

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes March 12th, 2021**

Members Present: Geneva Ziaoure, Manos; Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Center; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care & Staffing; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center

Guests Present: Angie Lee, Garden Futures Explored; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House ILS/SLS; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Arlene Ruis, Malama Home; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Merfe Bailey, A Step Above Adult Day Program; Karen Lingengfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Terry Goodwin, Toolworks; Michael Minton, RCEB; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass SLS & ILS; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Stacia Oliver, Clausen House; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Tanya Berreto, Omelagah Inc; Carin Hewitt, Alift LLC; Sheraden Nicholau, CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Joanne Rolle, The Arc of the East Bay; Sarah Burgett, Toolworks; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Vivian Larqusa, FCSN; Juan Velasquez Jr, Pathway to Choices; Lynn Galliano, DABS Inc; Armando Valadez; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Joseph Cumiskey, Harmony's ARF; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Amy Berumen, Creative Growth Art Center; Jay Gamez, Mission Hope; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Megan Larsen, Communication Works; Salina Patel, George Mark Children's Home; Cecilia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council; Kelly Derr, Pacific Homecare Services; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Tiffanie Munoz, Enjoy Life More; Kelly Nguyen, Asian Resource Network, Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Sharon Cyrus-Savary, START East Bay; Kelly Ko, FCSN; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group Adult R; Dan Hogue, Las Tramaps; Eva Munoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Debbie G, Clausen House; Zach Lupton, Easterseals Northern California Kaleidoscope Community Adult Program; Kipi Iscandari; Wendell James; Maria Ramirez; J. Douglas Hollie; Angeleter Pringle; Jeremy Thomas, Jaqui Foundation; Christina Trucks, Aim High; Saunte Tyes, SLS Coordinator of East Bay; Sarah Hillen, Toolworks; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Maureen Wright, The Respite Inn; Reina Vasquez, Isabella's ARF; Marina, Golden Tree Manor; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Lori Surney, FRIENDLY JUNCTION; Pruvi Knopf, RES Success; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Bouakhay Phogboupha, Pathway to Choices; Gloria Brown, Pinewood Care Adult Residential Facility; Merfe Bailey; Sharolyn Babb, City of Richmond DPRC; Maria Mendiola, Royal Palm Home; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB

Guests by phone:

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. Introductions. Approval of February 12th, 2021 minutes. M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Sister Marygrace. Minutes approved with corrections.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa mentioned that everyone who receives regional center services ages 16 – 64 are now also eligible to receive the vaccine. She added that everyone who fits this category and does not live in a licensed care home will receive a personalized letter, and that the letter is also posted on RCEB's website. Lisa mentioned the State said that individuals could self-attest that they are eligible. Lisa did state that the only limitations would be the allocations of vaccines available.
- Lisa stated that information on vaccination opportunities are being given to case managers. Lisa additionally noted that calls will be going to high priority clients who fall in this category. Lisa

reminded that in the previous directive, case managers had to complete check in calls with all consumers within a month, with the purpose of identifying individuals who had been vaccinated, had other vaccination needs. As part of the directive, Lisa explained that RCEB prioritized people with the diagnosis of down syndrome; then cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and other conditions indicated as special health requirements; and after that people with severe to profound intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Lisa mentioned where things will be when we get to the May Revise, and thinking about moving back towards in-person services, but also considering things learned about alternative services to determine what types of services might continue to remain. Lisa added it was important to ask individuals what types of services they want as we emerge from the current conditions, and to be prepared for Legislators to ask these kinds of questions.
- Lisa mentioned that Self Determination is supposed to be open to everyone after the initial pilot group, but that participation remains very low across the state. The local advisory committee is doing some surveys of people who were selected as to what the reasons are for low participation. She added that there are many questions as to what the program is going to look like moving forward, and how to make the process simpler to get someone started in the program.
- Lisa mentioned that with the Federal \$1.9 trillion stimulus package, that at the State level, people are trying to tease out what kinds of resources there may be available because there are areas of the package that deal with state and local governments.
- With regards to PPP loans, Lisa mentioned that there is still no official guidance about how those would be offset with billing, but to make sure that anyone who had a PPP loan forgiven, that they don't double dip.
- Lisa mentioned that RCEB's offices remain closed and don't expect to reopen for a few more months.
- Lisa stated that with regards to the concerns and issues within the system on equity and racism, she has contracted with a consultant to look at those issues that have been raised the experiences of black providers. Lisa added that one of the first steps being taken is a survey to reach out to providers, and then an assessment to discuss those experiences, and from this a work group would be established to determine how these issues will be addressed and implement in future RCEB practices and policies. Lisa stated that she would provide more information as she has it.
- Questions and comments
 - Wendell James asked if anybody else was experiencing issues with consumers refusing to get vaccinated. Response from other providers was that the response has been mixed with both staff and participant.
 - Wendell also asked everyone to watch a show called The Talk to see a great of example of white privilege and tone deafness.
 - Maria Ramirez shared that she's a parent and volunteer and is looking forward when she is able to bring her daughter home when it is safe. She also reminded everyone that on this date in 1991, self-advocates crawled up the steps at the Capitol for disabled rights.
 - Vi Ibarra commented that if anyone is experiencing hesitancy from participants and staff with regards to getting vaccinated, that she would be happy to assist by providing outreach and information.
 - Sylvia Yeh asked if there was any guidance for providers to resume in-person services. Lisa responded that currently the focus at DDS is get people vaccinated, and will move towards other issues; but still need to look at local county health guidelines, not that Alameda is in the red, and Contra Costa is moving there.

- Eva Munoz asked if all the residents and staff in an RCF had been vaccinated, did masks still need to be worn. Lisa responded that CCL had not yet commented, and that it's currently about staffing security and safety, to continue to follow the directives regarding mask wearing.
- J Douglas Hollie stated that consumers were being booted from their board and care, and that he was having trouble placing them, so needed assistance. Lisa commented that they will need to look at them on an individual basis to determine what services are being charged for, and that he should have a conversation with the ID Team.
- Will Sanford mentioned that Cal OSHA stated if people were exposed, people could continue to wear masks and continue working.
- Angeleter Pringle made a comment that families were concerned about sending residents back to day program if all the staff there hadn't been vaccinated. Additionally, she stated that she is concerned of the effect on her residents if they go back to program, then the programs shut down again. Angeleter said that what homes have been doing has been challenging for the operators, they've had no break, and the new routines are not working. Lisa responded that the 091 purchase of services will continue as long as the in-home day programming is happening.
- Mike Pereira stated that the Day Program Providers group has been meeting regularly to discuss challenges to reopen, and invited other types of program providers to join to give input.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve stated that the guidance around programs reopening is no clear, and that no one wants programs to open, only to immediately close again.
- Steve mentioned a message from RCEB's accounting department that fiscal year 18/19 is closing, so if any vendor has an outstanding claim, it must be submitted no later than 3/31/.
- Steve announced that RCEB is now using DocuSign in Community Services for rate letters, provider contracts, etc., and it's a good process that allows documents to be received more quickly.
- Steve mentioned that DDS had said alternative service rates for transportation and group supported employment would be available in March, but that they have not yet been provided. He added that once they are received, it will take a significant amount of time to get things entered and send out letters. He stated that they are unsure what DDS will do if they don't get the information out soon.
- Mike Minton announced that SANDIS has invited RCEB to do a pilot with a few providers to submit SIRs directly to DDS via SANDIS, rather than sending them to RCEB.
- Mike mentioned that they will try to get more information about vaccines, vaccinate residents, and mask wearing in licensed group homes.
- The following comments/questions were made.
 - Patricia Harris asked what to do about POSs that were never sent, and are also not in the system. Steve said to contact the case manager and supervisor immediately; and for now, to cc: Steve and Lisa.
 - Nathaniel mentioned that as a care provider, he is experiencing burnout, and other than closing, what can be done to deal with the exhaustion. There was a suggestion given that someone had brought in new staff to do one-on-one program with each resident throughout the day.

- Juan Velasquez asked about QA annual evaluations. Mike Minton responded that they are working out the details, but Title 17 requires all non-licensed to annual evaluation of services. Mike said that QA has been reaching out to vendors with some questions, but that there is nothing that anybody needs to do right now.
- Sylvia Yeh mentioned that HCBS grant proposals were due in February, so asked for an update on grants that were approved. Mike mentioned that 33 proposals were submitted, all were very different, but RCEB focused on how many people would be impacted. Mike added that they he hasn't received an answer or have a date when DDS will announce which, if any proposals were accepted.
- Sarah Burnett asked for clarification about the annual evaluation for SLS. She mentioned that she had a Title 17 review with DDS, but the subject of reviews never came. Mike Minton responded that they have heard nothing from DDS regarding annual evaluations. He added that they are looking at ways to make the evaluation more beneficial and self-reflective.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board met on February 22nd.
- They voted to have Nyron Battles to rejoin the board.
- The board voted on a resolution to elect Gerald Tameo to serve as treasurer and Steve Whitcomb to be assistant treasurer.
- The voted on a board pledge
- The board thanked Evelina Imora for her services.
- The Consumer Advisory Committee reported that they had a zoom meeting to discuss elections and new members to join them, and to re-establish some rules together. They also talked about the challenges of being isolated during this time.
- Supports and Services committee had a first draft of bi-fold document that will hold information on services for children living in their family home, what services that the regional center purchases from program and clinicians in the community, and what services regional center staff provides.
- ARCA Academy is offering a training tomorrow on diversities as a forms, to look at the reality of how people are experiencing diversity and equity. This training is board members.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden commented on all the effort and work of everyone who made it possible for regional center clients to get added to the eligibility list to get vaccinated.
- Sheraden thanked agencies who mobilized with state and federal entities and volunteered to host pop up vaccine sites.
- Sheraden announced that she is expecting to see in the next few weeks, double vaccine allotments in hard to reach populations, and that the State is fine tuning the formula so more impacted areas receive greater allocation.
- Sheraden announced the following upcoming meetings:
 - There is a Self Advocates Advisory Committee Meeting on 3/22.
 - There is a State Council Meeting on 3/23.

DD Councils -

- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra.

- Vi shared that the DAFN Disabilities Access and Functional Needs forum is on 3/31, which is a half day event in the morning that will focus on how Covid has impacted the response in other areas of emergencies, such as wild fires, public safety power shutoff events, and the way our public agencies respond to those events. It is open to anyone with access and functional needs and the people that support them.
- The Autism Star conference will take place on 4/24, which is a half day event, from 8:30AM-12:30PM
- The Joint Award Ceremony will be a virtual event to be held in June, and that the council is currently seeking nominations for people who have made a significant difference for the community.
- The next meeting is on 3/24 at 10AM.
- Alameda County – Geneva Ziaoure for Ben Chen
 - Ben announced that Alameda county entered the red tier on Tuesday.
 - Alameda is currently
 - With the eligibility opening up on March 15th, they are exploring options around and accessibility, especially with regards to people with sensory issues, trouble with lines, etc.; so are exploring mobile clinics and also bringing vaccines into the homes.
 - Ben provided a link for vendors who are interested in providing support around getting people vaccinated. He added that support can come in the form of outreach, and registration doesn't mean you need to have a site to do a clinic.
 - Ben announced that the Transition Fair is on Saturday, and the vendor portion is on Thursday. He added that it is too late to register, but providers can still be included and updated in the adult resource guide.
 - The next meeting will be on 4/19, from 9:30AM-12PM.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

- Will mentioned the American Rescue Plan passed, which means the state will get an additional \$20 billion. In terms of what this means for services, is for one year starting April 1st, the FMAP, the percentage that the federal government reimburses the state, that funding will increase by 10%. Will added that this is good for a one-time investment in the system.
- Will stated that they are still trying to get information on the Golden State stimulus payments, as most people on SSI/SSP will be eligible. The hope is that it will not impact their normal SSI, so they can get and do something with it.
- Will stated that the budget process has been ongoing.
- EBLC will next meet on 4/7, from 10AM-12PM, and they will be doing a review of the bills that are out there and pending ones.

Day Service Providers – Dan Hogue

- Dan mentioned that the Day Program Providers Meeting is every Friday at 11, except when PVAC meets, and also there is a provider trouble shooting meeting on Wednesday at 2PM.
- Dan mentioned that the meetings are open to all types of service providers, not just Day Programs.
- Currently the group has been focusing on Covid protection plans, Cal OSHA, vaccines, and program re-openings.

Membership - Leslie Visbal

- Leslie asked all program providers who regularly attend to please consider join PVAC as a board member.
- Leslie thanked Geneva Ziaoure for her continue to support to the board past the end of her term, but restated the need to have an actual co-chair on the board.
- Additionally, there are board members who will be terming out so it is important to keep the roster of members full.

Announcements

- No Announcements.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:12 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary