



Regional Center of the East Bay

Cultivating Connection - Empathetic Stewardship - Seizing Opportunities - Intentional Adaptability

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

Virtual Meeting

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. April Key-Lee, Membership Committee
2. Brian Blaisch
3. Dan Hogue , PVAC Representative
4. Frank Paré, President/Supports & Services Co-Chair
5. Rose Coleman
6. Sadia Mumtaz, Vice-President/Diversity & Equity Co-Chair
7. Teresita DeJesus

ABSENT:

8. Nyron Battles, CAC Chair
9. Renee Perls, Secretary
10. Lisa Soloway

STAFF PRESENT:

1. Ashley Harmon, Executive Assistant
2. Ben Braun, Associate Director of Early Start and Young Children
3. Caylin Patterson, Director Of Human Resources & Support Services
4. Chris Hanson, Associate Director of Client Services/Adults
5. Cristie Raynor, Case Management Supervisor
6. Daniel Bermeo, Case Management Supervisor
7. Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo, Executive Director
8. Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Client Services/Children
9. Genia Lindberg, Admin. Services Manager
10. Gina Rose Sass, Case Management Supervisor
11. Helene Court, Case Management Supervisor
12. Herb Hastings, Client Advocate
13. Jenifer Castañeda, Federal Programs Supervisor
14. Kim Limato, Case Management Supervisor
15. Lindsay Meninger, Associate Director of Client Services/Young Adults and Federal Programs
16. Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director
17. Lucy Rivello, Director Behavioral Health
18. Margaret Casebeer, Case Management Supervisor
19. Mariana Varela, Manager of Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion
20. Michelle Velasco, Case Management Supervisor
21. Michael Minton, Manager of Risk Management and Quality Assurance
22. Ronke Sodipo, Director, Client Services
23. Rose Casarez, Case Management Supervisor
24. Shannon Barnes, Controller
25. Steve Robinson, Director Community Services
26. Xavier Corena, Case Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Andrea Sifuentes | 11. Dominique, FUFU | 21. Kanaka Kannan |
| 2. Angela Gattis | 12. Eose | 22. L. Madoshi |
| 3. Ann Pringle | 13. Geneva Carlos-Valentino | 23. Lino Haro |
| 4. Assata Olugbala | 14. Gilda Giron | 24. Lourdes V. |
| 5. Betty | 15. Glenester Irvin | 25. Maria Ramirez, FUFU |
| 6. Chris Aguire/DDS | 16. IPhone de Saira | 26. Maureen Fitzgerald |
| 7. Connie Coelh | 17. Jazmin | 27. Megan |
| 8. Dave Amadi | 18. Jenica Hadley | 28. Morena Grimaldi |
| 9. David Glasser | 19. Jenny Zegarra | 29. Parents Helping Parents |
| 10. Denise Bradley | 20. Joanna | 30. Patricia Albeño |

- 31. Raquel Enciso
- 32. Rosy
- 33. Sam Lerman

- 34. Sanasadat Shooshtari
- 35. Sheraden Nicholau/SCDDC
- 36. Sonia M.

- 37. Specially Abled
- 38. Vi Ibarra/CCDDC
- 39. Wendell James

CALL TO ORDER

Frank Paré called the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay to order at 7:02 pm. A quorum was established after our first introduction of public comments/committee reports and the motions were revisited. Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values were introduced and added as a standing item on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Regional Center of the East Bay uses Robert’s Rules of Order to guide our meetings. Robert’s Rules of Order is the most used manual of parliamentary procedure in the United States. Robert’s Rules of Order is designed to provide structure and guidance while facilitating the orderly operation of a meeting.

According to Robert’s Rules of Order, our board members are not allowed to comment, debate or respond to the public during our public meetings. There are other meetings such as our Diversity & Equity or Supports & Services meetings that begin at 5:30pm before the board meetings.

Maureen Fitzgerald, raised concerns about not receiving a response when she requested a copy of the CalPERS audit, which was listed as an action item on the agenda. She questioned the board's adherence to the Lanterman Act, stating that under the existing law, the public should have access to materials given to the board for a meeting. She suggested that the board should post the entire agenda packet online for transparency.

Patricia Albeño, introduced herself as a representative of the Arc of California, a coordinator for the Congreso Familiar conferences, and a parent of a young adult who is a client of the regional center. She spoke on behalf of Congreso Familiar, a conference aimed at supporting Spanish-speaking families with children or family members who have disabilities. She highlighted the organization's efforts to provide education, information, and support, helping families navigate complex care systems, especially when services are not available in their language. Patricia expressed gratitude for the regional center's support over the years and shared upcoming events, including conferences in Pittsburgh and Hayward and a self-determination fair in Oakland. She also mentioned volunteer opportunities for those interested. Patricia concluded by thanking the board for their ongoing support of the Spanish-speaking community and expressed well wishes to Lisa, a colleague, and a welcome to the new director, Becky.

Sam Lerman-Hahn, introduced themselves as a client of the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), expressed frustration with the center's process for reactivating cases. After receiving an authorization for employment services from the California Department of Rehabilitation, Sam was informed that Toolworks in San Francisco required a referral from an RCEB case manager to officially take him on as a client. He described the difficult and unprofessional process he encountered when trying to reactivate his case, which included confusing phone trees, unhelpful voicemail messages, and unnecessary delays. Sam expressed frustrations with the system for being inaccessible, inefficient, and disrespectful of his time, particularly for individuals with auditory processing disorders. He highlighted the lack of services and case manager assignments after a month of trying to navigate the system. Sam requested that the board address these issues to provide more timely, professional, and accessible services to clients.

Sanasadat Shooshtari, introduced themselves as a client of the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), expressed appreciation for the center's mission to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in achieving independence and remaining in the least restrictive environment. She expressed interest in becoming a board member of RCEB and continuing to support individuals with disabilities in leading fulfilling lives.

Additionally, Sana works at the Department of Rehabilitation and has a strong understanding of how both agencies collaborate to help individuals reach their full potential.

Jenny Zegarra, shared her experience attending the Congreso Familiar, highlighting the empowerment it provided. She emphasized that each conference is unique due to the valuable regional resources shared by the speakers. Jenny noted the growing participation, particularly from the Latinx community, and the importance of unifying and sharing the knowledge gained at the event. She expressed gratitude and well wishes.

Jenny Zegarra compartió su experiencia al asistir al Congreso Familiar, destacando el empoderamiento que le brindó. Enfatizó que cada conferencia es única debido a los valiosos recursos regionales que comparten los ponentes. Jenny mencionó la creciente participación, especialmente de la comunidad latina, y la importancia de unirse y compartir el conocimiento adquirido en el evento. Expresó su gratitud y buenos deseos.

Angela Gattis, expressed her gratitude for the support she received through Congreso Familiar, highlighting both emotional and resource-based assistance. She thanked Lisa for her involvement and dedication, noting that Lisa not only listened but actively participated in events and supported the community. Angela also welcomed the new director, expressing hope that she would engage with the community and contribute to meaningful change. She emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge and being part of the process moving forward.

Angela Gattis expresó su gratitud por el apoyo que recibió a través del Congreso Familiar, destacando tanto la asistencia emocional como los recursos proporcionados. Agradeció a Lisa por su participación y dedicación, señalando que Lisa no solo las escuchó, sino que también participó activamente en los eventos y apoyó a la comunidad. Angela también dio la bienvenida a la nueva directora, expresando su esperanza de que ella se involucre con la comunidad y contribuya al cambio significativo. Destacó la importancia de compartir conocimientos y ser parte del proceso hacia adelante.

Parents Helping Parents, expressed deep gratitude to the regional center for their support, especially through programs like Congreso Familiar. She shared her experience as a mother of a child with autism, emphasizing how the center's resources, education, and community support have greatly benefited her family. She highlighted the importance of feeling safe, informed, and connected with other parents through Congreso Familiar. The parent also thanked the regional center for creating opportunities that empower families, and she expressed hope that the new director will continue to support mothers and professionals alike.

Una madre expresó su profunda gratitud al centro regional por su apoyo, especialmente a través de programas como Congreso Familiar. Compartió su experiencia como madre de un niño con autismo, destacando cómo los recursos, la educación y el apoyo de la comunidad del centro han beneficiado enormemente a su familia. Enfatizó la importancia de sentirse segura, informada y conectada con otros padres a través de Congreso Familiar. La madre también agradeció al centro regional por crear oportunidades que empoderan a las familias y expresó la esperanza de que la nueva directora continúe apoyando tanto a las madres como a los profesionales.

Specially Abled, Raj introduced himself as a tech entrepreneur and parent of a 21-year-old autistic child, expressed his gratitude to the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) for their exceptional support. He recently moved to the East Bay area with his family due to concerns about their son's future after they are gone. Raj, along with a group of parents, started a pioneering co-housing community called "Specially Able," which is inclusive, integrated, and multi-generational. He looks forward to partnering with RCEB to create a model for similar communities worldwide. Raj also expressed concern about the low engagement of the Indian and South Asian communities with RCEB and offered to assist in outreach efforts, including serving on the board to help engage these communities. He concluded by thanking everyone at RCEB for their support and expressed excitement for future collaboration with the new leadership.

David Glasser inquired about accessing translations during presentations in Spanish. He assumed the Board was receiving a translation but could not see it and asked if there was a way for him to access similar translations when people speak in different languages.

Jazmin discussed the importance of family learning, promoting, and strengthening their path together. She highlights how the family Congreso has been a unifying event, providing knowledge, understanding, and a sense

of belonging that motivates them to move forward. Jazmín emphasizes that by working together as a community, families can learn, grow, and act to create an inclusive future with opportunities for their children. She expresses gratitude to all the families involved for sharing their experiences and support.

habla sobre la importancia de que las familias aprendan, promuevan y fortalezcan su camino juntas. Destaca cómo el congreso familiar ha sido un evento unificador, proporcionando conocimiento, comprensión y un sentido de pertenencia que las motiva a seguir adelante. Jazmín enfatiza que, al trabajar juntas como comunidad, las familias pueden aprender, crecer y actuar para crear un futuro inclusivo con oportunidades para sus hijos. Expresa su gratitud a todas las familias involucradas por compartir sus experiencias y apoyo.

Wendell James reflected on the success stories shared during public comments, acknowledging that they highlight an equity divide in his perception. Wendell expressed a desire to share positive stories about success and meeting needs, similar to those heard at the regional center. He urges everyone to take note of the existing equity divide.

Morena Grimaldi, shared that she has been absent from meetings due to her increased responsibilities caring for her elderly mother but is happy to be returning. She expresses gratitude to Lisa for her leadership as the executive director of the regional center and reflects on the positive exchange of ideas at the meetings. Morena acknowledges that while nothing is perfect, she found the enthusiasm and brainstorming for improvement encouraging. She wishes Lisa the best in her retirement and welcomes the new director, Dr. Nanyonjo, hoping they can continue working together. Finally, she expresses happiness about being back at the meeting.

Sonia M., inquired if Chat would be enabled.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Rebecca Nanyonjo, DrPH, Executive Director

Dr. Nanyonjo provided an update being this as her second board of directors meeting. She mentioned that there has been considerable activity at the state level, particularly concerning fiscal issues and mass deportations. The regional center has been in communication with various trade associations and executive directors, addressing concerns raised by clients and families, particularly regarding federal fiscal changes and the impacts of potential deportations on the communities served.

Regarding fiscal matters, Dr. Nanyonjo highlighted concerns over upcoming changes, especially around Medicaid and the services provided under the Medicaid Waiver program. She acknowledged the uncertainty about federal funding and its potential impact on services in California. Dr. Nanyonjo also discussed ongoing efforts to work with trade associations and legislators to advocate for continued service provision under the Lanterman entitlement despite the federal challenges.

Dr. Nanyonjo also touched on the issue of mass deportations, noting the fear and disruption these actions have caused in the community. While the regional center is working to alert individuals and provide support, they are also cautious about the risk of jeopardizing their funding by becoming an outlier in terms of compliance with federal directives.

She then provided an update on the strategic plan, which was developed by the regional center in collaboration with the board, senior managers, and staff. Dr. Nanyonjo emphasized the importance of operationalizing the plan, which includes a marketing campaign to ensure that the agency's vision is translated into tangible actions. She promised more updates on this strategic plan in the coming weeks.

Lastly, Dr. Nanyonjo addressed the ongoing discussion around the Mason Tillman report, acknowledging the board's interest in the matter. She explained that while she is still familiarizing herself with the report, the center is committed to ensuring full transparency and will provide updates in the next few weeks. Dr. Nanyonjo assured that there would be a smooth handoff from the previous executive director and that the report would be shared with the board and the community within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

Overall, Dr. Nanyonjo concluded her report in about nine minutes and thanked the board for their attention.

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the February 24, 2025 Agenda as presented”
[Dan/Rose] Unanimous - The motion was adopted.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the January 27, 2025 Minutes”.
(Dan/Brian) Discussion occurred with requests to make public comments written in the third person throughout the public comment minutes - The motion was adopted with corrections in areas discussed.

CALPERS AUDIT: Frank Paré, President

Mr. Paré provided an update regarding the CalPERS audit, emphasizing that this matter was discussed in the previous board meeting. He mentioned that a packet of materials had been distributed to the board members about a week prior, containing 15 PDFs for review. The key issue at hand was ensuring compliance with California Code of Regulation Section 570.5, which governs how CalPERS calculates retirement benefits based on compensation and earnings. Mr. Paré clarified that the board’s role to ensure RCEB pay schedules meet the requirements for Publicly Available Pay Schedule (CCR 570.5), and to approve the pay schedules from the audit period; July 1, 2021, to February 2024. After confirming that the board members had reviewed the documents, Mr. Paré moved to entertain a motion to approve the pay schedules as outlined in the audit.

M/S/C [Dan/Brian] – Discussion occurred clarifying the Board’s role with reviewing the documents and that this information is posted on RCEB’s website under transparency.
Unanimous - The motion was adopted

CONSERVATORSHIP BOARD POLICY, LISA KLEINBUB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Kleinbub explains the process of conservatorships for individuals who have been legally assigned someone other than themselves to make medical decisions and oversee their rights. Many of these individuals were once residents of developmental centers. Due to concerns raised over regional centers' roles in monitoring conservatorships, DDS issued a directive that a different staff member should handle this responsibility, separate from case managers. Ms. Kleinbub requests the Board's approval of a new delegated conservatorship policy, which includes monitoring and oversight of conservatorships for approximately 15 individuals. Ms. Paré asks for clarification on whether the motion is to approve the policy. After some discussion, the motion to approve the delegated conservatorship policy is proposed by Mr. Hogue, seconded by Mr. Blaisch, and opened for further discussion.

Mr. Paré raised concerns regarding the duty of loyalty of the staff overseeing conservatorships. Ms. Kleinbub clarified that the duty of loyalty lies with the individuals under conservatorship, and the staff will not carry the case management responsibilities. Mr. Hogue suggested adding language to emphasize the duty of loyalty to the client. Ms. Kleinbub agreed to include this and mentions that the policy is focused on monitoring, not financial management.

Mr. Blaisch comments on the broader issue of individuals in group homes who might need conservatorship or someone overseeing their decision-making, especially regarding medication and care. Ms. Kleinbub explains that group homes should not claim guardianship, and that supported decision-making may be an alternative to formal conservatorship for some individuals.

Ms. Key-Lee asks for details on how the monitoring of conservatorships is documented, which Ms. Kleinbub responds to by stating that DDS requires specific forms for reporting, which can be shared with the Board.

After further discussion, Mr. Paré suggested approving the policy with the understanding that some additional tweaks will be made, including the revisions discussed. He proposed that the final document, including those changes, be shared with the Board for review before the policy is officially adopted. Mr. Hogue raised the

point that any votes taken outside of meetings (e.g., via email) should be documented in the minutes. Mr. Paré agrees but would like to focus on the approval of the policy now, with the final changes to be reviewed later. In the end, the Board reached a consensus to approve the policy with the amendments and have the final document reviewed at a later stage.

M/S/C [Dan/Brian] – Discussion occurred with board members.
 Unanimous - The motion was adopted.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – Shannon Barnes, Controller

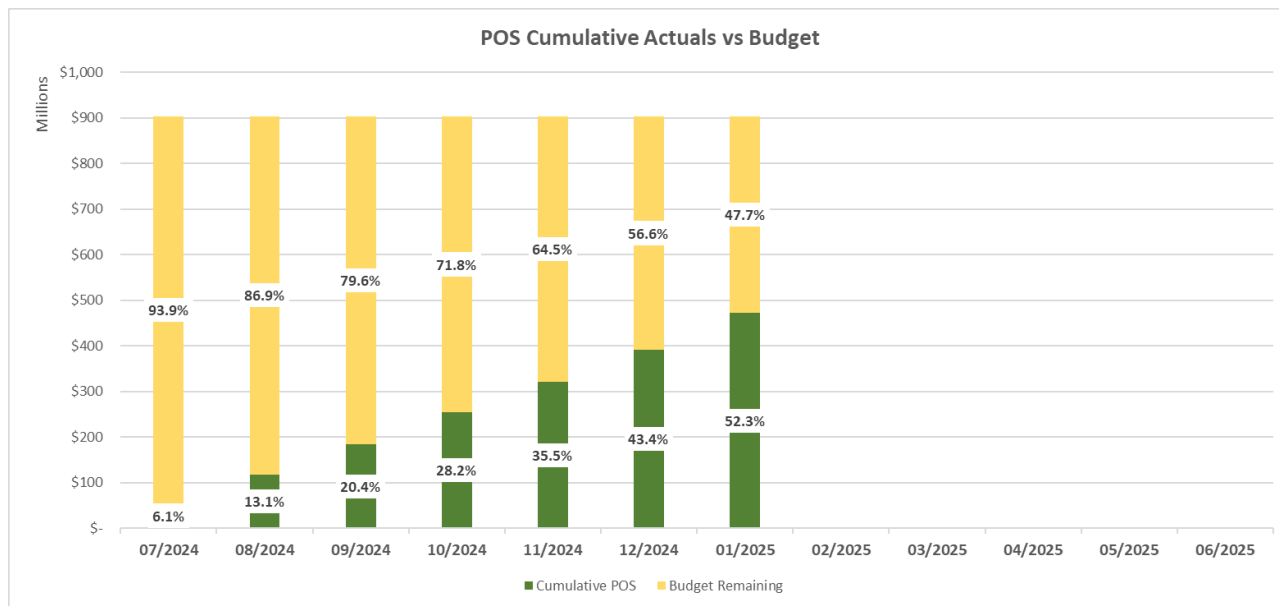
PURCHASE OF SERVICE

Through January 2025, we have expended \$472M, or 52% of the total POS budget of \$903M for FY24-25. This can be compared to \$402M, or 45% of total POS budget of \$759M in prior fiscal year.

As reported in previous months, due to the changes in authorizations for the implementation of the rate reform effective January 1st, 2025, DDS has paused requiring the Regional Centers to submit Purchase of Services Expenditures Projection (PEP) reports until further notice. DDS has issued several directives regarding these changes in service codes and sub codes for regional centers to work with the vendors from now until March 31, 2025. Therefore, we can only track actual spending against total budget and will report to the Board when a PEP can be completed.

For CPP POS Expenditures, RCEB received preliminarily \$100k for placement and have spent \$264k to date. We are still waiting for DDS to approve the final CPP/CRDP plan with funding allocation in the upcoming A-2 amendment.

The graph POS cumulative Actuals versus Budget shows POS expenditures trending month-over month compared to the overall budget for FY 24-25.



OPERATIONS

The Agency completed its FY 24-25 budget for Operations (OPS) for \$86M. This OPS budget included preliminarily allocation of CPP/CRDP funding of \$1.2M and any remaining funding will be included in the A-2 amendment.

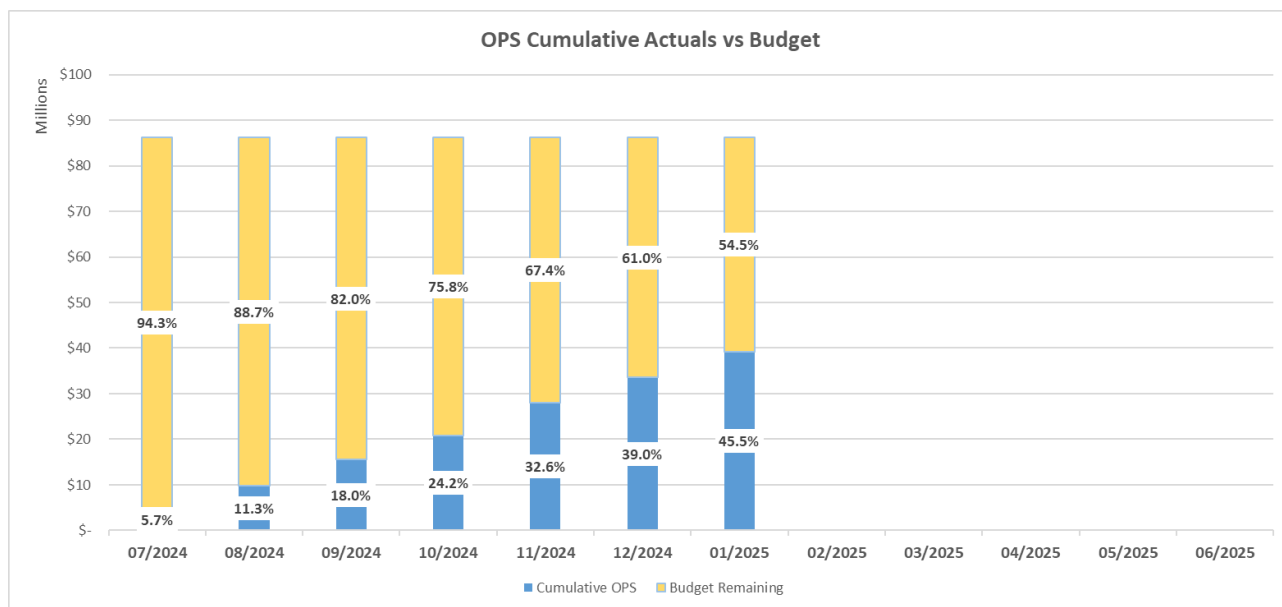
Through January 2025, we have expended \$39M, or 45% of the \$86M budget, which is comparable to the \$31M or 40% of \$78M for FY23-24 at this time.

Since the prior reporting on the employee headcount in November, RCEB has hired 28 employees and the headcount as of January 31, 2025 was 593. The last job fair was held on January 28, 2025 in Concord; we had 30 potential candidates attend, and 20 job offers are expected to be extended as a result. These potential hires are not reflected in the chart below. We will continue to aggressively hire from now until the end of fiscal year in effort to further reduce our caseloads.

Employee Count as of 01/31/2025			
	Nov'24	Dec'24	Jan'25
Hire	6	3	19
Terminations	3	2	7
Total Employees	579	580	592

RCEB will do the Caseload ratios calculation as of March 1st as regularly required by DDS. The Staff will report to the Board at next month’s Board meeting.

The graph OPS cumulative Actuals versus Budget below shows OPS expenditures trending month-over-month compared to the overall budget for FY24-25.



The additional graphs are provided for informational and comparison purposes (see attached files)

- Operations actual versus budget as compared to January 31, 2024.
- Operations 6 months YTD for the last 5 fiscal years.

- Purchase of Services actual versus budget as compared to January 31, 2024 is not included since POS budget information is not available.
- Purchase of Services 6 months YTD for the last 5 fiscal years.

MEDICAID WAIVER AUDIT

The staff is informing the Board and the Budget and Finance Committee that starting February 10, 2025, DDS is conducting the biennial review of the Agency’s Medicaid Waiver cases in accordance with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Regulation. They plan to complete the review in 2 weeks, with the 1st week working remotely reviewing client files and the 2nd week completing in-person site visits with our day program and residential vendors. The results of the audit will be reported in a future board meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT/PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Frank Paré, President

CONTRACT APPROVAL

[Note: The contracts were submitted to the board of directors prior to the board meeting for their review and opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.]

Not Applicable this meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: April Key-Lee

Ms. Key-Lee provided an update on the membership status of the Regional Center of the East Bay Board. She mentioned that five board members, including Dr. Brian, Frank, Lisa, Teresita, and Renee Perls (the board secretary), are completing their final term this year. A majority vote was held electronically in February 2025, confirming their last term (7 years). Ms. Key-Lee also highlighted that next year; there will be open positions on the board. Specifically seeking new members from Contra Costa County, as well as Spanish-speaking or Latinx individuals. She encouraged anyone interested, including parents, family members, or clients of the regional center, to review the informational page for potential candidates. She also emphasized that the board members are volunteers who dedicate their time to the role and reminded everyone of the fiduciary responsibilities of the board. Please check our website and read about the board and e-mail your interest: <https://www.rceb.org/about-us/board-directors/members/>

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE [CAC]: Nyron Battles

During the meeting, Chris Hanson provided a brief recap in lieu of Mr. Battles of the previous CAC meeting. She mentioned that Herb Hastings, a consumer advocate from the Regional Center, gave a presentation on transportation, including topics like public transportation and the use of Clipper cards. Following the presentation, Nyron gave typical updates from the prior board meeting, and there were announcements about upcoming community events.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Frank Paré, President

Mr. Paré provided an update on the recent Support and Services meeting. He highlighted a report from Steve about housing developments, including securing 12 set-aside units in Berkeley and Castro Valley. The discussion also covered challenges in housing individuals with destructive behaviors and the need for strong community partnerships to engage with housing developers and authorities. Mr. Paré shared his surprise about the lottery system for housing vouchers, which requires individuals to reapply annually if they don't secure housing. The conversation also addressed the ongoing housing crisis and the importance of regularly updating the board about housing progress. Mr. Paré emphasized using Support and Services meetings as a forum for parents to share their experiences and concerns, offering an opportunity for more in-depth conversations rather than just brief public comments. He encouraged addressing misunderstandings or deeper concerns within the community. The discussion also touched on incorporating the strategic plan and aligning it with support and service goals, particularly focusing on person-centered metrics. Several parents shared their challenges, and Mr. Paré noted that this provided valuable insights into potential areas for better communication, policy clarity, and achievable accomplishments. He stressed the importance of identifying tangible goals and improvements over

the year. Looking ahead, Mr. Paré announced the next Support and Services meeting would be in April and reiterated the meeting's role in offering a platform for parents to discuss issues and foster better understanding within the regional center system.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE [PVAC]: Dan Hogue

Mr. Hogue provided an update on the recent PVAC meeting, held on the 14th. He highlighted Ms. Becky's outstanding presentation, where she shared important updates, including potential threats to funding at the federal level, especially in Medicaid. While the region is secure until the end of the fiscal year, Mr. Hogue noted that the federal budget cycle begins in October, and the state government is monitoring the situation. The Governor's office and the Legislature are expected to assess the impact in May. Ms. Becky also discussed strategies being explored at the regional centers, such as potentially leaving positions unfilled. She emphasized efforts to collaborate with ARCA to maintain services. Mr. Hogue further detailed updates on the standardization of the vendor packet across regional centers, aiming for consistency. Piloting of this initiative will begin in June and July. Additionally, there were updates regarding the provider portal. Mr. Hogue noted concerns over providers receiving their full rates and the slow pace of updates from DDS, affecting implementation. He also mentioned the transition rates for 2025, as well as ongoing implementation issues with service codes, particularly the 113 code for specialized residential services, which is expected to roll out in March. Ms. Becky suggested implementing office hours to assist providers around specifically the self-determination program, reducing the need for individual meetings. Mr. Hogue addressed concerns from the Provider subcommittee regarding funding threats and issues with the provider portal. He also noted that there had been no recent meeting for the Equity Provider subcommittee but mentioned plans to meet with Ms. Marcy for updates.

Mr. Blaisch contributed to the discussion by sharing concerns about the significant impact of Medicaid funding on the day program providers, revealing that 30% of their budget relies on Medicaid. He emphasized the importance of awareness of this issue. Mr. Hogue recommended that the Board of Directors consider writing a letter to legislators regarding the importance of preserving Medicaid funding. Mr. Paré agreed that this was a valid suggestion, noting that while there was always a possibility of sending such a letter, further discussion was needed on how to proceed effectively. The meeting concluded with a call for any additional questions or comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sheraden Nicholau/SCDDC began by thanking everyone for their participation in the "Share Your Medicaid Story" webinars held over the past three weeks. She shared that nearly 900 Californians had been trained in both English and Spanish, and that resources such as worksheets and cheat sheets for Medicaid advocacy had been provided. She encouraged anyone with a group of 30 or more to reach out for a personalized version of the training. She also mentioned an upcoming event, a Spanish-only session on March 13th, focused on "Protecting Yourself and Knowing Your Rights" regarding immigration and customs enforcement, in collaboration with La Familia. Ms. Nicholau highlighted a positive opportunity, the University of California, Los Angeles' Tarjan Center's Leadership Academy for emerging disability rights leaders. The virtual program will run from April to June, and participants will receive a gift card for completing the program.

https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aXk00q4Nnxv7Gku

Application Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2025. For More Information, contact Tarjan-LENDAcademy@mednet.ucla.edu Scan She then discussed the Texas vs. Becerra court case, where 17 states are attempting to eliminate Section 504, which protects anti-discrimination and disability rights in various settings, including schools and healthcare. Ms. Nicholau promised to share more information on how people can get involved in defending Section 504. Finally, she reminded everyone about upcoming dates, including the next rack meeting on Wednesday evening, self-determination orientations, self-advocacy network meetings, and policy meetings. She assured that the information would be shared in the chat.

Chat Messages: More resources for Medicaid advocacy: Please share the following fact sheets and social media toolkit with your networks regarding cuts to Medicaid. Family Voices of CA - www.familyvoicesofca.org/medicaid

• One-pagers/fact sheets • Social media graphics • Sample call script

Visit dredf.org/protect-504/ and see the PPT and transcripts of the webinar, and handouts. Contact Your State Attorney General <https://www.naag.org/find-my-ag/>

Community Outreach & Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Wednesday, February 26, 2025 Networking 5:15-5:30 PM; Meeting 5:30-8:00 PM This is a hybrid meeting: In-Person with Zoom / Teleconference options. Members of the public may participate in-person, telephonically, or by Zoom from any location. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found at least 10 days prior to the meeting at: www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/. Join In-Person: San Mateo City Hall, Council Chambers 330 W. 20th Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403 Parking and entrance on O'Farrell Street Or Join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86875213412?pwd=WdihuDypUD1j1353gW2T27QT48v98N.1> Meeting ID: 868 7521 3412 Passcode: 910830 Or by Telephone, U.S. Toll-free: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499

Self-Determination Statewide Orientations (this month and next offered in English, Farsi, and Spanish): <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

March 6: Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting, 10a – 3p <https://scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy/> ZOOM LINK: <https://bit.ly/SSAN-March-2025> March 11: Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) Meeting https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative_and_public_policy/ March 17: Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Meeting https://scdd.ca.gov/self_advocates_advisory_committee/

Assata Olugbala, discusses a disparity study conducted by Mason Tillman Associates, which was hired to examine potential discrimination and lack of diversity in contracting with Black vendors by the Regional Center of the East Bay. The study included data collection, interviews, surveys, and other methods to draw conclusions and make recommendations. She highlights concerns about the delay in completing the report, which has taken over two years, and compares it to past reports, which were more efficiently processed and presented to the public. Ms. Olugbala expresses suspicion that the delay suggests serious findings of discrimination and lack of fairness that are being withheld. She criticizes the handling of the report and the apparent effort to keep it from being exposed. She also speaks about her experience attending a legislative meeting, describing it as disorganized and poorly structured, with issues such as the location and accessibility of services discussed. The main concerns included long waiting times for services, difficulty in accessing information about available services, inadequate transportation, and the quality and cultural competency of service providers.

Sanasadat Shooshtari, a client of the East Bay Regional Center, expresses gratitude to Lisa for her support, particularly in explaining the new Individual Program Plan (IPP) and helping her implement it. She also welcomes Miss Becky as the new executive director and looks forward to working with her. Ms. Shooshtari inquires about the application process for joining the board, mentioning that she believes she has filled out an application previously but is unsure if it was complete. She requests assistance in completing the application, either by providing her responses orally for transcription or another method. She is willing to sign any required documentation, just needing help with the transcription process.

Vi Ibarra/CCDDC, representing the Developmental Disabilities Council in Contra Costa County, announces the upcoming Transition Conference and Resource Fair, which will be held at Diablo Valley College on Saturday, March 15th. The event is designed for students and adults with disabilities and their families, focusing on transitioning to adult services and fostering independence. Ms. Ibarra encourages agencies to share the flyer for the event, which is available in both English and Spanish, and invites those on the call to consider attending. Ms. Ibarra also provides information about sponsorship opportunities and additional details, which can be obtained by contacting either herself or Ben Chen (AC DDC). She mentions that the next Developmental Disabilities Council Board meeting will take place on Wednesday, the 26th, with a presentation on family training regarding the home and community-based services final rule. She is pleased that April will be attending the meeting to help with recruitment for the Regional Center board.

Herb Hastings, Herb Hastings greets everyone and mentions that he has been offline for the past few months due to the passing of their mutual friend. He shares an update that Diena plans to return in June, at the end of the year term, and sends her regards to the group.

Maureen Fitzgerald, begins by introducing herself and sharing her observations of various regional center board meetings via Zoom across the state in recent years. She praises the board for being one of the more engaged boards she has seen, noting that they ask questions and request follow-ups, unlike other boards that

primarily receive reports without much questioning. Ms. Fitzgerald then shifts to a legal concern, stating that under the Lanterman Act and relevant laws, the board cannot meet privately to receive the Mason Tillman report. She emphasizes that meetings must be agendized and open to the public, with specific grounds for closed sessions. Ms. Fitzgerald advises the board to ensure the report is presented at a public meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES (ARCA): Frank Paré, President

Mr. Paré concludes there wasn't much to report on the ARCA agenda item, so he skipped it. He then took the opportunity to express gratitude to Lisa Kleinbub, acknowledging that this would be her final board meeting as the RCEB Executive Director, with her last day being that Friday. Mr. Paré commended Lisa for her vast knowledge and dedication throughout her long career, not only as Executive Director but also with the Regional Center in general. He expressed admiration for her ability to recall information quickly and praised her work ethic despite any challenges along the way. He shared that the board was working on a gesture of appreciation for her, recognizing her love for her grandkids and interests like travel. Mr. Paré also humorously noted that while Lisa might be retiring, her deep knowledge would likely keep her involved in some capacity. He concluded by wishing her the best and expressing that he'd continue to see her around.

Ms. Kleinbub responded, expressing her gratitude for the opportunity to serve at RCEB, noting her love for the community and commitment to serving the people. Mr. Paré then adjourned the meeting, wishing everyone a good evening.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION – Legal

Virtual Meetings on March 24, 2025

The next Diversity and Equity Committee Meeting will be at 5:30 PM

The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00 PM

Acronym List

ARFPSHN	Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Specialized Health Care Needs		
BAHC	Bay Area Housing Corporation	HCBS	Home and Community Based Services
CCH	Community Crisis Home	ILS	Individual Living Services
CPP	Community Placement Plan	ILS	Individual Living Services
CRDP	Community Resource Development Plan	OPS	Operations
DDS	Department of Development Services	PEP	Purchase of Service Expenditure Projection
EBSH	Enhanced Behavioral Support Home	POS	Purchase of Service
FHA	Family Home Agency	SLS	Supported Living Services