

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, February 9, 2024**

Members Present: Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks (Co-Chair); Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center (Secretary); Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult and Career Education (Membership); Ann Pringle, APOCDDA; Eddie Esquiviz, Manos; Lindsay Dyba, Futures Explored.

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Priscilla Gomez, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Adriana Cazares, Family Works; Alicia Gendron, Spread Your Wings; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Annette Onwurah, North Star Residential Home; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills; Ashanti Moore, East Bay Spread Your Wings; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services; Cecilia Gutierrez, ACBH CYASOC Specialty Services; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Christine Grabowski, EBI; Contessa Rancifer, One Step Closer, Inc.; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; David Nettles, EFS; Diana Perez, Buenavista Care Home; Donna Feingold, Finding Golden Solutions and HireAble; Doreen Khan, Sutro Home/Shepherd House; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Eva J. Munoz; Gabriele Allen, Community Program for Exceptional Children in Oakland; Gail Tsujimoto-Cho, REACH West; Ike Onwurah, North Star Residential Home; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jan Behr, Toolworks; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jay G., Mission Hope Day Program; Joanne Lau, DHTI; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Jun Reina, Family Support Services; Justine Esomonu, Adaure Home Care; Karen Lingenfelter, Mount Diablo Adult Education; Kesha Deberry, SYWCA; Dominique Mellion, FUFU; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Mary Isvoranu, Quality Living; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Merfe Bailey; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Phillip Goffner, Dorothy Glaspie Foundation; Sirkka Wirkki; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Yahna Dick, Spread Your Wings ILS; Zackery Wheeler, UCS.

90 Participants via Zoom

Call to Order:

At 9:37, Geneva Carlos-Valentino welcomed new members and recognized ongoing members.

Minutes Approval: M/Anthony Rowe; S/Lindsey Dyba; unanimous approval by voting members.

Reports:

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Lisa Kleinbub** asked providers to share that ICF's are now being funded through local Medi-CAL managed care funding sources. As expected, there are some glitches, and RCEB is providing loans via a 'Lag Loan' fund – ICFs are encouraged to email lagloans@rceb.org to access these loans.
- **State Budget** does not provide a lot of guidance on rate models – DDS anticipating most of the rate implementation in July will happen; however, another projection predicts it may not happen for another year. Time is getting short for implementation in July, though work does continue.
- **A portal** for service providers to enter data about their orgs is coming soon as part of the 10% incentive payment. This is not expected to be as onerous as staff stability survey.
- **RCEB** is on the upswing in hiring case managers, monthly job fairs.
- **Updated Board Policy** is being reviewed on ILS Services; will be posted next week to RCEB's website.
- **More policy work to come**, including updated referral policy/procedure, including any necessary technical processes. RCEB has been in conversation with the Equity Subcommittee on this process, which may take up to 3 months but is moving forward.

Action Item: Vendor Advisory Coalition Legislative Priorities 2024-25

- PVAC Co-Chairs Dan Hogue and Geneva Carlos-Valentino have been invited to a forming group of a **Vendor Advisory Coalition throughout** the state.
- **Dan Hogue shared onscreen a draft letter to legislators**, which has been distributed to Vendor Advisory Coalition members statewide for review, and will be submitted for approval in the VAC's February meeting. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UV8SLHKTIKS7OIZ3x13FXgGxYrSkZAXz/view?usp=sharing>
- **Letter will be submitted to legislators on behalf of VAC**, and is in alignment with CDSA, ARCA, and other advocacy groups across the state.
- **Ike O.** asked whether many residents and consumers are looking for single rooms rather than shared rooms in the past? If so, how can rates be updated to reflect this preference/choice? **Dan Hogue** replied that this is a great topic for discussions on the rate model, though the requirements and assumptions are set at 4-bed facilities. He added that work is being done to work on these rate models and assumptions, and **Ike O.** concurred that this is so needed. **Dan Hogue** raised the question of HCBS compliance, and that many 4-bed homes are also 4-bedrooms, though some are not.
- **Dan Hogue** called the vote for approval of the draft letter. **Marcie Hodge** motioned to approve, with **Ann Pringle** seconding the motion, and voting members approved the draft letter unanimously.
- **Dan Hogue** reminded PVAC that the letter would then move to the Board of Directors for review.

Presentation: Diversity in Health Training Institute – Joanne Lau

- **Dan Hogue** introduced **Joanne Lau** with accolades for DHTI's internship programs, and appreciation for their work together.
- **Joanne Lau** introduced herself and DHTI, and the Asian Resource Network Project, which she manages.
- **ARN** was launched in 2020, is funded by DDS SAE grant, and develops partnerships with training and education partners. Their methods are 1) workforce development, training Asian-language speakers to be IDD service providers, and 2) community engagement, educating community members and healthcare workers about working and living with individuals with IDD.
- **DHTI** is based in Oakland/Chinatown and was founded by Alice Lai-Bitker, expanding and diversifying the healthcare workforce by connecting immigrants to healthcare career pathways in the US.
- ARN has graduated 14 bilingual Asian students from Fast Track Respite training; 7 students from Basic Behavioral Training; 15 students from DSP Training; and 16 students from Applied Behavioral Analysis Training – shout out to Dan Hogue and Jason Parks at Las Trampas for their help with ABA trainings!
- **ARN Website** shares resources with bilingual students and provides an online directory of service providers to meet community needs – it is translated into simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, and Burmese.
- **ARN can provide support in 3 ways:** 1) promotional support for services provided in their community. 2) Posting job openings for bilingual students. 3) Community engagement through workshops and promotion of service provider workshops and events.
- **Mike Pereira** asked how best to reach DHTI; **Joanne Lau** responded that she will send information via the PVAC Listserv.

Regional Center Staff Reports – Steve Robinson

- **Steve Robinson** thanked Joanne Lau for her presentation and the great work DHTI does in the community.
- **RCEB will distribute RFP soon for Community Resource Plan elements** – 3 projects include:
 - **Enhanced Behavioral Support Home** for forensically-involved or at-risk individuals needing to move from Porterville. Housing Development organization is Brilliant Corners, and the home is located in Brentwood. The home will be renovated and an RFP is forthcoming for service providers for the home.
 - **Wraparound Service** to benefit children under the age of 18 with benefits, educational, and medical advocacy - based on Coordinated Family Services; there is no service code for this, but RCEB will work with DDS to provide services so that children can access similar services to adults through CFS.

- **Transportation RFP** for specialized transportation services to support people with changing mobility and vision needs, as well as shorter routes for people who are medically involved.
- **Additional Service Provider Portal information** – appears ready to use, but changes such as tax ID, address, other vital information, then requires another step of verification with RCEB.

Regional Center HCBS Reports – Mike Minton

- Working with Toolworks on site visits and tools for site visits – seem to be working well, and Toolworks is working on revising the tip sheet to be even more helpful.
- Toolworks is also offering drop-in hours for vendors to prepare for site visits. Last Wednesday of the month, February 28, at 2PM. Very informal, reviewing process, asking/answering questions.
- HCBS videos are now available, made by Tri-County Regional Center. All of them are about the 10 rules of HCBS compliance. They are each animated and around 5 minutes or less.
 - The first 10 are designed for the people receiving services:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2sVu_Vi1tqUnSW5DWrbU9O7_4Q8ecZ3C
 - The second 10 are designed for the providers:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2sVu_Vi1tqX4cuLZ-PBXa0vufTYDcseT

Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue

- **RCEB Board met on January 22**, with no vendor contracts to approve.
- **ILS and Social Recreation Service Policies** were approved, with recommendations to add nondiscrimination clauses to complete the policies.
Lisa Kleinbub pointed out that this policy was read, but NOT approved until additional language is drafted.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** updated RCEB Board on union contract, aimed at improving retention and recruitment for staff.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** shared with the Board that RCEB has been placing pressure on Mason-Tillman to complete their report; the Board will meet in a closed session to discuss this further.
- **Strategic Planning Session** has been planned for Friday, February 16.
- **Revised membership agreement with ARCA approved**, requiring Regional Centers to act in accordance with ARCA advocacy efforts, in order to amplify impact of advocacy.
- **2024 workplan not approved yet**, still waiting for addition of Strategic Plan.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau

- **Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP)** is excited to announce the following contracts posted on February 2, 2024, for bid submissions and welcomes all prospective bidders to submit bids before the submission deadline of February 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. PST.
All responses to the listed invitations for bids must be submitted electronically to the SDM-TAP team at sdmtap@scdd.ca.gov.
- **SDM-TAP Warmline Services (no-cost, non-emergency phone services):** Create and operate a warmline assistance center to answer questions and connect users with resources to assist with implementation of Supported Decision-Making.
- **SDM-TAP Evaluation Services:** Identify analysis methods, gather qualitative data from SDM-TAP funding recipients, analyze data, evaluate the implementation of SDM-TAP, and identify measurable outcomes of Supported Decision-Making success for individuals/families and professionals in California through written reports.
- **SDM-TAP Branding & Advertising Coordination Services:** Create a branding guide for SDM-TAP and manage usage by SDM-TAP partners and funding recipients in all public communication. Coordinate marketing efforts for all SDM-TAP funding recipients.
- **Upcoming Statewide Trainings** in Spanish and English: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-trainings/>
- **The Bay Area People First (BAPF)** chapter is made up of self-advocates and members of local People First chapters from Alameda County People First, San Francisco People First, Marin County People First, and San

Mateo People First. BAPF meetings are held every two months, on the third Wednesday of that month. These meetings are on Zoom, and you can join from any location.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Networking from 4:00 PM to 4:15 PM, meeting from 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM. Contact information for questions and/or accommodations: (510) 286-0430.

- **BART Accessibility Task Force:** works with BART Board and Staff, providing recommendations to BART for better accessibility – does include IDD representation, but looking for more!
The BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The BATF meetings are open to the public and are located at the East Bay Paratransit Office, 1750 Broadway, 1st floor conference room, Oakland, CA 94612.
If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Elena Van Loo at 510-874-7366 or by email at evanloo@bart.gov.
- **Upcoming SCDD Council and Committee Meetings:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
 - **State Plan Committee Meeting:** 2/15 @ 930a
 - **Statewide Self Advocacy Network:** 2/28-2/29 (usually starting at 10a)
 - **Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee:** 2/28 @ 530p
 - **Legislative/Public Policy Committee:** 3/14 (usually 1030a)
- **Antigen Test Program** is ending February 29; however, PPE program will continue. Reach out to Sheraden with requests: sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- Thanks to Mike Pereira and Will Sanford for coordination for **EBLC Legislative Meeting** on 1/26!
- **DD Council has begun hybrid meetings** with a January presentation on Cal-ABLE Accounts; continuing in February 14 from 9:30AM-12PM at 1100 San Leandro.
- **Vacancies on the DD Council include** one vacancy each for self-advocate/family member, and a service provider. If interested in applying to become a board member for Alameda County DD Council, please email Benjamin.Chen2@acgov.org
- **PG&E Safety Net Program:** <https://www.pge.com/en/outages-and-safety/outage-preparedness-and-support/general-outage-resources/outage-compensation-programs.html>
- **La Familia Aprende, Promueve y Actúa (APA)** invites you to participate in the following meetings in Spanish:
Virtual: Monthly Orientation | Regional Center Services and Generic Resources | Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm: <https://livelafamilia.org.zoom.us/j/83425495460?pwd=hkdROPWNPDOO2tSIV2UdZdOv4qin3X.1>

Alameda Support Groups:

Basic Special Education | Thursday, February 22th, 2024 (Zoom), 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm: https://livelafamilia.org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q9KyTPiqQvCeEZ2L73oT1g#/registration

Parent and Youth Support Groups: Contact Yguerra@livelafamilia.org

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- **March 23rd Transition Conference and Resource Fair, VENDOR registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-transition-conference-resource-fair-vendor-registration-tickets-829549433687?aff=oddtcreator>
- **March 23rd Transition Conference and Resource Fair, ATTENDEE registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-transition-conference-and-resource-fair-tickets-829452393437?aff=oddtcreator>
- **The Transition Task Force** provides introductory trainings on several of the most common aspects of transition that families ask teachers and case managers about. Please have a look and consider if any of your staff might wish to attend: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GjnCN6uUXB2LumdA17QMpj652sg683cX/view?usp=sharing>

- **The Developmental Disabilities Council** is extending an invitation to our community to attend monthly Board of Directors' meetings. Please share this invitation with the clients and families you serve, as well as any staff that may be interested. Attending the monthly meetings (either in person or via Zoom) is a great way to learn about issues, events, and opportunities of interest to the developmental disability community.

