

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes December 14<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**Members Present:** Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Maureen Wright, Respite Inn; Craig Rose, CIWP; Nancy Eddy, DPAC; Leslie Visbal, Ability Now; Donna Feingold, ALC

**Guests Present:** Shani Stewart, Manos; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Cinthia Flores, Sonia Corina; Alex Mountford, Manos; Michael Minton, RCEB; Karen Ligenfelter, Mt Diablo Adult; Mike Palomino; Maxim Healthcare; Nicholas Aguilar, Premier HCS; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Vi Ibarra, DD Council of Contra Costa County; Arden Fredman, NIAD; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am. Introductions. Due to lack of quorum, the approval of the minutes from the November 9th meeting were postponed.

**RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub**

- Lisa announced that the last person residing at Sonoma Developmental Center for RCEB moved into his new community home today. She added that over the last two weeks, eight people have moved from SDC into Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes. They are expected to have multiple challenges as they transition. There are two remaining individuals who are expected to move out the following week.
- Lisa described the Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes, that there is a base rate for the home, for maintenance, but like supported living, each individual has their own budget based on their particular needs.
- Lisa mentioned the impact of individuals from the Camp fire. She added that there were over 200 people with developmental disabilities from Paradise who were displaced. The regional center for that area is working very close with FEMA, and that there were many people living independently in that community. Those that were living in residential care facilities that were impacted by the smoke, or simply needed to be relocated, have been moved to other sites. Lisa mentioned that there is a GoFundMe page with the funds to go directly to consumers and that information is at RCEB's website.
- Lisa mentioned that DDS was in the area a few weeks ago to do a focus group for the deaf and hard of hearing community. It was held at the Ed Roberts Campus. DDS received a great deal of comments and feedback on what services are needed. The hope is that additional resources will be made available to better serve the community.
- Lisa announced that RCEB will have a Medicaid waiver audit in January, following the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. DDS will come and review RCEB's records that it is doing the things it's required to do. They will also be interviewing select sample of people on the waiver. DDS will meet with consumers and families about their experiences. They will also meet with providers. RCEB will notify providers with individuals on the list.
- Lisa mentioned the \$25 million bridge funding allocated in the budget in June, that the Department made a decision that the funding would be distributed to high cost areas at a 2.07% increase for select services codes. It only is in effect until the money runs out. It is not expected to start until May because DDS will need the approval of Federal Government.

- Lisa reminded everyone that minimum wage will be going up on January 1st, and there are some rates that have been adjusted. All of the information is at RCEB's website. If an agency has a negotiated rate and minimum wage is the salary in the formula, they would need to submit a request for a rate increase. Information on this is posted at the provider section of the website.

#### **Break-10 minutes**

#### **Reports**

##### **RCEB Board - Sister Marygrace**

- The RCEB Board meeting took place on 11/26
- At the meeting, one contract was approved, which was for Delta Dental for the staff of RCEB.
- Also presented were the 2019 work plan and 2019 master calendar.
- There was a report from Markham LLP who are working on a draft summary of their audit.
- The board voted on the officers for 2019.
- The board also recognized Mike Treppa and Chi Lee, both long term members who are leaving the board after many years of service.

##### **SCDD Regional Advisory Committee - Sheraden Nicholau**

- Sheraden mentioned that the State Council is in the process of scheduling all committee meetings up in Sacramento. Sheraden passed out a list of the remaining meetings for the year. All of the meetings start with a networking session, and then goes into the meeting. The meetings rotate between the five bay area counties. The meetings tend to have at least one legislative office present and great representation from RCEB, self advocates, and providers.
- Sheraden announced that the governor appointed two new council members, and both the appointees were advocates from the bay area, and both were Regional Advisory Members.
- Sheraden gave dates for upcoming events and trainings. The Regional Advisory Committee will be parting with U.C. Davis' MIND Institute to roll out trainings on Supported Decision Making throughout California. The trainings are designed for providers and for self advocates and family members. There will be one held in east Contra Costa county and another in either San Francisco or San Jose. The Committee is rolling out a six part training specifically for law enforcement and for people served. They are expected to train up to 325 people in the area, which also includes about 15 law enforcement members from various departments.
- Sheraden mentioned an article that was put out by FiveThirtyEight.com, on a joint investigative report that was done by the Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute and FiveThirtyEight. The investigation found that from 2013-2017 there were at least 2400 reported allegations of abuse and neglect at the more the 4500 day programs in California. The article discussed the service system, and the rates as being part of the challenge, specifically that the rates are essentially unchanged from year 2000. Some of the focus was in the bay area. Sheraden recommended that providers speak with their senior teams to address any concerns that may come up from advocates and their families.

##### **DD Council - Vi Ibarra & Sandi Soliday**

###### **Contra-Costa County**

- Vi Ibarra announced that their will not be a council meeting in December, and the next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday in January.

- The Transition Task Force will opening registration for their event in February called Employment is an Option. It is for students, family members, and professionals who work with students ages 14 and up, to start thinking about the notion of employment.
- Vi added that Contra Costa County Employee & Human Services Department and Health Service Department are offering information trainings for folks who might be working with individuals who are affected by the proposed changes to the Public Charge Rule.

### **Alameda County**

- No report

### **East Bay Legislative Coalition - Ron Halog**

- Will Sanford invited people to come to EBLC meeting on January 2nd, from 10:00AM-12:00PM at Public Health in Downtown Oakland. An additional one will be scheduled in January specifically for the Legislative Breakfast taking place on February 1st. The focus of the breakfast is the struggle to attract and retain direct support professionals, the housing issues as they impact our folks, and barriers due to lack of reliable transportation. EBLC voted to join in the efforts of The Lanterman Coalition on their major ask for the next budget year which is an 8% down payment on the rate study.
- The budget is scheduled to be released on January 10th. While it is technically Gavin Newsom's first budget, it is prepared by the Department of Finance who currently work for Governor Brown, so it is uncertain what it is going to look like.
- DDS has proposed how it is going to allocate the \$2.8 million to get self determination launched. 45% will go to local advisory committees and regional centers to do outreach trainings. 45% will go to regional center operations to address how they'll support self determination. 10% will left for DDS for staff to manage the process.
- Will mentioned a showing of a film called Intelligent Lives that took place at The Roberts Center. The focus was on inclusion, and that it could be a resource and tool when thinking about self determination. Sheraden Nicholau added that the website IntelligentLives.org lists upcoming showings of the film, but that it also was picked up by PBS and other organizations, so it will have a network release. After that, there will be a second round of opportunities for agencies to do a showing. Sheraden mentioned that at the website, there are resources and tools, including films, person centered planning, and self determination.

### **Programs - Representative**

- Geneva Ziaoure announced that they will be having a working session in January and also to vote in new members and the slate of officers. She mentioned that the Programs chair position is still open and the Secretary's position will be open.
- Additionally, Geneva mentioned that someone will be coming in to talk about different options for workers compensation insurance.
- A future meeting will include the topic and a discussion on ableism.

### **Day Service Providers subcommittee - Representative**

- Michael Pereira reported that November's meeting focused on the process for completing an HCBS concept grant proposal. In addition to individual proposals, several programs decided to come together to work on joint proposals. Following the meeting, those agencies worked together to submit three joint proposals.
- There is no meeting in December. The next meeting will follow the PVAC meeting in January.

### **Membership - Nancy Eddy**

- Nancy reported that there are four people whose terms are ending, so those spots will need to be filled. Mike Pereira and Ramsay Mashy stated that they are interested in joining the PVAC Board. She added that the requirement to become board members is that you come to meetings, and have been to at least three PVAC meetings within the past year. For anyone interested, Nancy asked that they contact her or Geneva.

### **Public Comments - Announcements**

- Michael Minton handed out a flier with a list of the two-day person centered trainings that are happening in multiple locations throughout the year. Each training can accommodate up to 28 people, and additional trainings will be added as the current ones fill up. Also, HCBS grant proposals are due today, and need to be sent to Fruc by 5:00PM.
- Leslie Visbal wanted to acknowledge the agencies who collaborated on joint grant proposals, and how exciting and rewarding the process has been.
- Geneva announced that there was the formation of the California Direct Service Professional Workforce Committee by several organizations, including The Arc of California, California's Supported Living Network, Futures Explored, The Arc of Ventura County, and CDSA. They are asking 15 member organizations to join in the fight to address the needs DSPs. They will be holding a summit on April 2-3, and are asking for an executive director as well as 1-2 DSPs to participate. In order to be a part of this, it's a one-year commitment, you have to attend the DSP Workforce Summit, and provide the DSP time to stay engaged with the committee's efforts. There is a \$500 sponsorship to support the Summit's ongoing advocacy efforts. If you are interested, reach out to them.
  - Will Sanford added that this came out of need to mobilize the Direct Support Professionals; to acknowledge that it's a valuable profession, that it needs to be recognized, and paid for as such. He continued that the DSPs really need to be a part of that conversation. Will concluded that as part of the Summit, on April 3rd, that alongside ARCA's Capitol Day, there is a rally at the Capitol on the value of the direct support professional.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:09AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary