

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
3/25/15**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Heather Hackett, Heidi Spaulding, Dan Denis, Peggy Black, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Pam Perls, Krista Loomis, Craig Rose, Ken Talken, Will Sanford, Jim Burton, Kim Williams, Nina Vincent, Paula Senigar, and Carl Tolentino.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Caroline Ortiz, Vice-Chair, Vi Ibarra, Barbara Maize, Nichole Bouslog, Kim Williams, and Gabriel Rogin.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Ramsay Mashy, CA Autism Foundation; Ronke Sodipo, RCEB; Daniel Hogue, Las Trampas, Inc.; Greg Simons, Las Trampas, Inc.; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Ajati Sankoh, Sierra Environmental Services; Chris Wascoe, Presenter; Angelique Goldberg, Futures-Explored; Michael Dykman, Presenter; Jackie Johnston, CCS; C. Robles, La Familia Counseling.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Suzanne Anthony, Chair, and everyone was welcomed. A special welcome was made to Paula Senigar, new Board Member, and a welcome back to Carl Tolentino.

Introductions were made.

- The February 25, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written, unanimously (M/Dan Denis; S/Peggy Black).
- There were **no additions to today's agenda**. However, Heidi Spaulding stated that today is Cerebral Palsy Day, honored by wearing of green, which she was!

Presentation: Getting Around: A Look at Transportation Options for Members of the DD Community

- **Speakers: Carl Tolentino, Michael Dykman, Heidi Spaulding, Chris Wascoe and Ronke Sodipo**

Carl began the presentation by describing his mode of transportation, using Tri Delta Transit in East County. He has dreams and aspirations of getting around to where he wants to go. On Tri Delta, it is a door-to-door service, that he reserves 3 days in advance. When it works, he will know a day in advance the approximate arrival time.

Snags for Carl: There is a 2-hour window for the ride to arrive---which is difficult to manage, especially if he has a specific appointment. It also creates, at times, long periods of waiting. In addition, the ride will only wait 3 minutes for him to get to the vehicle, which can be difficult at times.

Michael has a California Driver's License and travels in his own car. He works at Safeway and enjoys his independence in getting around. More of his friends are aspiring to get a driver's license. He enlisted a friend to help him study for the test and fill out the paperwork. The DMV read the test to him, as an accommodation. He has had his license for 15 year.

Challenges for Michael included getting a car. He is proud that he now has a 2012 Mazda 5. He has to continue to work to afford the insurance (and pay it on time) and car maintenance.

Heidi considers her power chair her car and her main means of transportation. She purposely chose to live 2 blocks away from Salvio Square, as it is near her day program, shopping, restaurants, entertainment and her best friend. **"My life is close to where I live."**

On weekends, Heidi stays with her Mother, who drives them to where they want to go. But during the week, Heidi likes her commute around downtown Concord in her power chair.

Chris is an expert in using public transit including Amtrak, buses, BART, CAL Train, etc. From 1976-1986 he worked as a courier for Action Photo, taking film from Walnut Creek to San Francisco. He passed around pictures of an award he received from the City of Walnut Creek and BART for traveling more than 14 times around the world (350,000+ miles). Quite an accomplishment!

Currently Chris uses his punch card for the bus (20 rides for \$15) and his Clipper Card for BART to go to school at Loma Vista, to his janitorial job on Fridays at Action Photo, out with his girlfriend, and wherever else he wants to go. He visits his sister in Millbrae by BART and family in Santa Barbara by Amtrak. Public transportation services are very important to Chris.

He becomes frustrated when BART goes on strike, because he can't get to his job (takes an early vacation). Delays occur when BART is single-tracking or on limited schedules (evenings and holidays), resulting in long periods of waiting.

Chris encouraged everyone to take a look at his scrapbook.

Ronke stated that she was impressed with the different transportation modes that the previous speakers discussed. Regional Center of the East Bay contracts with private transportation companies (MV, Mobility Plus, Keolis) and Paratransit companies (Tri-Delta, LINK, WestCAT) for door-to-door service to primary day programs to/from home. While RCEB will reimburse people for their public transit costs, RCEB also contracts with 80 to 90 day programs that provide their own transportation. She asserted that RCEB will not fund the purchase of a car.

During planning meetings, Case Managers consider the commute and transportation availability when considering day program services. RCEB funds mobility training services, which is an option for some people. Areas in Contra Costa County that have limited transportation options include Bethel Island and Danville/San Ramon.

Ronke recommended a guide to transportation book, titled, "Way to Go Contra Costa".

