

THE REUNION *Symposium*

A Day of Connection & Community

20
24



Program of Events

As a gentle reminder, please wear your name badges at all times for security purposes and to facilitate introductions. Mobile phones should be set to silent mode during sessions to ensure a respectful and undisturbed environment for all speakers and participants.

We look forward to a day filled with learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Thank you for being a part of this special event!



CHECK-IN & BREAKFAST

Time: 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Food: Light breakfast, coffee and refreshments will be served.

Attendees are encouraged to grab a plate, secure their seats and network with fellow participants/resources over a light breakfast.



WELCOME

Time: 9:00 - 9:30 AM

Food: Please continue to enjoy your breakfast

We will engage in a land acknowledgement during this time & go over important event details. Concluding with a brief message from our Executive Director, Gabriel Rogin.



SESSION ONE

Connections California

Speaker: Teresa Cortes Lamas

Time: 9:30 - 10:15 AM

Learn more about [Connections California](#), a statewide, online resource and information hub focusing on transition to adulthood and adult services.



SESSION TWO

Self-Determination (SDP)

Speaker: Ellisa Reiff

Time: 10:15 - 11:00 AM

Curious to learn more about SDP? Hear directly from a family served by NBRC about their SDP journey and the support they received along the way.



LUNCH & RESOURCE FAIR

Time: 11:00 - 12:30 PM

Food: Boxed Sandwich Lunches

Entertainment: Ukelele music

Meet and chat with community resources and NBRC vendors!



SESSION THREE

NBRC & ABA Services

Speakers: Debra Kircher, BCBA & Andrea Alesi, BCBA

Time: 12:30 - 1:15 PM

A brief overview of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), presented by NBRC's BCBA's.



SESSION FOUR

Nurturing Connections: A Parent's Guide to Support and Advocacy

Time: 1:15 - 2:00 PM

A panel of connected parents will share their lived experiences and the supports they received along the way.



CLOSING

Time: 2:00 PM

The event will conclude at 2:00 PM, celebrating the day's achievements and connections made.

We will see you in 2025 in Solano County!

SESSION DETAILS:

01 CONNECTIONS CALIFORNIA

Learn more about [Connections California](#), a statewide, online resource and information hub focusing on transition to adulthood and adult services. It includes more than 100 e-learning videos and a robust schedule of 100+ live webinars a year in English and Spanish. Transition to adulthood can be hard! [Connections California](#) resources can make it easier.



02 SELF-DETERMINATION

In this segment, you will have the opportunity to hear first hand from a family receiving services through SDP. Learn about their journey and hear how NBRC can support you through this program!



03 NBRC AND ABA SERVICES

In this session we will cover a brief overview of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), including its principles and characteristics. Additionally, we will discuss the critical role family participation plays in therapy sessions and the benefits of collaborative teamwork with other professionals, and behavioral support services that NBRC offers.



04 NURTURING CONNECTIONS: A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

This panel comprises committed parents and representatives from local parent resources and support groups in Napa, Solano, and Sonoma County. Each member contributes distinctive perspectives and invaluable experiences.



MEET OUR SPEAKERS



TERESA CORTES LAMAS

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS/CONNECTIONS CALIFORNIA

Teresa Cortes Lamas is Latina. She lives in Contra Costa County with her husband and 6-year-old son, who was diagnosed with autism at 16 months old. Teresa has experience in adult education and recently earned her Early Childhood Education teacher certification. Over the past few years, Teresa has engaged in different activities collaborating with First Five California, Care Parent Network, The Arc, and currently she is a proud member of the Parents Helping Parents Family, through the [Connections California: Transition to Adulthood Program](#), where she works as a Bilingual Strategic Projects Coordinator. "My goal is to help families in my community understand the system and access the best services and resources available. Let's Create Connections... Connections California!"

DEBRA KIRCHER

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Debra Kircher is a board-certified behavior analyst for North Bay Regional Center. She has been with the regional center for 7 years working with clients that have moved from the Sonoma Development Center into community homes. She focuses most of her time working with clients in the community crisis homes and Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes. She works with a team of four other BCBA's at the regional center providing clinical consultations, trainings and support as needed within the agency. Prior to joining the regional center, she worked at Trumpet Behavioral Health as a Clinician, Easter Seals as a Clinician, and a Behavior Therapist, in Santa Rosa and Fairfield. She has also provided behavior services for several school settings within California.



ANDREA ALESI

BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Andrea Alesi, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst who has been working with North Bay Regional Center since 2021. With over 14 years of experience in supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, Andrea oversees the Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes within the Sonoma County catchment area and meets with families and Service Coordinators to determine the most appropriate behavioral supports for each individual. She works collaboratively with a team of BCBA's, providing support to Service Coordinators and regional center vendors. Her vast experience includes her previous roles as a Registered Behavior Technician, Special Education Teacher serving the rural areas of Hawaii, and Clinical Supervisor for previous ABA providers. She has worked in many settings including home, school, community, clinic, and currently at the regional center.



ROSEMARIE PÉREZ

NBRC BOARD PRESIDENT

Rosemarie Pérez has served on the North Bay Regional Center Board of Directors since May of 2018. She is currently serving as board president. Rosemarie is the sibling of a client of the regional center. Her sister, Susan, lives in a specialized residential home, and prior to that placement, she lived in the Sonoma Developmental Center for over 50 years. Rosemarie was an active member of the Parent Hospital Association (PHA), during Susan's residence at SDC.

Prior to her retirement, Rosemarie worked in public education for over twenty years, serving as a bilingual teacher, professional developer, and district administrator. Most of her career was focused on developing and delivering effective programs for students learning English as a second language.



MEET OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



MATRIX PARENT NETWORK & RESOURCE CENTER SERVES MARIN, NAPA, SOLANO, AND SONOMA COUNTIES.

Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center is a parent-founded, parent-operated nonprofit organization founded in 1983. We are parent-operated by intention and design. More than 50% of our Board of Directors are parents of children with diverse abilities and needs. Additionally, most of the staff at Matrix have children with special needs; they have a deep understanding of what families are experiencing. All of our services are free, supported through grants, contracts, donations, and fundraising activities.

PARENTS CAN SERVES NAPA COUNTY

Every child's journey is different. We partner with and guide parents when challenges arise in their child's education, health, behavior or development, so children can reach their full potential. Through our experiences and training, we provide hope and guidance for families of children with disabilities, regardless of the degree or severity of the disability.



CHILD PARENT INSTITUTE SERVES SONOMA COUNTY

Child Parent Institute, formerly California Parenting Institute, is a parent education and children's mental health agency serving families throughout Sonoma County since 1978. Our continuum of care includes child therapy, family resource assistance, parent education, facilitated supervised visitation and a non-public school (New Directions) providing adolescent special education/mental health services. We advocate for policies that support families and protect children.

COMMON GROUND SOCIETY SERVES SONOMA COUNTY

Common Ground Society delivers essential information, resources, and a robust support network through two primary avenues:

Presentations: Want to start a conversation about disabilities and inclusion? Common Ground Society offers informative and engaging presentations tailored to various age groups. Our experts share firsthand experiences and create a safe space for questions and learning.

Family Support: We believe in the power of community. Our support groups provide a lifeline for families navigating the challenges of raising a child with a disability, medical complexity, or unique needs. Connect with other parents who understand your joys and struggles. We offer a variety of groups, including those for moms, dads, siblings, Spanish-speaking families, and IEP support. Additionally, our Speaker Series empowers teens and adults with disabilities in navigating resources, and our Sonoma County Facebook group brings together over 1,100 engaged parents and caregivers.



WHAT IS THE REUNION?



The Reunion is a yearly conference designed to involve clients and their parents/caregivers/conservators in discussions about navigating NBRC services, offering resources, introducing community engagement, and promoting a sense of belonging. The theme for this year is building connection and empowering the communities we serve.

NBRC continuously seeks to improve communication channels regarding our services and engage in ongoing conversations with our current clients. This effort is focused on enhancing service delivery and accessibility. We believe that events like this conference create opportunities for sustained interaction.

- By fostering dialogue and collaboration, we aim to better understand the needs and expectations of our clients. Your feedback is invaluable, and we encourage you to share your thoughts and experiences with us. Together, we can identify areas for improvement and innovate solutions that meet the evolving demands of our community.
- We are committed to transparency and accountability in all our interactions. Our team is dedicated to providing timely updates and support, ensuring that you are always informed and empowered. As we move forward, we invite you to stay connected through our various communication platforms, including social media, newsletters, and direct consultations.

SCAN ME



Help us improve!



Thank you for being an integral part of NBRC. Your partnership and trust drive our mission to create a positive impact on the lives of those who we serve.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



OUR VISION IS TO CREATE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE EVERYONE EXPERIENCES A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING.

Throughout the previous year, NBRC has been actively carrying out initiatives and programs aimed at enhancing community involvement. These efforts involve increasing information accessibility, providing resources, and assisting individuals in navigating the regional center system.

NBRC remains dedicated to improving communication with people we serve and families by developing effective methods to increase our level of responsiveness, including providing supervisor contact details for increased transparency. Community feedback is crucial for ongoing improvements.

NBRC is incorporating person-centered approaches through staff training sessions, introducing a new IPP templates, and highlighting the importance of respecting language and culture.

Additionally, NBRC has increased outreach efforts that foster collaboration and a sense of belonging. We have reached over 4000 individuals since 2021.

As we continue to progress and highlight the importance of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB), we are in the process of recruiting a Director of Equity and Engagement to join NBRC's Executive team.

Based on community feedback, NBRC seeks to improve and implement practices that will better serve our clients and families. It is our hope that you leave today with a sense of connection, support and empowerment through community building. We hope to see you next year and at our other upcoming NBRC events!

Thank you for your participation and partnership!

Gabriel Rogin

OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

GABRIEL ROGIN
Executive Director

Oversees:

- Director of Client Services
- Director of Administrative Services
- Director of Community Services
- Chief of Financial Officer
- Director of Intake and Clinical Services
- Communications Specialist
- Diversity and Equity Specialist
- Outreach and Engagement Specialist



BETH DEWITT

Director of Client Services

Oversees:

- Client Services
- Self-Determination Program
- Diversity and Equity Specialized Case Management Unit
- Federal Revenue Services
- Transfer Coordinator
- Consumer Advocate
- Legal Liaison
- Confidential Assistant



JENNIFER CRICK

Director of Administrative Services

Oversees:

- Payroll Coordinator
- Human Resources
- Training
- IT (Information and Technology)



ISABEL CALDER

Chief Financial Officer

Oversees:

- Fiscal
- Controller
- Vendor Rate Specialist



COURTNEY SINGLETON

Director of Community Services

Oversees:

- Community Services (Resource Development)
- Quality Assurance
- Emergency Management and Facilities
- Senior Companion Program



DEANNA MOBLEY

Director of Intake and Clinical Services

Oversees:

- Intake Department
- NBRC's Board Certified Behavior Specialists
- NBRC Nurse Consultants
- NBRC Physician



COMING SOON

Director of Equity & Engagement

Recruitment in process

**COMING
SOON**

NBRC PROGRAMS & SERVICES



01 EARLY START

The Early Start Program is California's response to federal legislation ensuring that early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families are provided in a coordinated, family-centered manner. The Early Start Program is a multi-agency effort managed jointly by the [Department of Developmental Services](#) and the California Department of Education that encourages partnerships between families and professionals, family support, and coordination of services. The statewide program is available throughout California, and can be accessed through Regional Centers for developmental disabilities, County Offices of Education or local school districts, health or social service agencies, and family resource centers/networks in your community.

Eligible children include those infants or toddlers (**birth through 36 months**) who:

- have a significant delay in at least one area of development,
- have an established risk condition with a known probability of causing a disability or delay, or
- have severe vision, hearing, or orthopedic ("solely low incidence") conditions,
- are at "high risk" of experiencing developmental delays or disabilities due to a combination of biomedical risk factors.



02 LANTERMAN SERVICES

Under the Lanterman Act, services cater to individuals aged 3 and above in compliance with Title 17 laws and regulations. The Planning Team emphasizes natural supports and community agencies when arranging services and assistance. The Regional Center can provide services tailored to the client's specific needs, which may not be available elsewhere, including:

- **Supported Employment**
- **Behavioral Training**
- **Independent Living Services**
- **Infant Programs and Services**
- **Licensed Residential Placement (parental reimbursement fees may apply for minors)**
- **Respite Services**
- **Adult Day Programs**
- **Supported Living Services**
- **Transportation Access Plans**

