

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
3/26/14**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Stephanie Chapralis, Vice-Chair, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Heather Hackett, Erin Rogers, Craig Rose, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Ken Talken, Carl Tolentino, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Penny Musante, Gabriel Rogin, Pam Perls, Barb Johnson, Krista Loomis, Will Sanford, John Rodriguez, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Vi Ibarra, Karen Lingenfelter, Caroline Ortiz, Barbara Maizie, Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Kim Williams.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Angie Lee, ALIVE Concord; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc.; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc.; Ria Mercado, RN, Woodbridge Home; Christy Stanker, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan's office; Francine Davis, RCEB; Ronke Sodipo, RCEB; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Jennifer Steneberg, Dale Law Firm.

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. and Suzanne welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

- The February 26, 2014 meeting minutes were approved with one correction: our October meeting will be held in Antioch, instead of RCEB (M/Jim Burton: S/Craig Rose).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

Presentation: Specialized Residential Care Development for Sonoma SDC Residents

Speakers: Francine Davis, RCEB; Ria Mercado, RN, Woodbridge Home; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc; Melanie Fowler, Las Trampas, Inc.

Francine Davis began her presentation describing the Community Placement Plan (CPP) process to develop services in the community for people living in State Developmental Centers and also "difficult to place" people (deflection from SDCs).

- RCEB submits a plan to DDS annually for approval, requesting CPP funds (program develop, start-up and on-going funds) to develop specialized services in our community.
- RCEB manages about 3 plans at once, as it takes about 2 years to accomplish each plan:
 - FY 12/13: The CPP plan included the home developed by Las Trampas, Inc.;
 - FY 13/14: Request for Proposals were announced and vendors were selected by a process that includes input from community members;
 - FY 14/15: New CPP plan was just submitted to DDS for approval.

Francine was happy to announce 2 new homes in our community to serve people from Sonoma SDC and those vendors will present next.

Suzanne Anthony announced Francine's retirement plans for next week and presented a framed Certificate of Appreciation from the Contra Costa County DD Council to thank her for her dedicated service in our field and in our community over the years.

Francine graciously accepted the certificate and stated that her work was a great experience; she learned a lot and will never forget it.

Ria Mercado, RN, of Woodbridge Home distributed brochures about a new home in Antioch that she is developing for 4 people leaving Sonoma SDC. In 2006 she opened a 6-bed home in that community (level 4G) and was selected in the FY 2011-2012 to receive start-up funds and negotiate payment rates for this 2nd specialized home.

She stated that it has been a long process with a high level of detail and re-modeling, as she has visited the potential residents several times at the SDC to make sure the home is tailored to their specific needs. She is in the final development stage of getting the home licensed.

Ria described her service model as “strength-based”, utilizing highly trained staff, various consultants, a peer mentorship program and job development. She wants to make sure that the residents are comfortable in the home. Ria invited anyone to call her for a tour, prior to opening to residents.

Daniel Hogue and Melanie Fowler presented a slide show of a home they have developed in Pleasant Hill for 4 residents with behavioral challenges from Sonoma SDC. Two people are currently residing in the home and 1 additional person is moving in next week.

Daniel agrees with Ria about it being a process: He budgeted \$128,000 for home renovations and suspects it is costing up to \$200,000. They have added a lot of hardwood, reinforced wood and granite counter tops to deter breakage. They also have space to add a sizable garden.

The service model is to teach social and communication skills and they have found those to be significant keys to success. Already he has seen behavioral improvements in the 2 residents and they are both seeing their families more often. They have one staff for every 2 residents, plus a safety officer. On weekends, there are periods of time of 1:1 staffing. They are also out in the community often. Las Trampas, Inc. utilizes various consultants, as well. Dan stated that there were many compatibility factors considered when selecting residents, requiring many visits to Sonoma SDC.

Dan stated that Las Trampas, Inc. owns 3 other properties and he looks forward to replicating this project in the future.

The presenters were congratulated on their incredible work in assisting people to leave Sonoma SDC and for their enlightening presentations.

RCEB Update by Jim Burton

Regarding the State Budget proposal, Jim stated that the Assembly Hearing occurred last week and the Senate Hearing on our issues will be tomorrow in Room # 4203 @ 9:30 a.m. Jim feels the big issues are:

- Not allowing IHSS workers to work more than 8 hours-----this would have a huge impact on families and supported living services.
- Implementation of minimum wage increases-----not enough funds in the budget proposal that will go into effect on July 1, 2014!
- Need to restore the former eligibility standards in Early Start programs.

Jim stated that all Regional Centers have insufficiency in allocations from DDS, including RCEB, @ \$8 million (better than last year).

Jim commented that he has been in denial about Francine's retirement plans, as she is irreplaceable after more than 26 years with the Regional Center. He thanked her for helping develop services in our communities and her commitment to our field all these years.

RCEB is hosting a retirement celebration at RCEB in San Leandro on April 4th and everyone is welcome to attend to wish Francine well!

Jim also introduced and announced the appointment of Ronke Sodipo to Francine's position. Ronke has been with RCEB for 22 years and Jim feels she brings a lot to the table.

AREA Board V Update by Gabriel Rogin

Gabriel reported that last month's panel discussion on sub-minimum wages was a very respectful conversation, looking at the many sides of the issues. There was no agreement, but he felt it was productive and informative. He would like to use this discussion format for other topics.

Gabriel also announced that on April 23rd at Golden Gate Regional Center @ 7:00 p.m., there will be a discussion of AB 1595, which will change the structure of the Area Boards and DD Councils in California. Mark Polit will host the meeting.

Future ABV topics will include under-served populations and diversity.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee: The committee is working on sending out Thank You letters to the panel from the Town Hall Meeting. In addition, they are watching "a ton of" bills.

At the Assembly hearing last week, the audience gave an ovation to the Chairperson, who observed that the "numbers didn't add up"-----the committee felt the hearing went well.

Josh stated the recording of the Town Hall Meeting will be up on YouTube soon.

- Nominating Committee: John announced that the date of the Annual Dinner has not yet been pinned down, but he will be sending out Award Nomination forms next week.
- Transition Committee: Ken Talken announced that the West Contra Costa Special Education Resource and Transition Fair will be held on Saturday, April 26th. He brought flyers for everyone. There will be over 40 vendor tables, guest speakers, door prizes and music.

Upcoming Meetings for 2014:

John listed the 2014 meetings as:

- April 23, 2014 in El Cerrito at City Hall. John will send out the address and look into parking passes.
- 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 @ Antioch
- November 19, 2014 @ RCEB (out of normal cycle)

Announcements:

- Special Haven in Antioch is a new sensory integration project, funded under a grant and free to people of all ages with developmental disabilities. It is located at the Intuitive Healing Center, 213 G Street, Antioch, CA 94509. Phone: 925-222-5322. Website: www.specialhaven.org.
- Futures Explored will be hosting film premiers on April 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Vine Theater, Downtown Livermore.
- Contra Costa Board of Supervisors is hosting a Caesar Chavez Celebration at 11:00 a.m. on April 1, 2014. Everyone is welcome.....it will last about 1 hour.

- The 7th STAR Parent Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders will be on Saturday, April 12th @RCEB in San Leandro. Scholarships and stipends are available. Contact CARE Parent Network for more information.
- Assemblymember Buchanan is hosting 3 free pancake breakfasts/Town Hall Meetings:
 - April 5th at Rossmoor
 - April 26th at Lobar's Training Hall in San Ramon
 - May 3rd at the Livermore Community Center
- Congressman George Miller is being interviewed for a documentary leading up to the ADA. Barb asked that people share with him any pictures you may have of sit-ins in San Francisco or personal stories.
- Congressman Miller is also on a panel on March 31st @ 6 p.m. at the Richmond Civic Center Council Chambers, discussing raising the Federal minimum wage.

**Our next meeting will be April 23, 2014
El Cerrito City Hall
(John will send out the address and look into parking passes)**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrory
Contra Costa ARC