

Report on the implementation of the requirements of California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4519.5

May 31, 2022

Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB)

Required data for 2020-2021 was posted on the RCEB internet web site by December 31, 2021. This information remains posted as does the data for previous years.

The law (W and I Code, Section 4519.5 (e)) requires that the regional center meet with stakeholders in one or more public meetings regarding the data.

. “The meeting or meetings shall be held separately from any meetings held pursuant to Section 4660. The regional center shall provide participants of these meetings with the data and any associated information, and shall conduct a discussion of the data and the associated information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate for that community, including providing alternative communication services, as required by Sections 11135 to 11139.7, inclusive, of the Government Code and implementing regulations. Regional centers shall inform the department of the scheduling of those public meetings 30 days prior to the meeting. Notice of the meetings shall also be posted on the regional center’s Internet Web site 30 days prior to the meeting and shall be sent to individual stakeholders and groups representing underserved communities in a timely manner. Each regional center shall, in holding the meetings required by this subdivision, consider the language needs of the community and shall schedule the meetings at times and locations designed to result in a high turnout by the public and underserved communities.”

In order to identify times that result in a high turnout by the public and underserved communities, input was requested from the bi-monthly meeting of the Diversity and Equity Committee of the RCEB Board of Directors.

Based on this input, times were identified and confirmed with hosts. Translators were scheduled. The meetings were properly noticed 30 days in advance. The public meetings were announced on the RCEB website. The announcement was updated as additional meetings were added. Information was included in RCEB board packets and sent to a board mailing list. Announcements were made at community meetings attended by staff prior to the scheduled dates of public meetings. For meetings in conjunction with other groups, the meetings were also announced by the groups to their regular attendees. The posted schedule is included as Attachment “Schedule” to this report.

Ten public remote meetings were scheduled. All meetings were conducted via ZOOM

- 1) Thursday, March 10th at 10:00 AM in collaboration with La Familia. The presentation was conducted in Spanish
- 2) Friday, March 11th 1:00 PM Hosted by Regional Center of the East Bay. The presentation was conducted in English
- 3) Wednesday, March 16th at 2:00 PM in Collaboration with Helping Hands East Bay. Translation was offered in Cantonese
- 4) Thursday, March 17th at 3:00 PM in in Collaboration with Helping Hands East Bay. Translation was offered in Vietnamese
- 5) Saturday, March 19th at 10:00 AM in collaboration with Congreso Familiar The presentation was conducted in Spanish
- 6) Tuesday, March 22nd at 10:00 AM In collaboration with Care Parent Network. The presentation was conducted in Spanish
- 7) Wednesday, March 23rd 6:00 PM Hosted by Family Resource Navigators. The presentation was conducted in English for the African American community
- 8) Friday, March 25th at 3:00 PM in collaboration with Friends of Children with Special Needs. Translation was offered in Cantonese.
- 9) Friday, March 25th at 5:00 PM in collaboration with Friends of Children with Special Needs. Translation was offered in Mandarin
- 10) Tuesday, March 29th 5:00 PM Hosted by Regional Center of the East Bay. The presentation was conducted in English

Meetings:

PowerPoint Presentation Available at www.rceb.org

Minutes in Attached Document

March 10, 2022

Attendees: 69

March 11, 2022

Attendees: 17

March 16, 2022

Attendees: 16

March 17, 2022

Attendees: 17

March 19, 2022

Attendees: 26

March 22, 2022

Attendees: 23

March 23, 2022

Attendees: 9

March 25, 2022

Attendees: 23

March 25, 2022

Attendees: 35

March 29, 2022

Attendees: 9

Total attendees at Public Meetings in 2022: 244

Summary of Comments

The comments from each meeting are included in the attached minutes (Minutes 22).

- Families not using services for diverse reasons such as: service is not available; service is not culturally or linguistically appropriate. For example, In Oakland, there are many people who have been affected by the fact that services are not offered in the indigenous language for families who speak dialects.
- Low service provider rates affect availability of services and quality of services
- Deaf consumers who reside with their families require additional support in the home. The interpreters are provided for non-signers which affects data integrity
- Case Managers need better training about services. Also, they need to take a more proactive role with families by guiding them about services because families do not know what to ask for.

Identified Disparities in the POS data

Consumers age 22 and

Annual authorizations and expenditures for consumers 22 and over are provided in the table below:

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$53,832	\$40,413
Asian	\$46,832	\$33,930
Other	\$54,161	\$38,356
Hispanic	\$38,971	\$28,037
White	\$73,415	\$55,475

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2019- 2020 Annual Authorizations	2020 – 2021 Annual Authorizations
African American	\$41,660	\$53,832
Asian	\$36,594	\$46,832
Other	\$45,324	\$54,161

Hispanic	\$30,820	\$38,971
White	\$58,258	\$73,415

Of note, when looking at overall expenditures for adults, each group by ethnicity had increases over the previous year. This likely reflects the additional supports related to the pandemic

Expenditures Ages 3-21

In addition, there was an increase in expenditures in the 3-21 age group compared with the previous year. African Americans continue to have the highest expenditures and Hispanics the lowest expenditures

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$14,602	\$9,116
Asian	\$10,012	\$6,037
Other	\$10,396	\$5,772
Hispanic	\$7,819	\$5,010
White	\$14,353	\$8,564

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2019-2020 Annual Expenditures	2020 -2021 Annual Expenditures
African American	\$8,412	\$9,116
Asian	\$5,673	\$6,037
Other	\$5,003	\$5,772
Hispanic	\$4,687	\$5,010
White	\$7,935	\$8,564

Adults At Home:

Among adults living at home, authorizations and expenditures there is a large gap between authorizations and expenditures across all ethnicities. Expenditures were highest for those in the Other/Multicultural Category and lowest for those who identify as Asian. Except for those identifying as Other/Multicultural, expenditures dropped during the 2020/21 year.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$22,823	\$13,179
Asian	\$21,829	\$12,986
Other	\$25,925	\$14,527
Hispanic	\$22,355	\$13,598
White	\$25,255	\$13,752

Year to Year

Ethnicity	Annual Expenditures 2019-2020	Annual Expenditures 2020-2021
African American	\$13,878	\$13,179
Asian	\$13,490	\$12,986
Other	\$13,592	\$14,527
Hispanic	\$14,360	\$13,598
White	\$15,073	\$13,752

Adults Residing Out of Home:

A significant gap continues to exist in the percentage of adults living out of home.

Ethnicity	2020-2021
Asian	26%
Black/African American	52%
Hispanic	26%
Other Ethnicity or Race/Multicultural	34%
White	60%

Year to Year

Ethnicity	2019-2020	2020-2021
Asian	26.2%	26%
Black/African American	52.8%	52%
Hispanic	27.3%	26%
Other Ethnicity or Race/Multicultural	35.6%	34%
White	61%	60%

Out of home includes several types of living arrangements and supports. The numbers suggest several factors as the root cause for this disparity including, culture and language as significant contributors to where people live.

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$82,435	\$65,534
Asian	\$117,497	\$93,126
Other	\$110,000	\$85,479
Hispanic	\$85,611	\$68,567
White	\$105,139	\$82,958

Year to Year

Ethnicity	Annual Expenditures 2019-2020	Annual Expenditures 2020-2021
African American	\$55,977	\$65,534
Asian	\$81,139	\$93,126
Other	\$68,807	\$85,479
Hispanic	\$59,177	\$68,567
White	\$72,955	\$82,958

Children (3-21 years inclusive) At Home:

We assume most children residing at home receive educational and other services that are not funded by the regional center. In these groups, while Whites and African Americans have the highest authorizations, African Americans have the highest expenditures and Hispanics the lowest expenditures. Spanish speaking families have expressed difficulty in finding workers for respite and this may contribute to this disparity.

Several of the projects that have been funded to increase service access and equity have tracked linking families to Medi-Cal and IHSS as a focus of their work,. These supports may be impacting Are there socioeconomic factors that impact the identified needs of families? As we assess for needs, are there factors such as IHSS availability which impact requests for services?

Ethnicity	Annual Authorizations	Annual Expenditures
African American	\$9,277	\$5,590
Asian	\$8,322	\$4,623
Other	\$9,060	\$4,849
Hispanic	\$7,017	\$4,306
White	\$10,236	\$5,048

Year to Year

Ethnicity	Annual Expenditures 2019-2020	Annual Expenditures 2020-2021
African American	\$5,353	\$5,590
Asian	\$4,263	\$4,623
Other	\$4,097	\$4,849
Hispanic	\$3,875	\$4,306
White	\$4,688	\$5,048

Children Out of Home

Below is a chart showing the numbers of children by ethnicity who live out of home. There are significant differences between these percentages by ethnicity. The Lanterman Act requires that regional centers support children to remain in their family homes. Very few children reside out of home as we see below. However the costs of out of home living arrangements may increase the spending by regional centers for groups where out of home placement is more common.

ETHNICITY	Number of Consumer	Number Out of Home	Percentage
<i>American Indian</i>	12	1	8%
<i>Asian</i>	2377	41	1.7%
<i>Black</i>	1376	59	4%
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	42	2	5%
<i>Hispanic</i>	3064	32	1%
<i>Other</i>	2015	31	1,5%
<i>White</i>	2037	77	3.8%

Children and Year to Year No Purchase of Service

Under 3

ETHNICITY	2018/2019	2020/2021
<i>American Indian</i>	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Asian</i>	3.8%	7.6%
<i>Black</i>	2.1 %	6.9%
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	0.0%	5.6%
<i>Hispanic</i>	2.3 %	8.4%
<i>Other</i>	2.8%	7.1.%
<i>White</i>	2.7%	5.1%

Children ages 3-21

ETHNICITY	2018/2019	2020/2021
<i>American Indian</i>	35.7%	50.0%
<i>Asian</i>	44.6%	54%
<i>Black</i>	43.6%	54%
<i>Native Hawaiian</i>	40.0%	57.1%
<i>Hispanic</i>	42.9%	48.6%
<i>Other</i>	44.3%	51.9%
<i>White</i>	44.2%	51.6%

In reviewing our data, we found significant increases in children who did not utilize any purchase of service in FY 2020/2021. We compared this year to the last pre pandemic year and found that in Early Start, the number of children without any purchase of services increased two and three fold. For most groups ages 3-21, this increased between 5-10%. We believe that most of this change is related to factors that occurred due to shelter in place and other public health orders. While many families wanted increased services, staff were not available through agencies especially to people who didn't have current workers. We also know that many did not want new workers into their homes especially when the surges occurred.

LANGUAGE

The impact of language on purchase of service is significant. Disparities in purchase of service exist by language. In most cases, expenditures those whose family language is other than English have lower purchase of service expenditures than those who speak English only. RCEB sorted our expenditure data by age/language/ and ethnic group. These are expenditures for adults by ethnicity and language.

Ethnicity/Language	Expenditures
All/English	\$45,910
Spanish	\$24,068
Asian/Mandarin	\$45,082
Asian/Korean	\$34,105
Asian/Japanese	\$57,925
Asian/Cantonese	\$30,372
Asian/Vietnamese	\$17,208
Asian/Cambodian	\$17,761
Asian/Tagalog	\$33,293
Asian/Mien	\$8,322

No Purchase of Service By Language (Pre and During Pandemic)

Children

	No POS 18/19	No POS 20/21
ASL	50%	71.4%
English	44.9%	53%
Spanish	40.9%	47%
Cantonese	38.9%	47.9%
Mandarin	47.8%	50.7%
Vietnamese	49.3%	50.0%
Korean	33.3%	59.2%
Tagalog	40.1%	48.1%
Farsi	30.8%	38.8%
Arabic	35.1%	48.8%
Hindi	47.6%	66%

Adults

	No POS 18/19	No POS 20/21
ASL	2.4%	4.6%
English	13%	17%
Spanish	18.3%	21.6%
Cantonese	22.8%	22.6%
Mandarin	7.5%	9.7%
Vietnamese	36.4%	39.6%
Korean	19.4%	20.5%
Tagalog	27.7%	27.7%
Farsi	30.4%	17.4%
Arabic	15.4%	29.4%
Hindi	13.8%	6.9%

During the pandemic, we saw increases in the number of people who had no purchase of service in most language groups. Prior to the pandemic, we had seen reductions in the number of people with no purchase of service among Spanish speaking people served.