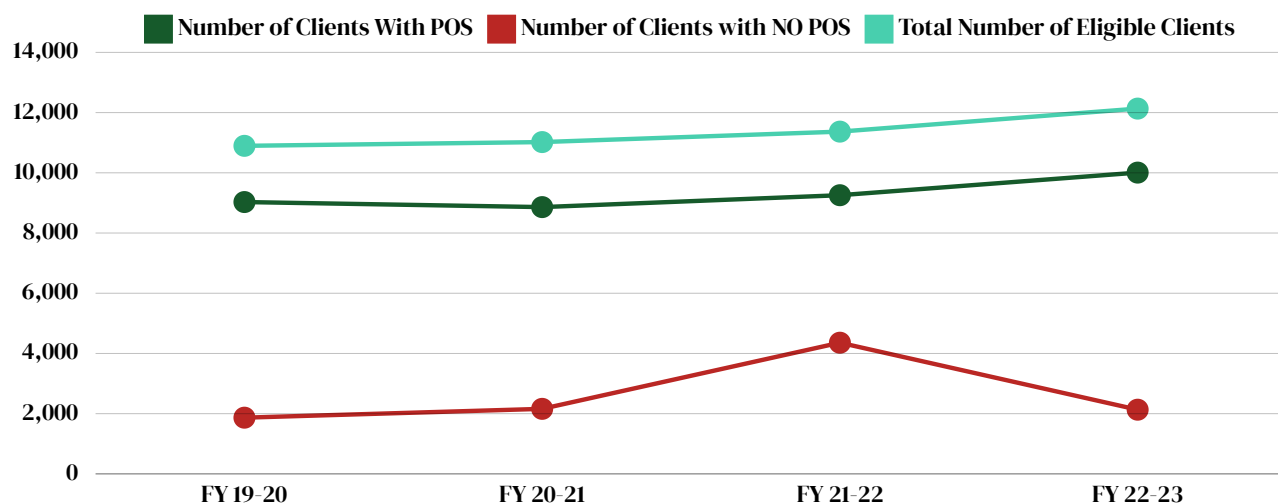
03 SELF-DETERMINATION

The California Statewide Self-Determination Program offers an optional approach to the traditional method of regional center services. Introduced by the Department of Developmental Services, the SDP empowers participants to have greater autonomy in selecting their services and support. This is achieved by providing participants (or their parents or legal representatives) with a designated budget to procure the necessary services and support to enhance their person-centered plan. Participants have the flexibility to choose their services and select the providers who will deliver them, while also being accountable for managing their annual budget. The program is guided by five core principles as outlined in the legislation:

- **Freedom** (to plan a good life) - granting individuals the right to make choices regarding family, friends, residence, daily activities, and support system
- **Authority** (over personal resources) - participants are entrusted with a budget to allocate towards their goals according to their preferences
- **Support** (for community integration) - individuals can select the necessary resources to achieve their personal objectives and hire assistance to lead the life they desire within their community
- **Responsibility** (and pride in decision-making) - participants are responsible for managing their budget and expenditures
- **Confirmation** (of their pivotal role) - participants are central to the Self-Determination program, making decisions alongside their families to determine services and support that align with their Individual Program Plan (IPP) goals.

TRACKING NBRC POS EXPENDITURES WITH DDS REPORTS

In the past three years, NBRC has seen a notable decrease in the number of clients without purchase of service (POS).



Changes in Purchase of Services Expenditures since FY 19-20

From the fiscal year 19-20 onwards, there have been significant shifts in the purchases of service patterns. The decrease in clients not having access to purchase of services contrasts with the rise in the total number of eligible clients. This overview of recent years reflects NBRC's success so far in expanding access to its services among clients.

Looking forward, it is anticipated that continued investments in staff training and development will further improve service delivery. Overall, the trends in purchasing services expenditures since FY 19-20 underscore a deliberate and effective approach to expanding access, improving equity, and optimizing resource allocation to better serve the community.

NBRC Acronyms:

Quick Reference



The following list of acronyms are to be used as reference. These may be referenced throughout the presentations today.

- **ARCA:** “Association of Regional Center Agencies”. Represents regional center interests state-wide in negotiations with administration and legislature.
- **ASD:** Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- **Case Management:** Coordination of services and monitoring of effectiveness of consumer’s Individual Program Plan. Includes advocacy and counseling.
- **CCF:** “Community Care Facility”. A State licensed residential facility. Most serve six or fewer residents.
- **Conservator:** Person appointed by a court to provide for personal, placement or treatment needs (conservatorship of person) or financial affairs (conservatorship of the estate) of a disabled adult.
- **DDS:** “Department of Developmental Services”. State department that administers services for people with developmental disabilities.
- **EI:** “Early Intervention”. Services designed to provide stimulation, assessment and other services to infants and young children to minimize effects of disabilities.
- **Guardian:** A special appointee of the court who provides for personal needs or manages the financial affairs of a minor.
- **IDT:** “Interdisciplinary Team”.
- **IEP:** “Individualized Education Program”. Statement of child’s educational needs, goals and objectives for the school year compiled by parents, teachers, and administrators.
- **IFSP:** “Individual Family Service Plan” for children ages 0-3. In place of IEP or IPP.

NBRC Acronyms:

Quick Reference



- **IHSS:** “In Home Support Services”. A program that provides in-home assistance to eligible aged, blind, and disabled individuals as an alternative to out-of-home care and enables recipients to remain safely in their own homes.
- **IPP:** “Individual Program Plan”. A plan developed by consumer, family members, Service Coordinator, and other interested persons with goals, objectives and action plans for meeting the consumer’s needs.
- **ISP:** “Individual Service Plan”, an adjunct to IPP used by day programs, residential facilities, and supported living programs.
- **Intake:** The process which establishes diagnostic information and evidence of substantial handicap of a developmentally disabled person entering the regional center service system.
- **Lanterman Act:** Division 4.5 of the California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC or W&I). Provides legislative authority for governmental components of developmental disabilities system.
- **POS:** “Purchase of Service” (by regional centers). The part of the regional center budget used to pay for direct services for consumers (e.g., residential placement, day programs, transportation, respite).
- **SDP:** “Self Determination Program”. A service delivery method that will let participants have more control over selecting their services and supports within an approved budget.
- **SELPA:** “Special Education Local Plan Area”. Basic planning unit for special education services.
- **SC:** “Service Coordinator”. A NBRC staff member trained to implement the Individual Program Plan and assist consumers to obtain services.
- **Vendor:** Person or organization approved by the State Department of Developmental Services to provide services to consumers.



North Bay
Regional Center



Now's Your Chance: Get Involved!
Join North Bay Regional Center's
Board of Directors

Contact us today

Telephone (707) 256 - 1224

Serving Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties

610 Airpark Road

Napa, CA 94558

www.nbrc.net



Stay Informed

*ABOUT THE
UPCOMING
COMMUNITY EVENTS
ORGANIZED BY NBRC!*





North Bay
Regional Center

AN NBRC ANNOUNCEMENT

NBRC EVENT CALL LINE



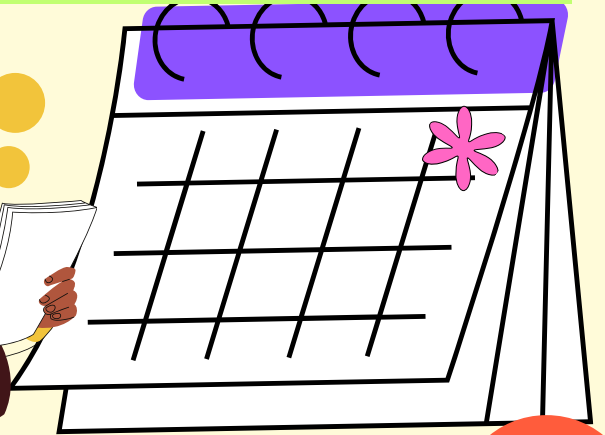
 **Call our NBRC
Event Call Line
TODAY to stay
connected!**

WHAT IS THE NBRC EVENT CALL LINE?

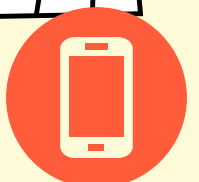
- PRE-RECORDED MESSAGES WITH INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING EVENTS, COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND MORE!
- AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH & TAGALOG

Menu options:

1. English
2. Spanish
3. Tagalog



(888) 327-4100



FOCUS GROUP WORKSHOP



SELF-DETERMINATION UNDERSTANDING THE SDP PROCESS

Learn more about the Self-Determination Program from NBRC's SDP team!

- ✓ **How Self-Determination Differs from Traditional Regional Center Services:**
- ✓ **What steps to take if interested in starting the SDP process.**
- ✓ **How does it work?**
- ✓ **What is the Self Determination Program?**
- ✓ **The role of independent facilitators and financial management services.**

JOIN US!

**Learn more from
NBRC's SDP team!**

October 22, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Please email DEIB@nbrc.net to
obtain zoom link**



This workshop will be held in English. if you require interpretation services, kindly register to ensure specific language or accommodations can be arranged.

Email: DEIB@nbrc.net

Contact Us



DEIB@nbrc.net

EVENTS SCHEDULE

2025

FEB

WINTER RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted in Solano County

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Resource Fair hosted in Sonoma County

APR

JULY

SUMMER RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted in Napa County

3RD ANNUAL REUNION CONFERENCE

Hosted in Solano County

SEPT

OCT

3RD ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT

Resource Fair hosted in Napa County

TRIBAL SYMPOSIUM

Hosted in Sonoma County

NOV

THANK YOU!



We extend a huge thank you to our partners for their valuable collaboration!

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