

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes Friday, January 12, 2024**

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

**Guests Present/by Phone:**

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Priscilla Gomez, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Jessica Micheau, RCEB; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Alberto Vega, Aim High Day Program; Amina Bryant, Dabs Inc; Aira Manaspar, Meadow Creek and Woodbridge Homes; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS & ILS; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Allison Pantell; Avram Wilensky, Toolworks; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services; Carrie Balick; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Christina Sanchez; Christopher Devera, Summerfield Homes, Inc; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Dominique Mellion; Donna Feingold, Finding Golden Solutions and HireAble; Eddie Esquivel, Manos; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Emily Aliping; Eva J. Munoz; Frank Bito and Mary Bito, Frank and Mary Bito Vancouver Home; Giovanni Sarabia, Sentry Living Solutions; Heather Manes, HATCH; Ike Onwurah, North Star Residential Home; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care & Staffing; Justine Esomonu, Adaure Home Care; Karen Lingenfelter, Mount Diablo Adult Education; Karina Limon, Vistability Laura Guzman, Concord Enriching Lives; Leah Whatley, Enriching Lives; Leandro Lacson, Mac's Home; Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored; Lita Guerrero, A Brighter View Day Program; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Lucy Bochat; Mailene Gonzalez, Ability Now Bay Area; Lydia Silos, Golden House; Margarita and Edqin Pagdanganan, Summerfield Homes, Inc; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Naneth Caderao, Pama Small Family Home; Patrice Duncan; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Patti Inouye, Cicada Residential Homes; Tasha Woods, Viera Residential Care Home; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Theresa Ordiniza, Abby's, Bishop, Morningsun, Papaya, Birchwood, Eldridge, and Sandlewood Care Homes; Tiana Kirkwood, Dorothy Glaspie Foundation; Wendy Arellano, Cole Vocational Services; Xiaoyan Luo, FCSN.

**Call to Order:**

At 9:36, Geneva Carlos-Valentino confirmed quorum and called the meeting to order.

**Inclusion Time:**

Wishing everyone a happy, prosperous and peaceful 2024!

**Minutes Approval:** Moved/Marcie Hodge; Second/Ramsay Mashy – unanimously approved with the exception of Dan Hogue who was not present.

**Reports:**

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

- **Lisa Kleinbub** noted governor's proposal puts off final rate increases by one year, reverting to original schedule for rates – much work to do regarding revenue shortfall at state level and advocacy for our sector. Needing to push DDS to continue planning implementation of quality incentives, even as there are many aspects DDS hasn't worked on yet.  
There is optimism for uptick in revenue next year, but we are struggling now.
- **Self-Determination** included 3 3-year positions for participant choice specialists; successfully supporting people to opt into Self Determination; governor's budget recommends NOT renewing these positions. RC's will be pushing hard on this point.
- **Master Plan on Developmental Disabilities** is recommended to build equity, quality, and build on investments in the system – very vague language; we will need to participate in order to ensure relevance to people served, person-centeredness.
- **Agreement with Union** has been finalized and RCEB is excited about hiring and onboarding.

- **Teresa Nold** asked about 055 code – is this still being phased out? **Lisa Kleinbub** replied that there isn't an answer yet for this because of rate implementation delays.
- **Will Sanford** provided the link to the governor's budget: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/transparency/budget-information/>

#### **Action Item: PVAC Voting and Membership – Marcie Hodge**

- Membership slate includes Jamie Renton (membership chair), Lindsay Dyba (day program), Eddie Esquiviz (support services), Ann Pringle (residential services), Anthony Rowe (support services), Allison Pantell (respite services), Marcie Hodge (respite services)
- Seeking nominations for Transportation, Respite, Support Services, Child/Infant Services, Early Intervention, Employment/Work
- **Craig Rose moved to confirm**, and Mike Pereira seconded the confirmation, of all nominees with the exception of Allison Pantell, who will officially become a PVAC member once she attends 3 meetings in a row. Unanimous confirmation from PVAC members.
- **Secretary position** – no nominations from the floor.
- **Dan Hogue** recognized the residential providers in the meeting, and welcomed them to join regularly! Dan and Geneva recognized 6-year members terming off, and invited these members back in a year: Ramsay Mashy, Craig Rose, Mike Pereira, and Donna Feingold – thanks everyone for their service!
- **Lisa Kleinbub** clarified that Adaptive Learning Center participated in the past under Day Programs/Work Programs.