Recommendations:

The following are Regional Center of the East Bay's recommendations and plans to promote equity and reduce disparities: These are based on input from community meetings and our review of the data. What is true overall is that there were definite changes in purchase of services during the pandemic. While some of these reflected increases in expenditures likely related to additional support needs, the input at many community meetings was that there were not enough workers or providers to meet the needs that people experienced. We saw substantial rises in the number of people with no purchase of service in many ethnic groups especially among children.

- As the pandemic ends, there needs to be a focus on targeted outreach to people in those groups who saw a decrease in dollars spent or an increase in those with no purchase of service. A focus on helping those who lost service providers or those who haven't yet connected to service is important. Service Access and Equity projects that focus on this reconnection will be important to start or re-establish services
- Continue to employ staff who reflect the diverse community in the East Bay. As staff are hired to fill new positions allocated to regional centers, assure that candidates are drawn from all communities.
- Recommend support for transition age to young adult hood especially as we see expenditures for adults who are Hispanic and African American and living out of home are lower than for other ethnic groups. Increasing support for people and families to identify and obtain needed supports out of home may be a need for a service access and equity project.
- Many comments during meetings focused on not knowing about services as well as feeling that case managers didn't share all the information that was needed. RCEB has created a brochure to easily explain services to family. Providing this brochure and other materials and using it as the basis for sharing service information in annual and IPP meetings needs to be a standard for our regional center for all meetings. Recommend that we have monthly meetings on accessing specific services both in English with translation as well as in major languages of consumers and families.
- While not specifically commented on during purchase of service meetings, we have heard many concerns from communities of color regarding their child's ability to safely be independent in the community given the lack of knowledge of developmental disabilities by law enforcement and the bias that may lead to serious and potentially fatal outcomes for their family member. This impacts access to services for individuals when choices are made based not on a person's interests and abilities but rather on potential harms. Service Equity projects to both understanding of IDD in police departments as well as trainings for individuals served on interactions with the police may increase interest in service utilization in some communities.
- The purchase of service expenditures in Early Start varies by ethnicity and primary language. Identifying those ethnic and language groups who continue to utilize less service in Early Start and consider requesting CPP/CRDP funds to expand services for these communities.
- A new model of coordinated care for adults living at home will be piloted in the next year. Advocate for families from communities who typically have adult family members reside at home benefit from additional supports including the management of workers and coverage for emergency backup.

Information/Resources

- Continue to increase the availability of materials in multiple languages and multiple modalities to explain potential services and the individual program plan/individual family service plan.
- Continue to update the RCEB website to make it easier to obtain information both on RCEB and community resources. Our multilingual website is now easily accessible on smart phones. During a number of our diversity and equity meetings, there has been discussion of the importance of increasing the use of text messaging and other hand-held device communication methods.
- Continue to actively work with community agencies to ensure that information and education on self-determination is provided to a broad range of communities. Self-determination may be a mechanism for individuals to access alternative services that are culturally and linguistically congruent.
- Support new initiatives funded through DDS to promote equity such as: Implicit Bias Training, Community Navigator Programs, and Low to No POS Caseloads to improve equity and access in our community.
- Recommend development of consistent information sessions for case managers and families to learn about available resources. Develop an updated method for families to learn about all available vendors who can meet an individual's needs.
- Support conferences and other events in our community which provide education and information about regional center services to our diverse community in multiple languages. RCEB has historically supported Congreso Familiar in our Spanish speaking community. RCEB participates in the planning and implementation of additional events to support diverse communities.
- Expand social media and text messaging for all who desire this communication.
- Continue to hold bi-monthly Diversity and Equity committee meetings of the Board of Directors. These meetings regularly include 15-20 individuals representing the RCEB Board, staff, community partners, and service providers. This group serves as a way to get input on potential activities and to plan for outreach to our community.