



## MEETING MINUTES

### NORTH BAY REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

**DATE:** March 28, 2022

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**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks called the meeting to order.

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**Item 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

RAC member's Donna Martinez (Family Advocate, Sonoma county representative), Chen Curtis (Self-Advocate, Solano county representative), Dr. Zoe Bartholomew (Psychologist and Dominican University professor, Solano county representative), Bobby Craig (Self-Advocate, Solano county representative) and Ellen Sweigert (North Bay Regional Center (NBRC) Client Advocate and Napa County Representative) joined the meeting and introduced themselves. SCDD North State Office staff Mary Agnes Nolan joined the meeting to provide a presentation of NCI National Core Indicators.

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**Item 3. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A Quorum was met for RAC members present to vote on agenda items.

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**Item 6. NORTH BAY OFFICE REPORT**

This was a presentation on National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month by North Bay Staff Tobias Weare.

For more information see the following link: [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#) (DDAM).

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

No public comments noted.

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#### **Item 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Past minutes requiring approval: January 24, 2022 ([Meeting Minutes](#)), May 24, 2021 [Minutes](#), March 22, 2021 [Minutes](#) and February 22, 2021 [Minutes](#).

A unanimous vote was recorded to accept all the above past meeting minutes by the RAC members present at the meeting.

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#### **Item 7. SCDD REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE**

Mary Agnes, from the North State office of the State Council provided a presentation of the NCI National Core Indicator Survey Process 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 Donna Martinez had a question on how the covid restrictions would affect the survey? Mary Agnes told the RAC committee that a Covid-19 supplemental was added to the survey to adjust to the changes. Donna Martinez asked if the survey addressed individual circumstances such as mobility of services and supports across regions. Mary brought up the fact that this survey is anonymous and would not cover individuals plans or supports for services in that way. SCDD North Bay Supervisor Lisa hooks stated that the Self-Determination Program (SDP) would be a way to address those individual circumstances by providing more control over services and providers to accommodate individuals moving from one area to another in California. She also encouraged the RAC members to reach out to others and encourage more representation on meetings like the RAC and reported that the information gathered from these meeting really do make a difference in influencing wider state policies.

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#### **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 March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. She reported to the RAC that she was present for day two of the meeting and was able to participate in conversations about how disability has shaped your life experiences and other questions relating to self-identification and self-acceptance of disabilities. She went on to describe further areas of focus for her and how it relates to wider SSAN goals such as youth issues, employment, self-advocacy, political awareness and mentorship for her to provide to others in her new role as the NBRC Client Advocate for the north Bay. She also mentioned a guest speaker with disabilities who talked about her own show business career in Hollywood and how her work experiences taught her about advocacy strategies for wider I/DD acceptance in our society. For more information on SSAN click on the following link: <https://scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy/>.

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

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks introduced some updates on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). 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. She also brought up the need for involvement of people that are not on other boards, or committees to get a fresh perspective from those not used to serving. Lisa also stated that funds have been made available to the local SDAC and have been decided to be used to hire an outside service provider to spread the word about SDP and provide targeted outreach efforts for underserved minority populations.

Lisa encouraged RAC members to spread the word on vacancies for the SDAC and RAC member Ellen mentioned she would like to have some SDP publication materials to present to others in meetings she will be facilitating. Lisa agreed and made a note of what Ellen requested. Lisa then went on to make an announcement of the hiring of a new office technician for the North Bay regional Office, she mentioned that this additional staff will help with outreach and providing important information for the community regarding programs like SDP and other resources. For more information on the local SDAC for the North Bay Area click the following link: [Self-Determination Advisory Committee \(SDAC\)](#).

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

North Bay Manager Lisa Hooks reviewed SCDD Grant Cycle 45, with an objective for grant recipients to 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.

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**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. RAC member Donna Martinez re-iterated 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.

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

The RAC meeting adjourned at 1:21 PM.

The next RAC meeting will be held on June 27th, 2022 11:30am-1:30pm.