#### **Presentation – HCBS Onsite Evaluation Training with Fruc Menchavez, Donna Feingold, Mike Minton, and Jan Behr**

- **Moving from compliance on paper** to compliance in person. RCEB was prepared to complete this process by 2025; corrective action by state of California moved this deadline up by 9 months.
- **Final Rule Goal:** to enhance the quality of services by
  - Maximizing opportunities and choices for individuals
  - Community integration allowing individuals to have full access to the community
  - Ensuring individuals can work and spend time with others who do not have disabilities
  - Supporting individual preferences and peoples' rights are protected
  - Person-centered planning requirements
- **Key Dates:**
  - 3/17/23 – due date for paper compliance
  - 11/22/23 – directive for Corrective Action Plan from CMS; DDS issued directive
  - 8/31/24 – onsite assessments need to be done
  - 12/31/24 – practice compliance; DDS reports to CMS on compliance
- **Not all Service Codes are included**
- **Site Visits:**
  - Scheduling 600+ Providers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Jan-Aug 2024
  - Team intros, process intro, site intro
  - Sites give historical overview, names, vendor codes of all programs
  - Tour of program
  - Discussion/Q&A for initial questions about process.
  - Interviews with people served
  - Interviews with staff
    - One person of the team will ask questions; another person will record responses.
  - Program representatives will be asked to demonstrate how agency is in compliance with each rule.
  - Tool used "How to be compliant"
  - Toolworks monthly drop-in hours start 1/31/24 at 2PM
- **HCBS Final Rules 1-5 apply to all service codes under HCBS; 6-10 for residential**
  - See slides for details on each rule.

- **Slides also include links to related resources:**
  - <https://www.rceb.org/providers/hcbs-final-rule/hcbs@rceb.org>
  - <http://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations>
  - <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCBSStatewideTransitionPlan.aspx>
  - <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/hcbs/index.html>
- **Mike Minton** detailed actions to follow site visits:
  - Toolworks report submitted to RCEB.
  - Fruc Menchavez may certify compliance and inform provider.
  - If program is not compliant, Corrective Action Plan may come from RCEB.
  - After 30 days, if no compliance is proved, sanctions/moratoriums may start with no new clients being recommended or allowed.
  - RCEB will be required to give existing consumers options to receive services elsewhere at this time.
  - After additional 30 days, RCEB will withhold 50% of reimbursement payments for 4 months, to be retroactively paid once compliance is proved.
  - Following this 4-month period, devendorization may occur.
  - Mike Minton asserted that this is similar to past processes where devendorization has been avoided.
- **Q&A:**
  - Q: Where will the recording be provided? A: The recording and powerpoint will be provided on RCEB's website and through PVAC.
  - Q: How long will the visits be? A: Approximate visit time for Day Programs is ~2hrs; Residential may be longer.
  - Q: Compliance question about transportation in a home's van – if a provider cannot take a person to an activity at their preferred time and place, might they be out of compliance? A: Yes per client choice requirements – however, important to follow 3Ds: Discussion, Decision, Documentation.
  - Q: Will Toolworks backtrack documents from the past year? A: Toolworks is looking for documentation of practices – could be IPPs, etc, and present-day documents are OK – not necessarily historical documentation.
  - Q: Scheduling going out? A: If everyone in the house decides to do something, and another person wants to do something different, it's not about meeting everyone's needs at the same time, but rather finding ways for each person's choices to be met in reasonable time.
  - Q: How will this fit with Q/A process? A: This will set up a more effective Q/A process for both residential and day programs going forward.
  - Q: Question about visitation times. A: Generalized rules about no visitors past a certain hour, etc, are out of compliance, but a discussion about visiting times and what's important to and for individuals or groups is compliant, especially where it is documented in IPP.
  - Q: Is evaluation visit conducted annually? A: It will be rolled into Q/A process.
  - Q: What is the timeframe if facility is contacted for eval visit? A: Schedulers will be reaching out to schedule 2-3 weeks in advance, but may have openings that are sooner.
  - Q: Where do we draw the line for a consumer with medical dietary concerns? A: Fruc advised that this particular question will be addressed in a case-by-case.
  - Q: How can providers access virtual office hours? A: Office Hours are via Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87365438552?pwd=bEJUSlJQNElITk5wZDZKd0gwYjZRUT09> and dates will be posted on RCEB website.
  - Q: Do all staff need to be present? A: No, not all staff members need to be present.
  - Q: How many pieces of documentation are needed for each proof in the checklist? A: Seeing the checklist, it will be clear which proofs are observational and which need documentation.
- **Mike Pereira and Donna Feingold reflected on site visits:**
  - Mike Pereira asserted that the review was fairly painless, 2hrs in length, beginning with interview of 3 participants and 1 staff member. No surprises, moved quickly, opportunity for reviewers to receive real-world perspectives. Second half was documentation review, and while there were areas for

improvement, it went quickly and was helpful. Preparing documentation and participation ahead of time will make the process much easier for everyone!

- Donna Feingold noted what a great process it had been so far.

#### **Regional Center Staff Reports – Steve Robinson**

- **RCEB is seeking an FMS provider for social rec;** many families are paying for social rec, and RCEB is not able to provide every provider; nor does every provider want to be vendored. Hence, looking for FMS to manage payments to social rec providers, and to reduce disparities between families who can afford to pay upfront and families who cannot. Any service provider can act as an FMS for social rec and/or paid internships. Request for interest will be forthcoming.
- **RFP forthcoming for Union City Residential Home for Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers;** looking for residential providers. This RFP has been put out several times and eligible vendors have not been forthcoming. All staff must be ASL-fluent.
- **ILS rates did go up** following rate study review; new benchmark rate is \$60.39 for RCEB, which is higher than prior benchmark rate of \$47.80. Not all ILS providers receive full benchmark, but it does represent an increase across the board.
- **DSP Workforce courses** – please do not forget to submit Vendor Agreement Form so that DSPs can receive incentives!

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

- **No Board Meeting last month.**

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

- **No Report this month.**

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

- **Moving back to hybrid DD Council Meetings** – thanks to RCEB for lending conference room for the meeting! Aiming to hold future meetings at 1100 San Leandro Blvd Public Health building.
- **Make a public comment on the State Digital Equity Plan by Jan 25:** <https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/state-digital-equity-plan/>
- **DEEM Tool:** <https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1>
- **Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Digital Devices** | Email: [digitaldivide@acgov.org](mailto:digitaldivide@acgov.org); Phone: 5105771907
- **CRIL's Ed Roberts Disability Resource Fair** | January 23, 2024, 9:30AM – 2:30PM | 439 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541 | For more information, call 510-881-5743 | Vaccine Registration: [https://my.primary.health/r/lafamiliavaccine-skywest-io?registration\\_type=community](https://my.primary.health/r/lafamiliavaccine-skywest-io?registration_type=community)
- **REACH Housing Opportunities:** <https://trivalleyreach.org/housing/>
- **Jamie Renton added that REACH is looking for a 4th female tenant** for its beautiful new (to REACH) home in Livermore. Here's the application: [https://trivalleyreach.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UPDATED-2-24-23\\_RENTAL-HOUSING-and-WAITLIST-APPLICATION.pdf](https://trivalleyreach.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UPDATED-2-24-23_RENTAL-HOUSING-and-WAITLIST-APPLICATION.pdf). The other three women are moving in very soon.
- **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, January 16th, 2023 (Zoom), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm | <https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/j/83425495460?pwd=hkdROPWNPDOO2tSIV2UdZdOv4qin3X.1>  
Facebook Live/ Zoom webinar: Services Available Through the Regional Center | Tuesday, January 30th, 2023 (Zoom), 11:00 am – 1:00 pm | Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/LaFamiliaAprendePromueveyActua> | Zoom Registration: [https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_u2LKeT9CSNG7\\_igRhG8cag](https://livelafamilia-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u2LKeT9CSNG7_igRhG8cag)  
Youth and Young Adults Inclusive Support Group | Contact Jason & Janett 510-586-7858

- **La Familia is excited to announce their new Support group for youth and young adults!** These groups are for individuals 14+ with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their siblings. Those under 18 will need to be accompanied by an adult.
- **Next Alameda County DD Council Meeting**, February 14, 2024, 9:30AM -12PM

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

- **Care Parent Network IEP training:** The ideal parent for this workshop is an experienced parent who has attended a few IEP meetings for their child and is ready for a deeper understanding of the process. Tuesday, January 23 starting at 6pm.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A4Dr-kyVPE461NAXhd9kL0VHXBwJRPHr/view?usp=sharing>
- Next DD Council January 24<sup>th</sup> on Governor's proposed budget. 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

- **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,
- **LAO Office estimates deficit at \$38B;** Governor estimates \$37B
- **We are at the beginning of the Dash to June!** Be sure to speak up with your legislators, especially Alex Lee!

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

Anthony Rowe reported:

- **Letter on Mason-Tillman report** has been sent to RCEB and Mason-Tillman; **Lisa Kleinbub** added that after sharing data for two years, they will meet the week following PVAC to determine when next steps will occur.
- **Developing HCBS-compliant system for referrals** for SLS, ILS, and other services with an eye to reducing unconscious bias.
- **Next meeting** is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 1PM – Anthony Rowe welcomed all to attend and bring new concerns.
- **RCEB PVAC** will send Zoom link via listserv email.

#### 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.

#### HireAble Subcommittee Report – Donna Feingold

- **Pre-registration is open for our upcoming ACRE training** with a focus on Customized Employment. Registration will close in a few weeks so please register as soon as possible. \$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. Pre-registration link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdf7e1OJbnWhvt--TBmCicMvuvQhhZrT-Smq2TC\\_E8O49hVzA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdf7e1OJbnWhvt--TBmCicMvuvQhhZrT-Smq2TC_E8O49hVzA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)
- **HireAble's monthly meeting** will be January 22nd at 3pm. Futures Explored will present on their partnership with the City of Dublin that has resulted in employment opportunities for people with I/DD. Here is the meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82054761672>

#### PVAC Membership Report

- **Call for Nominations** <https://forms.gle/a11hcSXLwJBpzBZ27>
- **Suggestion to describe positions available in PVAC;** Geneva Carlos-Valentino replied that attendance at three meetings in a row is required for PVAC membership, and subcommittee participation is encouraged.

**Public Comment**

- **January 25, 2PM is the California Respite Association (CRA) meeting:** CRA: California Respite Association Meeting Registration: Cal-Respite.org; Email: [Contact@Cal-Respite.org](mailto:Contact@Cal-Respite.org)
- **Families United For Equity** is holding a masquerade-themed event on January 20<sup>th</sup> in San Leandro: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/013a2842-e08e-4402-913c-e54ed5b37462>
- **PVAC will plan to meet in person and online in San Leandro this March.** Discussion next month on location and the possibility of alternating RCEB Offices.

**Next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2024 at 9:30AM.**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39.

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary