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**CONTRA COSTA  
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 23, 2012**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony, Chairperson, Stephanie Chapralis, Vice Chair, Jim Burton, Stephen Dale, Craig Rose, Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino, Penny Musante, Carol McKinney, Pamela Perls, Rocio Smith, Will Sanford, Ex-Officio, Heather Hackett, Gina Jennings, Staff.

**Board Members Excused:** Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Lacey Friedman, Kim Williams, Joanne Nakamura, Elree Langford, Ella Liggins, Barbara Maizie, Barbara Sheehy, Diana Thomas, Elizabeth Wilson-Palmer, and Kate Rauch.

**Guests:** Ron Usac, Area Board 5; Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; ; Caroline Ortiz, Care Parent Network; Bonnie Whitcomb, RCEB; Erin Rogers, Cole Vocational Services; Danon Jenkins, ALIVE-Antioch, Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Dan Denis, Parent, Garden Program-Brentwood; Vi Ibarra, We Care; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Karen Lingenfelter-Carman, MDUSD-Adult Education; John Rodriguez, Community Member; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas.

**Welcome and Introductions-Suzanne Anthony, Chairperson (Welcome Back!):**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. and introductions were made.

- The April 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (M/Jim Burton; S/Stephanie Chapralis), with no corrections.
- There were no additions to the agenda.

**Personnel Update-Gina Jennings:**

The interviewing committee completed its work and the County has made a temporary appointment of John Rodriguez, who has accepted the position of staff to the DD Council.

John retired from a management position with RCEB after many years of support and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities. The Council happily welcomed him to his new position! John stated that he is looking forward to working with the Board and on the current issues.

Gina stated that he will be getting his own e-mail address soon through the County. It is John.Rodriguez@hsd.cccounty.us.

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

Jim explained that the State revenues are well below expectations, resulting in an estimated \$16 Billion shortfall for the coming year. Income from federal funds has topped \$71 Million, with RCEB exceeding their target in securing them through the Medicaid waiver process (a lot of work!)

DDS put out a summary of the 2012 May Revision of the Governor's proposed budget and it was distributed. You can view the recommendations of the DDS stakeholders' meetings on [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov)



The highlights included:

1. A process to continue to maximize the use of federal funds that offsets general funds and preserve our services.
2. Passage of SB 946 requires health insurance to cover behavioral services for people with Autism (saving approx. \$61 Million). However, there is a concern about families needing Regional Center assistance for high co-pays.
3. Reduction in the reliance on admissions to State Developmental Centers by redesigning services for people that have dual diagnoses (DD + Mental Illness). While this is projected to save \$20 Million, concerns were raised about the lack of community services for people with criminal tendencies. Fifteen hundred people remain residing in the State Developmental Centers and Lanterman is in the process of closing.
4. Redesigning of Supported Living assessments fixes a problem, making a more sensible process and cost effective. Jim thanked Carol McKinney for her outstanding leadership, advocacy, and work on the assessment process. Carol McKinney thanked Jim for his support in RCEB piloting the new process as a demonstration project.
5. While the 4.25% payment reductions to Regional Centers and vendors sunsets on June 30<sup>th</sup>, the current proposal leaves 1.25% reduction in place. Advocacy is needed to make sure that sunset language is included. It was unanimously approved to have the DD Council (Gina) write a letter today urging our legislators to include the sunset language (M/Josh Sullivan; S/Nickole Bouslog).

Jim felt these were extraordinary results of the stakeholder process with very little bad news and a little good news. There is another trigger situation in the Governor's proposal. It includes an additional \$50 Million cut to DDS (probably in January) if his temporary tax proposal does not pass on the November ballot. Jim felt that the legislators recognize the level of cuts that DDS has endured and one Republican legislator challenged this proposal.

Another Senate hearing is planned for tomorrow, however, may be "vote only", with no opportunity for public comment. Nickole Bouslog played her testimony from yesterday's hearing and Rocio commented that she was sitting next to an attorney who was quite moved by her presentation----great advocacy!

Jim complimented the CAC on its effective advocacy. He felt that Senator DeSaulnier rushed "the suits" and listened carefully to the members of the CAC.

Regarding RCEB's financial status, things have turned around. \$50 Million was released to Regional Centers on Friday from First Five and other funds from DDS were committed, so they would not have to borrow before June 30<sup>th</sup>----cash flow problem averted.

All were in agreement with Stephen Dales' recommendation that thank you letters to our legislators are an important part of our advocacy efforts---let them know that we appreciate their work this year. Individuals were encouraged to write them.

Stephen also mentioned pending legislation to change the funding of conservatorships. He feels this would be a civil rights violation and recommends that we oppose it.

### Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee:
  - SB 1381 (R-word) has moved to the Assembly
  - SB 1259 (audits) is in suspense. The Assembly is keeping it alive with amendments.
  - SB 2338 (Employment First) has moved to the Assembly.
- 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.



- They recently had a great presentation on “Mindfulness”, in which pausing and breathing changes brain functioning----we need to pause and breathe more often!
  - The County Office of Education has made some drastic changes to their Transition Program. Liz Wilson-Palmer’s position has changed and they have eliminated the position of her assistant. She will no longer be available to lead the Transition Task Force.
  - The other leader, Mary Brett will be leaving the area.
  - Janice Newsome, RCEB Case Management Supervisor, will be hosting a meeting to discuss restructuring the committee.
- No report from the Family Support Committee.
  - Nominating Committee:
    - This committee has met and is recommending the following people to be appointed to the DD Council Board:
      - Vi Ibarra
      - Karen Lingenfelter-Carman
      - Krista Loomis
      - Caroline Ortiz
      - Erin Rogers
      - Ken Talken
      - One position remains open

**Announcements:**

- Upcoming Board Meetings;
  - The June meeting will be held June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Dinner (get your tickets now). It will include a brief business meeting to appoint new members.
  - The July meeting TBA will be a Board retreat----details forthcoming. This will include an orientation for new members, planning activities and re-instating the snack schedule.
  - No meeting will be held in August.
- Congreso Familiar is being planned for August 11<sup>th</sup> at Chabot College in Hayward. Over 30 workshops are planned, childcare will be provided and lots of fun and food! Notices were distributed. For more information: [www.congresofamiliar.org](http://www.congresofamiliar.org) or call 510-286-0439.
- Trumpet Behavioral Health is holding several free seminars regarding insurance coverage for therapies for people with Autism. Notices were distributed. You can register by going to [www.tbh.com](http://www.tbh.com) or calling 1-855-824-5669.

**Our next meeting will be September 26, 2012 at:  
Regional Center of the East Bay  
Conference Room  
2151 Salvio Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully Submitted Electronically by;

*Carol McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC

