



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

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, November 22, 2021

Approved 1/24/2022

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kathy Hebert, President
Dr. Stephen Whitgob, Assistant Treasurer
Reneé Perls, Secretary
Nyron Battles, CAC Chair
Brian Blaisch
April Key-Lee
Sadia Mumtaz
Chloe Page
Frank Paré, Co-Chair, Supports & Services
Sister Marygrace Puchac, PVAC Representative
Dinah Shapiro
Linda Stevens

ABSENT:

Lilian Ansari, Vice President
Teresita DeJesus
Carmen Quinones
Lisa Soloway
Gerald Tamayo, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT:

Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director
Lynn Nguyen, Director of Finance & Administration
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
Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Children's Services
Janaye Christian, Case Manager
Michi Toy, Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Theresa B.
Denise Bradley
Gail C.
Erika Gonzalez/24-Hr Cares
Morena Grimaldi
Vi Ibarra/CCDDC
Melisha Linzie

Sheraden Nicholau/SCDD
Ann Pringle
Maria Ramirez
Melissa Robinson/DDS
Gabby Romabiles/ACDDC
Paula Senigar

Public Meeting: National Core Indicator [NCI] Data 7:01 – 7:24 pm

RCEB shared a presentation on the most recent National Core Indicator data for RCEB at this meeting. The NCI program is a voluntary effort by state developmental disability agencies to gauge and track their own performance using a common and nationally validated set of performance measures. The data shared will be from the FY 19/20 NCI Adult Family Survey and the NCI Family Guardian Survey.

Public Comment

Questions were addressed by Lisa Kleinbub and Ronke Sodipo. The link to the NCI Data Presentation PowerPoint is on our website:

<https://www.rceb.org/about-us/public-information/national-core-indicators/>

BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Kathy Hebert called the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay to order at 7:24 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the November 22, 2021 agenda as presented.” [Stevens/Blaisch] Unanimous. The motion was adopted.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the October 25, 2021 minutes as presented with the exception of replacing Gwen Nash-Butler’s name with Nyron Battles. The location is in the Membership Development Committee on pg. 6 under the Candidates for Secretary.” [Battles/Perls] Unanimous. The motion was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were expressed at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Kathy Hebert

Housing Acronym List

CCH	Community Crisis 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

There were no contracts to be approved at this time.

2022 Work Plan and Master Calendar

A SurveyMonkey was used to the board member votes on both the 2022 Work Plan and the Master Calendar. Both plans received unanimous votes of approval and will be adopted. There was a comment on the Master Calendar in regards to specifics of board training sessions, such as length of time and when to hold them. This will be discussed at our next Executive Committee meeting.

2022 Performance Contract

Ms. Hebert reminded everyone that last month, Ms. Kleinbub and Ms. Sodipo presented the yearly performance contract plan for the upcoming year to both the board and the public. We are required to submit our plans to DDS by December 1, 2021.

M/S/C “The board moves to approve the 2022 Performance Contract as presented at the October board meeting.” [Perls/Battles] Unanimous. The motion was adopted

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Budget and Finance Report for November 22, 2021 – Dr. Steve Whitgob

Purchase of Service

Regional Centers typically submit a preliminary Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection (PEP) to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This is the basis of Regional Centers’ Purchase of Services projections each fiscal year. The PEP report advises DDS of Regional Centers’ projected expenditures for the current fiscal year and reports any funding insufficiencies in Purchase of Services (POS). The format for submitting the PEP is the same as last year and the first report is due to DDS on December 10th, 2021.

Through the C-1 amendment, RCEB received a total of \$582M in Purchase of Services (POS) funding. Staff completed our preliminary Purchase of Services Expenditure Projection (PEP) for the current fiscal year 2021-22. Based on expenditures through October, we are projecting at this time for NON-CPP POS Expenditures a surplus of \$72M. This surplus is based on allocation through the C-1 amendment, which is a lot more POS funding than we have expected based on the current rates. Our projections did not include the effect of the rate adjustment increases due in April 2022. These will be 25% of the updated rates calculated by the DDS contractors (Burns and Associates). We expect these to be provided in February 2022 which will allow for more accurate POS projections at that time.

That being said, there are several new program expenditures that have impact our POS expenditures for Fiscal Year 21-22, and which are reflected in our PEP report:

- For the caseload growth, RCEB grew by 1,096 net new consumers for the past 12 months.

- State Minimum wage increases annually since 1/1/17 through 1/1/22 continue to impact our Residential, Supported Living Services, Respite, Day Care and some Day programs in Fiscal Year 21-22. Included in this PEP is a \$1.5M projection for the minimum wage increase effective 1/1/22 from \$14 to \$15.
- POS expenditure for new program development in FY 21-22 is projected at \$13M. We believe that the continuing lack of adequate program development to reflect consumer growth and support needs is the basis of this number. We experience a slow expansion of new services as the pandemic continues.
- Also included in this PEP is \$58M Covid-19 related costs due for residential support, daycare, respite due program closures, and other health and safety as the pandemic continues.
- Also included is \$500k of additional expenditures for increased incentives paid for Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) and new incentives in the Paid Internship Program (PIP). Also a higher cost is expected for PIPs because of the new rule which is based on the earnings on the 1,040 hours limit per year for each consumer regardless of the individual's hourly wage, instead of the \$10,400 maximum per year.

Through October 2021, we have expended 28% of the POS budget of \$582M.

When all 21 Regional Centers submit their PEP in early December, we will be able to compare RCEB's POS projections with other Regional Centers' projections. As this is our preliminary PEP with only 4 months of expenditures in base, we will continue to monitor closely and refine our projections as appropriate.

For CPP POS Expenditures, RCEB received preliminarily \$871k for placement costs. We are still pending additional allocation in the C-2 for start-up costs for Community Placement Plan (CPP) and Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) for FY21-22.

Operations

At this time, the Department has not finalized the OPS allocations for our CPP/CRDP. The C-1 did not have any allocation for CPP/CRDP funding.

The Agency preliminarily completed its FY 21-22 budget for Operations for \$55.7M. For this preliminary detailed OPS budget, we added \$1.8M that is expected to be allocated in the C-2 and have presented this budget to the Budget and Finance Committee for review in the October Board meeting.

Through October 2021, we have expended 27%, which is comparable to the 29% for previous year at this time. As this is a preliminary budget, we will continue to monitor and update the budget after receiving the CPP/CRDP operations allocation from DDS, hopefully in the C-2.

The Jim Burton Helping Hand Fund

The Staff would like to provide an update to the Board about how the fund has been spent in FY20-21. The fund received donations of \$88,522 and investment earnings of \$390. As of June 2021, the fund balance is \$704,936.

Activities from July 2020 through June 2021 show a total of \$33,146 were spent: \$21,395 in grants and \$11,751 in loans for rent/lodging, utilities, food, clothing and other miscellaneous. The detailed schedule below shows each total by category for both grants and loans.

Helping Hands allocation (7/1/20 - 6/30/2021)			
	Loans	Grants	total
Rent / Lodging	\$ 10,174	\$ 13,713	\$ 23,887
Utilities	1,188	1,624	2,811
Food Exp	250	1,150	1,400
Clothing	-	-	-
Misc Exp.	139	4,908	5,047
Grand Total	\$ 11,751	\$ 21,395	\$ 33,146

Questions were asked by the board members and addressed by Ms. Nguyen.

DIVERSITY & EQUITY COMMITTEE - Sadia Mumtaz/Nyron Battles

The group met this evening starting with the updates from the sub-committees on goals/target status and included a discussion on how goals are being measured and how they need to be re-assessed. Grant access possibilities were also discussed. Clarity on how this committee and the Self-Determination committee can work together with updates and preventing duplication was also discussed. The next meeting will be on February 28, 2022.

SUPPORTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE - Frank Paré

Mr. Paré updated the board with where the committee left off last month, which was awaiting a sample of one of the brochures to show to the board.

Last month;

The idea of the brochure project would be an overview of the regional center with each age group having a separate brochure. They will also create hyperlinks to the brochures/videos for that particular segment of the population, which will be on our website and serve as an educational tool for both the family and case management.

Mr. Paré shared the two brochure options that the RCEB & Supports & Services created, and was pleased with the results. The two options will be submitted to the board to garner feedback on which concept they prefer along with feedback on them, as they are a work-in-progress.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE [PVAC]: Sister Marygrace Puchac

Sister Marygrace reported that the committee met on November 12th with a very informative presentation on Self-Determination by Jenifer Castaneda, RCEB’s SD Program Specialist. There were also discussions on the rate study and implementation and what the month of April might look like when those changes take effect.

Consumer Advisory Committee [CAC]: Nyron Battles

The CAC met on Monday, November 8th with a presentation from Ron Usac/SCDD on the National Core Indicator [NCI] Survey. Ms. Kleinbub’s report at the meeting focused on service provider rate changes taking effect in April. Also discussed where the COVID booster vaccines and concerns.

Membership Development Committee: Kathy Hebert

BOD Terms

We are pleased to announce that the voting results from the SurveyMonkey is complete. Ms. Hebert thanked both Dr. Steve Whitgob and Brian Blaisch for volunteering to serve their second term of 3 years on the BOD from 1/24/2022 – 2/1 2025.

BOD Officers for 2022

The voting results from the SurveyMonkey for the 2022 Board of Director Officers is as below:

2022 Officers

Kathy Hebert	President
Lilian Ansari	Vice-President
Gerald Tamayo	Treasurer
Dr. Stephen Whitgob	Assistant Treasurer
Renee Perls	Secretary

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

State Budget Status

We are currently in a lull between the budget being signed in June/July and the new budget proposal in January. There has been interesting news from the legislative analyst office, in that there is a large \$31 billion surplus this year. Although some dollars must be put aside in reserves, there will be enough that we will not have to compete with others over funding already planned for 2022/23. This will help with caseload ratios and service provider rate increases in April. However, there will still be a need for more dollars in a number of places due to inflation and other issues, so we are hoping for continued strong support for our service system for the next budget year. On January 10th the Governor is scheduled to release the administration proposals for the FY 2022/23 budget, and we anticipate positive things for our service system. There continues to be concern that young children are falling through the cracks, and a lot of interest with the partnering of our service system, Medi-Cal and other social services.

The East Bay Legislative Coalition [EBLC] will be participating with our partners in a legislative breakfast on January 28th. This will be a great opportunity to voice your support for our service system and to meet with our local legislators in ZOOM Rooms.

Although we received a lot of our funding allocations in the DDS C-1 Contract Amendment, we are awaiting more allocation from DDS for specific new positions, including for Self-Determination, so we are hoping to receive that before the end of this calendar year.

COVID-19 and Re-Opening

Ms. Kleinbub thanked our HR Director, Kiera Swan as well as Ronke Sodipo for working with our bargaining unit on all the intricacies surrounding around the re-opening of our offices. We have been moving forward in some areas. As of November 30th, all of our staff need to be fully vaccinated (2-shots if Pfizer/Moderna or 1-shot if J&J) or be approved for a medical or religious exemption. IF they have an exemption, they must wear their mask at all times and submit to weekly COVID testing. RCEB has less than 5 staff members who fall in the religious exemption category and no medical exemptions. As we come upon the cold winter weather and more people gather indoors, we are hoping that people will be mindful and stay safe during this time.

As far as day programs going back to the way they were pre-COVID, this may not be the reality until possibly next spring. Our transportation system is still limited with passengers needing to sit distanced from each other and our service providers are still finding it challenging to hire enough staff to cover for those clients who want to return to the programs. We will probably see some transition from the alternative services that we know today. We expect some will return in-person, and others deciding on a different way to spend their day.

Initiatives

Rate Reform Implementation- There's been lots of talk about how the April rate increases will be implemented. It will be a very complicated and laborious task for regional centers. Burns & Associates has been working on the rate reform and in February, they will develop new rates for each area based on current labor and transportation costs, among other factors. It is not until then, when we will know what the proposed rate will be based on current dollars. Then we will know what the 25% increase that most providers will get will be. It's a very complicated process full of uncertainty. The April increase is an increase to the rates but there will be other changes in the future. One of the changes is that some service codes will no longer exist and people will need to move to other service codes. Program rates will eventually change to hourly vs. daily rates. The preparation work that regional centers need to do will be ongoing as the changes continue.

Regional Center Performance Incentives- Although we had a performance contract that was approved this year for next year's performance goals, we anticipate some measure will change in July. The NCI data that we went over earlier this evening, may be one of the measurements as well as other data that can be measured at this point in time. There are dedicated work groups that meet monthly; one being a Performance Incentive group for regional centers. We think that some of the performance incentive dollars may be tied to our local communities, so we will be able to make choices on what we use those dollars to develop. There is a lot of work being done at the State level that is still rolling

Board Training Plan 2022- This will be due to DDS by December 15th and was submitted to you in your board packets. If you feel that there should be any changes/inclusions, please let us know. We are also submitting the training that the board received during the year, which includes the ARCA trainings and our July training.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabby Romabiles, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council [ACDDC]

Dec 8: Alameda County DD Council Board Meeting 9:30-12:00 with a presentation on self-advocacy as well as one on *Disability Rights & Justice* presented by Center for Independent Living [CIL] representatives.

Second Tuesdays/month: Committee on Aging- this is a joint effort with Contra Costa's DD Council. We are looking for parents and consumers to join and discuss issues of aging including planning ahead, recreation & retirement programs, housing, transportation, and more. For more information, please contact Marianne Iversen at Marianne@dsca.org or (925)362-8660 x 103.

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

Nov 29 & Dec 6: This will be a two-day training on Person-Centered Thinking hosted by the Adaptive Learning Center [ALC]. This is an in-person training; proof of vaccination is required. The cost is \$75 with scholarship opportunities available. Space is limited. To register contact Becky Wieringa at bwieringa@alc-ca.org.

Jan 26: Contra Costa County DD Council Board Meeting 10:00-12:00 with a presentation from Contra Costa Health Services on COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Contra Costa. CCDDC will also be starting mental health service in the county.

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

National Core Indicator- The data from the in-person interviews during the pandemic will be collected; including from self-advocates/families, and we are either ahead of schedule or on-time with our deadlines. The next cycle will be the mailing of surveys in early January, to three categories; adult consumer who lives at home, a family guardian who lives outside of the home (ex. ILS/SLS), family who has a child <18 y/o living at home with the family.

COVID-19 boosters- The feedback received is that our clients are able to schedule and receive booster shots at a conveniently located place.

Nov 29: This is the next Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee meeting

Nov 30: SCDD, Bay Area Council meeting

Dec 1: This is the next Regional Advisory Committee meeting 6:30-9:00pm with an overview of National Core Indicators (NCI), this year's NCI rollout, and how community partners and community members can review and utilize the data for advocacy work and systemic change.

Dec 15: This will be the next Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat at 11:00. This occurs every third Wed/month.

ARCA REPORT: Lisa Kleinbub

Ms. Kleinbub stated that ARCA is gearing up with the new legislative season and the Governor's budget in January. ARCA will be holding a webinar on December 9th from 3:00-4:00 on employment for the entire community. RCEB Employment Specialist, Rose Casarez will speak about how regional center Employment Specialists support competitive integrated employment opportunities, the Paid Internship Program as a stepping stone to new work, and how the Competitive Integrated Employment Incentive Program helps promote meaningful work options.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Virtual Meetings on January 24, 2022
Supports & Services will be at 5:30 PM
Board Meeting will be at 7:00 PM