

**Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
January 13, 2021**

Executive Directors Report

Regional Center Operations

All four counties of our catchment have experienced exponential increases in COVID exposure and positive cases. Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC) is not immune. We have had exposure and positive tests throughout our vendor and RCRC work force. Each county office has had exposures resulting in temporary closures and deep cleaning. Sadly we have lost our first clients to the pandemic.

The following link is to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) statewide regional center data through December 18, 2020:

https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/DDS_COVID-19_demographics-and-residence_12182020.pdf

There have been no changes to RCRC's current office operations. We remain open by appointment only. Our vendor community continues to support our clients safely. We are following the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our most strict county regulations with regards to travel. Staff has had to work remotely and quarantine following any personal travel outside of their county of residency. We continue to stress safety above all else. That being said, following Halloween and Thanksgiving, our community's experienced significant spikes and I expect that the Christmas holiday to follow suit.

RCRC, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and our vendor community continues to receive and distribute Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) throughout RCRC's four County catchment to clients and families. We are in the process sending a second mailing of cloth facial coverings to each and every client and family we serve. With the first vaccines delivered in our communities, the public health conversation has moved from PPE to testing and vaccines. Families, advocates and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) advocated successfully in ensuring that the definition of health care worker was expanded to include direct care staff (paid or not paid). Tier levels are determined county-by-county. I contacted each of our public health officers to request direct care staff for unlicensed settings (Supported Living Services, clients living at home, etc.) as well as licensed care facilities be included in the first tiers.

Regional Center Executive Directors, DDS and ARCA continue to meet weekly. State of Emergency based directives that allow regional centers more flexibility have again been extended through mid February. We continue to try to expand participant directed services where desired.

Staffing Updates

At this time, RCRC has only one unfilled Service Coordinator position and there are several growth positions that remain open. We have had multiple open positions most of this year (Director of Clinical Services, Behavior Analyst/Psychologist, Service Coordinator) and monies not spent on those open positions were repurposed back into the salary scale allowing RCRC to raise salaries to meet new minimum wage requirements and raise pay scales where we could.

Project Updates

Diversity Outreach: Our diversity team continues distributing PPE specifically to linguistically and culturally diverse clients. The Spanish speaking parent support groups and parent empowerment groups continue meeting in each county by Zoom Video/Teleconferencing. Access to our local Native American communities remains limited due to COVID.

The second Academy of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-Families and Supports Together (FAST) grant was conducted; however, other activities have been slow to start due to COVID.

Thank you.

Dr. Kim Smalley, Interim Executive Director