



SUPPORTS & SERVICES COMMITTEE NOTES

Date: April 24, 2023

Start Time: 5:30 PM

End Time: 7:00 PM

Location of This Meeting: Regional Center of the East Bay

- Virtual
- 500 Davis Street, San Leandro
- 1320 Willow Pass Road, Concord

ATTENDEES:

Staff Present: Lisa Kleinbub, Ronke Sodipo, Chris Hanson, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez

Guests: Wendell James, Daniel Hogue, Lilian Piruzan Ansari, Frank Paré, Diversity Improvement Department, Ben Chen, Maria Ramirez, Leatrice Tomlinson, Families United for Equity, Zachery Wheeler, Daniel Hogue, Dominique, Ann Pringle, Denise Bradley, Brian Blaisch

Note Taker: Cristal Jimenez-Hernandez

AGENDA:

Frank Paré

- The agenda topic regarding a ByLaw change was brought up in regards to contracts for approvals to be discussed prior to the BOD meeting, but that was not feasible since we need more board members attending this S&S meeting.
- Lilian expressed interest in starting an independent Parent Advisory Board, in order to give parent advocates an opportunity to have a greater voice in receiving support services.

Lilian Piruzan Ansari

- Lilian recently attended a meeting where there was a representative from South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC). They discussed the project they have been working on called "Parent Advisory Committee," which is a focus group

- that meets quarterly and includes ten representatives from various groups and one Regional Center staff member. This focus group provides guidance and advises the board on what the main issues are. They also work on projects related to new materials and have an app where families have access to their records and are able to communicate directly with case managers.
- The members are representatives from different committees. The different leaders bring different issues to the board. For example, what works and doesn't work in the app to the parents' perspective.
- Lilian would like to propose this project to RCEB and if we can move forward to implement something like this.

Ronke Sodipo, Lisa Kleinbub, Leatrice Tomlinson, Daniel, Zack Wheeler

- There was consensus that this idea is good, and may be something we can do in supporting, but have a lot of questions:
If this would be for all ages, the difference between regional centers, what the committee structure will be, would this be an additional committee, are family members represented by other people, who would bring it to the board's attention and would like to know the outcomes based on their work.
- Lisa stated that if this is something we want and how we can make it happen.

Zack Wheeler

- Zack stated that these are things that the Families United for Equity does as a non-profit. Black and brown consumers are homeless and are not being heard and not being seen, and these kinds of issues are some of the things we would love to bring up to the board of RCEB.

Frank Paré

- In regards to Zach's question within the regional center ecosystem, would it be something that we will be addressing?

Lisa Kleinbub:

- In addition to what Zack addressed, is if there are unidentified people in other places that haven't been identified in our system? This is something we can focus on by doing outreach.

Leatrice Tomlinson

- Adding to what Zach and Lisa said, homeless consumers have had their cases deactivated due to being unreachable via letters because the client at that time was homeless and/or had drug problems. We need RCEB to take a look into this problem.

Lisa Kleinbub:

- One of the requirements is that we meet with people to complete an IPP, but if we are not able to communicate with the client, we have to deactivate the case.

Frank Paré

- What happens if they don't have the way to communicate?

Lisa Kleinbub

- As long as we are making contact in some way with people, we keep it active.

Maria Ramirez

- I would like to go back to the project being done by the SCLARC. Please provide us with more information about this project, in order for us to be able to evaluate and give a response back. Also, does RCEB have a history of having a parental committee?

Lisa Kleinbub

- We do not have a history of having a parental committee, but we have many other committees that support families. For example, La Familia Counseling Services. We would need to look at how we can implement a project like that with and some of the parameters of RCEB.

Frank Paré

- Lilian, let's propose to bring this to the board.

Zack Wheeler

- Zack stated that sometimes our consumers do not want our services, next day they want our services. Consumers inactive their cases for years and all of the sudden come back.

Ann Pringle

- Ann prefers not to have another committee that is overseen by RCEB. Regional center needs to meet our agency as we are more involved in the community like in the churches.

Leatrice Tomlinson

- My primary concerns are about populations that do not have parent advocates and just want to ensure that whatever is done, that equity is considered at all levels.

Frank Paré

- What are the ways that Regional Center is now looking at in terms on addressing racism and inequity?

Lisa Kleinbub

- We are definitely taking steps to look at this, in particular our policy on purchase of services. I met with Families United for Equity, who has a proposal of ideas to reach out to this community. We are limited on how we can fund things and we have to work together on how we can fund projects like this great idea. There is a population that has been underserved and definitely needs more support and assistance on our part.

Frank Paré

- These meetings are taking too much time and seems to be counterproductive. How can we address this? Clearly there is a lot to talk about regarding homeless population and the cases being deactivated for this reason.

Lisa Kleinbub

- We need to reduce our caseloads in homeless population.
- Having a vendor that specializes in homelessness would help to reduce the caseloads.

Frank Paré

- What does being successful means?

Dominique

- A measurement of success in the capacity on serving the homelessness is unhoused people with developmental disabilities that find shelter with vendors that have openings, and the clients are receiving services in an equitable manner.

Lisa Kleinbub

- Success is to have a way to serve quickly and have a liaison or collaborate with other people, however, some people will not want our help as they don't want to live in a shelter.

Wendell James

- That is correct. As some of them do not want to follow the rules.

Zack Wheeler

- We need to go to the tents and pick up clients, as housing is important.

Frank Paré

- What are the action items to move to the solutions?

Daniel Hogue

- We need to negotiate with DDS for funding and get the support we need.

Chris Hanson

- People that are eligible for MediCal and Medicare who are also homeless, can be eligible for Enhanced Case Management Services from Alameda County. Our case managers can reach out to work with the county short term. This will provide us with additional sources.
- This type of partnering could be the most helpful in addressing on this issues.

Frank Paré

- Does that apply to individuals that have been deactivated?

Chris Hanson

- If the client reactivates the case, we might be able to help them.

Lisa Kleinbub

- If MediCal management care plan finds the person needing the services they can make them eligible, but we do not do that.

Frank Paré

- It would be great to set up another meeting to address this topic and be able to bring more ideas as well as to find out what is the support from DDS.

Lisa Kleinbub

- Lisa agrees and will set up another meeting to discuss this further, via using a poll with different times to allow people to select best time.

Ann Pringle

- Are there any emergency funds for consumers that are not able to go back home and have been living in homeless encampments?

Lisa Kleinbub

- We have some helper funds which the consumer needs to fill out an application form.
- Suggest to reach out to the case manager for more information on how to apply.

Leatrice Tomlinson

- Leatrice suggested to have one last step before deactivating the case to notify client in another way that the case will be deactivated, especially on court cases.

Lisa Kleinbub

- We will look at our forms.

Frank Paré

- This requires additional training for case managers.
- Would like to know what system RCEB is implementing.

Ronke Sodipo

- We will review the process as it is very important for RCEB to keep in contact with clients.

Frank Paré

- Will have a meeting with Lilian to discuss more about the SCLARC project.

Meeting Adjourned