



Regional Center of the East Bay
REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 22, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Approved 4/26/2021

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathy Hebert, President
Lilian Ansari, Vice President
Dr. Stephen Whitgob, Assistant Treasurer
Gwen Nash-Butler, Secretary
Brian Blaisch
Morena Grimaldi, Diversity & Equity Chair
Caroline Ortiz
Chloe Page
Frank Paré, Co-Chair, Supports & Services
Renée Perls
Sister Marygrace Puchac, PVAC
Dinah Shapiro, CAC Chair
Lisa Soloway
Linda Stevens

ABSENT:

Nyron Battles
Teresita DeJesus
Carmen Quinones
Gerald Tamayo, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director
Lynn Nguyen, Director of Finance & Administration
Lucy Rivello, Director of Health & Behavioral Services
Steve Robinson, Director of Community Services
Ronke Sodipo, Director of Client Services
Kiera Swan, Director of Human Resources & Support Services
Chris Hanson, Associate Director of Client Services
Evelyn Hoskins, Associate Director of Federal Programs
Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Children's Services
Herb Hastings, Consumer Advocate
Michi Toy, Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Ben Chen/ACDDC
Erika Gonzalez/24-Hr Cares
Vi Ibarra, CCCDDC
Jody More

Melissa Robinson/DDS
Sheraden Nicholau/SCDD
Jillian Pedone
Ruth Tindugan

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Kathy Hebert called the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay to order at 7:05 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the March 22, 2021 agenda as presented in the latest e-mail copy, as well as to correct the year in the Minutes to 2021.”
[Shapiro/Nash-Butler] Unanimous. The motion was adopted.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the February 22, 2021 minutes with the correction of the year in the Minutes to 2021.”
[Nash-Butler/Shapiro] Unanimous. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jody Moore spoke about the need for greater supports, services, and teamwork during the time when a client is going through puberty, in order to support behavior issues in the transition to adulthood.

Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa County Developmental Disabilities Council [CCCDDC]

The Contra Costa Transition Task Force committee has been busy updating our adult services resource guide, which will be on our website.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility: As of today, Contra Costa County extended the vaccine eligibility to any resident who is 50+ years old or who works in specific industries in the county. Access discussion will be a topic at our next council meeting.

March 31: This is the 7th Annual Disability and Access and Functional Needs Forum from 9:00 to 11:00 am. The forum will focus on how COVID-19, wildfires, and PSPS have changed the way the public safety agencies respond to disasters. This free virtual event is open to FAST members, community members with Access & Functional Needs, and those who support them.

Ben Chen, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council [ACDDC]

COVID-19 Updates: Alameda County has moved from the purple to the red tier, and meets the criteria for the orange tier but we need to stay in that for at least 3 weeks. We are also working to set up pop-up vaccination sites as we work with the regional centers and service providers. Unlike Contra Costa County, Alameda County has not lowered the age of eligibility for the vaccine since we still have many in the higher tiers that still need to be vaccinated. There is also no longer a need for attestation letters for the DD community/care givers. They are being asked to self-attest their eligibility as a regional center client with a developmental disability. We have a new COVID vaccine line for assistance: 510-208-4829.

PG&E Medical Baseline Program: The Medical Baseline Program, also known as Medical Baseline Allowance, is an assistance program for residential customers who depend on power for certain medical and independent living needs:

https://www.pge.com/en_US/residential/save-energy-money/help-paying-your-bill/longer-term-assistance/medical-condition-related/medical-baseline-allowance/medical-baseline-allowance.page?cid=ps_MedicalBaseline_MB_20210301_ApplyNow_Google_All_na&gclid=EAlaIQObChMIxYHY79_H7wIV1Bx9Ch0Lcw8PEAAYAiAAEgJjkfD_BwE

March 18: This date was the vendor fair portion of the Alameda County Transition Fair with around 113 participants. The March 13th education workshops was a week before, with 150 participants and it was very successful. Contact Mr. Chen for any materials/videos of the events.

March 22: This is the next Community Advisory Group meeting.

April 14: This will be the next board meeting with a presentation on Telehealth and Teledentistry.

Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities [SCDD], Bay Area Office

Ms. Nicholau added that PG&E has a People with Disabilities and Aging Advisory body, and they are planning for next year. Currently, their community resource centers opened 245 centers last year and working on having 363 this year as well as other services such as meal deliveries. The resource centers will provide portable battery access to those who need electrical medical devices.

https://www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/newsdetails/index.page?title=20200429_pge_cfilc_announce_program_to_support_vulnerable_customers_in_preparation_for_public_safety_power_shutoff_events

Sign up for the Public Safety Power Shutoffs [PSPS]: <https://disabilitydisasteraccess.org/public-safety-power-shutoffs/>

COVID-19: The advocacy and partnership on the work for vaccine access to our population has been successful. We reached 4.4M of our DD populations who now have access to the vaccine as of March 15th. The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program proves to be a good avenue to attempt to get a vaccine appointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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Executive Committee: Kathy Hebert

Acronym List

CCH	Community Care Home	ILS	Individual Living Services
CPP	Community Placement Plan	OPS	Operations
CRDP	Community Resource Development Plan	PEP	Purchase of Service Expenditure Projection
DDS	Department of Development Services	POS	Purchase of Service
EBSH	Enhanced Behavioral support Home	SLS	Supported Living Services

Contract Approvals

Supported Living Services [SLS]

Bethesda Lutheran

This contract represents the agreement to operate a SLS that is meant to provide the necessary support to allow clients to live in their own home in the community.

Geography: Able to serve those in both Alameda and Contra Costa County

Term: 4/1/2021 – 3/31/2026

Average monthly cost: \$7,500

Annual cost: \$1,350,000

Total Capacity: 15 individuals

M/S/C “The board moves to approve RCEB’s agreement with Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Inc. to operate the Supported Living Services home as presented.”
[Page/Shapiro] Unanimous. The motion was adopted.

Staffing Services

The Columbus Organization

This contract allows RCEB to use restricted OPS funds to reimburse the contractor for staffing costs. These funds are available only for this purpose. The contractor will develop and maintain a pool of staff that can be deployed for coverage in an emergency during the pandemic when staffing shortages exist in licensed homes and SLS. Staff will be from existing day service providers to be available for these situations.

Term: 3/1/2021 – 6/30/2021

Restricted OPS Budget: \$1M

Clients: RCEB and other Northern California RC’s

M/S/C “The board moves to approve RCEB’s agreement with The Columbus Organization to provide emergency staffing services for coverage due to Northern California COVID outbreaks as presented.” [Shapiro/Whitgob] 9-yes, 5-no. With a majority vote, the motion was adopted.

Board members had several inquiries on this contract, mostly surrounding the payment rate and administrative charges. Inquiries were addressed by Ms. Kleinbub and Ms. Nguyen, as the rates were negotiated between DDS and the Columbus Organization, and are comparable to the rates set for Porterville and Fairview. Mr. Robinson added that DDS approached us to be a holder of this contract as a last resort only. We need to be proactive and to have this in place to assure that there is staffing if service providers have outbreaks among staff.

Budget & Finance Committee: Dr. Steve Whitgob

Purchase of Service (POS)

Through February 2021, 61% of our fiscal year 20-21 POS expenditures are in base. At this time, we are projecting a surplus of \$4.9M for NON-CPP POS Expenditures. This is an increase of \$.6M over the previous month's projections.

Currently, 10 out of 21 Regional Centers, including RCEB, are reporting a surplus in their POS projections. With the B-2 budget allocation, the statewide system is reporting an overall deficit of \$32.6M, which is a decrease of \$23.7M from previous month's deficit of \$56.3M.

Note that this PEP projection now has 7 months in base and includes the impact of the change in the monthly rate structure per client for alternative services, which became effective on January 1st. We did not see a lot of change from the impact of alternative service delivery as expected.

Operations (OPS)

RCEB just received the B-2 allocation for OPS funding for CPP/CRDP ongoing workload and for the Specialized Home Monitoring of \$1.8M. These February financials have been adjusted to include the B-2 allocation. However, because DDS just sent out these approved schedules late Thursday, we are still working with DDS to inquire about a few positions not yet funded.

Based on the B-2 allocation, through February 2021, we have expended 61% of a total of operations budget of \$50.9M, which is comparable to the 59% for previous year at this time.

We plan to look at the OPS budget more closely in doing a reforecast to include funding received in the B-2 and account for spending that are chargeable to the CARES funding. This will be reported to the Board in the April meeting.

Diversity & Equity Committee: Morena Grimaldi

Ms. Grimaldi stated that the committee had a special planning meeting on March 3rd. The purpose of that meeting was to continue developing the goals and strategies as agreed upon during the regular meeting that was in January. The three sub-committees are: Communication-Digital Accessibility, Equity in POS Expenditure, and Anti-Racism/Education. These sub-committees provided their updates on what has transpired since the March 3rd special meeting. They will meet again in April to continue working on the goals that they outlined. They also reported on the community's response to the COVID vaccination experience, which was mixed with success and frustration on being able to make an appointment and vaccine accessibility. The next regular meeting will be before the Board meeting on May 24th.

Supports & Services Committee: Lilian Ansari & Frank Paré

Ms. Ansari stated that since they met last month, their next meeting will be in April where they will look at the first draft of the brochure and Fact Sheets for "School Aged Children Living in the Family Home."

Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee [PVAC]: Sister Marygrace Puchac

Sister Marygrace stated that the committee met on March 12th with 117 participants. This is a much larger group than when they meet in person. The various different agencies provided their updates with all their current information. Historically, on this March 12th date, it was 32 years ago where our DD community gathered at the Capitol, some getting off their wheelchairs and climbing up the stairs to be seen and heard. In 1990 the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA] became law and prohibits discrimination against individual with disabilities and ensures that they have the same opportunities and rights as others.

Sister Marygrace added that there is a vaccine hesitancy among some of the clients and service providers. As the outlook is better with more people receiving the vaccine, there is hope that when the day services do re-open, it will be done carefully.

Consumer Advisory Committee [CAC]: Dinah Shapiro

The CAC met on March 8th, where as always, the majority of the discussion was on coping with COVID-19 and shared experiences. Also discussed was the upcoming CAC officer elections and the number of participants interested in the Chairperson position. Ms. Kleinbub informed the members of the new lowered vaccine qualification of 16-64 year olds with IDD.

Membership Development Committee: Kathy Hebert

ARCA Academy Board Training

Ms. Hebert stated that the Saturday, March 13th training on *Diversity (pt.1) in its various forms – not just what that means, but its real-world meaning for board members, boards, and communities* was a great training session. There were eight RCEB board members in attendance including Chloe Page who was on the panel. The Diversity (pt.2) training will be on May 8th.

Conflict of Interest Waiver

DDS sent a response letter to our statement and request to accept board member Lisa Soloway's conflict of interest as it relates to being a board member of a private school/agency where they run a summer camp vendored by RCEB. Since COVID, that summer camp has not been active. Specifics on the approval are outlined in the letter and posted on our website under Board Governance Policy/Conflict of Interest Approvals from DDS: <https://www.rceb.org/about-us/board-directors/board-policies/>.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

Budget/Legislation

This is the time during the legislative process where we see more bills coming out of the legislature and more hearings on those bills. Ms. Nicholau mentioned the bill to eliminate paying workers with disabilities less than the California minimum wage that is being pushed through the Senate and Assembly. Eliminating this sub-minimum wage is federal policy, yet at the same time we do have clients employed with sub-minimum wage and do not want them to lose their

employment due to this increase. There are many challenges as to how these transitions are going to happen so that people can continue working at their current employment.

Self-Determination

We are looking forward to seeing what the Administration will propose in the May Revise to the State budget. One of the important issues that we expect to see language about self-determination. How is self-determination going to look when we move forward now that it has passed the pilot phase and is entering into the ongoing phase. The number of people who have transitioned into the self-determination program has still been small with many complications and barriers to getting individuals to transition into the program. Some of these barriers may be helped by streamlining the process, and we are hoping to see language addressing that in the May Revise. We are hopeful that some of the proposals in the legislature around improving caseload ratios for regional centers will also be addressed. We are hopeful that technology related to our antiquated fiscal system can be addressed.

COVID-19 Update

The latest DDS Directive dated March 9th announced that those individuals between the ages of 16-64 years old with chronic health conditions as well as anyone served by a regional center are eligible for the vaccine. This can be directly attributed to the advocacy of many self-advocates and agencies from a number of different areas. RCEB sent out letters in the language spoken, to all our clients in that age group who are not living in a licensed care home, and had the case managers contact those clients who are monolingual. One of the main issues is that the supply of vaccines is limited, so the ability to schedule and receive a vaccine is difficult. We have been working with many service providers especially our partners in Contra Costa County. So far, there are at least three provider sites that will be available in the next couple of weeks and expect to see more provider sites available for the growing population. We are also working with Safeway on the possibility of getting vaccine codes for people to prioritize them for vaccines at the many affiliated pharmacies. The message we are getting out to people is to sign up on as many of the vaccine sites out there in order to receive an alert. The vaccine availability outlook will be better in a couple of weeks as production of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine increases.

At RCEB, our number show 550 of our clients tested positive for COVID-19, and 14 died as a result of the virus. The DDS Directive that we had in February was for our case managers to contact our clients to inform them of their eligibility and to check on their status. This is where we found out about some of the positive cases that we would not have known about otherwise. Our staff has been working very hard on contacting our clients and we have also sent our case managers lists of their clients with the specific diagnosis where they would qualify to receive early vaccines. We have received lots of good news that so many have been vaccinated due to their service providers, health care providers, and families being proactive and making sure that they are vaccinated.

We are receiving inquiries on the status of re-openings. Our many service providers are thinking of all the details such as when, how will they reopen, what will it look like, what will happen with day services, do individuals want to return to their programs the way they were, will they want

to keep alternative services that they have grown to like, do they want to use public transportation to their program, etc. These are the many unknowns that will be addressed in the next month or two. Site programs will most likely not open fully with everyone present at this point in time. There is possibility of re-opening with groups in a hybrid model in the near future. We are waiting for DDS to share reopening plans with requirements and guidance for what needs to be followed. Currently, there are no county rules or capacity limits on what a day service should look like. The most critical information is how many people have been vaccinated and what does that mean in terms of staff and consumers attending. Families of consumers might ask if all the staff have been vaccinated, but most programs are not requiring that all their staff be vaccinated. Even if they did, people can set waivers due to some health conditions and religious issues with vaccines. Everyone will have to continue with the masking and hand washing, and social distancing protocols.

RCEB will not be opening our offices in the near future, but are thinking of what reopening will look like and will need to develop a COVID Prevention Plan based on CalOSHA requirements. We have drafted that plan and are currently finalizing specifics and details. We will not be bringing everyone back in the office five days a week for quite a while until it is safe.

Community Resource Development Plan

These yearly plans are submitted by regional centers to DDS to receive start-up funding for their new projects. We are pleased that we received \$1.5M for multifamily housing, which is tied to a project in Alameda County. We submitted plans for two other projects [home for deaf consumers and employment for those who have challenging behaviors and needs] but did not receive funding for them which was very disappointing since those two areas are identified needs and long overdue.

Diversity & Equity

DDS is anticipating awarding their annual \$11M to regional center's community based organizations. We had around 19 projects submitted tied to our region. What DDS chooses will be based on some of the priorities that were identified last year in our public meetings regarding our disparity numbers. This is the month that we hold public meetings to discuss our POS disparities. We have already held a number of meetings with the Spanish speaking community and with several Asian language groups. Feedback and ideas are welcome.

Public Meetings - Purchase of Service Data

In accordance with Section 4519.5 of the Welfare & Institutions Code, Regional Center of the East Bay will hold public meetings regarding data relating to Purchase of Service (POS) authorization, utilization and expenditure with respect to consumer's age, ethnicity, primary language, residence type, and disability.

Scheduled Meetings

March 5, 2021 at 3:00 PM. In English and Cantonese

Hosted by: Friends of Children with Special Needs

March 5, 2021 at 5:00 PM. In English and Mandarin

Hosted by: Friends of Children with Special Needs

March 9, 2021 at 3:00 PM. In Spanish

Hosted by: La Familia

March 12, 2021 at 1:00 PM. In English

Hosted by: Regional Center of the East Bay

March 18, 2021 at 1:00 PM. In Spanish

Hosted by: Care Parent Network

March 23, 2021 at 3:30 PM in Vietnamese

Hosted by: Helping Hands East Bay

March 24, 2021 at 3:30 PM in Cantonese

Hosted by: Helping Hands East Bay

March 30, 2021 at 1 PM in English

Hosted by: Regional Center of the East Bay

We have contracted with a disparity consultant, Mason & Tillman Associates based out of Oakland to assist us with our provider concerns around equity. The study will be for half a year, and include surveys as well as focus group studies and will end with recommendations for our agency.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

ARCA REPORT: Lisa Kleinbub

Ms. Kleinbub stated that ARCA met last week and the topic of Grassroots Day was discussed. Grassroots day is organized by ARCA and attended by the regional centers to meet with the legislators in Sacramento over bills and issues in our disability community. Specific details are forthcoming. Grassroots Day will be held virtually this year on April 20th.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The Board of Director's Training Session on RCEB Operations & Budget followed the board meeting at 8:32 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on April 26, 2021 via Virtual Call