

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes Friday, October 13, 2023**

**Members Present:** Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks (Co-Chair); Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home (Membership); Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center (Secretary); Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Will Sanford, SC & CS.

**Guests Present/by Phone:**

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Vicki Smith, DDS; Jennifer Nicholas, DDS; Mike Minton, RCEB; John Lee, RCEB; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Amy Simons, A Brighter View; Ann Pringle; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Annette Onwurah, North Star Residential Home; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills Agency; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group; B.J. Cotrell, Jaqui' Foundation; Cecilia Gutierrez, ACBH Specialty Services; Brandi Auble, CA Mentor; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Deanna Bauchou, Noll Center; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Eddie Esquiviz, California Respite Association; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Eva J. Muñoz, Good Samaritan ARF; Giovanni Sarabia, Sentry Living Services, Inc.; Janice Granby, Davis Street; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Joanne Lau, DHTI; John Paul Johnson, A Step Above Adult Day Program; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Leah Whatley, Enriching Lives; Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored; Lorie Mata, Manos Home Care; Merfe Bailey, A Step Above; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Nicole Rios, RES Success; Pamela Temple, One Step Closer, Inc.; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Patrick Buffington, Serra Center; Quame King, Care with Love Facility, Inc.; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Tanya Barreto, Omelaga, Inc.; Xochilt Munoz.

55 participants total

**Call to Order:**

Geneva Carlos-Valentino called the meeting to order at 9:34AM

**Presentation:**

**DDS DSP Stipend Training Program**

**Vicki Smith – Deputy Director, Policy and Program Division – HCBS, Regulations, Self-Determination, Coordinated Family Supports, EVV, Workforce Development & Training**

**Jennifer Nicholas, Assistant Deputy Director, Workforce Development and Training**

- Recruit, train, retain workforce across system - DSP I & II, 6 new initiatives to build workforce incl. Regional Center, service coordinators, etc.
  1. DSP Training
    - a. DSP Training has been in effect for approx. 1 month; workers receive up to two \$625 stipends before taxes with \$150 employer fee.
    - b. Voluntary program for workers, though eligibility requirements must be met, and trainings must be completed by June 30, 2024.
    - c. Available in Spanish, English, ASL.
    - d. Must take DSP Code of Ethics first.
    - e. *Informed Decision-Making and Person-Centered Planning and the HCBS Final Rule* exist now;
    - f. *Cultural Competency and Supporting Individuals who Identify as LGBTQIA+* are on the way.
    - g. Over 10,000 DSPs registered; over 9,000 have completed one course.
    - h. Webinars available to Regional Centers, Providers, DSPs – more coming soon.
    - i. Good feedback on courses – please keep the feedback coming!

**Question:** Do DSPs need to take two courses to get stipend? **Answer:** No. A trainee can take one course and receive one stipend. Stipends are per person, rather than per employer.

**Question:** Do DSPs have to complete DSP I & II? **Answer:** No.

**Question:** Do DSPs have to watch the webinar to participate? **Answer:** No, but it is helpful.

2. DSP University

- a. DSP University will offer up to \$6 pay differential to workers completing trainings developed in keeping with 16 core competencies in focus group w/providers.
- b. Learning management system through Sacramento State University.

**Question:** Is the pay differential \$2 per tier? **Answer:** Pay differential per tier has not been determined; only the total pay differential for all three tiers combined.

3. DSP Bi/Multi-lingual Pay Differential

- a. Still in development – coming out within the month.
- b. Offers up to 2 x \$100 per month per language stipend for workers who can communicate in a language or medium other than English.
- c. \$20 administrative fee is also paid to employer.
- d. Currently employees self-certify; an online form is coming which will be submitted to employers to verify that these languages are used in the workplace.

**Question:** what is the current self-certification process? **Answer:** Current process is a bridge to the longer-term goal of having self-certification on learning management system. However, in the meantime, a fillable PDF will be used to gather workplace language use information. Language stipends are not per employer, but rather per language the employee speaks. Employers submit this self-certification as an invoice via billing system.

4. DSP Internship

- a. Soft launch at present with a few regional centers.
- b. Increase hiring and retention of DSPs through a training and career development program demonstrating career opportunities available through DSP work.
- c. 3-month, 30 hour/week internship focuses on populations not currently fully represented in DSP work.
- d. Interns gaining employment will receive \$500 retention stipend at 6 months and 12 months.
- e. Wages for interns paid by contractor, as well as retention payments.

5. Technology Pilot

- a. Provides supports and services for individuals to access services remotely.
- b. Allows for more flexibility for those served by DSPs to be less dependent on 1:1 support to participate in remote services.

6. Regional Center Staff Tuition Reimbursement

- a. For employees seeking degree or certification in health/human services fields.
- b. Up to \$10,000 annually for up to 3 years for tuition reimbursement.
- c. Classes must be completed by June 30, 2025.

**Question:** Will wage differentials impact resources available for rates? Providers are so challenged to make ends meet based on rates as they are, it wouldn't be possible to share funding for both purposes.

**Answer:** No, wage enhancements will not touch the resources needed to pay hourly rates to providers.

**Mike Pereira** clarified that these wage differentials appear as hourly payments to workers, and hourly rates are set to include considerations for wages. **Vicki Smith** mentioned that these are bridge programs to a future scenario where the LMS system creates the capability to tie to wage differential. Language enhancements, though, may continue to be stipend-based. However, the tiered \$6 wage differential would be paid out through the rate paid to providers. Readiness contract includes providing full readiness (fingerprints, TB, etc) to interns entering DSP settings, to reduce barriers to employment. Employer of record contracts ensure that employers pay wages, cover workers' comp; contractors pay retention stipends to interns. Aiming to take pressure off employers who hire.

**Minutes Approval:** Moved/Ramsay Mashy; Second/Craig Rose – passed unanimously.

**Inclusion Time:** Heritage Month Recognitions/Awareness Campaigns – Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence Awareness, World Mental Health Day, National Disability Awareness Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month, World Cerebral Palsy Day.

### **Reports:**

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

- **Lisa Kleinbub** shared that Regional Centers are working with DDS on implementation of the trailer bill language – Remote Services; Rate Implementation (055 service code transition).
- **Community Services Directors** are meeting statewide to advocate for answers on the above as well as DSP Stipend Payment system, which did not include RC's in its planning and lead-up process.
- **RCEB-Specific items** include several surveys: 1) Unmet Needs and Resources for New Development; 2) RCEB Board Strategic Planning Process (Constant Contact database automating communications with all stakeholders).
- **10/25/23 – Public Meeting on Performance Contract.** This document is a WIP as progress is made.

**Question:** Is there any update on Missing POS System and user experience? **Answer:** Still learning, but finding that many times these issues relate to case management.

- **RCEB** aimed to move all day programs to 'until canceled' POS this year; however, with DSP Program and other programs, this has been delayed.

#### **Regional Center Staff Reports – Mike Minton**

- **DSP Training Stipend** information from RCEB – process is posted in RCEB flyer emailed out in late October.
  - 10 or more hours per week
  - Perform direct support tasks for individuals served by the RC
  - Spend at least 50% of work hours doing direct service
  - Employed by an RC Vendor, or SDP Participant

**Question:** Can ICF DSPs participate? **Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Can Administrators participate? **Answer:** If they meet the other criteria, yes.

**Still-unanswered questions:** can OT, PT receive training? **Answer:** Mike Minton will reply later today.

- Staff cannot be employed through another funding source than RCs.
- Vendors need to fill out [DocuSign](#); tracked by EIN but may need more clarity on how to fill out vendor numbers.
- DSPs must use matching 6-digit vendor number to be matched up for invoicing.
- RCs receive weekly list of employees participating in trainings; will send to employer to submit as invoices with monthly billing.
- RCs will issue payment on or around 15th of the following month. Vendors must pay out within the following month.
- Billing – RCs and vendors confirm participation; RCs pay within 30 days
- Questions: [dsppayments@rceb.com](mailto:dsppayments@rceb.com). Also developing an email just for DSPs – forthcoming.
- Early Start has many OT/PT clinicians, most direct service providers through agencies. If behavioral analysts, other consultants receive 1099, they are ineligible.
- Concerns about accessibility on phones – addressing with DDS.

**Question:** Service Providers with multiple service codes – do providers need to divide staff by program service, or better just to have one? (Reminding everyone on call that this is taxable income). **Question:** It's been clear that DSPs are responsible for noting which employer they are responsible for reporting with? How do providers know staff are not double-dipping? **Answer:** Working with DDS to clarify and share with PVAC; however, if vendor number is clear, RCEB can send a list and providers can verify identities. Not clear how DDS will prevent stipends going to employees multiple times.