Discussion:

- Contract buses will wait for a passenger a maximum of 5 minutes;
- **RCEB does not fund rides to doctor's appointments;**
- Contract bus drivers receive training via practice routes and shadowing other drivers;
- RCEB may fund an Aide on a bus when there are behavioral challenges, but Aides are not allowed on Paratransit buses;
- All bus drivers are mandated reporters;
- There are no cameras on contract buses and it is unknown if Paratransit buses have cameras.
- Paratransit allows an attendant on the bus with the rider for free, if indicated on their pass;
- Problems arise when a wheelchair is out of service for repairs, as Medi-Cal does not pay for a back-up chair. Carl stated that his chair was out of service for 13 months and this drastically changed his life for the worse;

- Josh serves on the Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC) for Contra Costa County. On this Council are representatives of all the Paratransit providers, as well as riders. He **stated that there is a little known "Mitigation ride"**, which is for emergency services only.
 - **The PCC is trying to get "conditional approval" for short-term rides**, like when a power chair is down.
 - The PCC will be discussing the difficulties in crossing city lines and changing Paratransit agencies in their May meeting.
 - Elaine Welch, of Senior Helpline in Lafayette, was awarded a 2-year grant for a **"Mobility Management" project to coordinate services in our County.**
- Ronke announced that RCEB is in the final rounds of interviews for a new Transportation Manager and Assistant.

Suzanne thanked all of the speakers today, saying that she learned a lot!

RCEB Update by Jim Burton:

Jim also stated that he enjoyed today's presentation.

In addition, he felt the Town Hall meeting really engaged the legislators. He thanked ALIVE and the CAC for all the work they put into it to make it such a success!

March 4th **was the Assembly's budget hearing with Richmond's Assemblymember Tony Thurman** as chairperson. Our message to ask for support of the 10% rate increase to stabilize current services and to develop closure plans for Fairview and Sonoma DCs seemed to receive bi-partisan support.

Next hearing on our topics is planned for May 7th: Senate hearing on State Developmental Centers. We need our voices heard at this hearing, as the SDCs will be well-represented.

The May revision to the Governor's budget is expected in the middle of May. We will be watching for any changes. It is important to continue to write, call, and visit our legislators in order to make a difference **and create change. If we don't keep pressing, change won't happen.**

A recent court ruling put a stop to the Mandatory Holiday Schedule and ½ day billing, effective February 2015. The legal basis was that DDS did not get prior approval from CMS. As a result, RCEB will be working with PVAC to devise a coordinated holiday schedule-----which was previously a 10-day annual schedule.

Oakland and other cities have raised the minimum wage (Oakland = \$12.25), in which reimbursement rates do not support. Thus, Unanticipated Rate Adjustments for health and safety reasons must be applied for by each person served. In San Jose, it required 900 applications. It may take DDS some time to process these, which are intended to be retroactive.

RCEB has compiled the annual POS Data report. There are 5 public hearings planned (dates and locations are noted on their website). Concerns have been raised about underserved populations (Asian, Latino).

The Self-Determination project is moving forward. RCEB is currently recruiting for a local planning committee of 10 people. Applications can be obtained to serve on this committee on their website and they are due by April 15th. Once the service begins, DDS will randomly select the people to receive the services.

The current budget deficiency at RCEB is approximately \$10M, due to caseload growth being higher than projected

State Council on Development Disabilities Bay Area Office: Update by Josh Sullivan

Gabriel and Josh are collaborating on developing the Self-Determination local planning committee and encouraged people to apply.

CARE Parent Network is hosting a training on May 8th on Fair Hearings.

A Community meeting for the State Council priorities to get our input is scheduled for April 22nd from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Committee Reports:

- Strategic Planning Committee: No report.
- Legislative Committee: Josh reported the Town Hall was a success, as measured by **"rolling room only" and by how long legislators and aides stayed to** speak with people individually afterward.

This committee will be meeting here from 10 am – Noon next Wednesday to look at various bills being introduced.

- Nominating Committee: Craig Rose stated that this committee is currently reviewing new applications for members.
- Transition Committee: Ken Talken reported that the Transition Task Force is planning a Transition Conference for January 2017. Volunteers are needed to serve on the planning committee.
 - The committee is exploring the impact of changes at the Community College level regarding concurrent enrollment for transition-age students;
 - The April meeting of the Transition Task Force will be concerning serving people that are medically fragile;
 - The West County Special Education Resource and Transition Fair will be April 25th, 9 a.m. – Noon, at the Vista Hills Education Center in Richmond. 36 vendors have already reserved tables.

Announcements:

Peggy left flyers on a film presentation at Kaiser in Oakland, "Moment to Moment" regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Karen announced a Walk for Autism, also on April 25th at 10 am at Loma Vista.

Elvia announced that also on April 25th in Oakley, there will be a mini-Congresso conference.

And, finally, on April 25th, Las Trampas, Inc. is putting on an elegant fundraising event at the Lafayette Park Plaza Hotel.

Upcoming Meetings for 2015:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 22, 2015
@ El Cerrito City Hall
10890 San Pablo Ave
El Cerrito**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
Contra Costa ARC