

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes February 11, 2022**

Members Present: Sister Marygrace, East Bay Services; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Fruc Menchavez, RCEB; Chase Kalbaugh, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Gabby Romabiles, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa County DD Council; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS & ILS; Amber Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Cecilia Connolly, the Arc of the East Bay; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Christine Ibia, Aveanna Healthcare; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Darrice Tillery; Debbie, Clausen House; Doreen Khan, Sutro Home – Shepherd House; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Erika Gonzalez, 24 Hour Home Care; Eva Muñoz, Good Samaritan RCF; Jaynette Underhill-Levingston, Clausen House; Joe Cashel, Las Trampas; Joel Zdarko, Maxim Healthcare Services; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Karma Sherpa, HCEB; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Lisa Gonzales, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Lynn Galliano, DABS, Inc.; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now Bay Area; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Robert Jo, Agape Care Home; Samuel Kim, We Thrive; Shelley Crayton, Family Support Services; Sylvia Yeh, Friends of Children with Special Needs.

49 participants total

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order by Leslie Visbal at 9:33 a.m. with one change to the agenda – Gabby Romabiles will report in place of Ben Chen who is not in attendance today.

Inclusion Time:

Leslie Visbal invited those in attendance with positive news to share to introduce themselves and start the meeting with good news.

Michael Minton opened with a ringing of the temple bell from his dining room.

Dan Hogue shared that Las Trampas has been working toward a rebuild of their campus, and from 10AM-2PM on April 8 will be the opening for the reconstruction process.

Sister Marygrace shared news from a visit to Southeast Asian Friendship Village, where they were using red wax to create flowers for a Lunar New Year tree – such a great expression of culture and creativity!

Sylvia Yeh celebrated Geneva Ziaoure's return to PVAC! Welcome back, Geneva!

Lisa Gonzales wished everyone a Happy National Make A Friend Day!

Amanda Eicher shared that NIAD Art Center is celebrating 40 years in Richmond at the upcoming fundraiser, Win Win 10, and will forward an invite to PVAC members to the courtyard reception!

Lisa Kleinbub thanked Leslie for making space for the positive things happening, since on Zoom we don't have the chance to share those good things we'd usually exchange at the coffee table or when sitting down at PVAC meetings in-person. Lisa's most joyful thing in life are her grandchildren, ages 3 and 4 months, and how much they are growing and changing – so inspiring to watch how fast things change for them and to know we as adults can also change and grow.

Approval of January 14, 2022 minutes: M/Donna Feingold; S/Ramsay Mashy; passed unanimously.

Reports

RCEB/State - Lisa Kleinbub

COVID-19

- Pleased to see that COVID cases are finally slowing down – from 872 for the entire pandemic on 1/5/22; now standing at 1287 – an increase of 47% over 6 weeks.
- While RCEB had seen so few positive cases in children (1 or 2 cases under the age of 3) in the beginning of the pandemic, in the past week, 30 cases have been documented, which is significant for our group.

EVV

- At state level, EVV is rolling out for providers of attendant services. The emphasis right now is not on enrolling individual people served, but really providers needing to be enrolled in the system. This is how EVV enrollment is measured at the Federal level, and how states will avoid Federal penalties.

Social Rec

- After last RCEB Board meeting, RCEB's Social Rec, Camping, Nonmedical Therapy policy sent to DDS for review. RCEB will function under draft policy until approval is finalized.
- A community meeting will be held on 2/11/22 at 1PM as an opportunity to think about ways to offer Social Rec especially in underserved communities – providers are invited and RCEB welcomes ideas for activities.

Equity

- Annual RCEB POS and equity report coming up in March; 8 meetings will be scheduled by Jairo, RCEB's equity specialist. Community is invited to give feedback on improving equity and analyzing existing data – this year, there will be a special emphasis on Social Recreation.

Legislative

- Last Wednesday, state budget hearings reviewed many issues relevant to I/DD system with large panels; Asm. Arambula very gracious in listening, asking important questions – seemed very interested in implementing 50% of rate increase earlier, asking for more details from DDS. DDS noted they still have not been approved for April increase; further changes will require further Federal discussion/approval.
- Lots of legislative concern around delays in return to services and fulfillment of case management positions.
- **Mike Pereira** asked: Social Rec meeting at 1PM – will it be recorded? **Lisa:** Yes – will be posted on RCEB's website in the next couple of days.
- **Dan Hogue** observed that DDS has not been helpful in supporting providers to get signed into EVV. SanData and DDS are not giving correct instructions, and providers aren't able to enter information. Will it affect whether providers can bill for services? **Steve Robinson** noted that it is not connected to billing through RCEB.

RCEB Staff Update – Steve Robinson

- Hearing about many issues with EVV – a question has come up about providing Medicaid numbers – this is not required for California providers; instead use the UCI number for individuals served.
- Because there are so many questions, RCEB is recommending to email EVV@DDS.gov, and office hours will begin this month on February 17th from 5:30-6:30PM. Office hours and EVV meeting times are posted at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/>. As this is not an RCEB process, unfortunately RCEB can't provide support for the process.
- **Sylvia Yeh** asked if RCEB can set up a meeting for regional providers. **Steve** responded that the office hours above are set up for this purpose.
- Rate Increase Implementation – RCEB has sent out over 1,000 files with rate increase information. If Burns and Associates doesn't receive verified files, they will not provide a new rate and increases will not be assigned. Please make sure to return these files!

- Re: Social Rec – providers are invited to attend the meeting this afternoon and share ideas and interest – RCEB is tasked with increasing services and POS in this area and are actively looking for ways to provide vendors.
- **Donna Feingold** mentioned a survey on oversight and accountability from the DS Task Force that will be sent to all providers with DSPs this spring. Will it be discussed in PVAC? **Lisa** mentioned it will be discussed at the March PVAC meeting.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** mentioned that there has been a change in SSI and SSA payments for those living in Licensed Residential Care– not exactly the same changes as those receiving SSDI or SSAID. Those who only receive SSDI or SSAID without SSI are receiving slightly less money than they need to cover their Board and Care, and some are ending up with less P&I money than they need. These individuals will need to apply for SSI or for MediCal to cover the cost of their MediCare premiums and this will bring them up to the level of payments. If you are a residential provider with participants in this situation, please contact case manager or case supervisor; RCEB will likely need to provide gap funding to resolve it.
- Steve mentioned he also wanted to end on a positive note, commending Mike Minton coordinating distribution of testing kits with licensing, reaching all residential providers in the East Bay, not just those covered by Licensing. Thanks to Mike Minton for this successful outreach and coordination!

RCEB Staff Update – Mike Minton

- State of California provided test kits to Board and Care Homes, since no visitors could enter homes without testing. Now that mandate has changed. If visitor is fully vaccinated, verification of vaccination is all that is needed. For outdoor visits, this is not needed.
- As numbers go down, we will begin to see licensing adjust regulations; however, we don't expect to see
- 2/25/22 is the projected date for HCBS grants this year; may be late.
RCEB will share this information ASAP once it's released.
- For Board and Care in Oakland, Nicole has moved to a different position in QA; Mike will make introductions to new staff once everyone has settled into their positions.
- **Dan Hogue** commended Steve Robinson and Jacob Hulthage on converting hourly rates for SLS to submit to DDS. **Steve** responded that he is so appreciative of Jacob's work and that providers will be able to bill under the hourly rate.
Dan asked whether they will implement the hourly rate; Steve responded that come April the hourly rate with 20% rate increase will likely be the new approach.
- **Sylvia Yeh** asked whether the new rate model had been created for transportation; **Steve** responded that they were able to fill out the data for this.

RCEB Board – Sister Marygrace

- Sister Marygrace also thanked Mike and Steve for their work this month on testing and rate increases. It seems like we may be moving toward peaceful tolerance and an embrace for what is with the circumstances of what is.
- January 24 was the most recent RCEB Board Meeting.
- In the Public Comment, Families United for Equality declared that there has been unfair treatment of persons of color by Regional Center, and that there will be a march on the Regional Center on February 16.
- Sister Marygrace stated that from her perspective, she sees that RCEB, and Lisa Kleinbub have an earnest, sincere interest in understanding the issues and addressing them.

Contract Approvals

- Samuel Kim, in attendance at PVAC, is the Executive Director at We Thrive for SLS Services – will be ready to serve people with behavioral challenges, to provide independence to direct their behavior; one goal would be to develop different terminology around this. Contract approved to serve 15 individuals in Alameda County.
- Additional Office Space approved for Concord RCEB Offices - 11,000 additional sq feet to provide services.

- Services and Supports Committee – Working on brochures to provide clarity to families and participants on what kind of services are offered. First brochure coming on 2/21/22!
- Community Advisory Committee report on Fire Safety, Emergency Measures (Phone Systems, Supplies, Meds).
- RCEB Board thanks Chloe Page for her service on the board over the past three years, as one of the youngest board members, sharing perspectives and a deep commitment to the work.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee – Sheraden Nicholau

- Introducing Gabriela Soval, recently of La Familia, served bay area families in a number of capacities. Excited to welcome Gabriela and expand capacity at SCDD to do more trainings and technical assistance!
- Updates and items for the calendar:
 - Bay Area RAC meeting with local legislative offices – this month hearing updates on pandemic impact on RCEB services, IHSS, School District services. 2/23 from 630p-9p.
Info and packet posted here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
 - Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting 2/15
 - Statewide Self-Advocacy Network March 9-10
 - Legislative and Public Policy Committee 3/17
 - Self-Advocates Advisory Committee 3/21
 - Council meeting 3/22
 - Those and other committee calendars can be found here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilcalendar/>
- National Core Indicators: Current cycle for National Core Indicators – surveys are being mailed out but if questions, preferences to receive in different language, reach out to SCDD office with corrections.
- Emails coming up on various listening sessions, stakeholder committee meetings around bills for upcoming legislative cycle re: conservatorship, independent living, phase-out of sub-minimum wage.
- Reminding providers that free PPE is still available from SCDD.
- Working on three small, independent pilots to get testing out to individuals with I/DD; some false starts re: availability; one pilot is active providing test ordering to providers. There is a ton of paperwork; registration and information testing is extensive along with results data-gathering.
- Another pilot is on the horizon! As tests received, distribution is at the discretion of providers to families, individuals, and staff. Please stay tuned and thanks for patience – was needed months ago but looking forward to getting this moving ASAP.

DD Councils –

- Alameda County – Gabby Romabiles
 - COVID updates – data metrics have been met to lift most indoor masking mandates 2/16 in alignment with the state; however, masks still required in K-12 education, congregate care settings, and residential facilities.
Alameda County Press Release: ELEVEN BAY AREA HEALTH OFFICERS TO LIFT MOST INDOOR MASK MANDATES ON FEBRUARY 16 - <https://covid-19.acgov.org/covid19-assets/docs/press/joint-release-2022.02.09.pdf>
 - COVID vaccines and boosters remain the best protection for COVID illness and mortality.
To sign up for a first, second, or third vaccine dose or a booster through Alameda County, please visit: <https://my.primary.health/l/alco-vax-signup> or call 510-208-4VAX (510-208-4829).
 - Every third Thursday: Creating a dementia-friendly environment, remaining safe at home, other topics.
 - Please contact Marianne Iversen at Marianne@dscba.org or 925-362-8660 x103 to join The Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area and the Alzheimer's Association virtual support group every

3rd Thursday: creating a dementia-friendly environment, remaining safe at home, other topics to be discussed.

- JFCS's My Queer Valentine coming up on 2/16. RSVP by emailing Ryan Berman at: RyanB@jfcs.org
- JFCS Workshop Series: Future Planning for your Adult Child with Disabilities - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-planning-for-your-adult-child-with-disabilities-workshop-series-tickets-239690429527>
- Register for La Familia's Latino Equity Summit at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqduqprj0tGtTHD0pnjauNv1NQpbEgv1z3/12/22>
- Register for Congreso Familiar's presentation on Immigration Opportunities for Parents with Special Needs Children here: https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oNa9MThoReviGPMbk8j70A
- 3/15/22 Vendor fair for adult services – registration to come
- Contra Costa County – Vi Ibarra
 - Through the pandemic, CCHHealth's officer has been Dr. Chris Farnitaro – he is retiring this month, and a new health officer has been appointed: Dr. Ori Civelli. Additionally deputy health officers have expanded.
 - Updates from County Health at monthly meetings continue, and likely will see a rotation of these health officers.
 - In CCC, the transition task force created an adult services guide as a tool to identify providers in Contra Costa County to include RC services, but also more general services like Family Resource Center, College resources. One year in, updates are being made – providers may be contacted by members of the Task Force for updates; heads up that this may be a community member, school district staff – please do respond, and please reach out with new information if it's the first time a provider is being included. For addition of your program to the Transition Task Force Adult Services Resource Guide, contact vi.ibarra@cchealth.org.
 - Next CC DD Council board meeting will be 2/23 at 10AM; presentation from the Hume Center starting up services for individuals with dual diagnosis in Contra Costa County.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Mike Pereira

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual legislative event. Those who were able to invite DSPs and self-advocates really helped make a great event, and legislative offices appreciated being able to connect with constituents.
- Uche Uwahemu will be moving on from his role at Asm. Wicks' office and will be the legislative liaison with Center for Elders' Independence – we look forward to being in touch with Uche in his new role.
- For folks not able to attend legislative hearing, a deeper dive:
 - Chairman Arambula opened with comments about why it would make sense to accelerate rate increases. Has tremendous implications for our sector.
 - Services for blind and visually impaired.
 - Early Start budget.
 - Lisa Kleinbub appearing on panel on communication assessments for people who are Deaf and hard of hearing.
 - SB 639 – \$8.4Mil to develop a phaseout of work activity programs. SCDD coordinating stakeholder engagement for this bill.
 - Implementation of rate study the big ticket item this year. Healthy, engaged conversation with lots of public comment, and favor for moving increases forward at a quicker pace. Encouraging the group to reach out to Budget subcommittee #1.
 - Security in the DD system.
 - Implementation of the COVID directives that came out last year.
 - HCBS Final rule compliance.

- Self-Determination – where initiatives are pushing forward.
 - Process around Social Rec with 1PM call – has been shut down for almost a couple of decades – well-executed point from Amy Westlin; vibrant commitment to restoration of services.
Info for the 1:00 meeting is here: <https://www.rceb.org/event/community-meeting-update/>
 - Senate budget subcommittee on 2/22 at 2PM.
- From **Lisa Gonzales**: If you're interested in watching previous DDS Taskforce meetings recordings, check here: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/ds-task-force/>.
 - Big developments include [California Supplemental Sick Leave](#), signed into law this past week.
 - This is it – our opportunity to voice community needs and make sure we are heard as the budget is taking shape.

Day Service Providers – Mike Pereira

- Day Providers continue to meet Fridays at 11AM, Troubleshoot Group Wednesdays at 2PM. All are welcome – not just Day Providers, and we welcome service providers sharing information from different perspectives.

HireAble – Donna Feingold

- Great presentation last month from agency in Fresno providing work programs within its RC-funded programs.
- Next meeting 2/28 with presentation from PathPoint in Southern California re: partnership with Chevron around neurodiversity hiring. Started with target of 1% and moved to 2% neurodiverse hiring and have expanded from Southern California to Southern + Northern California.
- Work Incentive Planning – often a big barrier for families and individuals served; HireAble is now vendored to help strategize around SSI and other benefits
- Exciting to see local, state, and national attention on employment! Glad to be doing this work at such an exciting time. donna@hireable.org

Membership – Marcie Hodges

- A reminder to place your name and organization in the chat; once attendance at three consecutive meetings has been achieved, PVAC will note attendees as members. Please reach out to Marcie with questions. Marcie acknowledged that Leslie's co-chair position has expired and that it would be great to hear from interested Co-Chairs for PVAC! Please email marciehodge@msn.com.
- Open positions for PVAC: Alameda/Work Program, Day Services, Transportation, Contra Costa/Employment

Announcements

- **Mike Pereira** noted that conversion of BART>Clipper for individuals with I/DD is difficult with RTC cards. Mike is looking for people to gather and problem-solve around purchasing public transportation tickets, vouchers, and cards.
- April 8, 10-2: Celebrating Las Trampas new campus!
- March 5, 2-3:30: NIAD's Annual Fundraiser, Win Win 10!
- Question from **Darice Tillery** about continuation of Alternative Services past March – from **Lisa**: no word on continuation at this time.
- Next PVAC meeting on Zoom is Friday, March 11 at 9:30AM.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:51 AM

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary