

Provider Vendor Advisory Committee
Regional Center of the East Bay
Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2026

Call to Order – Dan Hogue

Dan began the meeting at 9:37am and asked everyone to put their name and organization in the chat as it helps with attendance keeping. Dan took a roll call for quorum. Quorum was not met.

PVAC Membership – Dan Hogue

Dan and Geneva have a new term that will be voted upon in the February 2026 meeting.

PVAC Membership Meeting:

- Voting members and Regional Center met a couple of months ago in 2025 and will be following up with another meeting soon, to follow up on what PVAC will look like in 2026.
- Geneva has begun reaching out to a couple of individuals who were interested in assisting with reviewing bylaws, and that group will also be meeting soon.

RCEB Reports –

DDS Cash Flow 2026 – Dr. Rebecca N.

- DDS has met with regional center executive teams, regarding 2026 cash needs. DDS anticipates using an offset schedule to ensure payments are timely.
- DDS is also reviewing employment and ensuring that subminimum wage jobs are not being used and instead vendors are looking for actual employment pathways for participants.

Rate Model Implementations - Dr. Rebecca N.

- There was a change in CA minimum wage and IRS mileage rates that went into effect on January 1, 2026.
- AB 2423: Passed meaning that effective December 1st of 2026, DDS is now required to post updated rate models every two years on their website regardless of an agreement to fund necessary increases.
 - This does not guarantee automatic funding though these rates are posted.
- Transportation 875 – as of November 2025, providers billed vehicle service mile rate. DDS has requested feedback from Regional Centers on the process.

Rate Increases – Steve Robinson

Service Providers included in rate reform will automatically get a rate increase, no additional steps required.

- For those with rates above the listed rates, they are considered hold harmless and will be held harmless until March 1, 2026.
- Negotiated rate provider, meaning providers outside of the rate reform, may complete a worksheet created by DDS if the organization has employees who are making under the minimum wage.
 - This worksheet should be sent to regional center by March 1st, 2026.
 - Currently the worksheet is locked and only for service code 525.

New Vendorization Process – Steve Robinson

Beginning January 1st, 2026 if applying for residential, early start or day services, these applications should be through the provider portal. For all other services, a letter of intent should be sent to vendorizations@rceb.org

- Beginning March 1st, all vendor applications will go through the provider directory.
- Regional center advises this is a new process and will take some time to learn.

QIP – Steve Robinsin

DDS has steps for compliance to get the full 10% of the QIP rate for 2026. DDS is requesting:

- Surveys – **Due February 27, 2026, extended from January 31, 2026.**
 - Note: If providers must complete more than one survey, one will count for 5% of the rate and the other will count for the other 5% of the rate.
- Additionally, there is a checklist which details all **other** requirements necessary for service providers to meet to get the full 10% QIP rate.
- RCEB team mentioned that on their end, it seems as many vendors have not met QIP. If vendors are having difficulties with survey links please email: qipquestions@dds.ca.gov
 - Make sure you are keeping documentation of the attempts made to get these surveys and compliance requirements met.

Introduction to QA Supervisor – Michael Minton

- Erin Frey is now the QA Supervisor, supervising the 9 QA's on RCEB's team.
- Erin came to regional center as a children's case manager and then transitioned to a QA.

Level 3 Homes – Michael Minton

- Beginning January 1st, 2026, level three homes must have consultation hours.

Day Program Self Evaluations – Michael Minton

- RCEB is almost ready to release the Day Program Self Evaluation which is required to be submitted yearly for all Day Programs according to Title 17.

- Thank you to AlaCosta, Las Trampas, Revitalize, Vistability, Murphy for helping create this evaluation.
- This is an optional form, but the evaluation itself is required.
- There will be roll out meetings on January 23rd at 11am and February 6th at 11am, during the Provider Meetings. Mike will be sending out link information to listserv as the date gets closer.

HCBS – Michael Minton

DDS' December 26, 2025 directive was sent to regional center regarding what regional should be tracking and reporting back to DDS. There have been changes that affect the community and Jeff Dix will be reaching out to those affected by the change to ensure they are up to date. Other announcements:

- Prior to this year, if an agency was noncompliant with HCBS, there was a 60-day corrective action plan process, after 60 days, 50% of funds would be held until compliant. Now, beginning 2026, if non-compliant, regional centers create a 30-day correction plan, then there are 30 days to follow the correction plan. If this is not completed, then regional centers are to follow the devendorization process.
- Regional Centers must also now also verify that DSP's in residential and day program settings are also trained on HCBS.
 - Three ways: Agencies may create their own in house training on the 10 HCBS points, agencies can use the training EBI has created online for DSPs with all 10 units on HCBS, or agencies can use HCBS consultants to come into residential homes/ day programs and they will start the training their staff.
 - Providers can find an HCBS consultant on the RCEB website at: rceb.org/hcbsconsultants

Cash Flow – Lynn Nguyen

DDS has asked regional centers to provide cash requirements needed for 2025-2026. This has been provided to ensure that funding is available regardless of budget cuts etc. Regional center also has a line of credit in place and has little concern regarding payments for 2025-2026, though they are still waiting for answers regarding advanced funding to ensure touching the line of credit with interest, is not needed.

RCEB Audit – Lynn Nguyen

DDS audits RCEB every two years and they will be present on January 26, 2026 and will be auditing RCEB for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

- This is an audit on 21 different areas of regional center system.

- If incorrect payments were provided to vendors, RCEB will be reaching out as part of the audit results.

Deadlines – Eva S.

- Fiscal Year 2023-2024 will be closing soon. The last opportunity to bill and receive payment is on or before April 7th, 2026. Please have all items submitted by the date as anything submitted after April 7th, 2026, will be very difficult to pay.
- The Current Fiscal Year 2025-2026 will also end soon. All outstanding billing claims from July 1, 2025 – March 1, 2026, must be submitted on or before April 7th, 2026.
- Behavioral Day Service Providers: DDS has issued an extension of timelines from 12/31/2025 to 2/28/2026 for compliance.

RCEB Board Update – Dan Hogue

The board does not meet in the month of December, so there is no report on the board meeting. Though Dan mentioned that there have been letters received from DDS regarding corrections needed, specifically, not having enough members, the conduct of the board during meetings, the board recruitment processes and the voting process.

SCDD – Sheraden N.

Public Comment Opportunities:

A couple of public comment opportunities for everyone coming up regarding the CA Department of Education as they are proposing the following:

- Early Start Regulations – Proposals for regulations have been requested to align eligibility across the education system and regional center system.
 - Public comments are accepted in person on January 20th and via email.
- Extended School Year Regulations – Under current law, extended school year services must be provided for 20 additional days. This proposal would allow schools to offer 15 days based on school hour requirements being met.
 - Public comments are accepted in person on January 27th and via email.

Dates & Deadlines & Upcoming Surveys:

- The CA State plan committee meeting is January 15
- Self Advocate Advisory Committee January 20th
- In person council meeting – January 27th
- The CA Leadership Forum is back in Sacramento and accepting applications with the deadline to apply being January 31st, 2026.
 - This is a free weeklong leadership experience for individuals with IDD in high school.

- National Core Indicator Surveys: In the next few weeks, individuals may should see surveys in their mail box. These are sent to randomly selected individuals who fall within one of the three following categories:
 - Child – Family Survey for families with children who receive regional center services and are under 18.
 - Adult – Family Survey for families with adults over 18 who receive regional center services.
 - Family – Guardian Survey for individuals who are served by regional center and do not live with family but are over 18.

Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council Report – Sabreena Sahota

No Report.

Contra Costa County Developmental Disabilities Council Report – Vi Ibarra

The council did not meet in December, but a hybrid meeting will be taking place on January 28th where a review of the governor’s budget will take place.

- Save the Date for the Upcoming Transition Fair Conference on March 28th at Chabot College in Alameda County.
 - For anyone interested in the transition fair, there will be limited vendor space.

ELBC – Will Sanford & Mike Pereira

This seems to be a placeholder budget with no reductions proposed. The governor is portraying a different picture than the deficit as projected in the LAO. The EBLC Budget review meeting is on January 21st, 2026 and will contain more in depth information on the governors budget. The Legislative Breakfast is also happening January 30th, 2026, from 10am to 12pm noon, so this will be a great opportunity to connect and advocate.

There is a projected 2026-2027 increase to DDS budget of 2.4 billion. Some quick points:

- Around 60% of funding is from the general fund, which is CA taxpayer money and the other 40% comes from the federal government.
- 220 million of reduced general fund impact is reserved for providers who do not meet QIP requirements.
 - DDS is predicting that a handful of providers will not meet QIP requirements and get the full 10%.
- There will be a 45 million in reductions to SDP.
- There will be an elimination of funding to Regional Center Implicit Biased training.
- The DOR is now implementing an order of selection process as of March 1st 2026.
 - The DOR is projecting they will not have enough funding for all their participants so they will begin prioritizing folks by rank.

- If the door is closed to our participants by the DOR, regional centers are required, under the Lanterman act, to fulfill the services that DOR provides now.
- One provision for HR1 is that there may be waivers included for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.
 - The intention is to provide a list so these individuals are excluded from 6-month renewal requirements, work requirements, community service requirements, etc.

PVAC Equity Subcommittee – Marcie Lyn Hodge

The last meeting took place on October 24th, 2025, and the next meeting will take place on January 23rd, 2026, at 1pm.

- Meetings are occurring quarterly.
- If you are interested in joining, or attending, reach out to Marcie Hodge.

Provider Meeting – Mike Pereira

The provider meetings take place every Friday at 11am, on non PVAC Fridays. There is also a troubleshooting call on Wednesdays at 2pm. These Provider meetings and troubleshooting calls are open to all.

- During the upcoming January 23rd, 2026, provider meeting, there will be a review of the Day Program Self Evaluation tool.

HireAble – Donna Finegold

- SSI Increases for 2026; there was a general Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.8%.
- For individuals who are working and receiving benefits, the threshold you can work without jeopardizing benefits went up to \$1,690 a month.
- The ABLE Act- If your disability occurred before the age of 46, you may open an able account.
- HireAble has had four new members in the last few weeks and they are continuing to expand.

Public Comment:

- Fight for Our Health Rally 1/14/2026 at the Capital.
- Las Trampas is hosting an event on January 31st, 2026 - Access and Advocacy: 1950's Casino Night theme

Meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

Respectfully submitted for review by Diana Gonzalez.