



PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Provider Vendor Advisory Committee Regional Center of the East Bay Meeting Minutes May 14th, 2021

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

Guests Present: Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Joe Cashel, Las Trampas; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More, Inc.; Sarah Burgett, Toolworks; Joanne Rolle, The Arc of the East Bay; Patricia Harris; One Step Closer, Inc; Michael Minton, RCEB; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Sharon Cyrus-Savary, CASTART EAST BAY; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Carin Hewitt, alift llc; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Arlene Ruiz, Malama Home; Tiffany Speerbrecker, VistAbility; Cecilia Connolly, The Arc of the East Bay; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Pamela Temple, One Step Closer, Inc.; Vi Ibarra, Developmental Disabilities Council, Contra Costa County; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Alex Rivin; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Erin Hanley, East Bay Innovations; Kiptiatu Iscandari, A and K Residential homes; Debbie Johnstone, Noll Center; Purvi Knopf, RES Success; Doreen Khan, Sutro Home; Dominique Mellion, Broadmoor Community Services; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills Agency; Judy Yi, Friends of Children with Special Needs; Claire Palmer, Maxim Healthcare Services; Amy Berumen, Creative Growth; Christina Trucks, Aim High; Maria Mendiola, Royal Palm Residential Home; Cheryl Smiley, VistAbility; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Kelly Nguyen, Asian Resource Network (DHTI); Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Elizabeth Brodersen, Creative Growth Art Center; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Amber Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Janette Bauchou, AWD Program-Noll Center; Michelle wWhite, Jaqui foundation; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Claudia Acosta, Clausen House Residential; Wendell James, AET; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Amy Kudenov, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Esther Chow, Helping Hands East Bay; Stephanie Featherstone, Ca Mentor; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House Adult Ed.; Lita Marie Guerrero, A Brighter View Day Program; Ramona Waldmann, A Brighter View Day Program; Angeleter Pringle, Connie's Rest Haven; Ronnie Ancheta, Open House Center; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Presha Ponnell, Futures Explored; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices

Guests by phone:

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 11:05 a.m. Introductions. Approval of April 9th, 2021 minutes. M/Ramsay Mashy; S/Donna Feingold. Minutes were passed unanimously with corrections.

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa mentioned the Governor's preliminary budget and stated that it does look like the administration proposed eliminating the sunsets for provider rates and the uniform holiday schedule. Lisa added that there are other monies proposed by the administration which relates to services provisions including certification and training programs for DSPs tied to wage differentials, and also bilingual differentials for DSPs. Lisa mentioned proposed supports for transitioning folks into self-determination.
- Lisa mentioned that the Developmental Services Task Force is meeting on Wednesday, May 19th with a presentation from Nancy Bargman on the budget highlights and the May revise.
- Lisa mentioned a statement from the CDC regarding wearing masks indoors, specifically that fully vaccinated people do not need to do that. Lisa reminded that it is still dependent on state, county, local guidelines, and that there has been no change in California's guidance.
- Lisa mentioned a directive that came out on April 21, that regional centers had to have a plan within 30 days for starting in-person quarterly visits to individuals who lived in out of home care or live

- independently; and that RCEB is developing protocols, including physical distancing, n95 masks, and time indoors limited to no more than 15 minutes. Lisa added individuals living with families could request those still happen remotely.
- Lisa announced the RCEB would be sending out a voluntary survey next week to all service providers that is going to be used to look at equity issues and other concerns raised by black providers. Lisa added that the survey is going to ask providers how they identify in terms of race and ethnicity, what services they provide, and what county they work in. Lisa clarified that the results will not be put into any database, and that no identifying information would be stored. Lisa mentioned that the results of the survey will be shared with the consultant that RCEB is working with for the purpose first, of setting up some focus groups, and then doing other work looking at the experience of people in the community, and also working on the experiences of people who receive RCEB services.
- Lisa mentioned
- Dan Hogue asked if the survey monkey is it going to ask about the leadership team or the board of directors for non-profits which don't have an individual owner. Lisa responded that she thought it would be regarding the board of directors.
- Erin Hanley put a question in the chat asking if medically vulnerable ILS/SLS clients could decline in-person meetings. Lisa responded that the purpose of the face to face was for health and safety and safety monitoring, but they would look at each case individually, and if there are concerns, please share those with RCEB.
- Lisa Gonzales asked about billing for an individual had a split programming of in person and virtual. Lisa responded that if it's a mix of both, that the billing would be for alternative services.
- A question was asked about a case where a participant wanted to return to in person services, but their home refuses. Lisa responded that they should start with a conversation with the participant to see what they want, and to also involve the case manager.
- A question in the chat asked how long alternative services would be funded. Lisa responded that she has not been given that information.

Reports

RCEB Update – Steve Robinson

- Steve reported on transportation alternative service delivery for transportation providers or have an 880 as part of the day program. Steve mentioned that 33 out of 49 rates have been worked out, and added that if a provider had not submitted the Enclosure B to Pricilla Gomez, to do so immediately, as it was due on May 10th.
- Steve mentioned the resumption of in-person services and that RCEB has received several plans so far, and that both counties have written letters that they providers are not required to submit resumption plans to them. Steve added that for licensed program, CCL has not been clear on whether providers need to contact them, but that providers should still inform LPAs know of their plans.
- Steve reported on RCEB's Community Resource Plan, and that they are going to post a survey soon to share with the entire group. Steve added that they will make requests based on the results of the survey. Steve noted that last year, RCEB requested three projects based on survey results; one that was funded was for multi-family housing, with 10 units in a 72-unit complex set aside for individuals with I/DD. Steve mentioned that special residential facility for the deaf, and a work program for severely behavioral clients were not approved.
- Steve mentioned that RCEB scheduled a training on Person Centered approaches to resumption of in-person services and over 200 people signed up for it, so they are planning on scheduling additional ones.
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- Mike Minton shared that the trainings came about because of fears and anxiety over the resumption of in-person services, and that they wanted to take the principles of person centered thinking to help people navigate and plan for going back to service.
- Mike read a report from Fruc Menchavez on HCBS that virtual site assessments had started and that 64 of 67 assessments had been scheduled. Mike added that 16 out of 33 grants were approved for compliance funding.
- Joanne Rolle asked about for an update for providers who have not yet been granted super user status in SANDIS. Steve mentioned that they had started with day programs, and have moved it to other service codes, but haven't started expanding it yet. Steve mentioned that if you're a provider who has already signed up or are trying to sign up and are experiencing issues to email spp@rceb.org.
- There was a comment in the chat stating that there was no follow up when emailing the service providers portal. Lisa stated that she would follow up on that.
- There was a question about PPP loans. Lisa stated that a provider would need to look at what they got in PPP loans and what they got in absence billing, and what was over and above in terms of expenses, and if there are excess dollars, money needs to be refunded to RCEB and DDS. Lisa added that a provider could send a check to RCEB, however, at this point, DDS has not given guidance on what to do with the check.
- Donna Feingold asked how to calculate loss with regards to PPP and does that even play a role in the calculation.
- Dan Hogue asked how organizations like his who provided services that weren't covered under the state of emergency, and had received PPP loans on the organization as a whole, are supposed to pay back the percentage.
- Elizabeth Broderson stated that her PPP loan went into a pool with funds from various sources, and that she nor her accounts have been able to determine the calculation.
- Lisa said that she would seek clarification for these and other issues regarding PPP loans that had been forgiven.
- Mike Pereira brought up the point that the lack of clarity was a point of consternation, and what happens to programs who were awarded their PPP loans after the months of May and June, which was the time period that retainer payments were being issued.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace stated that the Board met on April 26 and two contracts were approved.
 - One contract was awarded to Telecast to serve four individuals with enhanced behavioral support for residents who are transition from Canyon Springs and Porterville Developmental Centers. She noted that the individuals exhibit particularly severe behavior challenges.
 - Another contract was for an uncommitted line of credit with Union Bank that has been established as a safety precaution.
- Sister Marygrace mentioned that the Board approved membership roster for PVAC.
- There was a report from the Supports and Services committee, and it was mentioned that they are working on a draft of a brochure for services. The first brochure is for services for people 3-18.
- The Consumer Advisory Committee gave a report with topics including Covid-19 vaccines, and also about returning to in-person program.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Sheraden mentioned the new CMS rule and the open comment period regarding education and the offering of vaccines.
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- Sheraden mentioned that the California Community Vaccine Advisory Committee next meeting is on 6/23, from 3-5pm.
- Sheraden gave a reminder for agencies to contact her if they have a need for PPE, and that she will do her best to get it ordered.
- Sheraden mentioned that May 15 is the deadline for the current grant cycle at the state council and they are looking to award up to \$160,000 towards health and safety proposals and up to \$100,000 towards inclusive education proposals.
- Sheraden mentioned the State Council had been providing trainings based on interest including person centered thinking, self-determination, vaccine information, and crisis training for law enforcement.
- Sheraden mentioned the following upcoming meetings:
 - May 19 at 11AM, Self-Advocacy chat on Disability Awareness and Sensitivity in the Workplace.
 - May 19, from 5-6pm, Fair Hearing Rights workshop.
 - May 24, Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee meeting.
 - May 25, State Council Regional Advisory Committee meeting.

DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Ben Chen
 - Ben mentioned that they are continuing to encourage people to get vaccinated and that in home vaccinations have begun. Ben provided a link to sign up for the service.
 - Ben announced that there is no requirement from Alameda Public Health to submit resumption plans, but that agencies can reach out if they specific questions about reopening.
 - Ben mentioned the FCC Emergency Broadband benefit program which provides monthly discounts for people across a wide eligibility criterion for discounts of \$50-\$75 per month, and also up to \$100 towards hardware.
 - The next Alameda DD Council meeting is on June 9th, and it will be council business meeting only.
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Vi mentioned that the Joint Council Award Event will be held virtually on June 1, beginning at 7PM.
 - The next Contra Costa County DD Council on 5/26, from 10-12, with a presentation on self-determination.
 - Vi announced that there will be a council meeting in June on the 23rd.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned the state has an unanticipated tax revenue surplus and much of dollars must be utilized for one time spending. Mike noted that this in addition to the Federal dollars coming in from the American Rescue Plan.
- Mike gave a synopsis on the Governor's May revise to the budget and how it relates to funding inequities in our service sector. Mike mentioned specifically the legislature's desire to eliminate the suspension language of for the 8.2% rate increase and the uniform holiday schedule.
- Mike announced the EBLC will be holding a meeting next Wednesday at 1PM to review the May revise.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Mike mentioned that discussions have been on logistics of in-person services, and that transportation is the biggest hurdle.
- Mike gave a reminder for programs to complete the appropriate form and send it to Steve and Pricilla, along with the list of participants who will be needing transportation.
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- Mike invited all service providers to attend the weekly Friday meeting at 11, and the weekly troubleshooting meeting on Wednesdays at 2PM.
- Erin Hanley asked a question about SLS concerns, that they are dealing with a variety of providers, but don't want to feel like they are a barrier for people to resume going to programs. She also mentioned an incident when a purchase order was canceled without notice. Lisa and Steve said they would like to attend a meeting and seek solutions and do follow up.
- Mike mentioned a concern that came up in the transportation group which is that not all transportation vendors are active, some vendors are no longer providing services, so the question came up if there is the possibility of emergency reimbursement for families and home who need to start providing transportation.

Membership – Marcie Hodges

- Marcie mentioned that there was no report.
- Geneva Ziaoure mentioned that the board is looking for members; a transportation provider from either county, and an employment service provider in Contra Costa County. She also mentioned that board is in need of a new co-chair.

Announcements

- Dan Hogue thanked the DD Councils for their push to get people vaccinated and to help organizations to set up vaccine clinics.
- Bill Pelter announced that both the Alameda County and Contra Costa County DD Councils have agreed to restart the Committee on Aging due to the changing demographics in our state and in our community.
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Meeting Adjourned at 12:41 PM

Respectfully submitted for review by Craig Rose, Secretary