

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 4, 2013

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Stephanie Chapralis, Vice-Chair, Heather Hackett, Vi Ibarra, Krista Loomis, Caroline Ortiz, Craig Rose, Heidi Spaulding, Carl Tolentino, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Gabriel Rogin, Pam Perls, Will Sanford, John Rodriguez, Staff.

Board Members Excused: Jim Burton, Nickole Bouslog, Ange Burnett, Karen Lingenfelter-Carman, Stephanie Meakin, Erin Rogers, Josh Sullivan, Ken Talken, Kim Williams, Barbara Maizie, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Elvia Osoria Rodriguez, RCEB; Emlyn Struthers, Senator Mark DeSaulnier's office; Shakendra Burks, ALIVE; Ramsay Mashy, CAF; Leslie Werosh, CAF; Krista Peterson, LCSW, CCRMC Pediatrics; Stephen Dale, Dale Law Firm; Paul Boyce, CAC; Christy Stanker, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan's office; Barbara Sheehy, CCS; Claudia Lam, Contra Costa ARC; Norlyn Asprec, Assemblymember Susan Bonilla's office; Evelyn Hoskins, RCEB; Deborah Penry, CARE Parent Network; Elree Langford, Contra Costa ARC; Marcia Hayes, Futures Explored; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored; Pam Thomas, RCEB.

Welcome

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

- Emlyn Struthers announced she would be transferring to Senator DeSaulnier's Sacramento office and this would be her last DD Council meeting----we wished her well.
- The October 23, 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written (M/Stephanie Chrapalis; S/Peggy Black).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

Presentation: Services to Infants and Young Children in Contra Costa County

By Evelyn Hoskins, RCEB; Wanda Davis, First 5; Caroline Ortiz, CARE Parent Network; Barbara Sheehy, California Children's Services.

Evelyn Hoskins began the presentation describing the Federal program, called *Early Start*. This program provides funding and support to children 24 months and younger that are showing a 33% delay in any of 10 developmental domains (e.g., self-help, motor, speech-language, cognitive, etc.). The program also supports children 25 months to 36 months that have a 50% delay in one area or a 33% delay in 2 areas, based on standardized assessments.

Referrals are made to RCEB (510-618-6195) and anyone can make the referral. However, a parent must give consent. From the date of referral, RCEB has 45 days to administer an assessment, complete an IFSP, and put services in place.

Currently RCEB supports 645 children in Early Start services in Contra Costa County and 915 children in Alameda County.

At age 27 months, transition plans are discussed, as the Early Start program ends on the child's 3rd birthday. Children may be referred to Head Start programs, Special Pre-schools in the community or for further assessments by RCEB, as they qualify. One current need for Early Start services is Speech Therapy in Spanish in both Counties.

As early as 16 months, children may be screened for delays in speech and social relationships. If there are behavioral issues, parents have to contact their medical provider for ABA therapies. If denied by their insurance company, then RCEB can fund behavioral therapies for a child.

Evelyn commented that the federal laws for Early Start services change frequently. In fact, new eligibility guidelines over the past year have disqualified many children.

The State Department of Education and the State Department of Developmental Services decide which school districts are mandated to serve children from birth to 3 years that have visual, hearing or orthopedic disabilities. Unfortunately, Mt. Diablo School District in our area is not one of them.

Wanda Davis, of First 5 Contra Costa, described their services as collaborating with over 35 agencies in Contra Costa County and identifying, assessing and developing supports for children that have delays, but don't meet the Federal criteria for Early Start services.

In 2012, First 5 piloted 5 developmental play groups throughout Contra Costa County. Children are screened with the ASQ-3 developmental screening system. They provide services to children up to age 5 that are not eligible for RCEB services, as well.

This year, they have received more than 28,000 calls; have provided over 7,771 home visits and have funded 1,747 center-based services. First 5 also addresses Early Childhood Mental Health Services and funds programs in San Pablo, the Monument Corridor (Concord), Pittsburg, Antioch and Brentwood.

First 5 also supports "Triple P", Positive Parenting Programs that are imbedded at Stepping Stones, Lynn Center, CARE Parent Network and We Care. Trainers must be certified and the strategies address parents of children with developmental delays.

Finally, First 5 funds the creation of various publications, such as the "Cope" handbook, written by Deborah Pendry of CARE Parent Network; and "Sugar Bites" posters promoting the negative impact of sugar on teeth, health and weight.

First 5 continues to facilitate inter-agency collaboration in our community and identifying service gaps to children up to age 5.

Barbara Sheehy of the California Children's Services (CCS) focuses on services for children with chronic medical conditions, and physical disabilities from birth to age 21.

For some services, there are financial requirements (low income) and CCS can provide:

- Diagnosis and treatment of hearing and vision impairments, heart conditions and traumatic injuries.
- A Nurse Case Manager to coordinate services.

If medically eligible, CCS can pay for hospitalizations, hearing aids, wheelchairs and transportation to/from appointments. CCS is proud of their affiliations with the state-of-the-art care from Children's Hospital in Oakland, UCSF, Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford and Kaiser Oakland. If the right specialists are not available, they will send children for care elsewhere.

CCS also provides long-term direct OT and PT services in various schools for children from birth to age 21, with no financial requirements. These children are assessed by a rehabilitation physician regularly. These services are provided at:

- Downer Elementary School in San Pablo;
- Shadelands in Concord
- O'Hara Park in Oakley
- Turner Highlands in Antioch
- Mauzy School in Alamo

CCS accepts referrals from physicians, parents and teachers and they must have medical records to complete their assessment. If a family is denied services, there is an appeal process with Barbara, then a fair hearing for a final decision.

CCS contracts with CARE Parent Network to provide parental support. Barbara explained that this is a key component in assisting families. There is no documentation requirement for CCS services from people from other countries that are living here.

Barbara stated that she is excited about a new grant that CCS received from the Lucille Packard Foundation for a Care Coordination Project. The grant started in April 2013 and will run until September 2014. They will be able to start Roundtable meetings to discuss referrals, as well as hire a Care Coordinator for Contra Costa County to track services and report on unresolved problems. If you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Barbara directly.

Caroline Ortiz, of CARE Parent Network, and her team assist families in navigating the service system. All the staff of CARE Parent Network has experience as parents of children with disabilities and can relate to families in a parent-to-parent manner. Caroline stated that most parent can keep it together emotionally with professionals, but can "let their hair down" (and cry) when at CARE.

Caroline discussed the benefits to her son from the Early Start program and is dismayed at the number of children that are no longer eligible, due to new legislation.

CARE will assist parents in:

- Understanding the service system;
- Understanding that they will make it through it (CARE staff are living proof!)
- Emotionally coming to terms with a diagnosis;
- Providing trained mentors to families;
- Providing support groups for Moms, Dads and siblings;
- Understanding that labeling a child is not desired, however without a label there are no services.

CARE provides training and support at various transition times, as well:

- At age 3: transition to nothing, to an IEP service in public schools, to RCEB services or to a regular pre-school.
- At age 5, possibly transitioning to Special Education services in public schools.
- At age 22, possibly transitioning to some type of adult services.

CARE can provide support to families through all these transition points and prepare them for what is happening next. Deborah Pendry has a "one sheet rule", in which handouts are on one piece of paper for better understanding.

Caroline stated that she felt that the new law, requiring medical insurers to provide for behavioral support services to families and children, is not working.

Audience responses to the presentation:

- Stephanie commented that to have CARE Parent Network for families over the years of transitions of a child's life is commendable. In addition, the coordination of agencies and services in Contra Costa County is great.
- Heidi commented that she didn't have the benefits of those services when she was a child. She said she has a friend you had a child with delays that attended "Through the Looking Glass" and now the child is in college!
- Gabriel asked about the development of a single application and assessment that would meet the needs of all services. Wanda responded that one form is used in San Francisco and that it is on her wish list for Contra Costa County.

John thanked Evelyn, Wanda, Caroline and Barbara for their excellent presentation and added that we are lucky to have their expertise in our community.

RCEB Update by Pam Thomas

Pam filled in for Jim Burton today, with the following comments:

- Teri Delgadillo is retiring from DDS at the end of December 2013. The governor will appoint a replacement in January. While there are rumors abound, no one knows who the replacement might be.
- The Legislative Analyst's Office has reported on the State Budget, commenting that there seems to be restraint in spending. However, there are concerns about the impact of raising the State's minimum wage in 2014.
- The State Developmental Centers Task Force will be meeting on December 13th and Jim will report on the outcome in our January meeting.
- Regarding SB 468, the Self-Determination bill, it must get federal funding by December 2014 prior to implementation. Jim in on the task force.
- The Christmas Tree lighting at the State Capital will be December 12th at 4:30 p.m.
- Jim sent his wishes to everyone for a Happy Holiday Season.

AREA Board V update by Gabriel Rogin

Gabriel stated that announcements will be made this evening at the ABV meeting on grant recipients. This evening they are also honoring 2 retirees and long time advocates in our field: Diana Jorgensen and Rocio Smith.

The ABV is working with RCEB to determine day program capacity in both counties in response to waiting lists for services. In addition, Gabriel announced that Dennis Craig will be leaving ABV.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee: Carl Tolentino reported that Senator DeSaulnier is having an Open House on Dec. 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.----everyone is welcome. In addition, the CAC is planning for the Feb. 2014 Town Hall meeting.
- Nominating Committee: Elvia Osoria Rodriguez has been nominated to the DD Council to fill an open position. A vote will be taken in the January meeting. Craig described Elvia's experience in our field: working as a Case Manager for La Familia, working as a Case Manager in the Children's Division at RCEB and working as a Case Management Supervisor at RCEB.
- Transition Committee: No report.

Upcoming Meetings for 2014:

John listed the 2014 meetings as:

- January 22, 2014 @ RCEB
- February 26, 2014 @ RCEB

- March 26, 2014 @RCEB
- April 23, 2014 in El Cerrito (TBD)
- May 28, 2014 @ RCEB
- June 2014—annual dinner (TBD)
- July and August 2014—no meetings
- September 24, 2014 @ RCEB
- October 22, 2014 @ RCEB
- November 19, 2014 @ RCEB (out of normal cycle)

Announcements:

- Peggy again announced that on Feb. 18-23, 2014, folks from the University of Wisconsin will be providing clinicians with training on diagnosis of FASD in Oakland. This will be free to attendees.
- Steve mentioned that there will be a Webinar on the Affordable Care Act that will be available for free on YouTube.
- Krista announced that Gina Jennings, former staff to the DD Council, will be selling items to benefit the work she is doing in Kenya: Saturday, December 14th, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sports Basement on Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.
- Claudia announced that the After School Programs at the George Miller Centers are collecting coats for until December 20th----please drop them off @ the Centers.
- John thanked the DD Council for their support all year long and wished everyone Happy Holidays!

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

<p>Our next meeting will be January 22, 2014 RCEB-Concord Conference Room 2151 Salvio Street (3rd Floor) Concord, CA 94520</p>
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Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
 Contra Costa ARC