

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 22, 2013**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Stephanie Chapralis, Heather Hackett, Craig Rose, Jim Burton, Erin Rogers, Ken Talken, Peggy Black, Joanne Nakamura, Caroline Ortiz, Karen Lingenfelter, Krista Loomis, Will Sanford, John Rodriguez, Staff.

**Board Members Excused:** Ange Burnett, Pam Perls, Kimberly Williams, Carl Tolentino, Dan Denis, Josh Sullivan, Heidi Spaulding, Ella Liggins, Vi Ibarra, Krista Loomis, Elree Langford, Barbara Maizie, Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Penny Musante, Barbara Sheehy, Denis Craig, Diana Thomas.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc.; Greg Simons, Las Trampas, Inc.; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc. ; Megan Hodapp, Full Circle of Choices; David Dodson, Center for Adaptive Learning; Claudia Lam, Contra Costa ARC; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Paolo Gargantiel, Contra Costa County Mental Health Access Line; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Steve Robinson, RCEB; Kathy White, Contra Costa County Mental Health Access Line; Lita M. Guerrero, CIWP Richmond; Christy Stanko, Assemblymember Buchanan's Office.

**Welcome and Introductions-Suzanne Anthony, Chair**

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

- The April 2013 meeting minutes were not approved, as there was no quorum of voting members.
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

**Presentation: Contra Costa County's Mental Health Access Line**

**Speakers: Katie White and Paolo Gargantiel**

Katie gave an overview of the "Access Line" services:

- It is the point of authorization for Medi-Cal Mental Health Services, with 300 providers;
- It is also the entry point for all clinics in Contra Costa County
- While they are not a crisis hotline, they are a "catch all" for inquiries for services;
- They have 7 licensed clinicians and receive about 250 calls per day;
- The calls include an eligibility screening and a crisis screening;
- Unfortunately, they have been understaffed, creating wait times.

They can make referrals and authorized services for people with Medi-Cal insurance. For people that are low income, they can refer them to regional clinics for medication management and very limited counseling services.

Challenges include:

- People with an Autism or Mental Retardation diagnosis do not qualify for these services;
- The primary diagnosis must be a mental health diagnosis;
- They no longer have the ability to have psychiatric consultations with primary care physicians;

- They are receiving more and more requests for services for RCEB clients;
- They don't have the expertise to work with people with developmental disabilities and the private clinics are not equipped to handle behavioral issues in the waiting rooms;
- They are having problems finding psychiatrists, which is resulting in very costly 5150 commitments.

The providers of mental health services are not extensive and the Access Line uses Pathways to Wellness in Martinez as their main clinic for the network. They are actively seeking other providers.

Melanie Fowler described a situation in which a person waited 1 year for an appointment, and then it was cancelled. Others mentioned similar situations.

Katie explained that they now are in the process of increasing their staffing and providers and trying to reduce waiting times.

Karen Lingenfelter gave an example in which a psychiatrist quit, but families were not notified.

Katie explained that the County Health Dept can serve as a safety net for the uninsured at this time and can usually provide 6 months of medication. However, with the Affordable Care Act coming into place in January 2014, she expects things to change. She expects an influx of users of the Access Line, but knows that they don't currently have the capacity to serve more people.

Katie further explained that psychiatrists don't want the Medi-Cal payment rate, nor the billing hassles. She stated that there is also a high turnover of psychiatrists at the County due to burn out.

Katie stated that when there are problems with the Access Line services to please contact her or the Quality Assurance Coordinator, David Cassell. The number is: 1-888-678-7277.

Katie and Paolo were thanked for their informative presentation.

**Report from Jim Burton, Executive Director of RCEB:**

Jim reiterated the devastating cuts to mental health services in our community. The DD Council, under the leadership of Diana Jorgensen, did pioneering work to support people in the mental health system. In addition, the passing of Dr. Schreiber was a blow to our service system, as she did incredible work.

There are currently very few psychiatrists that work with our adult population and even less that work with children. However, a collaborative effort is underway in Alameda County to develop a clinic for people with a dual diagnosis. Pooling our resources is the way to go. This clinic will be duplicated in Contra Costa County in the coming years.

Regarding the State budget:

- No major changes from the January proposal in the May revision;
- No new cuts;
- Restoration of vendor rates by 1.25% effective July 1<sup>st</sup> is still in the proposal.
- Funds are being shifted, due to the federal sequester; the State is backfilling some federal deficiencies.

Regarding the Developmental Centers:

- The closure of Lanterman is behind schedule;

- There have been proposals regarding Sonoma that are receiving pushback from effort led by DeSaulnier:
  - Physical plant corrections;
  - Back filling funds lost from the federal de-certification;
  - Raises to staff (only 82% staffed currently).

Jim commented that there are still 500 people residing there and safety is of utmost concern. It will take some time to build community services to support these folks in moving.

A positive development for DDS is that 1915i funds (Medicaid waiver) came through that will help the current cash flow problems (depending upon when it arrives). Jim reminded us that RCEB has a line of credit available, but that the interest payments on the loan are not reimbursable.

Jim also stated that 160 people at Sonoma are RCEB clients and he is up there frequently to help with the situation, monitoring it and looking for community services to move people into.

A significant cut is being made to ICF homes as a result of a lawsuit. The rate cut can be up to 10% and about 1/3 of all ICF's will face them. The providers are organizing and trying to put forth legislation to prohibit this.

SB 126 by Steinberg is speeding through to extend behavioral services to be covered by private health plans.

Jim announced the naming of the RCEB San Leandro conference room after Contra Costa County resident Ralph Griffin, who passed away in 2011. Mr. Griffin served on the RCEB Board and was an effective leader and advocate in our field.

Jim commended the CAC for their continued advocacy efforts in Sacramento with the budget hearings.

### **Committee Reports:**

Legislative Committee: All bills must be out of Appropriations by this Friday in order to move forward, according to Will Sanford. Their goal is to have the budget passed by June 15<sup>th</sup>. There are bills to support backfilling cuts to Early Start programs, IHSS cuts, ICF homes cuts and Wage & Hour regs in residential services. The budget hearings will take place this Friday in Sacramento.

Transition Committee: The Transition Task Force meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in the RCEB conference room in Concord and hosts interesting speakers.

Nominating Committee: Reminder that the Annual Joint Banquet will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek. Nominees for our Board positions include Heidi Spaulding, Ella Liggins and Will Sanford and they will be voted upon at a brief business meeting at the banquet. Joey Travolta will be the keynote speaker.

### **Announcements:**

John explained that there is a meeting between himself, various vendors and RCEB on waiting lists on June 14<sup>th</sup> at RCEB in San Leandro at noon. People are encouraged to bring their waiting lists for RCEB to do an analysis.

Karen Lingenfelter announced that the TOPS program at Loma Vista (for people with Aspergers) is hosting a creativity event the evening of June 21<sup>st</sup> (6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.). Everyone is welcome.

John would like to thank Cheryl Morse of the El Cerrito city clerk's office for arranging for the room and parking permits today.

Stephanie Chapralis is still selling raffle tickets for CCARC's "Go For the Gold" raffle-----grand prize on May 31<sup>st</sup> is \$1000.....good luck!

Claudia Lam announced that the After School Program at George Miller Center in Richmond has openings and is accepting referrals now.

Daniel Hogue introduced Greg Simons, the new day program manager for Las Trampas, Inc. He also mentioned that they are hiring for a Development Director's position and have openings for people that are ambulatory.

Ken Talken thanked John for his help and support for the West County Special Education Resource and Transition Fair last month!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

**Our next meeting will be September 25, 2013**

**At**

**RCEB Concord Conference Room**

**2151 Salvio Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC