

SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. Cindy Giacomini – RFI – Speed Friending Event
2. Kier Flicker on rate reform: Behavior & Adaptive Skills Training provider experiencing impacts of rate reform. Looking to hear from folks to help see the bigger picture. Several service providers shared and here's a summary of some of the input:
 - a. Kier invited vendors to email her directly with any additional input. She intends to craft a letter to send to DDS highlighting some of the issues associated with rate reform and the impacts to client services. kier@multiplicityinc.com
 - b. Some agencies are not able to expand services or hire new staff
 - c. Some agencies are limiting clients served to an even smaller service area due to removal of paid travel time. Excessive mileage accommodations are woefully inadequate.
 - d. Huge increase in admin time for clinical and administrative staff. None of this is billable, and most of it impacts the 15/85% split for admin/direct expenses as required in the financial audits/reviews.
 - e. Requesting, receiving, correcting authorizations has been very time consuming and confusing and not very successful
 - f. Big change in staff turnover, more paperwork and less client services
 - i. Creating person centered programs is taking a huge hit
 - ii. Fiscally have taken a huge hit
 - g. Quote: The rate reform model threatens our abilities to provide neurodiversity affirming programming for clients. Two examples are cancelations and person-centered program design: Part of neurodiversity affirming practice is being able to flex and adjust to clients' changing needs and regulation states. To that end I have a very flexible and accommodating cancellation policy that encourages self-advocacy and respecting clients/families' boundaries and limits. This means that I often deal with lost direct time that can't be rescheduled. Being neuro-affirming also means following my clients' leads and interests. That requires a great deal of prep time so that I am ready for multiple contingencies in any given session and that I create highly personalized learning materials. That's expensive and time-consuming, but it is vital to the meaning, quality, and efficacy of the programming. Under the new rate model, none of these things are recognized, valued, or accounted for.
 - h. Quote: Rates were set for face-time and DDS was really clear about that but that isn't required by Medicaid. It doesn't have to be this way. DDS could choose to allow client specific services to be billed (coordinating services, building curriculum)
 - i. Current rates disincentivize quality services because you're forced to reduce any time/service that isn't billable. This also disincentivizes service providers from taking on more complex cases.
 - i. Quote: This rate reform is trying to eliminate services to a population of people that require a high level of care.

- j. Julie @ SCDD asked what SCDD could do to help? What could they advocate for? Some ideas were:
 - i. Make some more of the tasks required for neuro diversity affirming services billable
 - ii. Adequate travel time and mileage accommodation
 - iii. Increase the audit/review amount where it is triggered (currently \$500K & \$2M), and increase admin % to 20
 - iv. Streamlined authorizations and reporting requirements from Regional Centers
3. Haley @ MTS & SFH: The [RCRC Board of Directors meeting is tomorrow night](#), 3/11/26 @ 6pm. There are 2 opportunities for public comment (limited to 2 minutes each person). If vendors are able to attend and share how rate reform has impacted them, that would be helpful. You can also email input to Haley (haley@multiplicityinc.com) to be shared in the service provider report – you can ask to have your input kept confidential if you’d like.

RCDSC Board of Directors public meeting

March 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

This meeting is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. There is time on the agenda for public comment at the start and end of the meeting. The Zoom Chat feature is not available so if you have a comment that you would like to share and do not wish to speak, please email it to Sedona Bowser no less than 24 hours prior to the meeting. Comments received after that may not be included until the next meeting.

Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84546142191?pwd=TZSJSAlyZDSCXw641ObMRxnuMNjU.1>

Meeting ID: 845 4614 2191

Passcode: 888824

Dial by phone: 1 669 900 6833

For questions, contact Sedona Bowser, Executive Assistant at:
sbowser@redwoodcoastrc.org or 707-445-0893 ext 363

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RCRC, Heather Odle

1. Heather Odle: She has heard our hardships with rate reform. She recommends collective action within certain sub groups as these are better received by DDS.
 - a. Within the state, DDS has heard from a few sub groups and has made adjustments in response (Specialized residential has had collective action and concern that vendors will shut down. Transportation services as well).
 - b. Heather is providing feedback to “the architect of rate reform at DDS”
 - c. RCRC continues to try to make the rollout as smooth as possible and work with vendors
2. Mid-month check run was late. The fiscal department is down 2 staff.
3. Sharon Border: employment services manager (Day & Employment services in Humboldt), anything employment related in all 4 counties. Day services: community resource manager in the county.
4. QIP Provider surveys: there is another batch coming for new vendors- due date in April
5. Jessica Moulton Hadley: SIR update info coming later this week. Context:
 - a. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/transparency/risk-management-mitigation/>
 - b. https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Vendor_ProviderSIRReportingGuidelines.pdf

SCDD, State Council on Developmental Disabilities

The meeting went longer and Julie needed to leave. Here are notes from last month and I will forward any other info I receive.

We'd like everyone to put the voter training events on their calendars. We are setting times and locations so they are convenient for day programs to come. We are still working out logistics but here are the dates:

April 6 – Lake County

April 7 – Ukiah

April 8 – Eureka

April 9 – Crescent City

The training will be provided by Disability Rights CA and we hope to have each County Registrar present, hopefully with a voting machine so people can try it out. RCRC is providing both Spanish and ASL interpretation.

As always, if people have questions about these or need technical assistance or training, they can reach out to my office.

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Next ASP meeting 04/14/2026 @ 9:30am