

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
1/28/15

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Caroline Ortiz, Vice Chair, Nichole Bouslog, Heather Hackett, Vi Ibarra, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Heidi Spaulding, Kim Williams, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Pam Perls, Krista Loomis, Craig Rose, and Gabriel Rogin.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Barbara Maize, Ken Talken, Carl Tolentino, Will Sanford, and Jim Burton.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Angie Lee, ALIVE-Concord; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Shakendra Burks, Futures Explored; Betty Jo DuBois, Contra Costa ARC; Elree Langford, Contra Costa ARC; Ajati Sankoh, Sierra Environmental & Social Services; Jamario Jackson, Assemblymember **Susan Bonilla's Office**; **Nina Vincent, Contra Costa Childcare Council**; Leslie Werosh, CA Autism Foundation; Ramsay Mashy, CA Autism Foundation; Ronke Sodipo, RCEB; Krista Loomis, Full Circle of Choices; Stephanie Jacob, Parent; Hiliary Shen; Mt. Diablo Unified School District; Sam Smith, Sam Corps; Brittanni Murphy, The Mentor Network; **Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc.**; **Jennalee Wilson, RCEB**; **Tahira "Ty" Neckles, Thrive Support Services**; Wallace Mueller, Anka Behavioral Health; Nancy Kubota, RCEB; Greg Simons, Las Trampas, Inc.; and Kevin Rath, Manos Home Care.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. and Suzanne welcomed everyone. The mission statement was read and introductions were made.

- The November 19, 2014 meeting minutes were approved as written, unanimously (M/Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen; S/Heather Hackett and Peggy Black).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

Presentation: The 2015 Proposed State Budget

Speakers: Jamario Jackson, Field Representative for Assemblymember Susan Bonilla and Nancy Kubota, filling in for Jim Burton, RCEB.

Jamario described the highlights of the Governor's proposed State Budget and recommended that people read the details on the Legislative Analyst's Office (non-partisan) website at: LOA.CA.GOV

- The total State Budget Proposal is \$158.8 Billion, with \$100.8 Billion coming from Federal sources;
- The focus of this budget is to increase funds for K-12 Education, Community Colleges, State Universities, and the UC system. Adult Education will include workforce development programs.
- **Other priorities are to put \$3.4 Billion in reserves and pay down the State's debt.**

In the Health and Human Services Department there are increases for:

- IHSS, if federal requirements are met;
- \$300 Million for a new Hep C medication;
- Increased support for the CALWORKS program.

In the Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

- The Governor wants DDS to be funded as much as possible by Federal funds.
- Only 3 Developmental Centers remain open: Fairview, Porterville and Sonoma.
- Sonoma has been decertified for Federal Funds in 4 ICF units and the state general fund must replace that funding.
- No Developmental Center is slated for closure in the coming year. (Lanterman closed in Dec. 2104 and the property will be turned over to the California State University System on July 1, 2015).
- There is a Developmental Services Task Force that continues to meet to review community services for sustainability (includes Jim Burton and Will Sanford on our behalf).

Jamario also shared that Assemblymember Bonilla is working on developing a bill to require new public construction, serving over 1000 people per day (like sports arenas), includes an adult changing table. Josh will keep us updated when this bill is finalized and introduced.

Questions and Comments for Jamario:

- Thanks go to Assemblymember Bonilla for supporting the immediate Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) letter for community service providers. The Developmental Services Task force is looking into long-term solutions, but this COLA is needed now.
- **According to Governor's Budget Highlights put out by DDS, in 2015 there is expected to be approximately 1,010 residents in the Developmental Centers, costing more than \$500,000 on average, per person; At the same time there is expected to be approximately 288,317 people receiving services in the community, costing an average of about \$17,000 per person.**
- The disparity between the rates for the Developmental Centers and community services is great; the community is being penalized for Development Centers' **being de-certified** and losing Federal funding.
- Assemblymember Bonilla was encouraged to support, by April 1st, the development of a plan to close Fairview and Sonoma Developmental Centers.

Nancy Kubota filled in for Jim Burton, as he was called away to a Developmental Services Task Force meeting. Nancy stated the budget highlights as:

- DDS' total budget is proposed as \$5.7 Billion, with the Purchase of Service budget at \$5.1 Billion.
- This fiscal year there is a huge savings (\$154 Million) primarily due to SB946 where private insurances are now covering certain therapies. This savings is expected to cover any potential Regional Center insufficiencies that may be experienced this year.
- For Fiscal Year 2015/2016, DDS is proposed to be funded with \$300 Million for caseload growth (about 10,000 new people). **This is a status quo budget.**
 - There is \$24.4 Million in the budget proposal to cover overtime pay requirements that are currently on appeal.
 - There are salary and benefits increases for the staff of the Developmental Centers.
 - There are funds to expand Porterville by 30 beds (criminals).
 - With the Federal de-certification for 4 ICF units at Sonoma Developmental Center, the General Fund is replacing those lost funds.
- The bad news:
 - **No additional funds were allocated for community service rates or Regional Center operations.**
 - **No funds were included start the planning to close 2 Developmental Centers.**

Nancy complimented this DD Council for past effective advocacy efforts and recommended that **we join with the Lanterman Coalition, ARCA's Grass Roots Day, and continue grass roots advocacy**, like the planned Town Hall meeting, and other efforts.

Questions and Comments for Nancy:

- Daniel Hogue expressed his disappointment and frustration with the bad news and the outrageous disparity with the funding of the Developmental Centers; He mentioned that without rate increases, Las Trampas, Inc. will be out of business within 2-3 years. The Lanterman Act must be funded!
- Kevin Rath related that he serves people with behavioral issues in homes and day programs, including a 90-day crisis home. However, there is nowhere to place people and they end up staying in the crisis home longer than they need to. Community service rates must increase, as people with higher needs are being referred.
- Donna Feingold recommended that we have one consistent message: our staff needs living wages, in order to maintain a stable workforce. Otherwise, staff turnover will continue to increase.
- Dan Denis asked for IHSS clarification on the overtime issue and new time cards. Daniel Hogue stated that when the appeal is over, he will host a forum on it at Las Trampas.
- Heidi Spaulding commented that it boggles her mind that the State would pay so much for a few people in the Developmental Centers, **when the community gets cut.....it costs less to fund the community.**
- Kim Williams stated that she came from a Developmental Center **and doesn't want to go back.**

Nancy and Jamario were thanked for their excellent presentations.

DD Council Board Discussion:

An extensive Board and Community discussion of comments and suggestions ensued. Highlights included:

- The State Council and DD Councils should partner to get data on the impact on community services of a status quo budget;
- Until programs close, nothing will change.
- There is an annual growth rate of 10%, with no new or expanded services available.
- Soon the federal CMS regulations will be implemented, but not funded, as well.
- It was recommended that we join the message of the Lanterman Coalition (**lantermancoalition.org**) and use their message of **"10 for 10"**. The message would be 10% rate increases for all (make the pie bigger) this year and a 5% increase next year, to stabilize our current services; plus close another DC.
- Both the RCEB Board and the Alameda County DD Council have adopted resolutions to support the Lanterman **Coalition's campaign of "10 for 10"**----10 reasons for supporting a 10% rate increase.
- A motion was made for a resolution to write a letter of support for the Lanterman Coalition **in the "10 for 10" campaign, however it was tabled for more information** (M/Heidi Spaulding; S/Craig Rose).
- While supporting the **"10 for 10" concept** may be fine, we really need to reach parents with our message; possibly get a petition going and use social media, email blasts, websites, etc. We need a strategic plan to get the message out.
- We can pressure the legislature with faces and stories in the media and at hearings.
- We need to keep a unified message.
- This status quo budget has a domino effect throughout the State.
- It was suggested that we make lots of noise, letters to the editor, media coverage of local heroes, inform our neighbors, etc.
- We need to reach parents and get them invested and on board.
- **We can also use social media, and everyone's website.**

The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting after this Board meeting to discuss strategies.

The Lanterman Coalition "10 for 10" letter to the Governor was located and Josh read it out loud. It called for a 10% rate increase this year and a 5% increase next year to stabilize current community services.

The previous motion by Heidi was revisited and amended to include 2 items:

- **to support the Lanterman Coalition's position on the "10 for 10";**
- **and write our own letter to the governor, adopting the policy of the "10 for 10" to stabilize community services.**

Heidi accepted the amendment; (M/Heidi Spalding; S/Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen) and passed unanimously.

RCEB Update by Nancy Kubota

Nancy stated that she covered most of her report previously. She did want to add that last Monday night the RCEB Board took a position to support the Lanterman Coalition's "10 for 10" campaign and also supported a position to advocate for the closure of Sonoma and Fairview Developmental Centers.

Committee Reports:

- Legislative Committee: Josh reported that the Town Hall Meeting will be February 27th at 10:00 a.m. at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland. Be sure to arrive early to go through the security screening.
 - The theme is "We Are You" and they are planning a very creative video for the meeting.
 - They would like to get as many people to attend as possible, to impact the new legislators and get our consistent message to them, supporting the "10 for 10".
 - The legislative sessions are just getting into gear and this committee will report on specific bills next month.
 - This committee is also involved in supporting Assemblymember Bonilla in writing a bill to require adult changing tables in new public construction.
 - **The legislative committee recommended that the DD Council Board to write a letter to DDS by April 1st, to start the planning process to close another Development Center. (M/Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, S/ Heather Hackett). This was passed unanimously.**
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- Nominating Committee: Craig Rose stated that there are currently 4 openings on this Board. The Committee will be meeting today, after this Board meeting to recommend nominations for appointments to the DD Council.
- Transition Committee: The West Contra Costa Special Education Resource and Transition Fair is planned for Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Vista Hills Education Center in Richmond, starting at 10:00 a.m. Flyers will be out next month.

Bay Area Office of the State Council: Update by Gabriel Rogin

The State Council has asked that Gabriel organize public community forums for input into service needs. Gabriel would like to partner with the DD Council's Strategic Planning Committee to host these forums in East, Central and West County. In addition, Josh and Gabriel have been discussing hosting a few "Community Conversations on Employment" in our County.

Strategic Planning Committee

This committee has been busy getting us connected:

- Producing an electronic newsletter: *Council's Corner*

- o A new DD Council website is in the works, along with a facebook page.
- o New meeting sign-in sheets are in place to collect information on the people that attend the Council meetings.

There are two additional items for discussion:

1. The committee would like to form a Council Action Team (CAT), a group of people that could respond in 24-48 hours to hearings, meetings or other actions that need immediate attention. This team may include Board members and community members.

Josh gave an example of the City Oakley leaning towards banning people with developmental disabilities from their public parks. The City is not **returning Josh's calls, so he**, Suzanne (Oakley residents) and Nichole are planning to visit Jim Frazier, who used to be the Mayor of Oakley and is now their Assemblymember.

The goal is to support CAT Team members in these efforts.

It was moved to start the CAT Team when quick action is needed. (M/Caroline Ortiz; S/ Vi Ibarra). It passed unanimously.

2. The committee also recommended researching larger meeting spaces that are easily reached by public transportation. One recommendation is the Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCTA) meeting room at the Pleasant Hill Transit Center (by BART). Josh will find out if parking fees can be waived for our attendees.

Upcoming Meetings for 2015 (Tentative Schedule):

February 25, 2015: RCEB Concord
 March 25, 2015: RCEB Concord
 April 22, 2015: El Cerrito City Hall
 May 27, 2015: RCEB Concord
 June 24, 2015: RCEB Concord
 July 2015: No meeting scheduled
 August 2015: No meeting scheduled
 September 23, 2015: Antioch Police Dept., Community Room
 October 28, 2015: RCEB Concord
 November 18, 2015: RCEB Concord
 December 2015: No meeting scheduled

Announcements:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 25, 2015
 @ RCEB-Concord Conference Room
 2151 Salvio Street
 Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrery

Contra Costa ARC