

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 25, 2013**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Stephanie Chapralis, Heather Hackett, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Vi Ibarra, Krista Loomis, Erin Rogers, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Ken Talken, Carl Tolentino, Kim Williams, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Caroline Ortiz, Karen Lingenfelter-Carman, Krista Loomis, Pam Perls, John Rodriguez, Staff.

**Board Members Excused:** Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Craig Rose.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc.; Claudia Lam, Contra Costa ARC; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Elvia Osoria Rodriguez, RCEB; Emlyn Struthers, Senator Mark DeSaulnier's office; Juan Valesquez, Pathways to Choices; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored; Kirsten Biondi, ALIVE; Paul Boyce, ALIVE; Monica Palomno, ALIVE; Shakendra Burks, ALIVE.

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

- The May 2013 meeting minutes were not approved, and will be addressed next meeting
- There were no additions to today's agenda.
- Caroline Ortiz announced that it was Suzanne Anthony's birthday and presented her with goodies and led us in song.
- Jim Burton introduced Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, who has worked 20 years in the Regional Center system and at La Familia. She is the new Associate Director of Case Management in the Concord office, taking Ella Liggins' place, who retired earlier this month.

**Facilitator: Rocio Smith**

Rocio graciously agreed to come out of retirement to facilitate this planning meeting for the DD Council.

- Introductions: She asked each person to introduce him/herself and state a positive feature (personal and/or professional) about the previous year.

**The Main Event**

- Rocio led a brainstorming session on important topics for the DD Council to address in the coming year. After all the ideas from the audience were posted, each person was allowed to vote for 5 issues to prioritize the topics. The results included:
  - **24 votes:** Eligibility changes in legislation that impact family support and the problems families have in getting early intervention services (take them out).
  - **19 votes:** Rate freezes; impact of increasing minimum wage in CA; effects of Federal overtime laws and impact on residential staff and home staff and DDS response; impact on IHSS.
  - **18 votes:** DD Council to take a position on the closure of Developmental Centers; outreach to parents/families of people living in DC's to galvanize the community regarding Lanterman Act degradation; Trip to Sonoma DC: engage relatives, residents and staff; outreach and education regarding the intent and history of the Lanterman Act; DC closures and developing community resources
  - **11 votes:** Employment First; Supported Employment rates; Prevocational programs; Sub-minimum wages.

- **11 votes:** Early Start: impact of changes and positive developments.
  - **8 votes:** Waiting lists of adult programs.
  - **8 votes:** Mental Health Care timelines/appropriateness of care.
  - **7 votes:** Care outside of Medi-Cal; dentists in Contra Costa County; Accessibility to Medi-Cal.
  - **7 votes:** Representation on DD Council of issues related to school-age children.
  - **4 votes:** Impact of the Affordable Care Act.
  - **4 votes:** Affordable Housing: Bay Area Plan housing elements.
  - **4 votes:** Transportation: waiting lists/paratransit.
  - **4 votes:** Access to professional therapies in multiple languages; outreach to multi-cultural communities; cultural “brokering” system.
  - **3 votes:** Rights of conservatees; conservatorship issues.
  - **1 vote:** Pilots of Self-Directed services (if bill is signed)
- In the “**parking lot**” (for addressing in other ways/further discussion):
    - Child Care and After School programs for East Contra Costa County.
    - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: not recognized and no diagnostic capacity in Northern California
    - Visit Programs in place of a DD Council meeting.
    - Invite new DDS Director to Contra Costa County to discuss his/her vision of our service system.
    - Determine a way to address issues not addressed in the DD Council meetings.

**Announcements:**

- There is currently one opening on the DD Council Board.
- October 5, 2013 is a seminar on “Going to College with a Disability” at the Ed Roberts Center (at Ashby BART).
- The Central/East County Transition Fair is being held on October 25<sup>th</sup> in the morning at the Willow Creek Center in Concord.
- October 2, 2013 the Self-Advocacy Celebration (party) is being held, also at the Ed Roberts Center at Ashby BART.
- Stephanie mentioned that she thought we should include a list of the DD Council accomplishments in these meeting minutes to remind us all of the good work we are doing.
- John was congratulated on the successful and accessible Annual Dinner that was held in June.
- Krista Loomis announced that Gina Jennings has been home for 3 weeks and will be returning to Kenya tomorrow for another 1 year commitment assisting an orphanage in getting their non-profit status.
- Pam Perls stated that AREA Board V awarded a small grant to Calico for a seminar on how to handle interviews, etc. with people with disabilities. The target audience was police, judges and attorneys and was very well received.

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

**Our next meeting will be October 23, 2013  
In East Contra Costa County**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrory*  
Contra Costa ARC