



## **NORTH BAY REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** January 24, 2022

**TIME:** 11:30AM-1:30PM

**POSTED AT:** [scdd.ca.gov/northbay](https://scdd.ca.gov/northbay)

### **Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks called the meeting to order and determined that items on today's agenda and past agendas could not be acted or voted on as a quorum was not met. She then went on to detail a new process to attract more attendees to the RAC meetings. Lisa will create a survey to gauge what times and dates would be best for people to attend.

### **Item 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

RAC members Donna Martinez and Ellen Sweigert joined the meeting and introduced themselves. SCDD North State Office staff Mary Agnes Nolan joined the meeting to provide an overview of NCI National Core Indicators.

### **Item 3. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

Establish Quorum could not be acted upon, as not enough RAC members were present to vote on agenda items.

### **Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

RAC member Donna Martinez took the opportunity to provide her concerns regarding service provider re-openings and how to get folks out of the house and back to programs? Lisa responded by stating SCDD will keep the RAC committee informed if anything changes, or if there is any significant information regarding re-opening of programming services. She added 'No one knows at this point'.

**Item 5. APPROVAL OF PAST RAC MEETING MINUTES:**

Voting on the agenda was skipped due to a lack of quorum members for this meeting.

**Item 6. NORTH BAY OFFICE REPORT PART ONE**

This was a presentation on Mindfulness by North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks. For more information see the following link <https://www.mindful.org/meditation/mindfulness-getting-started/>. Members of the committee and staff remarked how useful, helpful and universal these techniques can be for everyone especially during this Pandemic.

**Item 7. SCDD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

Mary Agnes, from the North State office of the State Council provided an overview of the NCI National Core Indicator Survey Process and detailed her responsibilities of collecting Core Indicators from people receiving services from Regional Centers in 3 counties in Northern California, including the North Bay Regional Center. RAC member Ellen Sweigert remarked that a program she attends is a model for independent living skills. RAC member Donna Martinez had questions regarding the validity of representation and incentives to respond to the survey. Mary Agnes and Lisa addressed the outcomes for justification of funding and described efforts to try and publicize the importance of NCI National Core Indicator Survey participation with the stakeholders and the service recipients in the North Bay. Mary Agnes is willing to come back and update or inform the RAC in the future. RAC member Ellen Sweigert asked Mary Agnes to consider presenting to the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN). Mary Agnes suggested other SCDD staff provide a presentation to the SSAN. RAC member Ellen would like access to the Conflict Resolution Training that was provided by SCDD staff at the last SSAN meeting. SCDD staff will follow up with Ellen to provide these materials via email.

**Item 8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK(SSAN) UPDATE**

RAC member and SSAN representative Ellen Sweigert provided an overview of the last SSAN meetings held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of last year. She detailed how SSAN is working on detailing the networks accomplishments of the past two years and a progress report. She also talked about her efforts to write an article for SSAN in collaboration with SCDD staff. In her article she would like to describe her professional relationship with SCDD staff and how her experiences working together with SCDD state staff as equals on projects has empowered her to want to serve others in a mentorship role. She went on to describe further areas of focus for SSAN such as youth issues, employment, self-advocacy, political awareness and the Self-Determination Program. For more information on SSAN click on the following link: <https://scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy/>.

**Item 9. SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SDAC) UPDATE**

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks introduced some updates on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). SCDD hired a manager to be working statewide to standardize training and orientation materials necessary for SDP program participation. In the past there has been feedback from SDP participants that SDP guidelines and directions vary from different parts of the state and by individual regional centers. The goal is to have standardized curriculum and guidelines for everyone to follow no matter what regional center they receive services and supports from. The Self-Determination Program is still not widely known and is has not been widely accepted by most regional center consumers. Lisa went on to describe the recently formed position of the SDP Ombudsman to respond to questions, or complaints regarding SDP rules. Lisa talked about the local Self-Determination Committee and the need for more stakeholder participation, especially members of the community that identify as he, him. More male candidate representation is being actively sought and a couple of potential Male candidates have shown interest. Recruitment efforts will continue, feel free to spread the word on vacancies for the SDAC. For more information on the local SDAC for the North Bay Area click the following link: [Self-Determination Advisory Committee \(SDAC\)](#).

**Item 10. NORTH BAY OFFICE REPORT PART TWO**

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks announced SCDD Grant Cycle 45, a search for candidates that can help publicize Early Start programs in the local area; she went on to detail a lack of Early Start enrollments nationwide. Information gathered regarding downturn in enrollments were especially alarming when it came to minority populations, with the greatest disparity being with the African American and Native American populations. In one shocking example the City of Vallejo recorded no enrollments during an open period. The Grant project is designed to get the word out to homeless, foster youth, under-served and minority populations regarding access to free supports and services. Two out of the three Early Start programs in the North Bay have signaled they need more effective and widespread outreach and although this Grant subject was provided in the past, staffing and logistical barriers impeded effective progress at that time.

**Item 11. REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS COMMENTS, NEWS, OBSERVATIONS BY MEMBERS**

RAC member Ellen reported that the Special Olympics were continuing this year, but she would not be taking part in any in person competitions as the current pandemic

conditions were not safe enough for her to participate in her favorite sport of basketball. She also informed the RAC that she had been hired by North Bay Regional Center as the new Client Advocate for the North Bay Area. RAC member Donna Martinez reiterated her concern for re-opening of programs especially for her son's region of Sonoma county. RAC Member Ellen Sweigert offered to provide Donna with information on her program located in Napa county as an alternative resource. Donna accepted and the information will be provided via SCDD staff in an email.

**Item 12.      ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE**

The RAC meeting adjourned at 1:34 PM.

The next RAC meeting will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup> 11:30am-1:30pm.