

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes April 9th, 2021**

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

Guests Present: Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Christine Schwab, Working Wonders; Sukhbeer Singh, Sonia Corina Jaynette Underhill, Clausen House; Angelica Sanchez, Clausen House; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Vi Ibarra, Developmental Disabilities Contra Costa County; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group Adult R; Suzanne Pestal, Las Trampas; Janette Bauchou, AWD Program/Noll Center; Megan Hodapp, Full Circle of Choices; Sheri Artis, Social Vocational Services; Rhonda McGlashan, Compass; Sharon Cyrus-Savary, CASTART East Bay; Jackie Santos, Parkway Village Carehome, Inc.; Emily Coreia, Enjoy Life More; Tiffanie Munoz, Enjoy Life More; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Kelly Derr, Pacific Homecare Services; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Debbie G, Clausen House; Patti Costa, Las Trampas School Inc; Kelly Nguyen, Asian Resource Network; Eva Munoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Michael Minton, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Elizabeth De La Torre, C.A.M.P. Inc Sierra Day Program; John David, Access Community; Sarah Cookson, CSS Concord; James Mercado, Open House Center; Sylvia Yeh, Friends of Children with Special Needs; Pamela Tee, One Step Closer, Inc.; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Shannon Beatty, George Mark Children's House; Jennifer Rocha, Castro Valley Adult and Career Education; Lynn Galliano, DABS Inc; Shelly Crayton, Family Support Services; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Kluwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Vivian Largusa, FCSN; Marcie Hodge, St. John Boys Home; Claire Palmer, Maxim Healthcare Services; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices; Lynn Nguyen, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; K. David, Access Community Resources Day Program; Maria Mendiola, Royal Palm Residential Home; Presha Ponnell, ALIVE Central; Chandreve Clay, Clear Creek Services; Carin Hewitt, alift llc; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Ben Chen, Alameda County DDC; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Maureen Wright, The Respite Inn; Aya Sasaki, Morgan Autism Center; Bouakhay Phongboupa, Pathway to Choices; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Contessa Rancifer, One Step Closer; Angeleter Pringle.

Guests by phone:

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. Introductions. Approval of March 12th, 2021 minutes. M/Leslie Visbal; S/Sister Marygrace. Minutes were approved unanimously.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa mentioned the PPP attestation statement as part of e-billing, and that DDS is currently disregarding any current attestations, and that moving forward would develop a different format other than e-billing for the attestations. Lisa added that if a service provider attested, but wanted to rescind their statement, to send a letter to her stating so.
- Lisa mentioned that an email went out to all RCEB staff that she would let them know at least 60 days prior to returning to more typical site-based operations and having more people in the office.

She said that she expected more normal operations to start taking place around June 7th. Lisa mentioned that she did not expect large in person meetings until after the fall or possibly winter.

- Sister Marygrace asked for clarification about the requirement of attestation. Lisa clarified that any statements could be rescinded by let her know through an email. Lisa added that she expected some additional directives to be coming from DDS regarding preventative measures to safely return to in-person services.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve mentioned directives that came out on March 29, and will reach out to providers who were vendored March 20th or later, to establish an alternative services rate because DDS did not provide one. Steve added that this particular directive included a worksheet and formula to determine a new rate, and part of the methodology is to compare the new program's service code with other similar programs in the area to come up with a similar rate.
- Steve mentioned that for the directive geared towards Group Supported Employment that there are 8 vendors total and will reach out to the two vendors that did submit alternative services certificates. He added that RCEB will reach out to the others and ask if they intend to submit for alternative services. Rates have been provided by DDS, and Steve stated that information will be passed along to the vendors who are providing alternative services.
- Steve mentioned that the directive for transportation was more complicated because it involved backing out fuel costs, with the ability to add in some fuel costs at 28 cents per mile, and another step as well. Steve added that he and Priscilla Gomez will send out an email to meet with transportation providers tentatively on April 14th at 11:00AM to discuss the new directive and the spreadsheet that will need to be completed. Steve added that calculating the rate for transportation alternative services was more complicated than the other rates because it doesn't necessarily remain fixed.
- Steve mentioned that RCEB had sent out a document two weeks' prior regarding the reopening plans from day programs, as a guide to be filled out and send back to RCEB. He added that RCEB is requesting at least 5 weeks' notice prior to the reopening date, so that he has the chance to review the document. The five weeks' notice is required to work out details with transportation providers if those services are being utilized.
- Steve mentioned that they will be sending out a letter they received from Contra Costa Public Health that they do not want to be contacted with reopening plans; however, this is not applicable to Alameda County. Steve added that a reopening plan will need to be provided Community Care Licensing for licensed programs.
- Steve noted that RCEB has been working with DDS, and is now contracted with the Columbus Group who is working to create a pool of temporary staff for all 21 regional centers, to provide staff for group homes who are facing staffing absences due to Covid related issues. Steve added they will be holding a town hall meeting later this month so staff can find out how to be part of the pool of emergency staff and be ready for deployment. Steve mentioned that the service could be expanded to other emergencies, such as fires. Steve stated that this is really directed towards day service providers, so they would be willing to release their staff if they have been registered as part of the pool.

- Fruc Menchavez mentioned that service providers should have received an email from their QA liaison if they had been selected for a virtual site assessment from PCG. Fruc added that selected providers should be receiving both an email and a call from PCG to schedule the assessment. Fruc mentioned that assessments have taken place during normal business hours, but also in the evenings and on weekends to accommodate different schedules, and that RCEB will try to be present for the surveys as best as they can.
- Fruc mentioned that DDS hosted two trainings, April 6th and 7th, on how the virtual site assessments were being done, and that recordings of the trainings and an FAQ will be available at DDS' website.
- Fruc noted that providers can email DDS to get a copy of their previously completed self-surveys, and he also provided a link in the chat to get a copy of a blank survey to review the questions.
- Fruc mentioned that DDS had given an update on HCBS grants, and that RCEB should know who is receiving HCBS funding by the end of the week.
- Patricia Harris asked if there was someone specific at Public Health that needs to be notified. Ben Chen from Alameda County DD Council noted in the chat that he would be speaking on that.
- Elizabeth De La Torre asked if they had the correct email to send out information to her agency. Steve instructed her email Pricilla Gomez and provide the correct address.
- Sylvia Yeh asked what the selection process of the audits was. Fruc responded that it was a random selection, and that about 100 RCEB providers were selected. Fruc added that because some vendors were incorrectly selected, additional providers may be selected for site surveys.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board met on March 22nd.\
- Two contracts were reviewed.
 - One contract was with Columbus Organization, to establish a pool of temporary staff to fill in for staff shortages caused by Covid related absences, and was good from March 1 – June 30, but possibly could continue beyond that. Sister Marygrace added that there was some concern from board members about the cost of administration.
 - A contract with Bethesda Lutheran Communities was also reviewed, which was for supported living services. The contract started on April 1.
 - Jairo Guiza, who leads the Diversity and Equity Committee, reported that he has put RCEB on a path of strategies, actions, and outcomes. There was a discussion around anti-racism, and how it relates to diversity; and also looking at the overt and covert racism. The discussion also included improving communications.
 - The Consumer Advisory Committee gave a report that their meetings had been focusing on Covid-19 vaccines and voting for new leadership for their group.
 - Lynn Nguyen gave a training on RCEB operations and budget.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden gave an update on Covid-19 numbers statewide.
 - 22 million doses have been administered, and about 371,000 doses are being administered every day.
 - About 19.2% of the population who are partially vaccinated, and 25.9% that are fully vaccinated, or 6 million partially vaccinated and 8.3 million fully vaccinated.
 - Currently, there are about 14 days' inventory on hand.

- The top five ways to get vaccinated are through your health care provider, federal retail pharmacy program, county health department clinics, program provider pop-up clinics, and MyTurn.
- The state council is still able to get people orders of PPE. The turnaround is pretty fast, and Sheraden mentioned to contact her directly with needs.
- Sheraden mentioned that Statewide grant proposals are still being accepted until May 15th.
 - Providing up to \$160,000 on proposals around health and safety.
 - \$100,000 on proposals around inclusive education projects.
 - 100K inclusive education projects
 - Information can be found at SCDD.ca.gov/grant information
- Sheraden mention trainings requests that have been trending, specifically on self-determination, benefits, vaccine distribution, and crisis intervention for law enforcement.
- Sheraden announced that they are working on developing a workshop with California Dept. of Fair Employment and Housing. Additionally, the State Council is looking at participating in building a symposium for building capacity and services for folks with co-occurring conditions of both I/DD and mental health/behavioral health care needs.
- Sheraden mentioned that a survey will be coming out in the next few weeks, which is specifically for self-advocates in the East Bay, on an initiative to build a self-advocate leadership development series.
- Sheraden announced the following upcoming meetings:
 - 4/28, RAC: SPED updates in CA w/DREDF
 - 4/21, Statewide self-advocacy chats
 - 5/6, Employment First Committee meeting
 - 5/24, Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee meeting
 - 5/25, Council meeting

DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
 - Ben announced that 316% of the folks in Alameda County who have been fully vaccinated.
 - Ben thanked providers for their partnership in setting pop up clinics, and asked that any program provider who was interested in hosting a clinic to reach out to him.
 - Ben shared some resources.
 - There is a call center for people with accessibility issues, such as poor internet, to sign up for a vaccination.
 - For priority zip codes, places that are being hit the hardest by Covid and other social factors, anyone 16 and up is now eligible for a vaccination; and those are areas around Fremont High School and Hayward Adult School.
 - There is a vaccine FAQ for people with disabilities and underlying conditions.
 - Ben shared that the Alameda Public Health does not have any requirement for programs to submit plans for reopening for in-person services, but they do not have a letter to provide stating so.
 - For the Adult Program Resource Guide, they are doing an online survey, and Ben provided the link in the chat.
 - Ben mentioned that there is an upcoming STC Emergency Broadband Benefit program offering internet discounts for households receiving a number of different public benefits.

- The next council board meeting is on 4/14, from 9:30 – 12, and will have a presentation on telemedicine which will cover dentistry, and behavioral and general health.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi mentioned that clinics are open to RCEB clients who are experiencing barriers. She added that Contra Costa County is now providing vaccines to anyone 16 and over, and that online is the most efficient way to schedule an appointment, but there is also a phone number available.
 - Vi thanked three organizations that recently partnered for popup clinics at Mt. Diablo Adult Ed, Adaptive Learning Center, and VistAbility, with 305 individuals being vaccinated. A 4th clinic is scheduled at Las Trampas' Martinez location.
 - Vi mentioned that registration for the Autism Star Conference is still open; and that the conference is for parents of school age children.
 - The conference is take place on April 24, and they are seeking support from the vendor community.
 - Vi announced the two counties are working on a joint virtual award event, and they are continuing to accept nominations for individuals who have made a significant difference for the community. Additionally, Vi mentioned that the event will be free, but they are seeking sponsors within the vendor community.
 - The next council meeting will be on 4/28, from 10-12; and will focus on vaccine updates and opportunities to enrich supports for senior participants.
 - Vi mentioned that there will be no meetings in July or August.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned the American Rescue Plan that was passed at the Federal level is going impact our community specifically in the FMAP (federal medical and percentage) which is the federal matching for HCBS services. Mike added that this is a 10% compounded increase, which equates to an enriched investment of dollars coming into the system, potentially \$400-\$500 million; and that because of this, the Lanterman Coalition came up with a lists of asks of what to do with the one-time increase.
- Mike mentioned that on the state level, the EBLC as agreed to draft letters of support for 5-6 bills.
- Mike invited people to attend the EBLC meetings for more specific information regarding which bills the committee is following.
- The next EBLC meeting will be on May 5th from 10AM-12PM.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Mike stated that providers group has been having on-going conversations around the resumption of in-person services, and that they have been reviewing plans that were drafted at the start of pandemic. He added that specifically, they were looking at Covid protocols; and to be aware of guidelines that will trickle down to the local level, but still responsible to use the most restrictive protocols.
- Mike mentioned that the group meets every Friday at 11AM, except the week that PVAC meets.
- Mike reminded that the group hosts a weekly trouble shooting meeting open to all providers, not just day programs, on Wednesdays at 2PM.
- Angeleter Pringle asked what was going to happen for individuals who do return to day program, and if they were going to require that all the clients and all the staff get vaccinated. She expressed concerned that if a few residents go to day program, there is the possibility that they bring home the virus.

- Mike recommended to first reach out to the day program directly to discuss the specific needs of the individual.
- Craig Rose added that all day program providers are required to reach out to participants and have a conversation about what resumption of in-person services will entail, so that individuals and their households can make an informed decision about their services.
- Angeleter Pringle asked if homes providing day programs services will continue to get funded. Steve Robinson confirmed that homes currently providing day services will continue to receive 091 funding.

Membership - Leslie Visbal

- Leslie mentioned that there are currently 13 board members, and that the co-chair position is still open, and a replacement is required immediately. She thanked Geneva for her continued support despite having termed out, but added that Geneva is no longer able to facilitate the role.
- The current slate of members was announced. Leslie moved to approve the slate, and Amanda Eicher seconded the motion. The slate of members was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- No Announcements.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:26 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary