

**Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes Friday, November 17, 2023**

Members Present: Dan Hogue, Las Trampas (Co-Chair); Marcie Hodge, St. John Boy's Home (Membership); Amanda Eicher, NIAD Art Center (Secretary); Donna Feingold, Finding Golden Solutions and HireAble; Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jamie Renton, Pleasanton Adult and Career Education; Craig Rose, VistAbility.

Guests Present/by Phone:

Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Amy Schwartz, RCEB; Rafael Parada, RCEB; Priscilla Gomez, RCEB; Frank Paré, RCEB Board; Julie Stone, Mains'I; Ann Silcher, Mains'I; Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa DD Council; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Adriana Cazares, Family Works; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Anna Willis, Emerging Horizons; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Armando Valadez, Lucchesi Group; Assata Olugbaya, FUFU; Barbara Saylor, CSS; Chandra Jackson, Clausen House; Chris Candari, Thrive SLS; Darice Tillery, Harambee Community Services; Debbie Galliano, Clausen House; Dominique Mellion; Eddie Esquivez, Manos; Emily Correia, Enjoy Life More; Ember Avalos, NIAD Art Center; Heather Manes, HATCH; Jan Behr, Toolworks; Jan Cohen, Ability Now; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Jennifer Rocha, Strides/Castro Valley Adult and Career Education; Joanne Rolle, ARC of the East Bay; Juanita Hightower, Clausen House; Kipi Iscandari, A and K Residential Homes; Kulwinder Kaur, A Brighter View Day Program; Maria Ramirez, FUFU; Megan Benando, Trilogy Adult Services; Nancy Brum, Keystone Adult Learning Center; Nicole Doubley, RES Success; Sylvia Yeh, FCSN; Teresa Nold, Deaf Plus Adult Community.

62 participants total

Call to Order:

At 9:36, Craig Rose confirmed quorum, and Dan Hogue called the meeting to order.

Inclusion Time: Dan Hogue recognized the mild complaints of extra pounds and inflation during this season, and reasserted the need to give thanks as a part of this busy season. He appreciated a collaborative Regional Center and the work we are able to do together.

Lisa Kleinbub concurred and appreciated the provider community in the East Bay, noting that the state often looks to this community for guidance and leadership.

Assata Olugbala appreciated the Families United For Equity for fighting tirelessly on behalf of providers and families of color who continue to await equity. There are tremendous challenges afoot and the work FUFU does is still so needed – thankful for the continued work of this committed group.

Dan Hogue concurred that the work of FUFU is so needed and important.

Teresa Nold gave thanks that access is available and can be provided.

Minutes Approval: Moved/Ramsay Mashy; Second/Jamie Renton – passed unanimously except for the abstention of Donna Feingold who was not present.

Reports:

Regional Center/State Report – Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director

- **Lisa Kleinbub** noted no movement at the state level on key issues such as rate implementation and remote services. RCEB is pressing for updates to be able to plan ahead.
- **Social Recreation Services** have been updated at the state level – it is now able to be funded through FMS rather than reimbursement to parents.
Hoping that entities such as YMCA's, dance schools, will be interested in signing on with FMS to provide these

services. Noting that in some cases IHSS recipients were not receiving Social Rec services; updating policies to reflect that this is not a conflict and procedures for payment for movies, other common recreation activities.

- **RCEB is collecting ornaments for State Capitol tree** – this tree will be joined by 21 trees for each Regional Center. Ornaments can be dropped off at RCEB until 12/4/23 at noon, and RCEB is aiming to have the best tree – 300-400 ornaments needed, but the more the merrier, representing all holidays!
- **New state budget** coming in January, with lower revenues from taxes – not sure yet what this means.

Regional Center Staff Reports – Steve Robinson

- **DSP Training Stipend** questions continuing to arise:
 - Please put all vendor numbers and service codes on one form.
 - If you have a courtesy vendor, to invoice that Regional Center, please send a form to that RC.
 - Classes can be taken on smartphones, but Google Chrome is the preferred browser.
 - **Question:** Will all stipends be paid out under June 2023 calendar? **Answer:** RCEB will research and respond.
 - **Question:** Can DSPs enroll under multiple vendor numbers? **Answer:** ARCA Learn will only allow DSPs to enroll with one Regional Center.
- **Dan Hogue** advised that there have been discrepancies in DSP lists for courses; RCEB has been very quick to remedy errors upon receiving emails with this information.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** asked whether the courses were helpful? **Craig Rose** has been hearing positive feedback on trainings, especially informed consent. **Teresa Nold** said that the interpretation for trainings was a good thing and that staff were able to get interpreters easily. **Sylvia Yeh** said that staff appreciated the trainings and that they were not just the usual, that they were in-depth and interesting.
- **Sylvia Yeh** also asked about incentive payments for ACRE trainings, and **Steve Robinson** said that they will follow up with accounting.
- **Dan Hogue** asked about timing of DSP Workforce Survey payments. **Lisa Kleinbub** responded that RCEB has not received the list of payments from DDS yet.

Regional Center Staff Reports – Priscilla Gomez

- With the holidays coming up, please send reminders to Priscilla Gomez about **closures outside of the uniform holiday schedule**. <https://www.rceb.org/providers/uniform-holiday-schedule/>
- **Introducing Health and Safety Resource Specialist Rafael Parada:**
 - Health and Safety Waiver approves exemptions to rate freezes for the purposes of mitigating risks to individual consumer health and safety.
 - Goal of reducing health and safety risks to underserved consumers including non-English speakers. Includes ARF, ILS, Community-based Programs, SLS, Supplemental Day Program Support, Respite, Transportation, and Language Access.
 - To begin process, vendors write to case managers with support requests, submit the DDS budget sheet, and meet with RCEB staff, who will work with DDS to approve, deny, appeal, and/or implement rates for services.
 - Reminder that vendors may request an exemption in a dated letter, but that DDS may approve a different start date.
 - **Question:** Is there a specific percentage of funds set aside to address language barriers? **Answer:** Focus is to support language access needs; however there is no specific percentage. RCEB is required to report data on use of funds in this category; this provides the accountability measure for these funds.
- **Steve Robinson** added that DDS is looking to provide stipends at \$100 per month for bilingual staff aside from Health and Safety Waiver, with information to come soon.
- **Steve Robinson** also pointed out that there are two lead staff vacancies with Michael Conti moving to case management supervision and Jacob Hulthage out on leave; please be patient with response times in the interim!

- **Steve Robinson** also responded to provider requests to send calendar year Uniform Holiday Schedule; Steve Robinson will research with CFO, but this is typically provided per fiscal year to reflect state budget decisions.
- **Teresa Nold** asked when POS's would be updated for the coming year; many POS seem to be stuck in processing right now. **Steve Robinson** advised that if case managers, supervisors, or associate directors are not responding, posinquiries@rceb.org can help follow up on missing POS. **Teresa Nold** asked about the expected timeline for responses. **Steve Robinson** advised that within a week or two, responses should be forthcoming. **Teresa Nold** also asked about bilingual payments for DSPs, and if there is anything providers can do to help move this forward. **Steve Robinson** recommended advocating to DDS, and that Regional Centers have been advocating for this as well. **FUFE** asked the name of the person responsible for the POS email, and **Steve Robinson** responded that Evelyn Clark is responsible for this inbox. **Frank Paré** asked if there is a back-up person if Evelyn Clark is out of the office, and **Steve Robinson** said that she is supervised by Lindsey Meninger, Associate Director, and that **Teresa Nold** could also reach out directly to **Steve Robinson** to assist with POS inquiries for Deaf Plus Adult Community.

Presentation:

Julie Stone and Ann Silcher, Mains'I – Success Story Video Library

- **Mains'I** is recording success stories of accomplishments/achievements on video with Regional Center participants.
- A phone call will be scheduled to get to know participants and their stories before the new year.
- Scheduling dates in January/February/March to record stories in community centers and convenient locations.
- **Ann Silcher** added that the provider community can also schedule time to record success stories with Mains'I.
- **Dan Hogue** clarified that these videos will be produced with RCEB.
- Mains'I will provide easy access to the video library via a new or existing website.
- A print and digital flyer is forthcoming from Mains'I and RCEB PVAC will forward to the PVAC listserv.
- **Frank Paré** asked about having stories in public domain – what would be ways to address that stories don't guarantee that every person is going to experience the same outcomes that success stories describe? Also, what about the situations where the process fails, and a consumer doesn't experience good effects, and the story proliferates? **Julie Stone** responded that the videos will not be widely available on YouTube, Vimeo, etc. – so the website containing the library will be a platform for contextualizing stories. **Ann Silcher** responded that these recordings will not necessarily address the negative experiences, but that they are thinking carefully about the presentation for the video library.
- **Donna Feingold** offered to share via HireAble.
- **Marcie Hodge** suggested that a time-lapsed story of someone moving through a challenge toward a positive outcome might be a good outcome of the project.
- **Dan Hogue** suggested that it might be helpful to include a video addressing the experience of encountering challenges and how to acknowledge and manage issues within the system.

Regional Center Board Report – Dan Hogue

- **Dan Hogue** reported that the financial audit has been completed and is in review with the RCEB Board. The audit was 'clean', showing that processes are sound and without misrepresentations, so it is expected to be passed.
- **RCEB PVAC Subcommittee** has worked to recommend changes to RFP process to be more equitable; all recommendations have been included in new process – amazing!
- **RCEB Strategic Planning Process Survey** being reviewed; RCEB Board urges providers and constituents to continue providing responses to narrow the focus to reflect consumer and community feedback.
- **RCEB Board** is developing process for Strategic Planning – please share your voice in the community survey!

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Report - Sheraden Nicholau

- Appreciating community feedback on **Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Program**: Preparing to offer ~\$3M in grants for systems change proposals in areas of capacity-building, education, IDD services, Legal/Judicial settings, healthcare settings, and financial settings. Check out info about the program, <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap/>, and get on the announcement list for SDP-TAP.
- **SCDD Bill ideas** / 'There should be a Law' submissions: https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0
- **Self-Determination Statewide Orientations** (this month offered in English, Spanish, Arabic):
- Other meeting and event dates coming up, info available at <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>:
 - **SCDD Council Meeting**, Nov 28th
 - **Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting**, Nov 29th
- Reminder, SCDD can offer **PPE and antigen tests** for orgs and community groups. Email us! Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov

Alameda County DD Council Report – No Report

Contra Costa County DD Council Report – Vi Ibarra

- **2024 Alameda and Contra Costa County Joint DD Council Award Event** will be in person this June! Look for nomination forms in January of this year! Less formal, more comfortable for everyone – and **Craig Rose** notes there may be cheesecake.
- **Transition Fair for 2024** is still location and date TBD, but will be a joint Alameda and Contra Costa County Transition Fair in the spring!
- Reminder that **Contra Costa County Health Ambassadors** are in the community connecting individuals with County Health resources – please reach out to Vi Ibarra to invite Specialty Health Ambassadors.
- Next DD Council January 24th on Governor's proposed budget; NO DECEMBER MEETING 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 – Mike Pereira

- **New Federal Speaker of the House** – Mike Johnson (R-LA).
- **President Biden** signed stopgap resolution to pay bills including HHS spending; did not include overseas funding.
- **Senate Bills related to DDS – S3118/Casey (D-PA)** HCBS Relief Act of 2023. Not projected to be on docket until 2024. <https://www.ancor.org/actions/advocate-for-the-hcbs-relief-act-strengthen-community-services/>
- **State Legislative Session Final Days** – second year of 2-year legislative cycle; legislators can revive bills that haven't been signed before a new legislative cycle begins.
 - AB248 – Updated Language in State Statute to Individuals with I/DD or people with Disabilities – SIGNED
 - AB447 – Pilot for Postsecondary Ed/College Inclusion – SIGNED
 - AB1147 – Disability Equity and Accountability Act – 2-Yr Bill
- **Legislative Impacts from Adjacent Sectors:**
 - AB1228 – Holden: \$20/hr. wage floor for Fast Food Workers
 - SB525 - \$25/hr. wage floor for Workers in Health Care Settings
 - Not I/DD specific
- **EBLC Virtual Town Hall Meeting** – Friday, January 26th, 2024: Save the Date!
- **EBLC Committee** meeting on 12/6/23 10AM-12PM via Zoom. January Town Hall planning, March 2024 District Office and Site Visit Days.
- Please be in touch with Vi Ibarra to receive **EBLC updates** via listserv: vi.ibarra@cchealth.org
- Question from **Ike** regarding increased wages re: wage floors in other sectors. How will we advocate, given how this will impact providers? Will there be a rate adjustment? **Mike Pereira** commented that this should

be motivation to advocate for the needs of the community, given inflation, minimum wage increases in various sectors. **Lisa Kleinbub** mentioned that healthcare worker bill doesn't apply directly to our sector as we're not required to pay these wages, but that we may lose staffing to these other sectors.

Service Provider Equity Subcommittee Report – Anthony Rowe

Anthony Rowe reported from the October 27th meeting, minutes of which are attached to today's agenda.

- Subcommittee believes content of **Mason-Tillman Report** would provide valuable data to inform equity work in the region; a formal letter requesting an update is drafted and will be shared with RCEB staff and board.
- Request to consider referrals process, with focus on Residential and SLS. Meeting scheduled with Lisa Kleinbub before January meeting; will take time to work on this issue.
- **Lisa Kleinbub** acknowledged that referrals is a high priority for RCEB, and that she is eager to receive feedback and collaborate, and optimistic for a good outcome though the process might not be easy.
- **Next meeting** is January 26th at 1PM.
- **RCEB PVAC** will send Zoom link via listserv email.

Day Providers Subcommittee Report – Mike Pereira

- Acknowledging that RCEB reports addressed many issues (DSP Stipend, POS) that have been on the agenda for this group.
- Reminder that all are welcome to join the **Friday, 11AM Provider Meeting**, and the **Wednesday 2PM Troubleshoot Meetings** (both via Zoom); all service providers are welcome.

HireAble Subcommittee Report – Donna Feingold

- **Donna Feingold** reiterated HireAble mission to bring more competitive employment opportunities to individuals with I/DD in Alameda and Contra Costa County. HireAble works with individuals, employers, and families, and can provide benefits counseling to manage income from work opportunities.
- Next meeting January 27th, 3PM with Sara Murphy, specialist in Customized Employment, speaking on Employer Engagement. Stanford University will also present on DIVERSE, a free employment training program.

PVAC Membership Report – Marcie Hodge

- **Dan Hogue** asked whether members are terming off of leadership roles, and **Marcie Hodge** responded that Membership, Employment, and other roles will be coming open and announced in an upcoming email.
- 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

- **Next meeting is scheduled for December 8th, and Dan will miss this upcoming meeting. Wishing everyone a great holiday season.**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:29.

Respectfully submitted for review by Amanda Eicher, Secretary