Contra Costa DD Council invitation in English:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P8MrGZfRCgJfR_dGBwDyrEWLXVgkAPnL/view?usp=sharing

Contra Costa DD Council invitation in Spanish:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/173nr6mtk17nwevulhiG706aseVNLvNtk/view?usp=sharing>

East Bay Legislative Coalition Report – Mike Pereira

- **Governor's proposed budget** – came out 1/10.
- **Rate Model Implementation Delay** – still a proposal; legislature generally supports IDD community; advocacy does matter!
- **Legislative Breakfast 1/26** – Features video testimonials collected through the season; but this is not the only way to take action! Beyond the Leg Breakfast, Governor's budget proposal is in play, with promotion and drafting of legislation. Mid-February is the deadline for submission of new legislation, making NOW the engagement period with legislators.
- **LAO Office estimates revenue shortfall at \$58B**; Governor estimates \$37B. Different than a deficit, but still impacting budget negotiations. Proposing that rate increases return to first scheduled dates of 2025.
- **Legislative appeal**: We understand the impact of revenue shortfalls, but why the DD sector? Engage legislators, share experiences, connect beyond the numbers to what is happening on the ground. Reach out to Mike Pereira or Will Sanford to participate in site visits – they are coordinating these in late March/early April, with a preliminary Zoom meeting in the next couple of weeks: mpereira@alacostacenters.org
- **Assembly Subcommittee** meets Wednesday, 2/28; Assemblymember Alex Lee is our local legislator on the committee.
- **Senate Subcommittee** – Senator Caroline Menjivar is chair of Human Services Subcommittee 3, meeting 3/21. Note: commentary is primarily in-person or email, rather than Zoom or phone.
- **Geneva Carlos-Valentino** encouraged everyone to consider participating in legislative visits!

Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Anthony Rowe

Anthony Rowe reported:

- **Focused on ILS/SLS referral process** at present.
- **New issues coming forward** regarding grievance processes around things not deemed official actions, especially surrounding referrals in the residential space – following up with Lisa Kleinbub and team to create avenue to share concerns and experiences without fear of retaliation.
- **Exciting updates in the referral space** – hoping rollout might start with ILS/SLS, then move to residential and other spaces.
- **Next Meeting 2/23 at 1PM**; all are invited to join.

Day Providers Subcommittee Report – Mike Pereira

- 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.
- Recent meetings include review of **HCBS visits and process**, as well as other issues.
- **While this is a Day Provider forum, Residential Providers are also welcome** to both the Wednesday and Friday meetings to troubleshoot, share information, connect, and support one another.

HireAble Subcommittee Report – Donna Feingold

- **HireAble's next meeting is 2/26 at 3PM.**
Source America, formerly Niche, will present on federal contracts for employment of people with disabilities. Affiliate memberships are available, and a local presenter will talk about options in the Bay Area.

Senior Community Service Employment will present on its employment programs for low-income adults.

All providers are welcome; free monthly presentations aimed at increasing employment for people with I/DD.

- **Pre-registration is open for upcoming ACRE training** with a focus on Customized Employment. Registration is closed with all slots filled. \$3000 incentive payment is available for staff completing training before June 30. This is a great class; for more information reach out to donna@hireable.org
- **Benefits training** was offered in February for over 30 people; more trainings coming up.
- **Regarding advocacy, Lanterman Coalition** makes advocacy very easy through their website!

PVAC Membership Report – Jamie Renton

- **Still looking for a secretary!** Voting members, please nominate yourself or others!
- **Also still seeking:** Transportation, Children and Infant Services, At-large (community members or vendorized individuals).
- **Call for Nominations** <https://forms.gle/a11hcSXLwJBpzBZ27>

Public Comment

- **Dan Hogue** thanked the residential and other providers who are more frequently joining the call!
- **David Nettles** asked a question regarding DSP ARCA Training stipends; **Mike Minton** added the email for providers: DSPpayment@rceb.org, and **Dan Hogue** advised there is a form to fill out for this payment.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** noted that the payments for workplace surveys are being sent out in two batches; first went out this month and next will be next month.
- **Donna Feingold** asked whether ACRE training payments had been received; one provider thought they had; others not yet.
- **Geneva Carlos-Valentino** reminded everyone that the meeting will be hybrid on March 8, 2024, and begin at 10AM, rather than 9:30AM, to allow for transit time.
- **Ashanti Moore** asked whether ILS and SLS organizations were networking? **Dan Hogue** mentioned the quarterly RCEB meeting for SLS and ILS providers, and **Mike Minton** offered that providers could email him at mminton@rceb.org, with the note that they have not begun an ILS-centered conversation yet.
- **Jamie Renton** mentioned they are a provider for the Connectivity free tablets program (free tablet + 5 yrs Wifi + sometimes a phone), and they will share the information via PVAC's listserv.
- **Ember Avalos** mentioned NIAD would be offering mooncakes at their upcoming opening February 10, 1-4PM!

Next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2024 at 10AM at the RCEB San Leandro Offices and on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary