

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 23, 2013**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Stephanie Chapralis, Vice Chair (Presiding), Craig Rose, Nickole Bouslog, Ella Liggins, Karen Lingenfelter, Krista Loomis, Caroline Ortiz, Jim Burton, Erin Rogers, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Ken Talken, Kimberly Williams, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura, Pamela Perls, Rocio Smith, Heather Hackett, Dan Denis, Vi Ibarra, Will Sanford, John Rodriquez, Staff.

Board Members Excused: Suzanne Anthony, Ange Burnett, Stephanie Meakin, Carl Tolentino, Barbara Sheehy, Diana Thomas.

Guests: Ron Usac, Area Board 5; Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Francine Davis, RCEB; Andrew Gamboa, Futures-Explored-ALIVE; Ian Bremner, RESSuccess; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc., Katie O'Neal, Futures-Explored-ALIVE; Peggy Black, WCCUSD; Thomas Lathrop, Futures-Explored, Go Group; Marshall, Futures-Explored, Go Group; Amy Delkers, Futures-Explored, Go Group; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc.; Michele Simpson, Futures Explored-ALIVE; Angie Lee, Futures-Explored-ALIVE; Katrina Viano, Futures-Explored, ALIVE; Marcelle Indelicato, CC County Office of Emergency Services; Leah Stabio, CC County Deputy Sheriff; Lieutenant Paul Amari, CC County Sheriff's Department.

Welcome and Introductions-Stephanie Chapralis, Vice Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. and introductions were made around the room.

- The November 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved (M/Karen Lingenfelter; S/Krista Loomis), with no corrections.

Presentation: Staying Alert and Safe in the Community:

Presenter: Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff, Leah Stabio

The presentation was organized by Marcelle Indelicato, Senior Emergency Services Planner for Contra Costa County and attended by Contra Costa County Sheriff's Lieutenant, Paul Amari.

Deputy Sheriff Stabio discussed her 13 years of experience in law enforcement. She stated that officers are trained and prepared to quickly assess a situation and if violence is occurring, they address it with appropriate force. She also mentioned that they receive training annually, including training in interacting with people with various types of disabilities. She sometimes hears that officers may be insensitive to adults with developmental disabilities, and she encouraged us to report those situations to a supervisor.

She explained that she has a daughter with autism and has observed that her daughter easily trusts people and wants to please others, setting her up to be victimized by her "friends". She also has observed her daughter to easily lose focus and is easily distracted.

Deputy Sheriff Stabio put together a brochure titled, "Don't Be a Victim: Practical Advice on How to Avoid Being the Victim of a Crime". It lists "Situational Awareness" and "Safety Tips", such as:

- Being aware of your surroundings; don't be distracted by texting and know how to reach safety, if needed.
- Be aware of the people around you. If you feel uncomfortable, go where you feel more comfortable; trust your instincts.

- Be aware of yourself and your property: don't count your money in public places---it may make you a target for theft;
- Be aware of the message you are sending with your behavior; are you distracted by a phone conversation or are you alert to your surroundings?
- Be safe on the phone and on the internet----don't give out personal information.
- Tell someone where you are and when you expect to return;
- Carry emergency information with you; however, when in the presence of law enforcement personnel, don't reach for anything----like your I.D. Reaching for something can be interpreted by law enforcement as a threat. It was recommended that a person with developmental disabilities utilize a Medic Alert or other indentifying bracelet that is easily visible. It will alert law enforcement of a medical condition, developmental disability or other considerations.

In addition, Deputy Sheriff Stabio discussed the need to be observant if you a victim of a crime:

- Staying calm is important, so that you give law enforcement the information they need to catch the criminal as quickly as possible:
 - Let someone know if you need medical attention;
 - Communicate your location;
 - State what happened and a description of the suspect;
 - State where the suspect went and how he/she was traveling;
 - Describe what was taken;
 - State if there was a weapon involved.

The back of the brochure contains useful numbers for various support agencies in our community.

She further described safety practices on public transit (sit close to the driver; make eye contact with the driver; keep all personal items close to you; don't be distracted by your phone and don't use ear buds that will distract you from staying aware of your environment).

When using power wheelchairs, please note that drivers do not always see you (even with an orange flag!). She suggested making eye contact with the car's driver, before entering the roadway. (Andy Gamboa interjected that he holds his hand out to the drivers to make sure they see him).

Finally, Deputy Sheriff Stabio suggested that we advocate for people with developmental disabilities by informing an officer at the scene of any special considerations and/or suggesting a more comfortable interviewing environment. In addition, if an interaction with law enforcement does not seem appropriate for the situation, please do not hesitate to contact the supervisor on duty.

Deputy Sheriff Stabio can be contacted to answer questions through the dispatch (925-646-2441) or by e-mail: LStab@so.cccounty.us When asked about speaking availability, she stated that it depended upon their staffing needs at the time.

The speakers were thanked for their insightful presentation.

Report from Jim Burton:

Jim handed out the "Governor's Budget Highlights for DDS, dated January 2013. The full budget proposal documents for DDS can be found at: www.dds.ca.gov

Jim described this as a "hopeful time". Highlights include:

- No new cuts to the DDS service system;

- The 1.25% payment reduction expires June 30th;
- There are adjustments for federal funds and caseload growth.

This budget does not restore all previous cuts (forced closure days, supported employment rates, etc.), and there continues to be areas of advocacy needed. While this budget is a positive sign, there has been no discussion of cost-of-living rate adjustments, restoring start-up funds, etc.

It was observed that while this is the worst recession in recent history for California, financial problems in the DDS service system were never repaired from previous recessions, contributing to our worsening financial position.

IHSS: The proposal restores the 3.25% service reduction in July.

SSI: is maintained at the Federal minimum level with a small increase (pass through).

MEDI-CAL: As part of the Federal Affordable Care Act, a “coordinated care initiative” was expected for March. However, it has now been delayed until Sept-----we will be keeping an eye on it (and figuring out what it means!)

Sonoma State Development Center: There are currently 550 residents. As reported publicly, bad things are happening there. Last Friday DDS issued a press release in which they will be voluntarily pulling their Federal certification from 4 of 10 living units, in order to preserve the Federal funding to the other units. This will result in a \$12-\$14 million loss in federal funds to the State. This voluntary decertification has not yet been approved by the Feds.

The State is now recruiting for an Executive Director of Sonoma and:

- DDS staff and Licensing staff are spending a lot of time there trying to resolve problems;
- Parents are upset;
- Staff morale is very low and they are understaffed;
- The current priority is to protect the health and safety of the residents;
- The long-term plan is to close all developmental center in California, but it must be well-planned and resources in the community must be developed;
- RCEB has offered help;
- The CHP is now heading the Office of Protective Services (in-house police services) and changes have been made to reporting requirements;
- Public hearings have not yet been announced;
- When Sonoma closes in the future, it will bring approximate 160 people to the RCEB catchment area.

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee: Reminder: Feb. 8, 2013 is the Town Hall meeting in Oakland at the State Building Auditorium at 1515 Clay Street, from 9:30 a.m. – Noon. We would like to fill the room! Our legislators will be commenting on our issues and they will be hearing from us about the impact the budget has on peoples’ lives. Don’t forget to allow time to go through the screening process.

Tomorrow evening Nancy Skinner is hosting an open house, also at the State Building in Oakland.

Will Sanford reported that this afternoon in Sacramento there is a hearing on the ARC lawsuit opposing rate cuts and ½ day/full day billing.

Transition Committee: The Transition Task Force meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in the RCEB conference room and hosts interesting speakers. Everyone is invited. They recently hosted a speaker from Mental Health who described a program for adolescents to prevent future

mental health problems. This is being developed in our area and modeled after Project Hope in Oregon. Unfortunately, they do not include people with an IQ of less than 70. John Rodriguez announced that he has sent a letter to the County Office of Education's Superintendent of Schools (Joe Ovick) opposing the elimination of the Transition Specialist position. A copy of John's letter was in our meeting packet. Others are encouraged to also send letters, as this is a key support to students (and families) transitioning out of schools.

Nominating Committee: Ken Talken of West Contra Costa Unified School District introduced Peggy Black. He nominated her to the DD Council Board for consideration at the next meeting. Ken gave an extensive list of qualifications, as she is a parent and has extensive professional experience in school settings, hospital settings and transition. She currently is specializing in Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

Peggy was present and thanked Ken for his thorough introduction.

Future Meetings:

- February 27, 2013: Mental Health Services
- March 27th: Impact of the Affordable Care Act
- April 24th: Advocacy-Preserving Choice (at a West County location)

Announcements:

None, other than "Go Niners!" (in the Super Bowl)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Our next meeting will be February 27, 2013 at:
RCEB Conference Room
Concord, CA
Topic: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary

Contra Costa ARC