

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 26, 2012**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chairperson, Nickole Bouslog, Jim Burton, Ella Liggins, Krista Loomis, Caroline Ortiz, Erin Rogers, Craig Rose, Josh Sullivan, Ken Talken, Vi Ibarra, Pam Perls, Joanne Nakamura, Rocio Smith, Will Sanford, Ex-Officio, John Rodriguez, Staff

Board Members Excused: Stephanie Chapralis, Vice Chair, Ange Burnett, Heather Hackett, Karen Lingenfelter, Stephanie Meakin, Heidi Spaulding, Carl Tolentino, Kim Williams, Barbara Maizie, Penny Mustante, Barbara Sheehy, Diana Thomas, Elizabeth Wilson-Palmer

Guests: Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Angela Gattis, Care Parent Network; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Ron Usac, Area Board 5; Eren Mendez, Contra Costa County Elections Division; Danon Jenkins, ALIVE-Futures Explored; Audrua Sysum, ALIVE C.A.C.; Andrew Gamboa, ALIVE C.A.C.; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Emlyn Struthers, Office of Senator DeSaulnier; Janaye Christian, RCEB; Monica Avelan, RCEB

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Suzanne Anthony, Chairperson, and introductions were made.

- The May 23, 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Craig Rose) with no corrections.
- There was one addition to the agenda to include an announcement about a vacant seat on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors.
- John commented that he will be sure to bring the name cards to the next meeting.

Special Presentation:

Guest Speaker: Eren Mendez, Elections Outreach Coordinator, Contra Costa County Elections Division

Eren led with information about Contra Costa County's Election Division, issues, available resources and key dates. All in attendance received printed copies of general voting information, a vote-by-mail ballot application, and instructions for completing the application.

- Redistricting has presented a unique challenge in that the law requires a polling location be provided if there are a minimum of 250 registered voters.
 - Will pointed out that -- since every single parcel was modified -- a voter could very well be voting for a completely different incumbent(s) and/or candidate(s).
- If a polling place is not accessible, a voter may approach the area as close as possible and request "curbside voting." Election officials will bring the materials to the voter.
- The AutoMARK can be made available to any polling location.
- The website to register online was developed in contract with Lighthouse for the Blind. The Election Division welcomes feedback on the site. Turnaround for improvements has been very tight. However, modifications to increase user friendliness - and the necessary resources to do so - are being identified.
- For vote by mail -- if a voter is unable to sign his/her name or if the signature has changed appreciably, the ballot could get set aside during the sorting process due to a non-match with the signature on file. To minimize this issue, Eren suggested that a stamp be made with the person's signature (marks are acceptable). Stamps must be witnessed and registered by an election official.

Will provided information about the Propositions on the November ballot. He distributed two handouts -- one summarized each of the Propositions and the other was a comparative on Props 30 and 38.

- 30, 31, and 38 would have the greatest impact to us.

- 30 and 38 are revenue enhancements and only one will pass. Prop 30 would impact single tax payers with a personal income of \geq \$250K. 38 would impact almost all tax payers except for those in the lowest income group.
- If Prop 30 wins, *no* trigger cuts will be implemented. If 38 wins, trigger cuts will be implemented.

Audra, Andrew and Nickole from ALIVE shared their opinions and suggestions on the importance of voting. Following are the highlights:

- Voting is a responsibility. Know what the issues are so that you can make an informed decision.
- If you are assisting others with registration, break the process down in simple steps.
- Volunteer poll workers get the experience of helping people and it can also present opportunities for advocacy (Andrew mentioned getting "triple takes!").
- As a sworn-in poll worker, you get to understand the rules better.
- On Election Day, if you experience any problems, be sure to report it to the Elections Office that same day.

Budget/RCEB Updates-Jim Burton:

- Jim started off by thanking the presenters that provided information on voting and the upcoming Election.
- To his knowledge, there are no implementation plans for the \$50M trigger cuts. Cuts would result in system-wide impacts.
- The 3% reversal of the 4.25% payment reduction really helped service providers, regional centers, and the community.
 - This made possible for RCEB to address their case management caseload ratios. Caseloads were nearing numbers in the mid-80's and 90's.
 - Jim was pleased to share that the hiring freeze was lifted and distributed copies of the draft plan of correction (addressing caseload ratios). Thirteen case management positions have been posted and six have since been filled!
- The passage of SB 946 was a very complicated transition, which mandates insurance coverage for behavioral treatments if a person is diagnosed with autism. Jim commented on the collaboration of families and the terrific turnouts at the presentations. Everyone is doing their best with this transition.
- All 21 regional centers have been active with processing Medicaid Waiver applications. RCEB met their targets even with staffing inadequacies (excellent work!).
- State development centers have been in the news a great deal. There are several articles posted in California Watch related to abuse in various centers. Needless to say, these articles are very difficult to read. A hearing is scheduled for October 23rd, which will be chaired by Senator DeSaulnier. The agenda will include:
 - an overview of the state developmental center and its usage,
 - an update on Sonoma State Development Center, and
 - information on the implementation of recent legislation that changed admission requirements.
- On autism and diversity, fair and equal access to services has been questioned. An article written by an LA Times reporter – Alan Zarembo – provided data on a narrow range of children with autism. Though it started with the media, Jim feels it is a broader issue that needs to be addressed. A hearing, chaired by Senator Steinberg, is tentatively scheduled for October 11th in Sacramento with a concurrent hearing in Los Angeles.
- Governor Brown recently signed off on AB 2370 thereby removing the "R" word from state law. Jim remarked that this was a great achievement of advocates and commended ARC of California that brought this very important legislation forward.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee:
 - Outside of the "R" word elimination, there has not been a lot of additional legislation.
 - No other updates.
- Transition Committee:
 - The first meeting was held last month. Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, with the next one scheduled for October 18th at 3:15 PM at RCEB.
 - There will not be a DVC Transition Conference in January due to building construction and funding issues. This will be for the 2nd year in a row.
- Nominating Committee:
 - Josh and Craig welcomed the new board members!
 - There are two openings on the DD Council Board. Any interested persons should contact John directly.

Meeting Schedule

- October's DDC Council Board meetings will take place in Antioch (Outreach Meeting – Antioch Police Officer's Association). John assured everyone that the directions to the location will be accurate and include an address.
- The November meeting will be on employment. John is working scheduling presenters.
- John asked if the Council Board is interested in reinstating the snack schedule. After a brief discussion, he offered to figure it out with Suzanne.

Announcements:

- Jim reported that the Lanterman Act provides guidance on caseload ratios and pointed out that caseload ratios remained the same while there were cuts to funding. The 3% funding restoral will be put fully towards staffing.
- John reminded everyone to sign in at the Board meetings. Also, he distributed the current Board Roster and asked members to review their information and verify its accuracy.
- During the June planning session, it was suggested that questions for meeting presenters be submitted in advance of the actual meeting. If possible, please send to John via e-mail.
- On the topic of e-mail, John announced that he has extended the change to sending meeting notifications by one more month. If you do not have access to e-mail and would like to receive DD Council information packets by USPS, please call (925) 313-6836.
- Jim encouraged attendance to Rocio's retirement fiesta. Rocio acknowledged John for introducing her to the field – she was influenced by John's work and advocacy while she was completing her graduate coursework.
- Rocio announced that there is one vacant seat as an appointee on the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors. A person is not eligible for the opening if s/he works in the field or sits on the Board, due to conflict of interest.

**Our next meeting will be October 24, 2012 at:
Antioch Police Services
300 "L" Street
Antioch, CA**

Respectfully Submitted Electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Horn
Contra Costa ARC