

Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
March 10, 2021

Executive Director's Report

Regional Center Operations:

COVID

Redwood Coast Regional Center (RCRC) continues to support our community in these trying times. Thanks to the sustained and cooperative effort of our entire community, our clients and families remain safe. We are the only regional center with such low numbers of clients exposed to COVID-19, and thankfully very few deaths. The following link will provide statewide COVID information for regional centers:

https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/DDS_COVID-19_demographics-and-residence_02192021.pdf

RCRC, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and our vendor community continue to receive and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) within our four-county catchment. We again mailed more masks and informational materials to each of our clients and families. Our Diversity Outreach team has staffed and provided PPE at 21 locations for over 800 family members predominately our Latino and Native American communities. Service coordination continues to reach out personally to all individuals and family members in their entire caseload. In addition to PPE, wellness checks and alternative service delivery, RCRC staff has provided information to support testing and now vaccinations.

Our family caregivers, vendor community and some of our own staff have been eligible for vaccinations in Tier 1A. While access is still limited and vaccination rate is still low, we hope to resume in person (safely while maintaining social distancing) quality assurance visits soon.

As you may know, the Governor has prioritized people with disabilities for vaccinations as of March 15, 2021. RCRC is working with our county public health departments, hospitals and other applicable vaccine sites (i.e. pharmacy programs) to support access for our clients to receive their vaccine.

State of Emergency based directives allowing regional centers more flexibility, have again been extended. There have been no changes to RCRCs current operations with regards to COVID-19.

Equity and Access

RCRC will hold a public meeting on March 9, 2021, (details are included in the Board Packet under Information) to discuss service equity and access data. Our outcomes are similar to last year. While in many ways this year has felt "on hold" our two Diversity Outreach staff have traversed our four county area supporting rural, linguistically and culturally diverse clients. There is, of course, much to be done and we have not yet been able to fill the third role identified in the Diversity Grant.

Staffing Updates

RCRC currently has 10 open positions. We are actively recruiting for service coordination and clinical positions. Dr. Blumberg has again been contracted with RCRC to help support our Diversity and Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) Early Start grants.

Updates

MHSA: Parent and Provider Academies have continued monthly. The following link will provide additional information: (<https://padlet.com/bctservices2/4x94rz0lctzudnae>)

The Incredible Year Project continues to expand in Humboldt County and we have had our first referral to the Easter Seals (over three) Family Guided Routines Services in Lake County.

SCDD has begun outreach for the annual National Core Indicators Project to learn how people feel about the services they receive from the developmental disability system. Additional details are included in the Board Packets under Information.

RCRC Budget information and details pertaining to RCRC's annual Independent Audit will be provided by Amy Medina during the Administrator's Report.

A recent Budget Hearing was held on February 23, 2021 to discuss caseload numbers across the regional center system (down due to COVID 19) which ended optimistically. Suggested trailer bill language and Self Determination rollout that is coming this summer was also discussed.

RCRC Website

RCRC's website overhaul continues behind the scenes and our consultant, Anh Nguyen will provide a brief update during the March 10th board meeting. RCRC is now present on the following social media platforms. Please follow us at:

Twitter: @RedwoodCoastRC

Instagram: redwoodcoastregionalcenter

Facebook: Redwood Coast Regional Center and @redwoodcoastregionalcenter

March is Social Worker Month

Last but not least, March is Social Worker month. March 5, 2021 was also Employee Appreciation Day and to celebrate our staff, RCRC closed all five offices at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 5th in observance of Employee Appreciation Day / Social Worker Month. Thank you for joining us in celebration of our employees for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you,

Dr. Kim Smalley
Executive Director