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**CONTRA COSTA  
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 25, 2012**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Stephanie Chapralis, Vice Chair, Carol McKinney, Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino, Kim Williams, Penny Musante, Pam Perls, Rocio Smith, Ella Liggins, Stephen Dale, Jim Burton, Elree Langford, Joanne Nakamura, Gina Jennings, Staff.

**Board Members Excused:** Suzanne Anthony, Ian Bremner, Will Sanford, Ex-Officio, Ange Burnett, Curtis Braxton, Lacey Friedman, Heather Hackett, and Kate Rauch.

**Guests:** Sheila Westphal; Craig Rose, CIWP; Caroline Ortiz, CARE Parent Network; Francine Davis, RCEB; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas; Ron Kilgore, Las Trampas; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Ken Talken, WCCUSD; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Stephanie Hammond, Toolworks/Special Olympics; Erin Rogers, Cole Vocational Services; Nancy Perry, Center for Adaptive Learning; Edgar Rivera, Aspiranet; Juan Cecena, ALIVE-CAC; Jen Marin, ALIVE, Project Search; Shakendra Burks, ALIVE; Kiara Hedglin, ALIVE-Project SEED; Audrua Sysun, ALIVE-Project SEED; Karissa Anderson, Futures Explored, ALIVE EAST; Lauren Fuentes, Contra Costa ARC; Amy Tracy, Contra Costa ARC; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Murri Banis, Contra Costa ARC, Michelle Palmer, Contra Costa ARC; Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC.

**Welcome and Introductions-Stephanie Chapralis, Acting Chairperson:**

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

- The November 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Stephanie Meakin), with one spelling correction.
- There were no additions to the agenda.
- Stephanie Chapralis shared memories of Ralph Griffin, a long-time educator, advocate in our field, and President of the RCEB Board. He passed away on 12/1/11. We observed a moment of silence in his honor.

**Presentation on AB 254-Employment First Legislation by Rocio Smith, Area Board V and Barbara Maizie, Contra Costa ARC:**

Rocio Smith of AREA Board V introduced AB 254, the Employment First legislation. It was being held in the Appropriations Committee and is now dead, due to cost concerns. Employment First legislation will likely be re-introduced at a later date.

Rocio discussed the major benefits of the Employment First Legislation:

- There is a problem tracking employment data for people with developmental disabilities in California. However, in 2001, 24% of people with developmental disabilities were involved in integrated

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employment, such as supported or competitive employment. But, in 2009, it went down to 15%----a huge step backwards. Reduced funding of supports, and high unemployment in California are contributing factors.

- The intent of AB 254 is to put employment opportunities at the forefront of IPP planning and to increase the number of people employed in the community with support or competitively.
- Currently, California is ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the nation in employment of people with developmental disabilities.
- AB 254 would make employment the first item discussed in program planning.
- The Lanterman Act maintains that personal choices and preferences are still important and that employment is not the only choice, just the first option discussed.
- Rocio stated that this may result in re-directing funding to employment efforts, or create new funding.
- Rocio spoke of the parallels to “inclusion” efforts in schools and in the developmental disabilities system: when it was stated as a priority, it was widely embraced. This resulted in, for example, increased supported living opportunities and people being moved into the community from State Developmental Centers.
- Rocio stated that strong Employment First language added to the law is what is needed to open more employment doors for people with developmental disabilities, while preserving the IPP process. She stated that weakening the language in AB 254 would result in lower expectations.

Barbara Maizie of Contra Costa ARC stated her full agreement with the intent of AB 254 and shared her extensive experience with employment services for people with developmental disabilities.

- Barbara emphasized that funding adequate supports is the key to success in employment, as prior to the recent funding cuts, employment services were expanding. But AB 254 does not address this key issue.
- She stated that the concerns with AB 254 were in the specific wording of the Employment First Policy statement that would be subject to various interpretations by 21 separate Regional Centers.
  - The wording includes employment being “. . . . the priority outcome for working-age people with developmental disabilities. . . .”
- Barbara stated that people are concerned that this wording would:
  - Create a promise in law that will be impossible for the state to keep,
  - Weaken the IPP process by having the Legislature determine the priority outcome for all individuals, as if they were all the same.
  - Create unintended consequences, such as:
    - In tight budget times, services other than employment services may not be funding priorities;
    - Legislators may perceive AB 254 as fixing the problem, without adequately funding the supports needed;
    - The language in the current version may result in re-directing funding from other critical services;
    - Adding to the RCEB workload to attend all school IEPs for students starting at age 16 years;
    - It weakens people’s fundamental right to decide their own destiny.
- Barbara stated that the wording used in the Lanterman Act to implement supported living services was a good model and that the Employment First legislation should be modeled after that.

Comments from the audience included:

- Most agree with the intent, but also agree that the wording needs work;



- The legislation itself will not result in the change, unless the financial resources are put behind it;
- “the devil is in the details”
- Consumers and family members who have concerns about the wording of the policy do not feel that they are being listened to.
- There are barriers in the community---we have to change the perception of the community towards the abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

**This presentation sparked a good amount of discussion and it is impossible to capture all of it the minutes, thank you for your understanding.**

### **State and RCEB Budget Updates-Jim Burton:**

- The Legislative Analyst for the State has pulled the first round of Trigger cuts this month, due to poor revenue. This resulted in \$100 Million in additional cuts to our service system this fiscal year (through June 2012). Terry Delgadillo of DDS has indicated that these cuts can be assimilated into the current budget without additional service cuts, due to “other savings”.
- Next fiscal year’s budget has been proposed by the Governor and includes a \$300 Million cut to DDS--- -\$100M more than this year. While the 4.25% rate cut is set to sunset on June 30, 2012, it seems unlikely, due to the Governor’s proposal.
- The Governor is also proposing a temporary ½ cent sales tax increase and something referred to as a “millionaire’s income tax increase”, that are expected to be on the November ballot to increase revenue and prevent further cutbacks.
- Budget hearings are planned and our participation is, again, critical.
- There will also be a stakeholder’s advisory process with DDS, consisting of 6 meetings, with one being in Oakland on February 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Our response to the May revision of the Governor’s budget proposal will also be important.
- Jim reported that RCEB is projecting an insufficiency of funds in the Purchase of Service (POS) budget, but not a deficit. DDS has not released all funds due to RCEB at this time. At the same time, there are no steps to reduce POS expenditures. Jim expressed his discomfort with this challenging cash flow situation. Terri Delgadillo of DDS is projecting that DDS will barely balance and, if short, she must go back to the legislature to request more funds.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Legislative Committee:  
A Town Hall Meeting with our legislators will be held January 27<sup>th</sup> at the State Building in Oakland, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. (Be sure to allow time to go through the security line!) The CAC has a planned presentation with personal stories relating to the impact budget cuts have on people’s lives.
- Transition Committee: The Transition Task Force meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the RCEB conference room and hosts interesting speakers. Everyone is invited.
- No report from the Family Support Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING: February 22, 2012, at 9:45 a.m., RCEB in Concord. Presentation by: KTLP-Keeping the Lanterman Promise**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol McCrary*

Carol Anne McCrary

Contra Costa ARC





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