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**CONTRA COSTA
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DEVELOPMENTAL
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 27, 2011**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long - Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Ian Bremner, Stephanie Chapralis, Joan Crook, Stephen Dale, Lacey Friedman, Heather Hackett, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Ella Liggins, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura, Pam Perls, Kate Rauch, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino

Board Members Excused: Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Carol McKinney, Carol Rossi

Guests: Avninder Anand, Anka Behavioral Health Inc.; Bridget Benjamin, Acalanes UHSD Transition; Jeanine Bishop, WCCUSD Spec. Education Parent Liaison; Roberta Chambers, Anka Behavioral Health Inc.; Andy Cho, REACH West; Francine Davis, RCEB; Betty Jo DuBois, CCARC/CSS-Richmond; Teresa Gonzalez, WCCUSD Transition Program, WorkAbility, TPP; Katherine Grant, Calif. Autism Foundation; Lita Guerrero, CIWP Richmond; Marianne Iversen, Down Syndrome Connection; Dave Johnson, Parent; Charissa Jung, REACH West; Claudia Lam, CCARC/GMC-Richmond After School Program; Angie Lee, ALIVE-Futures Explored; Ramsay Mashty, Calif. Autism Foundation; Carol Anne McCrary, CCARC; Stephanie Meakin, ALIVE-Futures Explored; Erin Rogers, Cole Vocational Services, Antioch; Craig Rose, CIWP Antioch; Lisa Steiner, WCCUSD Parent Resource Volunteer and Parent; Ken Talken, WCCUSD; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Kim Williams, ALIVE-Futures Explored; Pat Yamamoto, Parent

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Pamela Newacheck, Acting Secretary

Welcome and Introductions – Anne Long

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

- The March 23, 2011 minutes were approved unanimously. Motion was made by Ella Liggins with a second by Kate Rauch.
- No changes were made to the agenda.

Special Presentation – R.E.A.C.H. West, Presented by Andy Cho

- Andy is the Richmond Buffalo's Special Olympics coach, and he, along with some family members from the Buffalo's team established R.E.A.C.H. West in 2009.
- R.E.A.C.H. (Resources, Education, Activities, Community, Housing). West is a parent driven, grassroots non-profit group assisting with transitions for persons with developmental disabilities living in Alameda and West Contra Costa counties.
- The group's goals are to "provide safe, quality living environments where our residents learn self efficiency and live with dignity and respect". For more information, go to reachwest.org.

Budget/RCEB Update – Gina Jennings/Rocio Smith



■ Contra Costa Community Substance Abuse Services ■ Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services ■ Contra Costa Environmental Health ■ Contra Costa Health Plan ■
■ Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs ■ Contra Costa Mental Health ■ Contra Costa Public Health ■ Contra Costa Regional Medical Center ■ Contra Costa Health Centers ■

- There will not be a special election in June to continue the current taxes. If it was voted in, there could have been an offset of about \$12 billion of the state's deficit. Rocio noted that the state legislators have the authority to continue taxes without a public vote. There are only two Republican votes needed to continue taxes. Rocio suggested that we talk to friends and family who may live in Republican districts and give them information about what it would mean to services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Without the extenuation of the taxes the 2011-2012 state budget will most likely be an all-cuts budget, which will include cuts to education and prisons, along with additional cuts to DDS.
- The Work Group meetings, led by DDS, began in March and concluded in April. DDS will be reviewing the Work Group suggestions and then presenting their proposals on how to achieve the \$174 million savings in early May. DDS will then hold three Public Forums on May 5, 6 and 9 to get community input. Final DDS recommendations will be submitted to the Legislature by May 15.
- It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that everyone:
 - Attend either the May 5 forum in Sacramento or the May 9 forum in Oakland.
 - Lobby Republican representatives to support continuing the taxes due to expire.
 - Subscribe to one or all of the following websites:
 - www.cdcan.us
 - www.arccalifornia.org
 - www.thearc.org
- Though many may be feeling "advocacy fatigue" settling in, there is still much to be done before the trailer bill language and budget are approved. Gina distributed the most recent KTLP.org flyer – *The Calm Before the Storm*.

Key dates:

- May 4 – DDS recommendations to be published
- May 5, 6 and 9 – DDS Public Forums
- May 15 – DDS final recommendations to be submitted to the legislature

Annual Dinner – Gina Jennings

The 22nd Annual DD Council Award Dinner will be held Wednesday, June 8 at the Marriott in Walnut Creek. Senator Mark DeSaulnier is the keynote speaker. Seating is limited and NO tickets will be sold at the door. Deadline to register is May 31. Contact Gina with questions.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee – Gina Jennings for Will Sanford

- Letters were sent to Assembly member Bonilla and Assembly member Nancy Skinner encouraging them to co-sponsor AB 171. A letter of support was also written for SB 166 (respectively), legislation that would require private health insurers to pay for critical services and programs for children and adults with autism spectrum and related disorders (ASD), which in turn would reduce the DDS budget.
- Legislative Committee meetings are held at 1000 Broadway, Suite 500 in Oakland the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Transition Committee – Penny Musante

The West County Transition and Special Ed Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at Vista Hills Education Center in Richmond from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Flyers were distributed.

Family Support Committee – Lacey Friedman



Lacey is looking for two more volunteers who will commit to learning about the services offered through CARE Parent Network, and then going to the hospitals to share this information. The purpose is to help parents get connected with the community and educated about services as soon as possible. This is a great outreach experience. Gina Jennings volunteered.

Announcements

- Ian Bremner from RES announced the opening of a new vocational program in Hercules on February 1, serving 30 individuals. This program has a vocational emphasis and is very person centered. The program is doing work with an organic farm in Richmond where flowers will be grown and sold at markets. Initial start up funding for this project came from the Leshner Foundation.
- Gina Jennings distributed a flyer regarding the RCEB's End of Life Planning training being given on June 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at their offices in San Leandro. This training provides 2.5 hours ARM credits, has an attendance limit of 60, and is FREE.
- Stephanie Chapralis determined that there were 12 people who attended this meeting because of its West County location and thanked them for their attendance. Several of those people were only able to attend because the meeting was held in West Contra Costa.
- Lacey Friedman announced a workshop on Charge Syndrome will be given on May 28 at CARE Parent Network.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22 at the Concord Regional Center office.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary

