

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
4/23/14**

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

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:**, Karen Lingenfelter, Caroline Ortiz, Barbara Maizie, Nickole Bouslog, Stephanie Meakin, Jim Burton, Dan Denis, Barb Johnson.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Pat Yamamoto, Parent; Teresa Gonzalez, WCCUSD, Transition Support Services; Sue Madole, CCCOE, Transition; Porscha Trotter, ALIVE East, L.S.A.; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Mandy A. Bouttie, CIWP; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored; Marcia Hayes, Futures Explored; Sharolyn Babb, DPRC; Lita M. Guerrero, CIWP; Judith Vilchis, CIWP; Renee Rozinda, CIWP; Karina Gomez, CIWP; Vanessa Bravo, CIWP; Martha Fernandez, CIWP; Alejandra Martinez, CIWP; Tammy Kennet, CIWP; Karina Quevedo, CIWP; Jeanine Bishop, WCCUSD; Valisha Fallard, California Autism Foundation.

**Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. and Suzanne welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

- The March 26, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written, unanimously (M/Peggy Black: S/Ange Burnett).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

**Presentation: Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE), Transition Services**

**Speaker: Sue Madole**

Sue explained that it has been over 1 year that the CCCOE has had a transition specialist on staff (since Liz Wilson-Palmer retired). Sue had also retired, but was asked to come back on a part time basis, beginning February 1, 2014. She works Mondays and Tuesdays and is currently working with 16 students that will be leaving school.

Sue is very experienced, having job-shared with Liz for 2 years. She also had experience in community-based instruction, as a social coach, writing curriculum and much more. Sue was happy to see some of her former students at today's meeting and some of the program reps that she works closely with. She covers primarily East Contra Costa County, representing 8-9 teachers. The students she supports in transition services have a wide range of abilities.

Sue interfaces with the students, their families and/or care homes, RCEB Case Managers and adult service providers. She enjoys taking students and parents on tours, especially since she gets to see former students.

Sue apologized that the DD Council did not receive a response from a letter sent to CCCOE about the lack of transition services. Last year there was no transition services offered through the CCCOE. Currently the John Swett District in West County has no transition services.

Sue left her business cards for distribution.

Comments:

Barbara Townsend requested that teachers focus on adult-type soft skills with their students and be educated on the differences between school services and adult services. In addition, she stated that Futures Explored has an "Open Tour" the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month for drop-ins.

Ken Talken stated that West Contra Costa County Unified School District (WCCUSD) has a Transition Specialist and he introduced Teresa Gonzalez. Their transition program has 15 work sites, a functional life skills curriculum, classes at CC College and an array of other groups. Next year the transition enrollment will almost double to 143 students, which will present a logistical challenge.

Heidi Spaulding stressed a message to families to not wait until the last minute to plan for transition.....then it will be a panic situation for families.

Josh Sullivan related the heart-breaking situation of 2-3 families each year trying to get services the day after graduation. The result is that they are surprised about waiting lists.

Gabriel Rogin wanted to make Sue aware of the Employment First Legislation. Sue responded that CCCOE's philosophy has always been "working to learn; learning to work".

Stephanie Chapralis stated that CARE Parent Network has a host of family-friendly transition info. She also wanted to know if the adult service waiting lists were better or worse than last year. At this time, there is no information.

Peggy Black stated her frustration in that there are no resources to support Employment First; that it is merely a policy statement.

Pam Thomas commented that the recent Town Hall meeting focused on employment service needs and that we all needed to keep this at the forefront: "keep our voices loud".

Will Sanford stated that his agency loses about \$1000 per person in his Supported Employment program and the waiting list is huge.

#### **RCEB Update by Pam Thomas**

Pam Thomas filled in for Jim Burton today. She stated that we are all anxious to see the May revision to the Governor's budget proposal, expected around May 15<sup>th</sup>. Hot topics include the restoration of Early Start eligibility criteria, restoration of Supported Employment funding and a resolution to the IHSS overtime restrictions.

RCEB's insufficiency of funds has gone from a shortage of \$8 Million down to \$5 Million. An outstanding item is how the increase in minimum wage is going to be handled. Will stated that the Lanterman Coalition is working on that and their recommendations are due out in early May.

#### **AREA Board V Update by Gabriel Rogin**

Gabriel reported that the Requests for Proposals are out for small grants. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to apply. In addition, this evening at 7:00 p.m., at the GGRC SF offices, ABV is meeting to discuss the future structure of the State Councils and Area Boards.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Legislative Committee:**

The East Bay Legislative Committee is reaching out to each legislator to follow up on the items addressed in the Town Hall meeting. They are also tracking over 35 bills including:

- SB 1626 to restore Supported Employment payment rates
- SB 1344 to address the property at Sonoma State Developmental Center

They are anxious to see the May revise of the State budget proposal, as well. The media crew at Futures Explored will post the Town Hall video on YouTube in the next few weeks.

- **Nominating Committee:**

John announced that the date of the Annual Dinner as June 5<sup>th</sup>, with Santi Rogers, the new Executive Director of DDS, as the keynote speaker (thanks go to Jim Burton for making this happen!). Announcements are out for the dinner at Scott's Seafood Restaurant at Jack London Square. In addition, nomination forms are out for the *Excellence in Service Awards*. Nominations are due on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **Transition Committee:**

Ken Talken announced that the West Contra Costa Special Education Resource and Transition Fair will be held on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. He brought flyers for everyone. There will be over 40 vendor tables, guest speakers, door prizes and music.....fun for the whole family!

John announced that Ester Wagner from the Future's Explored Media Workshop gave a great presentation at the recent Transition Task Force meeting. They are accepting application for the next 20-week session that starts in early August. This is a Regional Center funded program and a person can take it up to 4 times.

### **Upcoming Meetings for 2014:**

John listed the 2014 meetings as:

- May 28, 2014 @ RCEB
- June 5, 2014—annual dinner at Scott's Seafood Restaurant at Jack London Square
- July and August 2014—no meetings
- September 24, 2014 @ RCEB
- October 22, 2014 @ Antioch
- November 19, 2014 @ RCEB (out of normal cycle)

### **Announcements:**

- John asked the DD Council Board to Save the Date: July 23<sup>rd</sup> for their annual retreat at the Concord Residential Club. Our friend, Rocio Smith, will be facilitating the meeting.
- BART is looking for feedback on their new cars. Check their website, as the cars are on display at the Fremont station.
- John wanted to especially thank the El Cerrito City Clerk for allowing us to use their chambers for our meeting today.
- Will announced that there will be trainings planned for Self Determination services. DDS would like the trainings to be uniform, while RCEB carries them out.
- Peggy Black announced an upcoming Canadian conference on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders: For more information, Google: UBCenterprofessionaleducation
- Ange Burnett announced that the Annual Early Childhood Education Conference will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Diablo Valley College. Parents welcome. Cost is \$45/day. For more info go to: cocokids.org

- John announced his retirement from the DD Council in December. He has given his notice to the County. An announcement for a permanent part-time position will come out in the fall.
- Krista announced that Gina Jennings will be visiting for 1 week in May. You can call, e-mail or contact her through Facebook.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**Our next meeting will be May 28, 2014  
@ 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