

Provider Vendor Advisory Committee

Regional Center of the East Bay

Meeting Minutes: March 13, 2026

i. Welcome & Introductions(Geneva Carlos Valentino):

The meeting began at 9:36am. The meeting packet was previously emailed on Wednesday via the google groups. An additional reminder to join google groups will be sent out.

ii. Voting Membership Roll Call:

Roll call was conducted and quorum was met at 9:39am.

III. Action Item: Minutes Review/Approval of last month's meeting minutes

Marcie Hodge motioned to approve the minutes for the month of February 2026. The motion was approved by majority vote at 9:40am.

III. PVAC Business (Geneva Carlos Valentino):

Bylaws: A meeting is still to be scheduled for the discussion of bylaws before they are presented to the group.

Google Groups: All google groups pending invitations have been resent. Currently, PVAC is sending all messages and updates via PVAC listserv on email as well as google groups. Some individuals may receive duplicate information. If individuals can join the google groups, it is encouraged.

Membership: Member information is included in the meeting packet. Currently, there are two service categories who need members! Please consider self-nominating or nominating another party to be a member for PVAC.

Membership Vote: Amanda Eicher is interested in becoming a PVAC member. Laura motioned to approve Amanda as a PVAC member, and the motion was passed by majority vote. Ember would like to be the membership chair, which would be very helpful for PVAC. Geneva introduced a motion which was approved by the majority.

IV. RCEB Leadership and Community Services Update (Dr. Nanyonjo, Steve Robinson & Team):

RCEB Lobbying: RCEB joined the grass roots day and discussed AB2324 (Arambula) and advocated for the Lanterman Act to be preserved. RCEB also advocated for caseload ratios encouraging a similar study to that of rate reform be completed to ensure there is sufficient staff to serve individuals.

RCEB Retreat: RCEB hosted a retreat for all managers which included the 6 new Client Services Managers. RCEB also implemented management classification which includes the client services manager and hopes this will help with communications and complying with DDS directives.

Communications: RCEB is working to identify how to have more robust communication with the provider community. They are exploring potential courses or/and catalog of courses to fill the gaps for vendors.

May Revise: Waiting to see the impacts of the budget on local organizations.

RCEB Board Meeting: March 23, 2026 is the next meeting and there will be many important community updates.

Rate Implementation: Hold harmless period ended February 28, 2026. Hold harmless has been extended for Level 7 until the end of June 2026. Regional centers will have to request this Health and Safety Waiver Exemption Letter that needs to be send to DDS by May 29th from Regional Centers.

New Vendorization Process: Effective March 1, 2026, all vendorizations are through the vendor portal.

- 875 and a handful of other services are still outside the portal.
- If applying, there is a lot of information on the process on the RCEB website. There is also a resource video on DDS website.
- RCEB has experienced some issues with the new vendorization portal.
 - Some service codes are not available in the drop-down menu.
 - For example, there is no category for Respite. RCEB encourages that if you do not see the service in the service menu, use the other selection and type out the service. If incorrect data is submitted, there is no option for corrections, so your application may be denied and need to be restarted.
 - DDS is currently gathering information on how to better the system. However, DDS will need to put out a request for proposal to fix this issue which may take some time.
- DDS only gave regional center a limited number of licenses to log into the portal, which slows down the review process and is asking for service provider patience.
- There is no need for more SLS/ILS or Residential providers.
 - RCEB has asked DDS if they can say they are not accepting new providers, but DDS denied as it doesn't align with regulations, but there is no need. Individuals are competing for referrals in this system.

DDS Directive: Coordinated Career Pathways was created through SB 188 and required DDS to establish a 3 year employment pilot program. The program had limited funding.

- Effective immediately, regional centers cannot enroll new participants in Coordinated Career Pathways.
- Additionally, because of funding limitations, DDS has assigned 12-year program cap versus the 18 months. Extensions for up to 3 months may be authorized by the executive director only if other services are not available. Regional centers must receive a notice of service!

QIP: Providers who had issues with their QIP survey and reached out to DDS before February 28, 2026, have until March 31, 2026 to complete the survey.

- On March 31st, 2026, DDS is hoping to share the final list of who is QIP eligible.
- If vendors did not submit a support ticket or reach out to DDS before February 27, 2026, then individuals are not eligible for 2026-2027 QIP.
- Completion of QIP survey completion is 78% across all regional centers.

HCBS: The regional center will soon be finding out how much funding they will have for HCBS trainings. RCEB will begin hosting listening sessions soon!

SIR Changes: In April, RCEB will send out an SIR training video to the vendor community. DDS has created 20 new categories for SIR. The changes will be more internally within the regional center system. Though there is a new SIR form.

Accounting Update: 23-24 fiscal year is closing and invoices must be submitted on or before April 7th. No outstanding claims will be paid after the date mentioned.

V. Reports

RCEB Board (Geneva Carlos Valentino):

Fiencial Audit: There was a clean audit with no weaknesses. David G. was introduced as the new chair of the Budget & Finance.

New Board Members: Raj for Support & Services, David for Finance, and Teresita for membership development. The board voted to approve DDS contracts B1 & B2 and the draft performance objectives. The board approved RCEB funding for low-income apartments.

SCDD Regional Advisory Committee (Sheraden Nicholau):

Next Meeting: New Regional Bay Area Manager & her will be present at next PVAC.

HUD Assisted Housing Public Comment: Comments for the changes in the eviction notice rules in HUD will be accepted until April 27 at 11:59pm EST.

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: March is DD Awareness Month and there are many resources available!

Alameda County DD Council (Sabreena Sahota):

No report.

Contra Costa DD Council (Vi Ibarra):

Upcoming Transition Conference and Resource Fair: March 28, 2026 at Chabot College

- There will be 16 different breakout sessions. Please share with your community!
- There are still a couple of tables for vendors, so sign up if you are interested!

Legislative Update (Will Sanford):

Budget Process: The Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 –Wednesday April 15th at 1:30pm

Senate Budget Sub-Committee #3 – Thursday, May 7th at 9:30am.

May Revise: This will be released by May 15, 2026, and then the legislature has until June 15th to send a “balanced budget” for governor to sign by June 30th.

Trailer Bills: On the department of Finance website, there is a trailer bill button, and you can read everything proposed. DDS has quite a few to build positions on.

Federal Access Rule: This is coming and focused on health and safety reporting.

Next EBLC Meeting: April 1, 2026, from 10am to 12pm.

Bill Review: Time is now to review bills and understand how they may impact us to get a better understanding of what actions to recommend.

Service Provider Equity (Marcie Hodge):

The next meeting will be on the fourth Friday of March at 1pm. Email Marcie if you would like to join.

Day Programs (Michael Pereira):

This is a meeting for all providers, and everyone is welcome to attend. Every Friday at 11am except for when PVAC is held.

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

- Anyone receiving SSI or Disability, individuals will now have to go through a continuing disability review. This may not be very frequent; but they are still required and now the federal government will be completing this.

VI. Public Comments All

VII. Adjourn

The next PVAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2026, at 9:30 AM. The meeting on February 13, 2026, adjourned at 10:48am.