

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Meeting Minutes July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Members Present:** Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Maureen Wright, The Respite Inn; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Will Sanford, Community Consultant; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Center; Leslie Visbal, Community Consultant

**Guests Present:** Keith Nauman, Castro Valley Adult and Career Education/Strides; Purvi Knopf, for RES Success; Christine Schwab, working wonders; Ron Halog, Listos California for All; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Fructuoso Menchavez, RCEB; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Debbie Johnstone, Noll Center; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Maria Davila-Passport To Learning, Inc (PTL); Rachita, Future Colours; Joe Cashel- Las Trampas; Zach Lupton, Easterseals Northern California Kaleidoscope Community Adult Day; Jechane Reyes, Community Integrated Support Services; Carin Hewitt, Alift IIc; Emily Correia- Enjoy Life More; Jairo Guiza, RCEB; Cecilia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay; Roshni Easley, AWD Program Noll Center; Christina Trucks, Aim High; Michael Minton, RCEB; Carol McCrary, VistAbility; Amelia Hui, dietitian, vendor; Sheri Artis, Social Vocational Services; Greg Simons - Las Trampas Adult Development Program; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass SLS & ILS; Gina Rivera - Green oak; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Kim Clapshaw, IMAGINE Functional Living Skills Day Program ; Karisa Famularo, New directions for young adults; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Alex Mountford, Manos; Kelly Derr, Pacific Homecare Services; Janette Bauchou, AWD Program Noll Center; Vivian Largusa, Friends of Children with Special Needs; Shanishia Evans, Cole Vocational Services; Debbie Rieza, ABC Care Home; Vi Ibarra, DD Council Contra Costa County; Maria Matel , St Francis Home-2; Liz Haake- PFI Residential Services, Inc; Claire Palmer, Maxim Healthcare Services; Kelly Nguyen, DHTI; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Arlene Ruiz, Malama Home; Lisa Gonzales with Deaf Plus Adult Community; Carla Hernstrom, Alegria Community Living; Joe Farrish, East Bay California Mentor; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills Agency; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Dennis Ramas, GEn Care Home; John David, Access Community Resources; Jennifer Zadrán, Sonia Inc.; Karen Lingenfelder, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; James Mercado, Open House Center; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Nolita David, Appletree Adult Residential; Shermeka Jones, Appletree Adult Residential; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Cliff, Vineyard Services; Kirsten Hammond, One Step Closer

**Guests by phone:**

**Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m. Introductions. Approval of June 12<sup>th</sup> minutes. M/Leslie Visbal; S/Will Sanford. Passed with corrections.

**RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub**

- Lisa discussed a letter from ARCA and CDSA to DDS asking for clear information about funding and other plans moving forward, specifically with regard to retainer payments. She noted that retainer payments being paid to regional centers through July, and that the federal share of the funding will end July 15<sup>th</sup>, unless there is a change in federal funding, adding that to plan for the future,

information is needed from the DDS. Lisa then stated that DDS has not provided guidelines for reopening.

- Lisa mentioned the increase in Covid-19 cases within our service populations, but that cases in both Contra Costa and Alameda counties are still less than other regions. However, she did note positive cases or Covid-19 have been reported both with individuals and with staff, and that everyone needs to remain committed to best practices and social distancing, and precautions implemented over the past 4 months.
- Lisa noted that RCEB introduced a new website that went live the previous weekend, and that if people have comment or suggestions regarding it to send them to her. Additionally, Lisa mentioned that RCEB will be launching a Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Lisa announced that people are still working through developing their self-determination plans, with 100 people in the planning stages, adding that more information will be coming out. They are looking at another 140 individuals to start exploring self-determination.
- Sylvia Yeh mentioned the website, indicating that she had trouble finding links regarding Covid-19, and that other links were not working.
- Sylvia Yeah asked who should service providers be sending re-entry plans to. Lisa responded that RCEB has not yet solicited plans because they are waiting for DDS to provide guidelines on the resumption of in-person services.
- Mike Minton also stated that everyone is waiting on directions from DDS.  
Sylvia Yeah brought up the question of absence billing regarding the impact of what we are unable to bill for. Lisa answered that there is currently nothing to be said about it at this point until an actual directive comes from DDS, adding that all the dollars being paid are coming from the general fund, with no federal matching.

#### **Presentation – Asian Resource Network – Beatrice Lee, Executive Director, Diversity in Health Training Institute**

- Beatrice Lee gave a presentation on one of her organization’s programs called Asian Resource Network.
  - The goal is to improve quality of life among Asian/Southeast Asian individuals and families to increase access to and familiarity with Developmentally Disabled service providers, listing three core objectives.
    - Increase capacity of DD service providers to offer culturally and linguistically relevant services by creating a workforce pipeline for immigrants with or without healthcare experience.
    - Train a cohort of 10 immigrants with or without healthcare background as Direct Support Professionals.
    - Improve system navigation experience of Asian/SEA DD individuals and families, with a primary focus on Cantonese and Vietnamese language populations to successfully enroll in RCEB services.

#### **Reports**

##### **RCEB Update – Mike Minton**

- Mike stated that they had been anticipating guidelines for day programs to re-open, but have not yet received a final plan.
- RCEB passed out a significant amount of PPE day programs and SLS programs, noting that additional supplies have arrived, and will be planning how to distribute those to residential providers.
- Mike stated that the supplies given out thus far have been through donations from the state, and that service providers should still be securing additional PPE on their own.
- Mie Pereira asked if RCEB was expecting a second run of PPE from the state, to which Mike Minton stated that he has no sense if more is coming.
  - Sheraden Nicholau added that the State Council has no idea if it will be a sustained opportunity to reorder. State councils across the state has put in orders for 27.5 million pieces of PPE. The instructions were that they had one opportunity to order. This has happened 4 times, but Sheraden said that she does not know if there will be another opportunity. Sheraden added that no one should become dependent on one source of PPE because supplies are so unstable, and to look at a variety of suppliers.

#### **RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace**

- Sister Marygrace reported that the RCEB Board met remotely on June 22nd.
- The held a moment of silence in honor of Dorothy Babbitt, who has been at RCEB 35 years.
  - Contracts that will have a positive impact on the community were discussed.
    - One contract with DDS, which is a state staffed contract, to have two registered nurses who will be working exclusively with individuals moving from developmental centers into the community.
    - Another contract discussed was with Gussie Lee Foundation, who will be providing supported living services for 15 individuals in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
    - A third contract discussed was with Nor Kel Care will be providing services for 15 individuals with some behavioral and medical challenges.
    - A final contract discussed was with Young Adult Institute, that they will be opening four homes, with four individuals living in each one. The will consist of community crisis homes for children, an enhanced behavioral support home for children, and a crisis stabilization home for children.
  - There was a report from the Supports and Services committee that had met to discuss data on individuals from 22 – 35 who have no POS in place, so RCEB is not paying for any services for them. This included about 860 individuals, and the discussion centered on the reasons for not reaching them. Also, at the Supports and Services Committee meeting there was a detailed Case Management training outlined for the training of Case Managers.

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

- The State Council grant process has continued through the current situation, and still managed to receive about 33 proposals; and one of the proposals recommended by the State Council to be awarded is from the Bay Area.
- Sheraden discussed the notice about PPE as a prevention noting that it was a success for everyone, and that counties would need to supply EPG (emergency protective gear), and that providers could get access to that gear when needed, and not just in cases of actual infection.
- 27.5 million pieces of PPE have been secured for individuals, their families, and the professionals who support them.

- At the last Regional Advisory Committee held at the end of June, there were discussions based on racial equality issues, including interactions with law enforcement.
  - Moving forward the Regional Advisory Committee is going to be hosting an online public listening session on racial justice on the evening of 7/22 from 6:30pm-9pm.
  - A Survey Monkey on social/racial justice issue will also be made available.
  - Recommendations from the meeting and surveys will be composed.
- The Disabilities Action Coalition will meet on 7/29, most likely late morning/early afternoon. Usually there is an event at the State Capitol, but this one will take place online. The focus will shift to next generation ADA.

#### DD Councils -

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
  - Alameda County DD Council is building relationships with Public Health to promote inclusion for people in the I/DD community, both in the Covid-19 response and other areas. The goal is for Public Health to better support our community and to work more closely with the Regional Center.
  - Upcoming Board of Supervisors co-presentation with the Public Health Director on disparities within the I/DD community, but also the Covid-19 challenges faced by our community.
  - Hoping to have the county health officer, Dr. Moss, to speak at one of the upcoming council meetings. Either him or someone from his team.
  - The Council's annual planning meeting was just held on July 8th, via Zoom, at which, the Council made a committee to advancing social equity throughout the council and various committees.
  - There will be no meeting in August, however the council will be discussing results and putting together the slate of speakers and other action items on August 20th.
  - The Transition Team meeting will take place on July 23, from 2PM-3:30PM.
  - The Health and Wellness meeting will be held on July 30, from 2PM-3:30PM.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
  - Vi mentioned that at the County Health Department, that all efforts are focused on the Covid-19 response, but also emergency planning.
    - The concern is that we are moving into fire season, which means power safety shut offs. So for people who depend on power for medical devices, planning is taking place around them.
    - There is a statewide partnership with PG&E and the California Foundation for Independent Living Centers to bring backup power to those that require it, so the county is working on distributing batteries when the time comes. However, they are not quite there yet.
      - Vi mentioned that power dependent individuals living independently or with their families should begin thinking about what a PSPS event would look like.
      - Vi shared a link to an online application from the California Foundation for Independent Living for people who would need some kind of support during a power shut off.
  - The Council will meet through the summer with meetings scheduled on 7/22 and 8/26.

- With regards to events and conferences normally put on by the council, there has been a shift in terms of planning, preparing, and presenting as to how we're going to offer support to the community in light of the restrictions and guidelines were faced with.

#### **East Bay Legislative Coalition - Will Sanford**

- Will mentioned that it is quiet in Sacramento, and that the Capitol has been shut down to Covid-19. At least one assembly member and a few staffers tested positive, so they decided to close until 7/27.
- The Dept of Finance meeting is focused on 7/15 when tax returns are due, so will have some ideas of what the actual tax revenues will be. This could lead to additional budget hearings or actions.
- There has been no action on a Federal level that gives the \$14 billion needed for the state.
- Will encouraged folks and their supporters to make sure they are registered to vote.
- EBLC is looking at who is up for re-elections, so may be planning some virtual town hall forums to have candidates to talk about our issues, to hear our voice and recognize our power as a community.
- The next EBLC meeting will take place on 8/5 at 10AM via zoom, and to reach out to Will, Michael Pereira, or Vi Ibarra for more information.

#### **Programs – Geneva Ziaoure**

- Geneva Ziaoure mentioned that she added slots for various program types including SLS/ILS, Respite/PA, Early Start, Residential, and Transportation, and indicated that anyone who wants to talk on these issues can present them.

#### **Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira**

- Mike mentioned at the previous meeting a presentation had been given on what we think reopening 'in-person' services is going to look like. The hope is that they will be in line with what will eventually come out from DDS. Additionally, Mike asked anyone to reach out to him if they are still in need of the documents.
- Mike noted that how future services are rendered will not be the same as how they previously were. Programs will need to think about how they will look, and to be conscious of the shifting tide. He also encouraged program providers to be aware of county guidelines and to regularly check for changes, both local and at the state level.
- Mike shared website information with state aggregate data on Covid-19 cases being compiled in real time. Mike highlighted two main data points of the now-cast and forecast.
- Mike discussed an idea for various providers to pool resources to increase purchasing power to acquire PPE at a lower cost.

#### **Membership - Leslie Visbal**

- No report.

#### **Announcements**

- No public comments

Meeting Adjourned at 12:37 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary

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