

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

Members Present: Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); 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; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility.

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Michael Minton, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS and ILS; Amy Simons, A Brighter View Day Program; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Ashley Laqui, Compass Creative Arts; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services ILS; Carol McCrary, VistAbility; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Daniela Changeux, Thrive Support Services; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Eddie Esquivez, Manos; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Erika Gonzalez, 24 Hour Home Care; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Eva J. Muñoz, Good Samaritan ARF; Giovanni Sarabia; Heather Manes, HATCH; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jay G., Mission Hope Day Program; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Kiptiatu Iscandari, A&K Residential Homes; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Leah Whatley, Enriching Lives; Lee Lyons, Resilience through Creativity (Scotland); Leah Whatley, Enriching Lives; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Sister Marygrace Puchac, East Bay Services; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now; Merfe Bailey, A Step Above; Pamela Temple, Chambers Residential; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Patty Pistello, Arc of the East Bay; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Victor Silva, Sentry Living Solutions; Vivian Largusa, FCSN; Wendell James.

65 participants total

Call to Order:

Geneva Carlos-Valentino and Dan Hogue called the meeting to order at 9:35AM. Marcie Hodge called attendance, and all but Jennifer Carper and Amanda Eicher were in attendance, with Mike Pereira delayed but present, and Marcie Hodge leaving after roll call due to being out of town.

Inclusion Time:

Geneva Carlos-Valentino noted that despite the cold weather, summer has begun. PVAC will meet in July, but not August. For this month, we are observing Pride, Juneteenth, and Father's Day during the month of June.

Lisa Kleinbub mentioned *Into the Brightness*, an exhibition at the Oakland Museum of California alongside the Angela Davis exhibition, and Ember Avalos shared in the chat the show information and that the exhibition will remain open through January 2024.

May Minutes:

Approval of 5/12/23 minutes - M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Donna Feingold; with unanimous approval by members present.

Presentation:

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

Reports:

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Lisa Kleinbub referred to the May revision to the Governor's budget.**
 - Notable budget items include proposal to update ILS rate to reflect skills/education; Family Home Agency rate updates. Important to see some of these rates being adjusted to reflect new circumstances.

- o Additional items include adjustments to areas where funding hasn't been spent – reductions in operations funding for RC's where hiring hasn't been robust enough; close to \$20M de-allocated statewide.
- o Projections for POS spending may have been overprojected; now seeing less spending in these areas.
- o Decreases in transportation, a variety of supports – not large amounts in each area but it does add up.
- o Social Rec is not yet built up to the level we'd like to see – would be good to see this for all individuals in the I/DD community.
- o These decreases may reflect the difficulty to staff and take on new consumers.
- o Positive budget news: proposal to move unspent community placement plan \$\$ to multi-family housing.
- o CCP/CRDP placement processes didn't use all allocated dollars; however, there were many multi-family housing submissions that were not possible to support before moving this funding.
- o Budget process moved very quickly – now there is much work on trailer bill language.
- o DDS proposing to federal government to include children ages 3-5 on the federal Medicaid waiver; feds responded that children ages 0-3 also need to be provisionally eligible if they meet criteria.
- o Trailer bill language reflects AB1147 content – oversight of RCs and agencies. May be changes to this bill before signing.
- **Still seeking applications for Coordinated Family Services** – no applications have been received although there is known interest.
- **Cultural Humility and Equity Training** will be a requirement for RC staff for performance measures. Small listening groups with vendors, people served, service coordinators. Sessions coming after the September PVAC committee meeting – would PVAC be able to identify providers from PVAC's provider categories, and suggest new groups to represent? Lisa Kleinbub will be in touch with Geneva Carlos-Valentino and Dan Hogue.
- **Jamie Renton asked whether DDS rate reductions account for POS payments which are backlogged?** Lisa Kleinbub answered that DDS will not withhold payment for services provided and there may be more cash available; RCEB may need to ask for more money once \$\$ are spent. Sharing with legislature what has been utilized so far; Legislature will likely be clearer on usage once this spending is reported. At end of month, authorizations that have been made 'until canceled' will roll over into the new budget year. Lisa Kleinbub mentioned Jamie Renton's internship program, which is a different, not rolling over, funding strategy.
- **Lisa Kleinbub noted that Wendell James asked about the Mason-Tillman report;** this is due by the end of the month and will be shared when it is available.
- **Carlos Cienfuegos raised a question** regarding a six months' unpaid bill for self-determination; wondering how to follow up if FMS is unresponsive. Lisa Kleinbub recommended reaching out to Lindsey Meninger, RCEB's Associate Director working with Self-Determination.
- **Teresa Nold asked about bilingual pay updates.** Lisa Kleinbub replied that this is delayed by a debate at DDS around assessing competency in language. She advised that the rate will travel with the employee, in the case of staff working with multiple programs. Teresa Nold also asked whether the bilingual pay will be retroactive, and Lisa Kleinbub replied that while some agencies are paying an increased wage, it would be a private decision rather than coming from DDS at this point. There is no information about whether the pay will be retroactive yet.
- **Donna Feingold asked about incentive payments for ACRE trainees.** Lisa Kleinbub replied that there is no update on this, either.
- **Lisa Kleinbub mentioned that there is a staffing survey** again for this year with an incentive payment of \$8000 for participants. Despite substantial delays for registrants to receive the survey link, some registrants are starting to receive survey links this week and more should be coming.

- **Rate Implementation Planning** – AB136 rate reform and SB188 acceleration of rate increases: On April 1, 2022, applicable rates were raised by 25% of difference between 3/31/22 rate and rate model. On January 1, 2023, rates were raised by 50% of the difference between 3/31/22 and rate model (we are here now). On July 1, 2024, the full rate model increases will be implemented with 2 components: Base Rates = 90% of the rate model + Quality Incentive Component of up to 10% of the rate model.
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- **Effective May 1st – Incidents of Behavioral Restraints reporting requirement:** Please see attached DDS Directive link regarding reporting requirements for Incidents of Behavioral Restraints, Seclusion, and Involuntary Emergency Medication: <https://www.rceb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Incidents-of-Behavioral-Restraints-Seclusion-and-Involuntary-Emergency-Medication.pdf>
This is required for all Regional Center vendors that provide Crisis or Residential services or Supported Living Services, long-term health care facilities, and acute psychiatric hospitals.
To be reported:
 - (A) The number of incidents of seclusion and the duration of time spent per incident in seclusion;
 - (B) The number of incidents of the use of behavioral restraints and the duration of time spent per incident of restraint;
 - (C) The number of times an involuntary emergency medication is used to control behavior; and
 - (D) The name, street address, and telephone number of the facility.
 The form: https://caddsprod.servicenowservices.com/orc?sys_id=574b6b8c87f02d50fd7733f50cbb350b
Do not need to report unless an incident happens.
- **RFP for HCBS Compliance** – RCEB is looking for a developer to create an app for Q/A compliance, with a deadline of 5PM on June 9; Q & A on May 26, 2023; RCEB will host an RFP Question and Answer Session on May 26, 2023 from 10AM to 11AM:
RCEB has identified a need for a contract application/platform/tool developer with substantial experience in creating applications/platforms/tools that will help in automating, expediting and coordinating the Quality Assurance process and paperwork. The funding awardee will collaborate with the Quality Assurance team to create this application/platform/tool to ensure that it meets Title 17 requirements as well as the current QA process. Ideally, RCEB would like to move such process towards being more automated in order to simplify and operationalize (standardize) and reduce redundancies within the paperwork component. The application must also demonstrate HIPAA compliance.
RFP: <https://www.rceb.org/providers/request-proposal/> and news: <https://www.rceb.org/news/request-for-proposals-for-fy-2022-23-is-here/>.
- **Priscilla Gomez requested updated COVID protocols from Day Programs** to be able to share with transportation providers, assist in updating protocols, and return updated protocols to Day Programs.
- **New routes are once again in the process of being confirmed** to start Monday, 5/15 and throughout the month of May.

Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue

- **Dan Hogue reported from the April 24th Board Meeting.**
- **Contracts:** Approvals for SLS contracts created a longer discussion. First contract approval included a recusal by a Board Member with a family member served by the SLS provider; a question was then raised about the length of contracts (5 years); then approvals continued with all SLS contracts being approved despite length of contract. A discussion about length of SLS approvals and Q/A oversight will follow in a future meeting; however, this month, both providers were approved for contracts of 5 years.
- **Approval for Union Bank Line of Credit postponed** until next meeting.
- **Finances** – RCEB and most RC's will not be able to fulfill regular POS due to lack of staffing/provider capacity.
- **No report from Equity Subcommittee** which did not meet between RCEB board meetings.

- **Supports and Services Committee** included a lengthy discussion around supports for people served who are unhoused; FUFU proposed several solutions and Lisa Kleinbub is in conversation with Families United in order to activate solutions.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau

- **Updates on Federal Assistance – NEON Competitive Integrated Employment Community of Practice** keeping customized and integrated employment vibrant amidst changes in SB639. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sb639-ca-neon/>
- **State Council grant cycle proposal due 5.22.2023:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>
The Council has allocated a total of \$300,000 to fund Cycle 46 projects in any of four (4) proposed focus areas: Education, Employment, Health and Safety, and Self-Advocacy.
- **PPE/Testing:** For antigen tests or PPE needs, please continue to reach out to sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov.
- **US Citizenship and Immigration Services Training - A CONVERSATION ON HOW TO BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN.**
When: Tuesday, April 18, 2023; Two options to join, via Zoom. You Choose: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM, or 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. See event flyer:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/be05f332501/4b7a3482-c6cb-46dd-b5d0-6d7ec10291a7.pdf>
- **Self-Advocates Advisory Committee Meeting, May 22:**
<https://scdd.ca.gov/event/january-2023-saac-meeting/2023-05-22/>
- **State Council meeting, May 23:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-scdd-council-meeting/2023-05-23/>
- **Statewide Self-Advocacy Network online chat, May 31:**
<https://scdd.ca.gov/event/california-statewide-self-advocacy-chat/2023-05-31/>
- **Statewide Self-advocacy Network Meeting, June 7-8:**
<https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-statewide-self-advocacy-network-ssan-meeting/2023-06-07/>
- **Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, June 28:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
- **Please reach out to Sheraden Nicholau** with additional questions and needs before next month's PVAC.

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- **Board Meeting 5/10** with presentation from Darren Lounds, Housing Consortium of the East Bay on housing.
- **Board Meeting 6/14** with presentation from Alameda County Senior Services Coalition
- **Golden Village Family Conference:** May 13th 8:45am -3pm:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/golden-village-family-conference-tickets-602628095857> Conference at Ed Roberts Campus – designed for Cantonese, Korean, and Vietnamese-speaking families with children in special education ages 3-21.
- **CIL Emergency Preparedness Program:** For more information or to get involved, please contact 510-841-4776 or DisasterHelp@centerforindependentliving.org
- **AC Transit Needs Survey:** https://www.actransit.org/realign?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- **Digital Equity Ecosystem Map (DEEM) Survey:**
<https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1>
- **State Digital Equity Planning Workshop, June 8:**
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/broadband-for-all-digital-equity-and-bead-planning-workshop-bay-area-ticket-s-601092693427?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>
- **For Alameda County Area Agency on Aging Digital Devices** information, email: digitaldivide@acgov.org or call 5105771907; Eligibility is for folks 18+ with a disability and do not have an internet connected device.

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- **Joint Awards Committee:** both counties received a record number of nominations! Notifications of awards are going out now to nominators and nominees. Please consider attending the awards ceremony!
 - DD Councils Awards event flyer in English:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aneniPR6n-YLzVuS_tt92OAwVA1eK-5o/view?usp=share_link

- DD Councils Awards event flyer in Spanish:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d2YAsgEasWrjULu9lxm_--UAUiuvEgu-/view?usp=share_link
- **Autism Star Conference is being organized now**; organizers are looking for parents who are relatively new in their autism journey, with young children or recent diagnosis, to help inform the topics and content presented at the conference.
- **Next Board Meeting May 24 with a discussion of families' transition at age 3**; in-person at Las Trampas; hybrid options available.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

Budget process is occurring as we meet:

- **Now is the opportunity for legislature to gather input and provide feedback on May revise.**
- **Beginning of presentation from Governor** – projected budget shortfall of \$23B will likely be higher as a result of reduced capital gains tax, movement of tax deadlines due to state of emergency. Projection of additional \$9.3B for a total of \$31B. Likely revenue update once taxes are received in the fall.
- **IDD community protected in initial January budget proposal.** Rate implementation will continue to be honored; Assembly and Senate have echoed this priority.
- **EBLC Review of May Revise 5/17, 11AM - 12PM:**
<https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/91070076056?pwd=NGp6Q0c4TnByNzd2SndlYTRNU0lxZz09>
- **June 30 budget will be signed** – because of revenue delay, a special budget session with additional trailer bill language may happen in August/September.
- **Donna Feingold added in the chat that \$15M has been included for ILS providers** to increase their rate as of 1/1/24. Ben Chen added the Governor's Livestreaming May revise information: Governor's Livestream on May Revise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZbEZkZzZmNw>
- **Mike Pereira added that the \$15M** addresses some significant issues with the rate models for ILS services. This is the result of rigorous advocacy throughout the state, and especially by EBLC on this issue.

Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Anthony Rowe

- **Anthony Rowe** provided an overview of the April 28th meeting regarding RFP processes.
- **Subcommittee reviewed meeting** between Anthony Rowe, Dan Hogue, and Lisa Kleinbub to problem-solve equity concerns in RFP process.
- **Review of letter** to be submitted to RCEB Board and RCEB leadership.
- Also digging into **review of SLS provider oversight and approvals.**
- **Anthony Rowe asked for questions regarding the RFP process letter**, and noted that the subcommittee chairs will continue to meet with Lisa regarding equity issues.
- **Provider Equity Subcommittee Meeting May 26 at 1 p.m.** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84413826731>
Passcode: Equity
- **Lisa Kleinbub thanked the Equity Subcommittee's work on RFPs**, and added that the recommendations on the RFP process include many do-able actions; and that current RFPs with very few responses have activated more discussion on developing the pool of applicants and increasing equity in RFP processes statewide – especially in statewide issues of concern like housing.

Day Providers Report – Mike Pereira

- **Reminder that all are welcome to join the Wednesday 2PM troubleshoot meetings**; Day Providers welcome input from providers of all services.
- **Discussion currently centers on DDS Workforce Survey** – sharing experiences from last year, and troubleshooting issues with the new portal. DDS seems to be struggling with sending direct links to providers. A reminder that the incentive payment for completion is \$8,000 – prior participation was 43%; aiming for fuller participation in this round. Mike Peirera predicts that this will become a permanent quality assurance measure; currently it is an incentivized opportunity to participate.

- **Appreciating folks for contributing to troubleshoot conversations** including RCEB staff, officials from throughout the provider community.
- **Merfe Bailey asked if there is any movement on the rest breaks bill** – AB1031; has been moved to Labor Committee and is currently stalled. Labor is examining aspects of the bill and it may end up having a two-year window to pass. CDSA is following this as well. Donna Feingold added that it will likely not be resolved this year – it's meeting more opposition than hoped. Merfe Bailey added that the issue of 30-minute breaks has been a difficult issue to manage without the protections of the bill. Mike Peirera added that it's an area of concern for people served, and has led to many law suits that could be avoided. The bill doesn't appear to be dead, but advocacy will be needed over the now-longer route to passing this bill.

HireAble Report – Donna Feingold

- **HireAble completed second session of trainings for family and people served on earnings and how income impacts benefits.** Shout out to Rose Casares for attending and participating on behalf of RCEB!
- **HireAble's monthly meeting** on May 22 at 3pm. **May monthly HireAble meeting features Dr. Nancy Dome**, presenting on compassionate dialogue in difficult conversations based in equity and inclusion. All are welcome to attend HireAble: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82980621111>

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

- **Mike Pereira shared the [May Revise document](#)** – Significant adjustments include: system maintained intact; not just additional \$15M to adjust for this year's ILS rates, but acknowledgment of continued longterm cost of these services. Continued extension for family participation, allowing Regional Centers to restart assessments, alleviating costs for families. Allocation for Coordinated Family Supports. Very exciting to see that no cuts have been planned for this system; advocacy is working to maintain funding, despite significant turnover of elected officials.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:28

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary