

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 22, 2014**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Stephanie Chapralis, Vice-Chair, Jim Burton, Heather Hackett, Vi Ibarra, Karen Lingenfelter-Carman, Krista Loomis, Caroline Ortiz, Erin Rogers, Craig Rose, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino, Kim Williams, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Penny Musante, Gabriel Rogin, Pam Perls, Barb Johnson, Will Sanford, John Rodriguez, Staff.

Board Members Excused: Nickole Bouslog, Ange Burnett, Stephanie Meakin, Ken Talken, Barbara Maizie.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Shakendra Burks, ALIVE-East; Paul Boyce, CAC, ALIVE-East; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc.; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored; Angie Lee, Futures Explored; Leslie Werosh, CAF.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. and Suzanne welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

- The December 4, 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written (M/Josh Sullivan; S/Peggy Black).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

RCEB Update by Jim Burton

Jim wished everyone a Happy New Year!

He also announced the Governor's appointment of Santi Rogers to head up DDS. Jim and Santi have been friends for many years and Jim feels he is a fine selection for this position. Santi spent 18 years as Executive Director of San Andreas Regional Center, and has previously worked in a State Developmental Center and at DDS. Jim stated that Santi is very knowledgeable about the service system and cares deeply about people with developmental disabilities. Further, Jim stated that Santi is experienced in leading in times of great stress during his career, and he led the closure of Agnews Development Center.

In addition, Jim announced that John Doyle, from the Dept. of Finance, will be Santi's assistant as Chief Deputy Director of DDS. Jim feels that this is another good appointment.

The Governor released his budget proposal for next year and while there are details to iron out; Jim feels it is about 99% firm. It includes:

- Not a lot of change: The DDS portion of the proposal is 159 pages and you can read it on the website:
www.dds.ca.gov
- Total budget proposed: \$4.4 Billion, with \$2.5 billion coming from the State's General Fund and with an increased percentage from the Federal government.
- Funds were added for caseload growth (3%).
- No restorative funds were included; however there were no new cuts.

- **\$110 million was included for the raise in minimum wage on July 1st; however, this is not nearly enough to cover needed rate adjustments. This is a topic we can testify about in upcoming budget hearings.**

The State Developmental Centers' Futures Committee issued its report, concluding that the SDCs cannot continue in their current form.

- Community services must be expanded;
- They have a goal of placing 1,049 people in the community by the end of next fiscal year;
- There were 6 specific recommendations from the report:
 - Develop community residences specializing in serving folks with medical needs (962 homes);
 - Develop community residences specializing in serving folks with behavioral support needs (225 people);
 - Maintain the 250 people in the forensic area of Porterville;
 - Sell surplus land to pay off debt and develop a planned community with public and private entities collaborating;
 - Develop a broader spectrum of community health services;
 - Look at the stability of community services.
- Comments were added to the report from 2 Unions and the Sonoma Parent Group.

The report will be sent to the legislature, and then hearings on the topic will be organized. The price tag is still under consideration.

Jim reported that DDS is late in allocating funds to Regional Centers. RCEB currently has an insufficiency of about \$15 million (better than last year).

Another item to watch out for is a proposed change in Federal law regarding to either not all overtime pay to staff in In-Home Respite and Supported Living Services or to minimize the overtime. This could have a huge negative and direct impact on people depending upon those services and we will be discussing this further.

Sonoma Developmental Center is about 70% complete with the performance improvement plan.

Presentation: Self Determination, by Gabriel Rogin, AREA Board V

Gabriel introduced SB 468, a bill that is often referred to as Self Determination. It proposes a voluntary service delivery system and supports in the community that may have a meaningful impact on people, but is written in a way that is very vague and does not address implementation. Will Sanford and Jim Burton are on the committee to propose the implementation aspects.

Highlights of SB 468 include:

- California has been piloting Self-Determination with 140 people over the past few years. There has been a high level of service satisfaction, innovation and cost-effectiveness.
- 29 other states have implemented Self-Determination across the nation.
- It has been determined to reduce bureaucracy and increase transparency of services.
- It involves flexibility and choice.

The first step in implementation is for California to apply for a Federal Waiver by December 2014. This is a significant step in securing MEDICAID funding. If approved, then a 3-year pilot may begin around mid-2015 (guestimate), to serve approximately 2500 people.

To qualify for the services, you must have an IPP with the Regional Center, be over 3 years old and, if residing in a long-term care facility, will leave that facility within 90 days.

A person can enter/exit the program at any time, but under certain circumstances, a person may be asked to leave. When someone exits the services, there is a 1 year waiting period to re-enter.

There are 3 main features in Self Determination services:

- Individual Budget:
 - Budget amount is based on the previous 12 months of service expenditures and is the full amount;
 - The services are within the IPP process;
 - The I.D. Team can make changes to the budget, if needed;
 - New or generic services can be purchased, as long as the services are on a federal list (Federal Financial Participation). This may be a challenge.
- Independent Facilitator:
 - Could be a Conservator, Regional Center Case Manager or a non-vendored person (must have criminal record clearance).
 - Facilitator can pick and pay for desired services; can provide other services; can assist in the IPP; and can identify service providers.
- Financial Management Services:
 - This is a requirement of Federal funding;
 - Must be vendorized;
 - This service is paid by the participant (except the background check requirement);
 - Manages direct funds;
 - Completes accounting, taxes and follows employment laws;
 - Verifies service provider qualifications;
 - Prepares monthly reports to the I.D. Team.

The Council posed several questions for Will and Jim to take back to the committee on implementation:

1. What kind of training and orientation will be available for people wanting this type of service?
2. Will the Regional Center caseload size be low enough for a positive impact on service planning? (Ideal 1:45)
3. Which services will be eligible for the Federal Financial Participation?
4. Will aging issues and school transition issues be considered?

The Council thanked Gabriel for his presentation. Jim and Will were also thanked for their work on the implementation committee. We look forward to more information in the coming months.

AREA Board V Update by Gabriel Rogin

Gabriel announced that the next ABV meeting will be February 26th at the Golden Gate Regional Center's San Mateo office. ABV will be hearing from presenters on the issues of Sub-Minimum Wage Certificates and Sheltered Workshops.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee: Carl reported on their work on the upcoming Town Hall meeting (February 21st). He felt that Jim and Will already spoke to the hot issues right now.

- Nominating Committee: Craig nominated Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez last month for a position on the DD Council. Suzanne call for a vote (M/Erin Rogers; S/Peggy Black) and the motion carried unanimously. Elvia was welcomed to the Board.
- Transition Committee: John stated that the committee was planning for upcoming presenters and was impressed with the San Ramon USD's innovations.

Upcoming Meetings for 2014:

John listed the 2014 meetings as:

- February 26, 2014 @ RCEB
- March 26, 2014 @ RCEB
- April 23, 2014 in El Cerrito (location TBD)
- May 28, 2014 @ RCEB
- June 2014—annual dinner (date and location 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. She stated that they have been inundated with applications and have had to repeatedly contact the trainers to expand their capacity. She is excited about the results of having diagnostic capabilities in Northern California.
- Barb Johnson is back, representing Congressman George Miller's office. She will be replacing Joanne Nakamura. The Congressman has publically announced that he will not be running for another term of office, and has 11 months left in his current term. She assured us that he is not "retiring to the rocking chair". She passed out a page of his 2014 priorities. In addition, she stated that Senator Mark DeSaulnier has already thrown in his hat to run for this congressional seat.
- John closed the meeting with an inspirational poem written by a young man with MS (Mattie Stepanek), "About Feelings". The book was entitled, "Hope Through Heartsongs".

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

**Our next meeting will be February 26, 2014
RCEB-Concord Conference Room
2151 Salvio Street (3rd Floor)
Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrery
Contra Costa ARC