

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
4/22/15**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Caroline Ortiz, Vice Chair, Heather Hackett, Heidi Spaulding, Peggy Black, Vi Ibarra, Pam Perls, Krista Loomis, Craig Rose, Ken Talken, Will Sanford, Paula Senigar, Kim Williams, Nina Vincent, Nichole Bouslog, Gabriel Rogin and Carl Tolentino.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Dan Denis, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Jim Burton, and Barbara Maize.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Ramsay Mashy, CA Autism Foundation; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Corani Robles, La Familia Counseling; Bill Pelter, CP Center-Oakland; Leslie Werosh, CP Center-Oakland; Lucy Rivello, R.N., RCEB; Lauren Yeates, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Claudia Lam, After School Program, George Miller Center-Richmond; Shanelle Scales-Preston, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office; Maureen Harrington, University of the Pacific Dental School; Rocio Smith, Retired, formerly of AREA Board V; Ronke Sodipo, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Steve Collins, West Contra Costa Unified School District; Jeanine Bishop, West Contra Costa Unified School District; and Harleen K. Sethi, DDS, CCC Public Health.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Suzanne Anthony, Chair, and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The March 25, 2015 meeting minutes were approved as written, unanimously (M/Peggy Black; S/Craig Rose).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

Presentation: Dental Resources in our Community

- **Speakers: Lucy Rivello, R.N., RCEB
Maureen Harrington, UOP Dental School
Harleen k. Sethi, DDS, Contra Costa County Public Health**

Lucy Rivello, R.N., began with a discussion of the development of a specialized out-patient dental clinic that came about from the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. However, when Denti-Cal was eliminated a few years ago, this clinic was disbanded. Regional Center scrambled to get vendored dentists to serve our population, but reimbursement rates were low and dentists' interest was low.

Now that Denti-Cal has been restored, RCEB supports Case Managers in finding accessible dentists and advocates for new resources to assist people with dental fears or are challenged by having to open their mouths. RCEB has a part time consultant to assist with this.

There are a few dental assistants with a specialized certificate that can do in-home or in-day program assessments and cleanings, which can be more successful and result in less anxiety.

A huge barrier seems to be sedation dentistry. Most insurance companies will approve a general anesthetic for dentistry, but not sedation (gas, medication) dentistry. More advocacy is needed in this area.

RCEB still has less than 5 vendored dentists remaining to serve people without insurance or Denti-Cal. Reimbursement rates are still very low, which is a disincentive to dentists.

Discussion:

Heather stated that dental care is often overlooked, it is tough to get appointments and sometimes deep cleanings are denied. Lucy stated that RCEB can fund deep cleaning at times, but a difficulty tends to be unclear x-rays.

Lucy shared the Denti-Cal website to help locate local providers: www.denti-cal.ca.gov
There is a link to our County for current dental providers.

Gabriel Rogin expressed his anger about poor dental care. He realizes that RCEB tries to fill the gap in services, but the rates are too low. He is looking for data on wait lists and looking for personal stories to better advocate to legislators.

Maureen Harrington wondered how many people are seen in the ICU of hospitals with unspecified fevers, due to undiagnosed dental problems.

It was agreed that we need to advocate for more community-based preventative dental care.

Several Council Members shared their stories/nightmares:

Kim Williams and Josh have testified in Sacramento on her dental nightmare. She had a toothache that got worse and worse, and she experienced a lot of pain. She went to the Emergency room who gave her antibiotics and pain killers, but would not treat the tooth until it became a medical emergency. Kim described her pain as the most pain ever. Her face was swollen and one eye was swollen shut; she had stopped eating and became very ill, before she could obtain treatment (it became a medical emergency that could have been prevented).

Carl Tolentino had an experience similar to Kim's, but not as bad. He had an abscessed tooth for over 2 months before receiving treatment.

Suzanne Anthony shared her journey as a parent of a son with Autism. Her son resists being touched, being held and does not like people in his space. When he was 5 she did a lot of research on dentists, as her son is also non-verbal and screams when experiencing discomfort. Suzanne eventually found Dr. Sobel in Antioch who was willing to try in the early morning, before other patients were present. The first try was a disaster and no dentistry was done. They tried again 6 months later, using a "Papoose Board", a restraint device. This was quite traumatic for Suzanne to watch, but the dental care was provided. This process continued every 6 months and eventually her son became comfortable in the papoose, even though he outgrew it. They were never able to get x-rays, however. Then, unfortunately, Dr. Sobel retired.

Suzanne got back to researching new dentists and with the assistance of Louise at CARE Parent Network she found another dentist in Antioch who was willing to try. The key was playing cartoons on the ceiling while his teeth were being cleaned. Eventually they had to anesthetize her son for x-rays and deep cleaning, and this cost her several thousand dollars not covered by insurance, but was necessary. Now he needs his wisdom teeth extracted and she is again feeling anxiety.

Harleen K. Sethi, DDS, a general dentist from the Contra Costa County Public Health Dept, stated that since Adult dental benefits have been re-instated, their services are backed up and they are currently **not accepting any new patients**. In addition, if a person's Medi-Cal is through Kaiser, then the County's dental clinic cannot serve him/her.

Services they provide include:

- General exams
- Cleaning and deep cleaning
- Restorative care
- Dentures/partial

Not covered are crowns, root canals or implants.

They are starting a few projects to outreach to school-aged children and the homeless. At this time, they have no data on wait times. If an emergency, you must leave a voice mail message at 7:30 a.m. and a clerk will call you back if there is time for a same day appointment.....if no appointment available, you will not receive a return call and must try again the following day and so on.

Krista related an incident in which someone had a suspicious spot in her mouth. The waiting list for UOP/UCSF was 1 year. With daily persistence, she was able to get the person a 5 minute appointment to rule out cancer.

Maureen Harrington from the UOP School of Dentistry discussed a dentistry model called "Virtual Dental Home" (VDH). This program has been piloted for the past 6 years in Humboldt County, Sacramento and Fresno. There is currently a bill (AB 648) under consideration, requesting \$4 Million to replicate this model in 20 communities around the State.

The model includes:

- Training certified hygienists, using portable equipment to provide assessments and cleanings in comfortable settings, such as at home, in day programs, long-term care facilities or schools using:
 - Electronic records
 - Digital cameras, the size of a pens to send images to the dentist
 - An x-ray machine the size of a hair dryer
 - Support from trained caregivers
- The emphasis is on risk assessment, prevention and early intervention.
- They also use "Atraumatic Restorative Treatment" (ART) for filling cavities:
 - No Novocain needed
 - No Drilling
 - No trauma, reducing anxiety significantly
 - Lasts 10-15 years.

This program is all grant funded and is not supported by Denti-Cal. Support of AB 648 is critical in getting this expanded to our area. Maureen felt that dental hygienists are under-employed and would appreciate the chance to work more hours and/or own their own business.

Maureen left her contact information:

mharrington@pacific.edu

415-385-5017

www.virtualdentalhome.org

All speakers were thanked for their information and insights.

A motion was made to have the DD Council put together an Ad Hoc committee to do outreach and advocacy to improve dental services (M/Nichole Bouslog; S/Peggy Black, carried unanimously). Josh will work on recruiting for this committee.

RCEB Update by Pam Thomas for Jim Burton

Pam Thomas reported on behalf of Jim Burton today. She announced that 7 more ICF units at Sonoma Developmental Center have been de-certified by CMS, as expected. The Budget Hearing on the topic of Development Centers (DC) closures is scheduled for May 7th in Sacramento. A large turnout to save Sonoma DC is expected and we want to have an equal presence.

The Governor is expected to publish the May revision to the State Budget around May 13th-15th.

RCEB is close to putting together the Self-Determination Advisory Group. They are expected to start meeting by July 1st. Unfortunately the plan has still not been approved by the Federal government.

The State has reversed its plan and is now appealing a court decision to restore the forced closure days (holiday schedule) and ½ day billing. The court appeal hearing is planned for May 14th.

Ronke Sodipo of RCEB reported that Oakland is implementing a new minimum wage. The State is now allowing Regional Center of the East Bay to negotiate a rate increase to accommodate the increased personnel costs for providers. Applying for rate changes by person was too big of a job.

State Council on Development Disabilities-Bay Area Office: Update by Gabriel Rogin

Gabriel stated that we need to continue to put pressure on our State legislators for the 10% increase in rates, etc. In addition:

- This Friday Gabriel and Ronke are hosting a meeting at RCEB in San Leandro from 10:00 a.m. to Noon, to look at service needs for people that are deaf.
- There is a community forum on providing input for priorities for the State Council this evening from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at RCEB in San Leandro. They are also recruiting advisory members at the State and local levels.
- May 8th at the CARE Parent Network office in Martinez is training on Fair Hearings from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Committee Reports:

- Strategic Planning Committee: No report.
- Legislative Committee: This committee is watching several bills:
 - SB 644 has passed to appropriations and would allow people with disabilities to bypass the written testing and use an internship instead when going for State jobs.
 - AB 662 (Susan Bonilla) for adult changing tables had a hearing yesterday. They were able to change the mind of at least one legislator.
 - AB 488---they haven't been able to determine the intent of this bill---community help is needed to understand this better.
 - SB 638 (Jeff Stone) was introduced for a 10% rate increase---needs our support.
- Nominating Committee: Craig Rose stated that this committee is currently recruiting for new applicants. A Call for Nominations for the Excellence in Service Award is out and due back by May 28th. The awards will be given out at the annual meeting on June 16th.

- 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.
 - Last week at the Transition Task Force meeting, Carol McCrary and Heather Hackett gave a presentation on serving people with medical challenges. It resulted in a lively discussion, including revealing the need for more services.
 - This Saturday, April 25th, is the West Contra Costa County Special Education Resource and Transition Fair from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Vista Hills Education Center in Richmond. Approximately 50 vendors have signed up to have tables.

Announcements:

- **The joint Alameda/Contra Costa DD Council Annual Dinner is planned for June 16th at Zeo Fraedo's Restaurant in Pleasant Hill.** There will be a Mystery Guest Speaker!
- A Congressito will take place this coming Saturday, April 25th in Oakley for Spanish-speaking families. The larger Congresso will be August 8th at Chabot College in Hayward.
- TOPS and Adaptive learning Center are doing a joint Walk for Autism at Loma Vista at 10:00 a.m. on April 25th, as well.

Upcoming Meetings for 2015:

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 12:20 p.m.

<p>Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 27, 2015 @ RCEB-Concord Conference Room 2151 Salvio Street, Suite 365 Concord, CA 94523</p>

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary

Contra Costa ARC