**Question:** Non-eligible recipients include school district-funded employees; what about RC-funded providers working in a reimbursement model with school districts? **Answer:** Confident that this is OK.

**Question:** How will vendors know which employees have completed courses? **Answer:** ArcaLearn system sends out weekly updates to RCs, and RCs will send on to providers for verification. **Question:** Does RCEB have multiple contacts at each organization in case emails go astray? **Answer:** E-Billing contact is used. **Question:** Will employees receive a certificate in order to request payment from providers? Can providers pay out stipends without seeing RCEB verification? Is there a danger of double-dipping funds? **Answer:** Risk is low according to Lisa Kleinbub.

- **RCEB will create another webinar** for providers not attending PVAC.
- **SLS Community quarterly meeting** this Thursday at 2PM; Jeff Dix will send meeting announcement/link.

#### **Regional Center Staff Reports – Jon Lee, Emergency Coordinator Specialist, RCEB – [jlee@rceb.org](mailto:jlee@rceb.org), 510 618 6303.**

- **Go-Kit Initiative** was picking up steam; has slowed a bit since first announced 15 months ago.
- **Working to provide Go-Kits** in high-fire, high-danger zones to people served who are most at-risk: high-fire, tier 2 and 3 per CPUC/CalFire, receiving ILS/SLS.
- **Training** ensures everyone knows how to use Go-Kits. Live via Zoom. Mainly covers contents of the kit. Archived in multiple languages including ASL.
- **Waitlist was long;** now trainings are opening up again; however, folks signing up may not be in the focused groups.
- **Warehouse is starting to be less full;** however, kits are still available! Contact Jon Lee to assist in getting kits to qualified people served.

#### **Regional Center Staff Reports – Priscilla Gomez**

- Please contact Priscilla Gomez ASAP when you know additional people served will be needing transportation to return to in-person services, as routes and drivers are still very sparse.

#### **Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue**

- **Dan Hogue** was not able to attend, but did learn the one contract approval will provide additional funding for the home being developed for Deaf+ community.
- **RCEB Board** is developing process for Strategic Planning – please share your voice in the community survey!

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

- Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Program:  
Preparing to offer grants for systems change proposals in areas of education, IDD services, Legal/ Judicial settings, healthcare settings, and financial settings. Check out info about the program, <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap/>, how to get on the announcement list for SDP-TAP, and join one of our upcoming community conversations happening Oct 23 – 27. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap-community-conversations/>
- SCDD Bill ideas / ‘There should be a Law’ submissions: [https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0](https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0)
- Self-Determination Statewide Orientations (this month offered in English, ASL, Spanish, Hmong, Chinese): <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- Reminder, SCDD can offer PPE and antigen tests for orgs and community groups. Email us! [Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov)
- Bay Area People First Meeting, Oct 20, 4p, featuring a presentation on disability rights and disability justice from the Center for Independent Living: On Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81426384117?pwd=T2U4NVg2US9ZM0xyK2gyM1U3R2R5dz09>
- Other meeting and event dates coming up, info available at <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>:
  - CA Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat, Oct 25, 11a
  - SCDD Legislative and Public Policy Meeting, Oct 26th
  - SCDD Council Meeting, Nov 28th

- Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, Nov 29<sup>th</sup>

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

- [Benjamin.Chen2@acgov.org](mailto:Benjamin.Chen2@acgov.org) - Email Ben if you're interested in planning for Alameda County transition fair or if you have interest in joining the Council as a board member.
- Alameda County County Wide Area Plan – Deadline October 31:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACCWAP24-28>  
Additional languages and printed copies available here: <https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/our-services/Seniors-and-Disabled/Area-Agency-on-Aging/Planning/Planning>
- IDD Mental Health Symposium, October 26 @ 10AM:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tikNWRysRLGW-4B4Sr0BvQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tikNWRysRLGW-4B4Sr0BvQ#/registration)
- Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Digital Devices | Email: [digitaldivide@acgov.org](mailto:digitaldivide@acgov.org) | Phone: 5105771907
- La Familia Events in Spanish:  
**In Person:** Monthly Orientation | Regional Services and Generic Resources | Saturday, October 14 2023, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | La Familia Neighborhood Resource Center 22366 Fuller Ave, Hayward, CA 94541  
**Virtual:** Monthly Orientation | Regional Center Services and Generic Resources | Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | <https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/j/85888510651?pwd=bnNKczdxQzB0eGpBc05RWnZRSmFxQT09>
- Medi-Cal Programs for Individuals with Disabilities | Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | [https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_zigprz35Ty-O\\_3v5DRT7cg](https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zigprz35Ty-O_3v5DRT7cg)
- RTC Cards and Accessible Transportation Presentation from Alameda DDC Board Meeting:  
<https://youtu.be/eeybNg2zXBM>
- Next Alameda County DDC Meeting November 8, 9:30AM - 12PM

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

- Please share with families!  
October 20, 10:00 am: (Spanish Language) Your Child's First IEP, presented by Care Parent Network.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YMGFG9r9ifB9dVEM99DfTZJQMBLHINzE/view?usp=sharing>
- Vision for the Future Conference has been canceled due to low registration, and will be rescheduled per the planning team.
- Autism Star Conference had been successfully converted to virtual event, and planning team is taking time to envision how to present this in the future, whether hybrid or otherwise.
- Next DD Council October 25<sup>th</sup>; hybrid with in-person portion in Martinez and presentation from RCEB's Jon Lee on Emergency Preparedness. Contact Vi Ibarra at [vi.ibarra@cchealth.org](mailto:vi.ibarra@cchealth.org) to be added to the list.

#### **East Bay Legislative Coalition Report – Will Sanford**

- **AB-1228: Holden** - \$20/hr Wage Floor for fast food workers; effective April 2024 with CPI or 3.5% increases every January.
- **SB-525:** \$25/hr. wage floor for health care workers; NOT I/DD specific.
- **SB-271** – Right to repair for Wheelchairs; expands access and reduces the time to repair – has not been passed; working on moving this forward.
- **Virtual Town Hall**, January 26 from 10AM-11:30AM. Focused on fact that ISS systems cover individuals' entire lifespan (with key themes that impact all areas of lives, workforce, etc):
  - Early Childhood Services
  - Education-aged Students (3-18)
  - Transition-aged (18-22)
  - Adults (23 - ?)
  - Defining seniors (57+?)
- **EBLC Committee** meeting on 11/1/23 10AM-12PM via Zoom. Focusing on In-Person District Office Visits in February and March.

- Please be in touch with Vi Ibarra to receive EBLC updates via listserv: [vi.ibarra@cchealth.org](mailto:vi.ibarra@cchealth.org)

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

**Anthony Rowe** reminded folks of the charter for this committee – to close gaps in equity; participation by providers is necessary to make this process effective.

- **RFP Policy** in review by the Board; updates from **Dan Hogue** and **Anthony Rowe** provided to the committee. While gains had been made, subcommittee had hoped for more transparency on the rubric and scoring.
- **Referrals** were the second topic; subcommittee is discussing recommendations on systems upgrades and approaches to equitable distribution of referrals to avoid implicit bias in the process of referrals.
- **Next meeting** is October 27<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.
- **RCEB PVAC** will send Zoom link via listserv email.

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

- **Thanking Lisa Kleinbub** for addressing committee discussion points, including DSP stipends, remote services directive ending, 055 conversion (along with other service codes which will be reallocated).
- **Proposal from Lanterman Coalition** has been submitted to update and extend Remote Services, but no movement yet.
- Reminder that all are welcome to join the **Friday, 11AM Provider Meeting**, and the **Wednesday 2PM Troubleshoot Meetings** (both via Zoom); all service providers are welcome.

#### **HireAble Report – Jamie Renton**

- **Last meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>** with Maisie Soetanyo presenting on ‘An Autistic Employee’s Experience at Work’.
- Next meeting October 23, 3PM with CalABLE representative presenting on CalABLE reports.
- **What Comes Next: The Value of Work** –October 17<sup>th</sup>; October 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-1PM; November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3-4:30PM;

#### **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**

- **Will Sanford** mentioned the chaos at the federal level – operating without a Speaker of the House; cannot implement planning to fund government beyond 11/17.
- **Dan Hogue** mentioned how much he loves our provider community and **Geneva Carlos-Valentino** concurred.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29.

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary