



Cultivating Connection - Empathetic Stewardship - Seizing Opportunities - Intentional Adaptability

Board of Directors Meeting
 Monday, January 26, 2026
 Virtual Meeting

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Frank Paré	President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
2. Sadia Mumtaz	Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
3. Renee Perls	Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
4. Brian Blaisch	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
5. Dan Hogue	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
6. Rose Coleman	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
7. Teresita DeJesus	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
8. David Glasser	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
9. Rajesh Voddiraju	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
10. Dinah Shapiro	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

STAFF PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ashley Harmon, Executive Assistant | 16. Jeff Dix, Quality Services |
| 2. Alexander, Admin Assistant | 17. Jenifer Castañeda, Manager Federal Programs |
| 3. Ben Braun, Associate Director of Early Start and Young Children | 18. Kim Limato, Case Management Supervisor |
| 4. Chris Hanson, Associate Director of Client Services/Adults | 19. Lindsay Meninger, Associate Director |
| 5. Cristie Raynor, Case Management Supervisor | 20. Lucy, Director |
| 6. Der Yang, Compliance Manager | 21. Lynn Nguyen, Director of Finance & Administration |
| 7. Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo, Executive Director | 22. Mariana Varela, Manager of Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion |
| 8. Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Client Services/Children | 23. Margaret Casebeer, Case Management Supervisor |
| 9. Erin, QA Supervisor | 24. Michael Minton, Manager of Risk Management and Quality Assurance |
| 10. Fanta Nelson, Director of Diversity and Equity | 25. Michelle Velasco, Case Management Supervisor |
| 11. Fabiola Meza, Human Resource Manager | 26. Priscilla Gomez, Community Services |
| 12. Fruc Menchavez, Training Manager | 27. Ronke Sodipo, Director, Client Services |
| 13. Herb Hastings, Client Advocate | 28. Shannon Barnes, Controller |
| 14. Helene Court, Case Management Supervisor | 29. Steve, Director Community Services |

GUESTS PRESENT:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Anh Nguyen | 15. Herb Hastings | 28. Maria Ramirez | 41. Sheraden Nicholau, |
| 2. Ann | 16. iPhone | 29. Melisha Linzie | SCDD |
| 3. Assata Olugbala | 17. iPhone (2) | 30. Michaela Conteh | 42. Tandra DeBose |
| 4. C. Young | 18. Jaynette Underhill- | 31. Michelle Alisea | 43. Valesca Santos |
| 5. Carleene | Levingston | 32. Monica Montgomery | 44. Vi Ibarra |
| 6. Carlos Castellanos | 19. jazmin | 33. Monika Brooks | 45. Vidisha |
| 7. Chris Aguire - DDS | 20. Jenica Hadley | 34. mr212 | 46. Vijaya Srinivasan |
| 8. daniellemotley | 21. Justine Esomonu | 35. Patricia Albeño | 47. Visions' Management |
| 9. Denise Bradley | 22. Kashif Khan | 36. Preselah Seymore | Team |
| 10. Dennis Faigal | 23. Kris K | 37. Sadashiv | 48. Wendell James |
| 11. Diana G. | 24. Latashia Perry | 38. Samantha Torres | 49. zack |
| 12. Dominique Mellion | 25. Lisa Lee | 39. Sara Trail | |
| 13. Dr.Tracey Edwards | 26. Lorena G | 40. Shalon Cortez | |
| 14. Francesca | 27. Marcie Lyn | | |

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Interpreters were announced and Spanish Translation was turned on. Our Mission, Vision, and Core Values were read aloud. A quorum was established

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the January 26, 2026 Agenda as presented"
[Renee/Dinah] Unanimous - The motion was adopted.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the October and November 2025 Minutes as presented"
[Dinah/David] Unanimous - The motion was adopted.

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.

The Board heard comments from Marcie H. congratulating Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo on her first year as Executive Director, noting significant improvements in the referral process, increased fairness, and a more positive, customer-service-oriented culture at the Regional Center.

The Board heard comments from Denise Bradley congratulating Dr. Becky on her one-year anniversary as Executive Director and commended her strong leadership and the positive direction of RCEB, noting increased visibility of leadership staff within the community. She shared that she had applied to join the RCEB board, citing over 40 years of experience as a service provider and consultant in the intellectual and developmental disability field, but stated that her application was not brought forward for a full board vote. She noted that she was the second Black woman whose application did not receive a full board vote and emphasized that this pattern warranted board awareness for governance purposes, without attributing intent. Denise further described her interview experience as highly unprofessional and urged board members to view the recording to understand the actions taken by specific individuals during the process.

The Board heard comments from Monica Montgomery congratulating Dr. Becky on her first year as Executive Director, noting increased accountability, responsiveness, and support from RCEB leadership, which made her feel more heard and valued as a vendor of color.

The Board heard comments from Tandra DeBose praising Dr. Becky for the listening sessions and improved outreach, noting that they fostered meaningful family engagement, ongoing peer connections, and motivated her to help develop a parent support group, while emphasizing the importance of shared communication between families and the Regional Center.

The Board heard comments from Wendell James acknowledging positive changes under Dr. Becky's leadership while emphasizing that long-standing systemic issues could not be resolved quickly, noting that progress was occurring slowly and expressing concern about certain board members' behavior based on past meetings.

The Board heard comments from Samantha Torres introduced herself as president of the Richmond United Soccer Club and announced the return of the Top Soccer program, an inclusive, volunteer-supported soccer initiative for children and transition-age youth with disabilities in Richmond and West County, providing program details, volunteer requirements, and session dates.

The Board heard comments from Sara Trail expressing appreciation for Dr. Becky's leadership, praising the inclusive and well-facilitated listening sessions and noting her personal engagement through site visits, which she stated had strengthened leadership presence and positively impacted providers and those served, and she expressed optimism for the year ahead.

The Board heard comments from Gwen Captain with Visions Adult Day Program expressing appreciation for Dr. Becky's leadership and dedication over the past year, thanked her for remaining committed, acknowledged Dan Hogue's support, shared that a program participant had created a welcome animation for Dr. Becky, and encouraged her to continue her work with optimism for future progress.

The Board heard comments from Assata Olugbala who criticized the meeting's positive tone, demanded the fair presentation of the Mason-Tillman Report to address concerns about disproportionality and fairness affecting African American vendors, described negative experiences during listening sessions, alleged suppression of criticism, and questioned leadership accountability and board diversity until the report was presented.

The Board heard comments from Patricia Albeño who expressed agreement with concerns previously raised, acknowledging that while some community members felt increasingly supported, other ethnic groups—particularly the Latino community—were experiencing exclusion, favoritism, and lack of representation, and she urged intentional, inclusive dialogue and strategies to ensure equity, unity, and fair distribution of resources across all communities.

The Board heard comments from Shalon Cortez who shared her personal experience as a parent, stating that despite applying to the Regional Center approximately two years earlier, she had not received outreach or services, experienced multiple case manager changes, and struggled to navigate the system, and she expressed a desire to be heard, involved, and supported in obtaining inclusive services for her two children with special needs.

The Board heard comments from Jenica Hadley with 24 Hour Home Care, thanked Dr. Becky and the board, praising Dr. Becky's leadership, cultural realignment, openness to constructive criticism, and visible growth over the past year, and expressed appreciation for the continued service and commitment of both staff and board members.

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: SCDDC

Sheraden Nicholau from State Council provided the Board of Directors an update on several advocacy and policy initiatives, including an upcoming public hearing and comment deadline on proposed California Department of Education changes to extended school year regulations, the State Council meeting in Sacramento, and the January 31 deadline for the California Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities. She also announced the launch of National Core Indicators Family Surveys, emphasized their importance for informing policy at the state and national levels, and encouraged participation. Additionally, she shared resources related to budget advocacy and Medicaid Watch, urging the community to report service changes to support effective advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Executive Director Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo provided a comprehensive update on operational updates highlighting a new \$500,000 one-time allocation, in partnership with Sunflower Hill, to address food insecurity among Regional Center of the East Bay clients through community-based organizations distributing gift cards. She also announced a significant internal restructuring within Client Services, including the creation of six new manager-level positions to improve supervision, communication, and accountability, reduce workload strain on supervisors and associate directors, and strengthen oversight and support across programs serving nearly 30,000 individuals. She provided updates from the recent ARCA meetings, including anticipated budget and policy changes affecting the Self-Determination Program, rate reform, and staffing formulas. She highlighted upcoming deadlines for providers, noted proposed adjustments to minimum wage and core staffing metrics to improve accountability, and cautioned that while the Governor's budget initially appeared stable, potential state and federal funding impacts—along with rising service demand and costs—posed ongoing risks, underscoring the need for continued advocacy and cautious optimism. The board engaged in clarifying questions.

Fruc, our Training Manager also provided feedback on the changes within RCEB's training development.

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

The committee reported the below information, the board of directors engaged in clarifying questions regarding the information provided.

REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT FY25-26 June 2026						
	BUDGET B-2		EXPENDED 11/30/2025	% EXPENDED	PROJECTED EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE
OPERATIONS (OPS)						
PERSONNEL SERVICES	80,619,187	(1)	28,764,535	35.68%	80,619,187	-
OPERATING EXPENSE	14,620,745	(1)	5,139,939	35.16%	14,620,745	-
LESS: REVENUE	(3,157,986)	(2)	(1,800,788)	57.02%	(3,157,986)	-
TOTAL OPERATIONS	92,081,947		32,103,686	34.86% (5)	92,081,947	-
PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS)						
Regular Purchase of Service	1,138,922,854	(3)	443,739,372	38.96%	1,138,922,854	-
Community Placement Plan-Reg & Start-up	523,629		244,302	46.66%	523,629	-
TOTAL POS	1,139,446,483		443,983,674	38.96% (6)	1,139,446,483	-
TOTAL BUDGET	1,231,528,430		476,087,360	38.66%	1,231,528,430	-

Note #1: Both allocations for FY25-26 and FY24-25 included various OPS policy items, including core staffing, facility rent, SDP supports, case load reduction, Lanterman Act provisional eligibility, HCBS compliance. Both fiscal years did not include SDP ongoing implementation while FY25-26 received a reduction for funding of Rate Reform Acceleration. FY25-26 included full CPP/CRDP OPS allocation while FY24-25 only had 1/2 of total allocation in A-1.

Note #2: Revenue includes interest income and ICF Administrative fees

Note #3: B-2 allocation for FY25-26 included 1,231,728,430 versus A-1 allocation for FY 24-25 was \$903,318,989, an increase of 31%. \$202,963,402 was for service provider rate reform

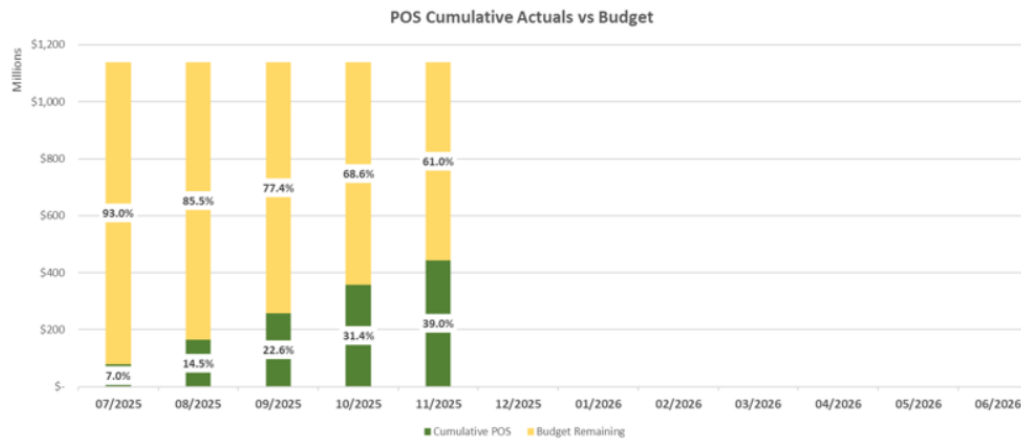
Note #4: Payroll YTD-wages paid through: 11/21/2025

Note #5: OPS expenditures at 35% of total budget as of 11/30/25, compared to 33% for FY 24-25 as of 11/30/24.

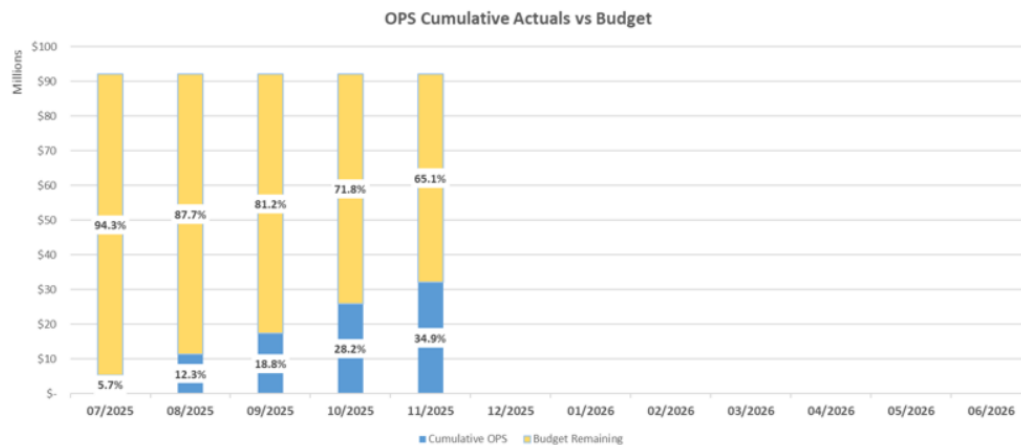
Note #6: POS expenditures at 39% of total budget as of 11/30/25, compared to 35% for FY 24-25 as of 11/30/25.

RCEB has not completed a detailed PEP (POS Expenditure projection) as it is not required for submission by DDS.

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



The graph OPS Cumulative Actuals versus Budget below shows OPS expenditures trending month-over-month compared to the overall budget for FY25-26.



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.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Frank Paré, President

The committee reported the Slate of Officers for 2026 and presented candidate individually for roll call voting.

Slate of Officers for 2026:

President:

Current Officer Frank

Nomination for Sadia with support from Renee and Lisa.

President, Sadia: 9 YES and 1 Abstain (Sadia)

~~Nomination for Brian with support from Lisa and Sadia.~~

Vice President:

Current Officer Sadia

~~Nomination for Lisa with support from Renee and Raj.~~

Nomination for Raj with support from Dan and David.

Vice President, Raj: 9 YES and 1 Abstain (Raj)

Secretary:

Current Officer Renee

Nomination for Dinah with support from David and Raj

Secretary, Dinah: 9 YES and 1 Abstain (Dinah)

Treasurer:

Nomination for David with support from Dan and Renee

Treasure, David: 9 YES and 1 Abstain (David)

Raj was nominated for the ARCA Board Delegate, voting will occur in two months (March Board Meeting).

The Board discussed previous board candidate interviews and evaluated if additional steps were needed.

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

The Committee reported on the recent PVAC committee meeting, a brief PVAC update, noting that recent meetings lacked quorum despite strong attendance, and shared that PVAC is reviewing proposed bylaw changes to encourage broader participation and fill key membership gaps. He highlighted important provider updates, including the February 27 deadline for Quality Incentive Program surveys and compliance requirements to avoid rate reductions, progress on a voluntary self-evaluation tool for day program providers, and advocacy gains from AB 2423, which revealed widespread provider underfunding. He also announced an upcoming East Bay Legislative Coalition breakfast as an opportunity for providers and stakeholders to engage directly with local legislators and advocate for sustained and improved services.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Paré reread the public comment introduction.

The Board heard comments from Vi Ibarra. related several upcoming events, including a legislative breakfast, a Developmental Disabilities Council board meeting with a budget update, an IDD resource fair in Walnut Creek, and a bi-county transition conference to support individuals with disabilities, families, and service providers.

The Board heard comments from Dominique Mellion who announced Families United's Kindergarten Readiness Literacy Program, funded by the City of San Leandro, which serves children ages 2–6 of all abilities through inclusive in-person storytime events and online literacy classes for families in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

The Board heard comments from Jazmin regarding Hispanic families and service access, clarified that systemic barriers—not cultural practices—limited services, cited lack of Spanish information and inequitable decisions, and raised unresolved questions about housing vouchers and access to support.

The Board heard comments from Herb Hasting regarding whether a transportation advocate who is not a provider could be eligible to serve on PVAC's transportation representative seat and requested a follow-up response, and he also announced that the BART Accessibility Task Force is seeking new public members, including individuals with disabilities and seniors, and shared information on meeting times and participation.

The Board heard comments from Tandra DeBose expressing concern that some community members felt unsupported, encouraged outreach to address those concerns, and thanked the board for their service while urging thoughtful, family-centered decision-making and wishing everyone well in the new year.

The Board heard comments from Assata Olugbala who raised concerns about the lack of transparency in the board nomination and interview process, questioned whether private interviews were appropriate, and called for a clearly documented, public procedure. She emphasized the urgent need for ethnic diversity on the board—particularly African American representation—given ongoing concerns about disproportionality in services, urged the reinstatement of the Diversity and Equity Committee, called for independent evaluation of case management performance, and expressed appreciation to Frank for his service while voicing concern about inactive board members.

The Board heard comments from Maria Ramirez who reported that testimony at a recent Hoover Commission hearing highlighted systemic racial and cultural disparities in regional center services, with Latino and Black families describing disrespect, delays, denial of services, and inequitable access that contradicted the intent of the Lanterman Act.

ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES (ARCA): Frank Paré, President
The committee did not present a report to the board.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted:

Ashley Harmon

Board Secretary / Executive Assistant

January 31, 2026

Date

Approval noted in the follow month's minutes.

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