clock in twice daily, even if there are multiple shifts – long queue for support line, so looking for support from fellow providers.
- **Juanita Hightower** not running into issues but there have been questions about roommates. Re: clocking in/clocking out, Sandata website is not working but IHSS website is working.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:53

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary