

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes August 14th 2020**

Members Present: Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Will Sanford, SC&CS; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Center; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Carlos Cinfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care & Staffing;

Guests Present: Steve Robinson, RCEB; Mike Minton, RCEB; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB, Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Wendell James, Adult Education Technology; Jairo Guiza, RCEB; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Sheraden Nicholau; Vi Ibarra, DD Council Contra Costa County; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Purvi Knopf, RES Success; Jan Bauchon, AWD Program-Noll Center; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Carolyn Murphy, PUSD Transition; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Rhonda McGhashan, Compass; Angelique Goldberg, Futures Explored; Cecilia Connolly, the Arc of the East Bay; Kelly Nguyen, DHTI; Sheri Artis, SVS; Kim Clashaw, Imagine Functional Living Skills Day Program; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Glenester Irvin; Lisa Gonsalves, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Presha Ponnell, ALIVE/Futures Explored; Greg Simons, Las Trampas; Amber Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Carin Hewitt, Alift LLC; Ron Halog, Listos California for All; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Alex Mountford, Manos; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult; Marcie Hodge, St. John's Boys Home; Vivian Largusa, FCSN; East Bay Innovations; Jaynette Underhill, Clausen House; Lin Ngo, Diversity in Health Institute; Elizabeth Broderson, Creative Growth; Roshni Easley, FACE-Noll Center; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Danon Jenkins, ALIVE/Futures Explored; Julia Althoff, Cole Vocational Services; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Karen Toto, Alegria; Kevin Rath, Manos; Denise Bradley, Harambee; Maureen Wright, the Respite Inn; Patricia Harris; Kelly Ko; Arden Fredman; Tracey Butler; Zachary Wheeler; Christina Trucks; Anna Willis; Angie Lee; Esther Wong; Kelly Derr; Toni Dale; Caitlin DeFlaun; Cliff Olo; Claudia Valdovinos; Sidney J.; Vanessa Aguilera; Kelley Hanson; Adriene Guadet; Emily Correira; Leatrice Tomlinson; Darlene Langit; Christine Schwab; Dominique Mellion; Michelle Morey; Melanie Lai; Gloria Booth; Patricia Harris; Marella Villanueva; Mya Hodges;

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:04 a.m. Introductions. Approval of July 10th minutes. M/Will Sanford; S/Mike Pereira. Motion passed.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa provided information about Covid-19 at a state level. She mentioned that there are almost 2000 individuals with I/DD who have been reported as having been diagnosed as positive for Covid-19. She presented information that gave a breakdown of the ethnicity of people receiving regional center services compared with the ethnicity of those with Covid-19. The data showed that cases of Covid-19 were much higher in Hispanic populations than would be expected than if solely based on population. Lisa added that African-America individuals were also at a slightly higher than expected percentage.
- Lisa mentioned that although the percentage of individuals served living in congregate settings is smaller than those living in family homes or independently, cases are much higher in these settings.
- Lisa also noted that some regions have numbers of cases are much higher than others, based on regional center population.
- Lisa stated that there have been 160 consumer deaths related to Covid-19 across the state.

- Lisa added that more information could be found at the DDS website.
- Lisa mentioned a directive put out by DDS that is telling people who have chronic health conditions, especially those with respiratory condition, or reside in ICF DDN or ARF PSHN should not participate in any activities out of their homes. She further added, that because this is a directive, even when shelter in place rules are loosened, that this will remain in effect until lifted.
- Lisa mentioned a draft directive from DDS regarding non-residential services billing and retention payments, that those payments would end on August 31st. There had been a proposed new framework, but we have not yet seen a more detailed, finalized version, but expected to see it within the next few days. Lisa added that another meeting to discuss the finalized directive would be held the following Friday.
- Lisa reminded everyone that flu season is approaching and that there would be a strong push have everyone who can get a flu vaccine get one.
- Lisa addressed a question in the chat regarding certification. She asked that everyone hold off submitting certification plans until DDS releases the new directive, and that information would be coming at a follow up zoom meeting the following Friday at 10:00AM.
- Mike Pereira mentioned that many organizations had submitted feedback regarding the initial directive, and was curious if that feedback was received and has been part of the discussions for the updated directive. Lisa responded that DDS has been taking the feedback and listening to it, so is cautiously optimistic.
 - Sylvia Yeh mentioned that at the most recent DS taskforce meeting, they listed to concerns and also potential solutions, and an FAQ will be released based on the feedback.
- Sylvia Yeh asked if there was a directive regarding residential services in cases where individuals have left their supported or group homes to live with family, and if there was a proposed process to bill for that. Lisa responded that she would have to look into it and get back with any information she is able to find. Mike Minton clarified that there is a directive, so that if someone choose to go and stay with their family because of Covid-19 related reasons, the home can continue to bill for that.

Presentation 1 – Discrimination Concerns of Black Consumers and Service Providers – Wendell James, Executive Director, Adult Education Technology

- Wendell shared the experience of black consumers and black service providers, and the inequities experience.
 - Wendell indicated that he would not be able to accurately discuss the issues in the allotted time, so recommended that a day be scheduled allowing the opportunity to have a full discussion and training that goes beyond what can be presented in 30 minutes. The goal is results to the concerns.
 - Donna Feingold made a motion to have this workshop be held in place of the September meeting. Will Sanford seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
 - Mike Pereira comment that it he was in agreement with Donna.
 - Comments came from St Johns Boys Homes, Leatrice Tomlinson, and Jaynette Underhill asking for statistics on how many failures a black client goes through before being

referred to a black service provider; and also looking at trends in terms of how many black employees are RCEB, how they diversify, how they recruit black people.

- Lisa said that she would make sure to invite RCEB staff.

Presentation 2 – Race, Ethnicity, and Language Considerations during Service Provision – Jairo Guiza, RCEB Diversity & Equity Specialist

- Jairo shared an annual Regional Center and DDS report on purchase of services, expenditures, and demographic data.
 - Regional Centers are mandated to make this information accessible to the public by posting it on their websites. This information is also available on the DDS website.
 - Additionally, Regional Centers are required to hold community meetings, especially with those communities where disparities exist, to address what is working and what is not working.
 - A page of the report presented reflected the breakdown of consumers served by ethnicity, along with the dollar amount of services provided per capita.
 - Another page of the report showed expenditure by language.
 - Jairo concluded that there is documented need for the service that doesn't exist.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve repeated that RCEB takes very seriously the topics of discrimination and equity seriously.
- Steve mentioned that a new DDS directive is coming, and was prepared to provide new guidance. Had material prepared, but now must wait until further guidance from DDS is presented.
- Service provider portal has been opened to providers. About 150 providers have signed up. If you are a day program provider and have not received an invitation, email a request spp@rceb.org and ask for an invitation to the portal.
- Dan Hogue asked if more than one person within an organization could have access. Steve recommended emailing that questions to spp@rceb.org.
- Donna Feingold asked in the chat which service codes
- Mike Minton shared his email and asked people to email him if they are not on his list to receive his updates.
- Mike reported on the process for reporting Covid-19 cases. If it's a consumer that we serve, do an SIR just for that person. Follow up questions will be asked, as far as other consumers tested, was it reported to the county, etc. If a staff person tests positive, you do not need to do an SIR for every individual who lives in the house. Mike repeated that he has sent out a list of questions that need to be answered and submitted on an email to sir@rceb.org. When that email is received, Mike said he will contact that provider to ask do you have enough PPE, did you contact the county. If you are licensed, did you contact CCL.

- Patricia Harris asked in chat, wants to know if a SIR needs to be done regardless of the results. Mike responded that it really depends why a staff is tested. If there are symptoms, and a concern, then yes, do a SIR
- Final Rule self-assessment is due at the end of the month. If you haven't completed by 8/31, you will no longer be able to access it.
 - Leslie Visbal asked what happens if you've submitted your self-survey, but the program looks vastly different between when it was sent and what the current conditions have required. Mike said they are still waiting for more information from DDS.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister announced that there was no official board meeting in July, but there was an extensive board training.
- There will be no board meeting in August.
- The next Board meeting will be in September.
- The Diversity and Equity meeting met prior to the Board Training.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- In July, the Regional Advisory Committee had a racial justice listening session on law enforcement and the reforms needed.
 - About 50 people attended the listening session.
 - An additional 30 people completed a confidential survey.
 - Feedback and recommendations from the session was compiled and sent policy recommendations to legislators.
- The State Council has secured a total of 33 million pieces of PPE have been secured for Californians who have a developmental and other disabilities.
- Planning is starting for Nation Disability Employment Awareness which is in October. The hope is to have a whole month of campaigns, events, and stories.
- Looking to put together some legislative advocacy events in September. One in particular is working with NextGen Policy, which is a policy non-profit in California that focuses on many communities in California, but focused on the developmental disabilities community. The State Council will work with them to get them up to speed on some of our policy issues, then they can take their resources and skill set to implement some advocacy.
- The State Council has been involved with a California Department of Education workgroup to make recommendations, policy, and solutions to make sure there is fair and appropriate education options and supports for students with disabilities of all types.
- On the State Council's website, there is a new video posting of a training in partnership with Disability Rights of California specific to voting called What Will Voting Look Like in November. Provides lots of good information for our folks to be successful voters.
- Sheraden presented a list of upcoming meetings, noting that information could be found on the State Council website.
 - The next Legislative and Public Policy meeting 8/20.
 - The next Self Advocacy Advisory Committee meeting is on 9/14.
 - The next State Council meeting is on 9/15.
 - The next Employment First meeting is on 9/29.

DD Councils -

- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi mentioned two joint county efforts between Contra Costa and Alameda counties.
 - The Vision for the Future Conference, formerly known as Going to College with a Disability. The next planning meeting will be on 8/19 at 10AM via Zoom.
 - Planning is also taking place for the Autism STAR Conference, which is a conference for parents of children with autism. The planning meeting for that is 8/27 at 10AM via Zoom
 - Both of these events will be taking place online.
 - Vi reported that every year the County Health Department does flu vaccination PODs, which stands for point of dispensing.
 - The county is looking for locations that could be used as a POD.
 - The county is thinking longer term to do vaccination PODs for Covid-19 vaccinations.
 - The next D.D. Council Board meeting will be on August 26th at 10AM via Zoom.
 - One of the Deputy Health Officers will be giving an update.
 - A presentation from the Family Justice Center who serves victims of interpersonal violence. They are actively increase their outreach and accessibility for people who have disabilities.

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
 - The Council has been working with Alameda has been working with Alameda Public Health on Covid-19. Focus has been on building capacity for mobile testing, contact tracing, and also looking at supported congregate living sites. The emphasis has been on finding safe isolation spaces for consumers and staff who test positive. There has also been a search for care givers to fill in when a staff are required to quarantine.
 - Alameda Public Health has an RFQ out for contact tracers, and it's open to any community based organization who are interested and able to do the work. There are three components:
 - Case investigation and contact tracing.
 - Education and communication of resource guidelines for Covid-19.
 - Provide care kits to people who are self-isolating or in quarantine.
 - The board is looking to hold a community listening session looking at the experience of those with disabilities during Covid-19. It will be a joint effort with California Children Services. The experience and recommendations that come out of this session will be shared with Alameda County Public Health leadership to get a better sense of what is going on in our community as we bring data on disabilities into the overall response.
 - A Covid-19 info session was held on Wednesday, and were joined by Dr. Moss, our Health Officer from Alameda County Public Health, and Vance Taylor from Cal OES, along with Lisa Kleinbub.
 - The Racial Equity Steering Committee has been formed. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month from 3:00PM-4:30PM, beginning in September.
 - Ben listed the following upcoming meetings:
 - The Executive Committee meeting on 8/20 from 10AM – noon.
 - A board meeting will be held on 9/9 from 9:30AM – noon.

East Bay Legislative Coalition - Will Sanford

- Will mentioned that legislative offices are closed for the summer. What that means there is no Federal deal pending for what would be the fifth funding bill for Covid-19 response. In California's budget, September 30th was sort of the timeframe to pull some triggers if there's roughly \$14 billion coming from the Feds. The result is a number of things have expired.
 - The additional \$600 per week for unemployment is gone.
 - A number of eviction protections have expired.
 - Although the president issued a series of executive orders, most people are leery with regards to their legality and the ability to be implemented.
- The California Department of Finance has yet to release information as to where the state is in the budget. There had been an expectation that the legislature might have a budget hearing sometime soon in August. However, that appear not to be happening. The speculation is that the Governor will call for a special session sometime in October to cover that.
- The EBLC will meet next Wednesday at 10AM to discuss holding a forum for Kansen Chu's seat, the one race where no incumbents are running. Also to be discussed is a town hall to follow up on the tours that were done last year.

Programs – Geneva Ziaoure

- Geneva Ziaoure mentioned that the program for September has been previously discussed and decided upon.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- The Day Programs have continued to meet, and that there is a weekly providers support meeting held on Tuesdays at 4PM.

Membership - Leslie Visbal

- No report.

Announcements

- Denise Bradley announced that there is a new crisis program serving Alameda county, being piloted in Oakland, San Leandro, and the Hayward/Fremont area. The program sends out a LCSW with police and EMS if somebody is having a crisis. They have contracted with some behavioral health program, so people can be evaluated, and then directed and transported to those programs.
- Bill Pelter announced that for anyone dealing with special education students, DREDF has a resource called Emergency Planning that has information on revisiting the IEP process during this time of Covid-19
- Sylvia Yeh announced that the Special Needs Talent Showcase will take place Saturday, August 22 at 4PM. It will be held on Zoom, and the audience can give their vote for the best performance.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary

DRAFT