

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, September 8, 2023**

Members Present: Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks (Co-Chair); Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home (Membership); Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center (Secretary); Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Will Sanford, SC & CS.

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Chase Ryan Kalbaugh, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Mike Minton, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Alicia Curran, Compass SLS and ILS; Amy Simons, A Brighter View; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Antonio Navarro, Community Life Skills Agency; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group; Candice Elton, Thrive Support Services; Carlos Cienfuegos, Sentry Living Solutions; Cecilia Gutierrez, ACBH Specialty Services; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Cindy Smith, FUFU; Danelia Changeux, Thrive Support Services; Danon Jenkins, Futures Explored; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Eddie Esquivez, California Respite Association; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Erika Gonzalez, 24 Hour Home Care; Eva J. Muñoz, Good Samaritan ARF; Gloria G.; Gwendolyn Captain, Visions Adult Day Program; Heather Manes, HATCH; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jennifer Carper, Arcadia Home Care & Staffing; Joanne Lau, DHTI; John Paul; Juan Velasquez Jr., Pathway to Choices; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Kelly Derr, Pacific Homecare Services; Kipi Iscandari, A and K Residential Homes; Lindsey Dyba, Futures Explored; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Maria Theresa Rivera, Golden Aurora Healthcare, Inc.; Maureen DeCoste, Ability Now; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Megan Larsen, Communication Works; Merfe Bailey, A Step Above; Nicole Doubly, RES Success; Pamela, One Step Closer, Inc.; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer; Ronnel DeLa Cruz, Rotu, Inc.; Sister Marygrace Puchac, East Bay Services; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community; Tiffany Munoz, Enjoy Life More.

66 participants total

Call to Order:

Geneva Carlos-Valentino called the meeting to order at 9:34AM and announced that quorum had been reached. She noted the start of Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month, California Admission Day, National Deaf Awareness Month, celebrating the culture and heritage unique to these communities. Geneva encouraged the fostering of understanding and celebration of disability culture and community.

Minutes Approval:

With the correction of the date on the July minutes, Jamie Renton moved to approve the minutes, and Ramsay Mashy seconded. June minutes were not approved in July due to lack of quorum; now moving to approve are Ramsay Mashy/M; Jamie Renton/S.

Both sets of minutes were approved unanimously.

Action Item:

PVAC falls on Veteran's Day observed in November; motion to reschedule meeting date to November 17th. Jamie Renton/M; Donna Feingold/S.

Reports:

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Lisa Kleinbub** acknowledged uncertainty on aspects of the budget (AB121) and the hope that everyone found time to rest this summer.
- **AB121** included clarification on Social Recreation, Provisional Eligibility expanded to children ages 0-2.
- **AB138** excluded items expected for action – new items included in Addis Bill 1147 have been wrapped into AB138.
- **Addis Bill** now a two-year bill due to Public Records Act section making almost all non-confidential information available to the public. Regional Centers concerned about time, resources needed to provide this transparency, so the two-year bill continues debate on this topic.
- **Addis Bill** also includes STAR Homes being converted into ICF model to offer round the clock nursing.
- **Aligning race/ethnicity data** with federal Medicaid categories, which provide more depth to how people identify. Requirement to update race/ethnicity at age 18 to allow for self-identification by young adults around transition age. Expecting similar updates to information on gender identity and sexual orientation.
- **AB138 includes statewide standardization** for IPP templates, respite assessments, intake processes, vendor applications and requirements.
- **DDS charged with identifying generic resources** and defining what this means; identifying common resources statewide and ensuring generic resources are available in all areas and zip codes. Expecting DDS Directives and Summaries to further define details and processes.
- **RCEB Board has embarked on strategic planning process** with Helen Sanderson and Associates who are providing consulting on person-centered planning and supports statewide. Broad community survey is forthcoming and elicits feedback on where resources and efforts should be directed within RCEB's catchment area and system.
- **New RC Performance Measures** tied to dollars include Employment, establishing information on people served/families re: language; required to contract for Cultural Humility Training for all RC staff.
- **Circle Up will provide RCEB Cultural Humility and Equity Training** over next 12 months – focus groups begin today with service providers, to share information with Circle Up trainers. Also gathering with Service Coordinators and families, people served.
- **Planning in place for implicit bias training** for case managers and intake services managers, as well as vendors involved in intake processes. A vendor has been identified for this training, and trainings will start later this year.
- **A note to those seeking responses from Case Managers** – after going through the supervisor chain of command, reach out for Adults and transition-age youth: Chris Hanson; children: Lindsey Meninger. Making progress in hiring; however, new positions are being granted by DDS which must be filled, and which do result in promotions to new positions. Also training associate case managers to step into case management positions and other innovative ways to bring people into open positions.

Regional Center Staff Reports – Steve Robinson, Mike Minton

- **POS for Supported Living** now in Sandis – a long process which RCEB hopes will speed up POSs making their way to accounting. Streamlined process means Jacob Hulthage will only review 2:1 staffing; other SLS requests will be reviewed by Case Manager and Supervising Case Manager per ID team recommendations.
- **Standardization of IPP, Vendor Packets, Vendorization Processes** – will be available via Sandis later this year; lots more work to be done, DDS is still taking input on how to standardize but hopefully heading toward an easier process.
- **RCEB has converted Vendor Packets to DocuSign** to ease process, improve filing and efficiency on all sides. Comments in the chat cheered this change.
- **Hireable August Meeting** included RCEB and DoR presentation including Quality Incentive Program and Employment Incentive Payments. Providers are eligible to apply for incentive payments starting with fifth consumer remaining employed for 30 days. Questions regarding whether these five clients must be within

fiscal year? Fifth client could be within a two-year period – for the duration of the incentive period, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024. **Will Sanford** asked about people hired starting in June 2024, finishing 30 days in July – these new hires would technically not qualify.

- **Rate Implementation** – no new updates since July; still waiting for DDS final list of service codes. Many remaining questions, including whether service code switches require new vendor numbers, subsequently requiring new POS?
- **John Paul** asked if services are community-based, how hourly vs. daily services would affect transportation? **Steve Robinson** replied that for day programs with daily rates, there is a lot of advocacy around not switching to hourly, and it may not happen. As far as transportation, there is a wide array of variation between per-trip, mileage, etc – however, changes should not affect transportation POS. **John Paul** asked what would constitute a trip, and **Steve Robinson** replied drop-off/pick-up is a trip.
- **Will Sanford** raised the question of behavior management and that there may not be enough RBAs with certification to fulfill the need. He also mentioned re: medical management, having 50% of individuals in that setting, how to factor this in, to make sure folks can receive appropriate supports. Ability to recruit for these services is tough and these changes will make it much harder. **Steve Robinson** concurred, and **Will Sanford** responded; **Lisa Kleinbub** added that there is commitment to looking at comparable skills for applicants and working through this more carefully, treating the goal of having all staff certified as somewhat of a placeholder.
- **Sylvia Yeh** asked about the 880-Transportation service code; will it go away along with 055? **Steve Robinson** responded it would not.
- **Mike Minton** added the current COVID reporting protocol into the chat. Because it's not reportable to RC's anymore, data isn't current on COVID cases at RCs but numbers are rising!
 - **Community Care Licensing:** Licensed Agencies only have to report COVID outbreaks to CCL when there are three or more cases in a home or program in a seven-day period. This number 3 includes both consumers and staff. **Call the main number for all reporting 844-LET US NO (844-538-8766)**
 - **Alameda County Health Department** for Licensed Homes, FHAs, ICFs, and Licensed Day Programs: For updated reporting guidelines/directions: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/reporting-requirements#ltcf>
 - If you are a licensed home (CCF and ICF) use the Long-Term Care, Skilled Nursing and Adult Day Program tab.
 - If you are a Day Program use the Long-Term Care, Skilled Nursing and Adult Day Program tab.
 - If you are a respite or childcare provider use Schools, Childcare, etc.
 - **To request PPE from the County:** <https://alameda-county-emergency-medical-services-agency.myshopify.com/account/login>
- **Interviewing now** for RFP re: Technical Assistance Teams for HCBS Compliance – Fruc Menchavez on vacation and returning next week to begin interviews.
- **Resuming quarterly meetings for SLS community post-COVID;** looking for Tuesday/Thursday afternoon slot. Geneva Carlos-Valentino recommended holding it away from billing time.
- **Antonia Navarro** asked about incentive payments for Staff Stability Survey participation. **Lisa Kleinbub** responded that they are not yet available; estimating this fall they will arrive.
- **JC Velasquez** asked about ILS rate adjustments, and **Lisa Kleinbub** responded that they will start in January.

Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue

- **No Board Meeting** in August.
- **July training for RCEB Board** on operations, programs, internal processes and procedures, with a tour of the RCEB facility in-person and remotely. Board feedback was that training was extremely helpful.
- **Strategic Planning** process is underway as **Lisa Kleinbub** mentioned above.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau

- Press Conference to announce **Federal Office of Health and Human Services updates to Rehabilitation Act, Section 504 on disability discrimination** – first civil rights legislation preventing disability discrimination for

any program receiving federal funding, including hospitals, health providers, child welfare systems. One of several federal actions requiring compliance by states covering medical treatment, values assessment methods, child welfare (placements, removal, reunification, parenting, adoption), web and mobile accessibility, better access to medical equipment in health and human services – includes ADA language into Section 504.

<https://www.hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/disability/section-504-rehabilitation-act-of-1973/fact-sheet/index.html>

- State Council and other partners prioritizing advocacy around employment, resulting in the opening of California's Employment First Office under Department of Health and Human Services per AB-121. Kicks off in January 2024, at \$1M/year, permanently funded to create more accountability around employment first. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB121
- Pre-Work around AB-1663 legislating supported decision-making. Technical Assistance Program provides grant money to be leveraged toward substantial systems change in key areas: Health care, Judicial, Financial, Services. Community Forums coming up, followed by statewide grant opportunities.
- Next Regional Advisory Committee at Ed Roberts Campus in person and via Zoom: Next Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting, 9/27, hybrid, 530p: <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>
- Self-Advocates Advisory Committee Meeting, 9/18: <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/january-2023-saac-meeting/2023-09-18/>
- State Council Meeting, 9/19: <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/2023-scdd-council-meeting/2023-09-19/>
- Statewide Training, : How to testify and influence public policy, 9/25 10a – 12p: <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/scdd-statewide-training-strategies-for-systemic-change-2023-09-25/>
- Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat, 9/27, 11a – 12p: <https://scdd.ca.gov/event/california-statewide-self-advocacy-chat/2023-09-27/>

Alameda County DD Council Report – Ben Chen

- Alameda County Planning Efforts: AC Council on Aging preparing CWAP – County Wide Area Plan for older adults; hoping to include both older consumers in IDD system and their families. Alameda County Area Agency on Aging County Wide Area Plan Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ACCWAP24-28>
Additional Languages and information about printed copies of the CWAP available on their website: <https://www.alamedacountysocialservices.org/our-services/Seniors-and-Disabled/Area-Agency-on-Aging/Planning/Planning>
- Alameda County Emergency Operations Plan Public Comment: <http://acgov.org/government/emergency-operations-plan.htm>
- PrepareU Agency Emergency Preparedness - Tuesday September 12th @ 11:30AM <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vd-6pgD0sGdxYah-5m6CWuiiqBZ4uPIV-#/registration>
- Next Alameda County DDC Board meeting September 13, 9:30AM - 12PM

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- **RCEB Board invited to attend Specialty Health Ambassadors Open House Event** in August, hearing from Ambassadors on the accomplishments they've achieved. Now expanding role of SHAs in local work groups and committees, including PVAC. For example, highlighting **Renee Perls** as a SHA and RCEB Board Member.
- Upcoming Event:
Vision for the Future: Post Secondary Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities.
Half-day at the Ed Roberts Campus, highlighting educational opportunities for students with disabilities and their families. Keynote, breakout session, resource fair. Please share flyers in English and Spanish with families served!
Flyer in English: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C4BneY3-OXcfjnFdo6MPu4Cw4gHAjHrR/view?usp=sharing>
Flyer in Spanish: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WEvVY6KAVBrqQxq7PSIxH8DkSFs9vkg/view?usp=sharing>

- Next DD Council September 27th; hybrid with in-person portion in Martinez. Contact Vi Ibarra at vi.ibarra@cchealth.org to be added to the list.

East Bay Legislative Coalition Report – Will Sanford

- AB-138 is still a bill; not a law yet.
- AB-246 would eliminate the term ‘mental retardation’ from the WIC Code
- AB-1147 – RC Oversight, RC compliance with Public Records Act/Board of Director changes.
- AB-339 – Changes to 46YO for disability occurrence to use Cal-ABLE.
- AB438 – Expands transition options and start ages.
- AB-138 – New Trailer Bill on RC issues – mostly RC focused.
- SB-271 – Right to repair for Wheelchairs; expands access and reduces the time to repair.
- AB-138: TBL Round Two – California is lagging in cash inputs as of August; deficit greater than projected but no discussion of special session yet.
 - New Residential Options: People with Complex Needs and STAR Homes.
 - Equity/Oversight for RC’s
 - Common Data Definitions
 - Recording Preferred Language for Participants and Families
 - Requiring Data Collection Integration with Case Management System
 - Standardization of some processes: Respite Needs Assessments, IPP Template, Vendorization, Intake
 - Define Generic Services
 - Note and track geographic and language availability of services and supports,
 - Establish RC responsibilities for eligibility determination for people served.
- **Virtual Town Hall**, January 26 from 10AM-11:30AM. Focused on fact that ISS systems cover individuals’ entire lifespan (with key themes that impact all areas of lives, workforce, etc):
 - Early Childhood Services
 - Education-aged Students (3-18)
 - Transition-aged (18-22)
 - Adults (23 - ?)
 - Defining seniors (57+?)
- **EBLC Committee** meeting on 10/3/23 10AM-12PM via Zoom
- **In-Person District Office Visits** in February and March.

Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Dan Hogue

Dan Hogue provided an overview of the August meeting and process.

- **RFP Process Draft** provided by RCEB; pleased to see that suggestions were included. More discussion and a forthcoming meeting with RCEB ED **Lisa Kleinbub** will focus on post-RFP reporting as well as RFP Policy.
- **Tracking additional anonymous concerns** raised by providers.
- **Next meeting** will be September 22 at 1PM and will include feedback from RCEB on RFP process and policy questions.
- **RCEB PVAC** will send Zoom link via listserv email.

Day Providers Report – Mike Pereira

- Reminder that all are welcome to join the **Friday, 11AM Provider Meeting**, and the **Wednesday 2PM Troubleshoot Meetings** (both via Zoom); Day Providers welcome input from providers of all services.
- Issues raised in Day Provider meetings include discussion of **055 conversion process**; hoping to hear more information soon to be able to make this transition.
- Also discussing potential **conclusion of Remote Services** December 31 – EBLC/Lanterman Coalition proposal to DDS to promote extension of remote and hybrid services.

- Separate EBLC/Lanterman proposal re: Long-term views on **Remote Services at the Federal Level** in the post-COVID world.
- **Mike Pereira** opined that he is optimistic re: continuation of Remote Services; however, deadline is quickly on the horizon.

HireAble Report – Donna Feingold

- HireAble's August meeting featured a presentation on **'Employment 101' from DoR and RCEB**. Aiming to include discussion on Customized Employment in our catchment area.
- **Next Meeting September 25th** with Maisie Santanto, autistic woman and trainer on employment.
- Kicking off fall series **"What Comes Next: The Value of Work"** in October. For students and families, educators, talking through value of working with panels of employers, sessions on benefits management, sessions with working individuals with IDD speaking on the role work plays in their lives.
- **Next week is DSP Recognition Week** – so important as we would not have services (or a system) without these unsung heroes. CDSA recently got a proclamation from Governor Newsom to recognize the importance of these workers.
- **Re: Section 504** – video of 1970s sit-in featuring Ed Roberts, many prominent activists taking over federal building.

PVAC Membership Report – Marcie Hodge

- Reminder to put **email and name in chat for attendance purposes**, and that after three meetings, attendees may be appointed for openings, run for office with PVAC as members.

Public Comment

- **Eddie Esquiviz** announced that the California Respite Association has been re-formed to provide a voice for these important services and service workers. **Eddie Esquiviz** can be reached at contact@Cal-Respite.org, and the details for this association are as follows: California Respite Association (CRA), Thursday, 09/28/2023, from 2pm – 3:30pm via Zoom. <https://conta.cc/44zadld>, email: Contact@Cal-Respite.org
- **Jamie Renton** mentioned the Castro Valley Adult Education screening of Intelligent Lives with a panel discussion on October 9th.
- **Geneva announced the next meeting on October 13th**.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:57

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary