



Regional Center of the East Bay

Cultivating Connection - Empathetic Stewardship - Seizing Opportunities - Intentional Adaptability

REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING NOTICE/AGENDA

DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2025

LOCATION: VIRTUAL CALL-IN

TIME: 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Please click the link to join the webinar:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84879702813?pwd=uwWw7ihd04CzLEDpIzH54k9ngW3UWs.1

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 848 7970 2813

Passcode: 059085

Board Agenda, Minutes, and Packet Located on our Website: Click Here -> Link

Introduce Interpretation Services

- I. CALL TO ORDER
II. MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES
III. CONSENT AGENDA
IV. PUBLIC COMMENT
V. State Council on Developmental Disabilities: SCDDC
VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
VII. PUBLIC COMMENT – Same format as point IV
VIII. ARCA REPORT
IX. ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION ITEM
Closed session: (Topic) If Applicable



Cultivating Connection - Empathetic Stewardship - Seizing Opportunities - Intentional Adaptability

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2025

Virtual Meeting

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

10. Renee Perls, Secretary

STAFF PRESENT:

1. Ashley Harmon, Executive Assistant
2. Ben Braun, Associate Director of Early Start and Young Children
3. Chris Hanson, Associate Director of Client Services/ Adults
4. Daniel Bermeo, Case Management Supervisor
5. Der Yang, Compliance Manager
6. Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo, Executive Director
7. Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Client Services/Children
8. Fanta Nelson, Director of Diversity and Equity
9. Fabiola Meza, Human Resource Manager
10. Fruc Menchavez, HCBS
11. Genia Lindberg, Administrative Services Manager
12. Herb Hastings, Client Advocate
13. Jenifer Castaneda, Self Determination Manager
14. Jairo Guiza, Cultural Specialist
15. John Danielson, Case Manager
16. Lindsay Meninger, Associate Director of Client Services
17. Lynn Nguyen, Director of Finance & Administration
18. Lucy Ravello, Director of Health and Behavior
19. Mariana Varela, Manager of Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion
20. Marina Acosta, Support Services Supervisor
21. Margaret Casebeer, Case Management Supervisor
22. Michael Minton, Manager of Risk Management and Quality Assurance
23. Michelle Velasco, Case Management Supervisor
24. Ronke Sodipo, Director, Client Services
25. Steve Robinson, Director Community Services
26. Priscilla Gomez, Community Services Supervisor
27. Walter Jones, Cultural and Community Engagement Specialist
28. Arlette, RCEB Employee
29. Vanessa Ibanez, Case Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

1. 5102637968
2. ABRAHAM PRINGLE
3. Ami Sullivan
4. Ana K Ordonez
5. Angela Gattis
6. Araceli
7. Assata Olugbala
8. AYCW Consulting
9. Bernard Ashcraft
10. c miller
11. Carleene
12. Chelsea Kalbaugh
13. Chris Aguire - DDS
14. Denise Bradley
15. Dinah
16. Dr. Tracey Edwards
17. Hyeyoon Cho
18. iPhone
19. Jenica Hadley - 24 Hour Home Care
20. Latashia Perry
21. Leatrice Tomlinson
22. Lisa Lee
23. Lorena G
24. Marcia
25. Marcie Hodge
26. Maria Ramirez
27. Mariana Varela
28. Mark Caffee
29. maureen fitzgerald
30. Maxine Paula Milam | DDS
31. Megan
32. Megan B.
33. Melisha Linzie
34. Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers
35. Moe Conteh
36. Monika Brooks
37. Patricia Albeño
38. Pia
39. Pilar Bernal
40. Rajesh Vaddiraju
41. Raji
42. Rajitha' iphone
43. Rocia Smith (Smith)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 44. Sabreena Sahota, ACPHD | 47. Saudia Keeton | 51. Tandra DeBose |
| 45. Sara Martinez de Osaba
(she/her) | 48. Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD | 52. Tonya |
| 46. Saruh | 49. solss | 53. Vi Ibarra |
| | 50. Sonia M | 54. Wendell James |

CALL TO ORDER

Frank Paré called the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay to order at 7:00 pm. Interpreters were announced and Spanish Translation was turned on. Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values were read.

A quorum was not established.

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

- M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the September 22, 2025 Agenda as presented”
[Brian/Dan] Unanimous - The motion was adopted.
- M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the June 23, 2025 Minutes as presented”.
(Lisa/Dan] Unanimous - The motion was adopted.

Mr. Paré reviewed a letter the Board of Directors received from DDS and briefly discussed the plan of action.

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.

Mr. Paré reminded participants of the public comment rules he emphasized the importance of respectful dialogue, stating He reaffirmed the group’s shared commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and maintaining a respectful environment.

Patricia Albeño, speaking on behalf of Congreso Familiar, thanked the Regional Center of the East Bay for its long-term support of their annual conferences for Spanish-speaking families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. She noted that the Regional Center’s partnership made it possible to unite families to learn and connect. Although she had planned to show a video highlighting the conference’s impact, permission was not granted. Ms. Albeño mentioned that Mr. Frank and other staff members who attended witnessed its positive effect on the community. She invited attendees to view the video on Congreso Familiar’s YouTube channel and reaffirmed the organization’s commitment to continuing this work. She ended by expressing appreciation for the ongoing support and partnership.

Angela Gattis, a founding member of Congreso Familiar and mother of an adult Regional Center client, shared her gratitude for the Regional Center’s past sponsorship of the Contra Costa County conference. She described years of successful collaboration between parents, professionals, schools, service providers, and the Regional Center that had strengthened the community. Ms. Gattis expressed deep disappointment that the Regional Center would no longer contract Congreso Familiar to coordinate the event, stating that the decision overlooked the community’s long-standing dedication and experience. She urged reconsideration, emphasizing the importance of maintaining collaboration and improving the work already accomplished. Ángela Gattis, madre de un adulto cliente del Centro Regional y miembro fundadora de Congreso Familiar, agradeció al Centro Regional por su apoyo a la conferencia del condado de Contra Costa. Destacó la exitosa colaboración durante muchos años entre padres, profesionales, distritos escolares, proveedores de servicios y el Centro Regional. La Sra. Gattis expresó su profunda tristeza y decepción al enterarse de que el Centro Regional ya no contrataría a Congreso Familiar para coordinar la conferencia. Señaló que esta decisión no reconocía el esfuerzo y compromiso de la comunidad. Concluyó pidiendo reconsiderar la decisión y subrayó la importancia de continuar fortaleciendo lo ya construido a través de la colaboración y la confianza.

Rocio Smith spoke on behalf of Ms. Valesca Santos, a longtime volunteer and mother of two Regional Center clients. Ms. Santos thanked Regional Center staff for their support of Congreso Familiar and described her 25 years of involvement

helping organize the parent-led conference for Spanish-speaking families. She expressed disappointment that the Regional Center planned to end its funding after 2025 and take over coordination internally, saying the decision disregarded the community's long-standing work and collaboration. Ms. Santos urged the Regional Center to reconsider and continue supporting Congreso Familiar.

Sara Martinez de Osaba, a board member of The Arc of the East Bay, voiced her strong support for continued funding of Congreso Familiar and its annual conference. She emphasized that the Latino community already faced challenges and lacked safe spaces, particularly for families with members who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sara Martinez de Osaba stressed the importance of maintaining financial support for the conference and requested guidance from the Regional Center on how families and advocates could effectively advocate to preserve funding following recent legislative changes.

Assata Olugbala urged the board to make the Mason Tillman report public, emphasizing transparency and fairness. She expressed concern over the pause of the Diversity and Equity Committee, noting the lack of a timeline for resuming its work and requesting outreach dates for other communities, especially African Americans. Assata Olugbala said the committee's work should continue alongside listening sessions and stressed the importance of equity and accessibility. She also asked for an easier system for the public to access meeting agendas.

Marcia expressed her concerns around the release of the Mason Tillman report, noting it had been completed months earlier. She expressed concern that the Hispanic community listening session was poorly publicized and had low attendance. She recommended better outreach through emails and Zoom access, questioned who organized the meetings and their qualifications, and called for greater transparency and accessibility for future sessions.

Lorena Gómez, mother of a Regional Center client and member of the Congreso Familiar steering committee, highlighted her long involvement with the conference and its importance for Hispanic families. She expressed disappointment over the Regional Center's decision to stop funding the event and asked that the decision be reconsidered, while thanking the Center for its years of support. Lorena Gómez, madre de un cliente del Centro Regional y miembro del comité directivo de Congreso Familiar, resaltó su larga participación en la conferencia y su valor para las familias hispanas. Expresó decepción por la decisión del Centro Regional de dejar de financiar el evento y pidió reconsiderarla, agradeciendo los años de apoyo brindado.

Araceli expressed sadness that the Regional Center would no longer organize Congreso Familiar. She said the event had been a vital space for learning, connection, and hope for families of people with disabilities. She urged the board to preserve this meaningful tradition and thanked them for considering its impact on families. Araceli expresó su tristeza porque el Centro Regional ya no organizaría el Congreso Familiar. Dijo que el evento había sido un espacio vital de aprendizaje, conexión y esperanza para las familias de personas con discapacidades. Pidió a la junta que mantuviera esta valiosa tradición y agradeció que consideraran su impacto en las familias.

Marcie Hodge, requested a call for the resignation of the board president and others she believed had contributed to a decline in civility, integrity, and order during meetings. She cited repeated violations of Robert's Rules of Order and referenced an investigation by the Department of Social Services into actions taken without quorum and unprofessional conduct that, in her view, damaged trust and effectiveness. Marcie Hodge also raised concern over the unreleased Mason Tillman report and questioned the board's professional standards. She noted that qualified individuals she had referred for board membership had not been accepted, leaving the board below its required composition. She concluded by stating that forming a new board would be in the organization's best interest.

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: SCDDC

Sheraden Nicholau from State Council congratulated Congreso Familiar for its successful conferences and shared updates on upcoming events. She announced statewide advocacy trainings, upcoming council meetings, and opportunities for community involvement. Ms. Nicholau encouraged advocacy for disability funding amid federal cuts, shared that the Bay Area Regional Manager position was open, and invited the public to complete a survey to help shape California's 2027–2031 State Plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Executive Director Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo provided a comprehensive update covering statewide and local developments. She summarized key points from the recent Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) meeting, including deadlines for provider rate implementation, compliance requirements under the Public Records Act, and ongoing fiscal concerns tied to California's projected \$24 billion budget shortfall. She noted

that while some cuts may not immediately affect disability services, planning and monitoring were already underway. Dr. Nanyonjo also highlighted several accomplishments, such as a successful Deaf conference in Fremont and the opening of Blue Moon Living Home — the first fully accessible residence in California for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. She discussed the launch of RCEB’s community listening sessions for the Asian American Pacific Islander and Latino communities, thanking board members for their participation and announcing plans for additional sessions to ensure broader input. To conclude, Dr. Nanyonjo introduced Ms. Fabiola Meza as RCEB’s new Human Resources Director, praising her extensive experience and leadership within the agency. Ms. Meza expressed gratitude and enthusiasm for her new role.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE – Lynn Nguyen, Director of Finance & Administration

RCEB received the B-2 intent letter last week from DDS for FY25-26. The staff has started to work on the detailed Purchase of Services and Operations budget for the current fiscal year and will submit to the Board for approval at the October board meeting. We are still pending the B-2 contract, which will be submitted for Board approval next month.

The August financials has a different format to compare the B-2 allocation for FY25-26 versus the A-1 for FY24-25. Note that DDS changed its naming convention in the B series, with B-2 being the 2nd amendment, which is equivalent to A-1 in A Series. POS allocation shows \$1.139B versus \$903M, which is an increase of 31%. OPS allocation shows \$92M versus \$86M, which is an increase of 6.85%. The increase in POS is mainly for caseload growth and provider rate reform increase. The increase in OPS funding is for caseload growth, funding for reduction of caseload ratios, increase in rent and Public Record Act funding. RCEB did not receive continuation funding for Self Determination Implementation, as well as reduction in funding for rate reform while we still continue to work on rate reform issues for implementation.

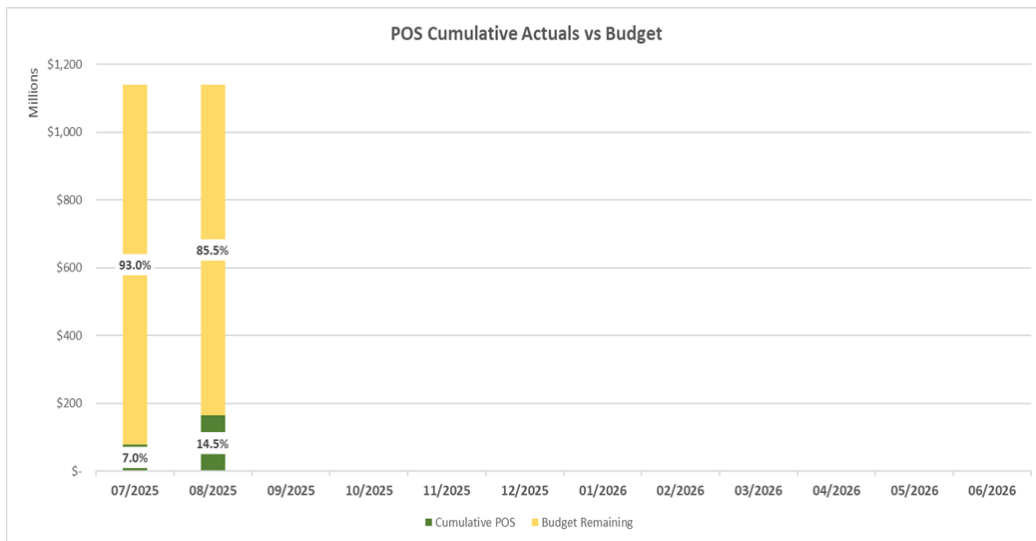
In total, RCEB received funding of \$1.232B for FY25-26, compared to \$989M for FY24-25, an increase of 24%.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS)

Through August 2025, the financial report summary shows year-to date POS expenditures of \$165M (or 15% of the \$1.139B B-2 budget). In comparison to FY24-25, POS expenditures through August were \$118M, which represented 13% of the A-1 budget allocation.

For CPP/CRDP, RCEB was only funded \$524k in the B-2 allocation for FY25-26. The staff has submitted our CPP/CRDP plan proposal to DDS and we are waiting for the funding in the B-3 allocation.

The graph POS **cumulative** Actuals versus Budget shows POS expenditures trending month-over month compared to the overall budget for FY 25-26.

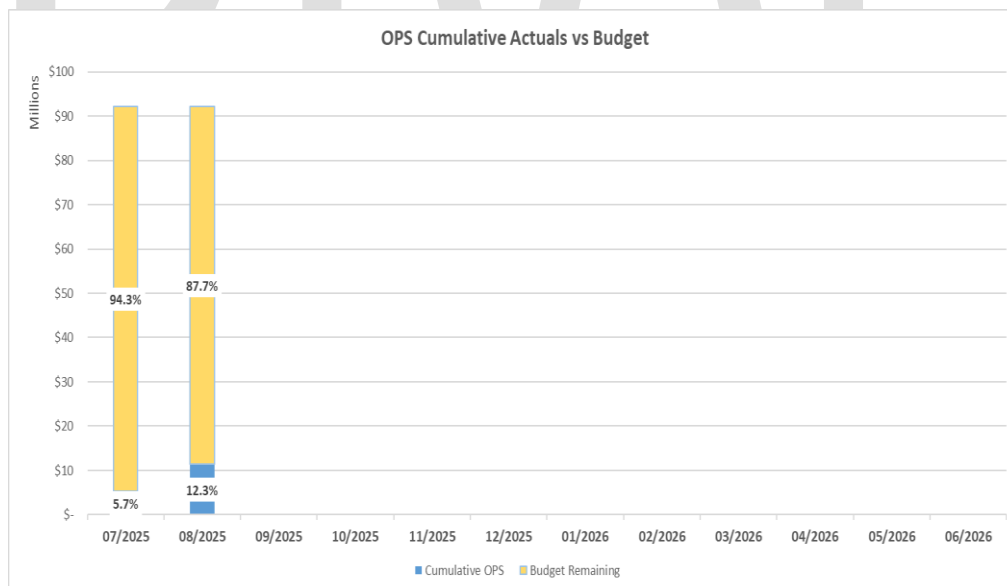


OPERATIONS

With the recent issuance of the B-2 letter of intent by DDS, the staff has only started to work on the OPS budget for FY25-26. The staff will provide the Board with a detailed Operations report at the October board meeting. However, we have started planning for and posting growth positions while hiring 30 more positions as a result of the recent 2 job fairs.

Actual year-to date OPS expenditures were \$11M (or 12% of B-2 budget) which is comparable to last year \$10M (or 11% of A-1 budget) at this time.

The graph OPS cumulative Actuals versus Budget below shows OPS expenditures trending month-over-month compared to the overall budget for FY23-24.



CASH FLOW STATUS

In July, RCEB’s cash on hand reached its lowest point of the year. The Agency had just enough cash to fund our invoices for June services that were paid out mid-July and we did not have to draw on our line of credit. With the issuance of the B-1, RCEB received the first two advances for Fiscal Year 25-26 on July 17th. The 3rd cash advance was received on August 6th. These 3 advances replenished the Agency’s cash on hand.

INVESTMENT AND INTEREST INCOME

With the advances received in July and August for FY25-26 funding, RCEB invested funds in excess of cash held for operations in short-term treasury bills in accordance with RCEB's investment policy. Interest revenue through August was \$711k, earning at 3.61% interest rate. The Fed has recently announced .25% reduction, which would affect our future reinvestments.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 24-25

Aiello, Goodrich & Teuscher (AGT), RCEB's independent auditor, has completed field work of the financial audit for the fiscal year 24-25. No findings have been discovered to date. AGT is scheduled to present the draft report to the Board at the October 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.]

No Contracts this month.

Mr. Paré delivered his report by reflecting on his attendance at the Congreso Familiar event. He described it as a moving and well-organized gathering where families came together to access resources and support, despite community fears related to immigration enforcement. He praised RCEB staff and volunteers, including several board members, for their strong participation and dedication.

Mr. Paré also shared that he had recently been invited by Latino families to listen to their experiences with the Regional Center. While he heard positive comments, he noted that many concerns were familiar—such as challenges with communication, responsiveness, and navigating the system. He stated that he had already discussed these issues with Dr. Nanyonjo during the executive committee meeting and promised to bring the feedback to the board.

He concluded by expressing appreciation for being welcomed into those community conversations, reaffirming his commitment to continued engagement and listening, and noting that there were no contracts to report that evening.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: April Key-Lee

Ms. Key-Lee presented membership development current standings. She announced two new board candidates—Mr. Raj, a parent of a Regional Center client with professional experience in finance and business leadership, and Ms. Dinah Shapiro, a former board member seeking to rejoin. Both candidates had completed interviews and reference checks, and their information would be shared for review before a vote at the October meeting. Ms. Key-Lee also reminded members that officer elections for the 2026 term would take place during the November 2025 annual meeting. She invited current members to express interest in officer roles—President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary—and explained that nominations would remain open for two months. Additionally, Ms. Key-Lee introduced Mr. David Glasser as a candidate for board approval. Mr. Glasser, a family member of a Regional Center client, had extensive experience in finance, audit, and administration. A motion to approve his nomination was made by Ms. Key-Lee, seconded by Mr. Brian, and opened for discussion.

Mr. Hogue inquired about a possible conflict of interest since Mr. Glasser's spouse works with a local resource agency. Ms. Key-Lee clarified that the agency was not currently a Regional Center vendor and that standard due diligence would be followed for all candidates and board members regarding potential conflicts. Mr. Hogue also requested a transparent tracking system for the membership committee interview process.

Following discussion, Ms. Ashley Harmon facilitated the confidential voting process through SurveyMonkey for board members to cast their votes. Mr. Paré officially welcomed David Glasser to the board of directors indicating he was approved with plurality.

Please check our website and read about the board and e-mail your interest: [Board of Directors - Regional Center of the East Bay](#)

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE [CAC]: Renee Perls, Secretary

No CAC meeting this past month.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE [PVAC]: Dan Hogue

Mr. Hogue explained that PVAC would now begin each session by identifying actionable recommendations for the Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB). One recent suggestion included organizing vendor fairs, similar to those at other regional centers. The committee also planned to revise its charter and bylaws to better align with its advisory role, with both voting and non-voting members invited to contribute ideas.

Dr. Nanyonjo participated in the discussion, emphasizing collaboration, consistency, transparency, and equity within RCEB operations. Mr. Hogue noted that the committee would work closely with Dr. Nanyonjo, Mr. Steve Robinson, and Ms. Fanta Nelson to strengthen provider relations.

He reported several operational updates: a new DDS service code for teaching American Sign Language (ASL); compliance deadlines for the Quality Incentive Program by July 2026; and the rollout of electronic visit verification for certain service providers. He also mentioned upcoming changes to the vendorization process, which will be standardized through a provider portal beginning January 1.

Mr. Hogue announced that Mr. Fruc M. had been promoted to Training Manager and shared updates on quality assurance reviews for residential and day programs. He also addressed concerns related to the Public Records Act, clarifying that all provider-submitted documents may be subject to disclosure starting January 1, though DDS had yet to issue full guidance. Toward the end of his report, Mr. Hogue conveyed that some providers had expressed unease about transparency, governance, and leadership within the board. He suggested an independent third-party audit or investigation to restore trust and ensure accountability. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Frank Paré asked clarifying questions about the Provider Equity Subcommittee, which Mr. Hogue confirmed would now meet quarterly due to fewer concerns being raised. When asked about the Mason Tillman report, Mr. Hogue clarified that while it had been discussed, the committee recognized the issue predated Dr. Nanyonjo's leadership and agreed to allow her time to address equity concerns. He stressed that the importance of releasing the report had not been dismissed, only that the focus had shifted toward moving forward under new leadership.

The Board of Directors and Executive Director engaged in conversation.

Mr. Paré, the Board President, addressed the discussion that had shifted toward historical issues and ongoing rumors. He stated that such matters were not appropriate to debate at that moment and emphasized the need to maintain focus and professionalism so the board could carry out its work effectively. Mr. Paré acknowledged that misinformation and personal conflicts had contributed to confusion both within and outside the board. To address this, he confirmed that the topic—particularly related to the disputed report—would be formally placed on the agenda for the next board meeting. This, he said, would allow for a structured and transparent discussion to “clear the record” and prevent further speculation. Mr. Paré closed by recognizing the efforts of members working to resolve misunderstandings and confirmed the meeting would move forward after Mr. Hogue's report concluded.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Paré reread the public comment disclaimer - The Board welcomes comments from any person regarding RCEB's service and support to the East Bay community. This Board meeting is conducted virtually via Webinar. If you would like to make a comment, click the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment is being taken on the Agenda item. You will then be unmuted when it is your turn to make your comment for up to 3 minutes. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Thank you in advance for your interest. Please remember to be honest, direct, and respectful.

Araceli, emphasized that Congreso Familiar was an essential part of the Regional Center's identity and a vital source of support for Hispanic families. She urged the board to recognize its cultural and community value, asked that her comments be recorded in the minutes, and requested that the event be preserved./ destacó que Congreso Familiar es una parte esencial de la identidad del Centro Regional y una fuente vital de apoyo para las familias hispanas. Instó a la junta a reconocer su valor cultural y comunitario, pidió que sus comentarios se incluyeran en el acta y solicitó que se mantenga el evento.

Tandra DeBose addressed the board to seek clarification about the Diversity and Equity Subcommittee. She explained that over the summer, she had met with Mr. Frank Paré and a former board member to discuss how the group planned to move forward. After hearing Mr. Dan Hogue mention that the subcommittee might no longer be active, she asked for clarification on which subcommittees were still operating and noted that she had not heard of any meetings since June or July.

**The Board of Directors* clarified the discussion regarding Diversity and Equity Subcommittee was related to PVAC's subcommittee not the Board.*

Assata Olugbala announced the dates for the upcoming Black Community Listening Sessions and asked how to access the Zoom link for the virtual meeting. She praised the board's transparency but strongly criticized the continued delay in releasing the Mason Tillman report, calling it unacceptable and urging the board to make it public without further postponement.

Sabreena Sahota, coordinator for the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council, provided an update on the council's work. She shared that their July planning meeting identified key priorities for the year: engagement, collaboration, and amplifying community voices.

To support these goals, the council would hold a listening session during its next hybrid board meeting on October 9 to gather feedback from attendees about needed resources and priorities. Ms. Sahota also announced the start of planning for the 2026 Transition Conference, with biweekly meetings beginning in October, and invited anyone interested to participate.

Jennifer, Manager of Federal Programs at the Regional Center of the East Bay, highlighted the success and importance of the recent community listening sessions. She noted that participants had shared powerful stories that were helping shape the Regional Center's operations and reinforce its core values of connection, adaptability, and responsiveness to community feedback. She also provided an update on the Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee, which meets monthly to support program implementation. Ms. Jennifer announced several open Requests for Proposals (RFPs) posted on the Regional Center's website, including one focused on assisting families and participants already enrolled in self-determination. She added that this initiative would include monthly virtual town halls from September 2025 through February 2026, with translation available for participants. Ms. Jennifer concluded by expressing enthusiasm for ongoing collaboration and learning with the community.

Vi Ibarra, Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council (CCDDC): provided an update on the council's activities. She shared that during the June annual planning meeting, the board set priorities for the upcoming year and voted in two new members — Mr. Matt Bell from Special Olympics Northern California and Mr. Eric Estrada from the Adults with Disabilities Program at Mount Diablo Adult Education. The council did not meet in July or August but would begin its new annual cycle with a meeting on September 24. Ms. Ibarra announced that the meeting location had changed to 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez and encouraged attendees to join either in person or via Zoom. She concluded by expressing enthusiasm for the council's new year of programming and community engagement.

Maria Ramirez expressed surprise at recent criticisms of the current board, noting that similar concerns were not raised under previous leadership. She praised Mr. Frank and Mr. Brian for their transparency, accountability, and efforts to improve responsiveness to families' needs. However, Ms. Ramirez voiced strong frustration over the unreleased Mason Tillman report, emphasizing that families had been waiting months for answers. She mentioned sending an email to Ms. Sadia on September 4, after reading an article in the Oakland Post about the Regional Center, but said she received no response and was unsure if board members had seen it and asked if she scared Ashley with the multiple emails. She urged the board to place the report on the agenda and questioned why the Diversity and Equity Committee was no longer active, especially during a time of continued racial inequities and attacks on Black and Brown communities. Ms. Ramirez stressed that the committee's work was more necessary than ever and asked for acknowledgment and action.

Sara Martínez de Osaba thanked the Regional Center board and Dr. Becky for their service and leadership during difficult times. She urged the board not to make prior experience a requirement for membership, warning it could exclude diverse and underrepresented voices. Instead, she recommended offering training to new members and including families from Congreso Familiar to strengthen equity and representation.

Marcie Hodge confirmed the Equity Committee was still meeting quarterly and emphasized transparency regarding the Mason-Tillman report, urging its public release. She praised Dr. Becky for positive changes, including more referrals, thanked Mr. Hogue for his equity work, and reiterated the need for professionalism and accountability within the board.

Denise Bradley questioned transparency on the board, noting Mr. Glasser's connection to Ms. April's agency and calling for clearer reporting of vote counts. She also criticized the Mason-Tillman Report, saying it lacked communication, had questionable data on provider ethnicity, and misrepresented which clients face the greatest challenges.

Tonya urged the board to release the Mason-Tillman Report, noting it was paid for and vital to addressing long-standing equity issues. She praised Mr. Frank for increasing transparency and Dr. Becky for her openness, emphasizing that public discussion of the report would help rebuild trust.

Patricia Albeño clarified the current status of the Diversity and Equity Subcommittee meeting.

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

Mr. Paré provided information on ARCA Leadership Academy which will be held on November 14–15 in Sacramento, encouraging board members to register. He noted that the board planned to participate in several training sessions over the next year to strengthen governance and understanding of procedures, bylaws, and state regulations, reflecting feedback from previous training sessions.

David Glasser reminded attendees that September was Emergency Preparedness Month, emphasizing the importance of planning for individuals with disabilities, their families, and caregivers. He offered to share FEMA resources and preparedness materials with the Regional Center to post on its website.

Mr. Paré called the meeting to adjournment.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Acronym List

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