

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9/23/15

Board and Liaison Members Present: Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Heather Hackett, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Krista Loomis, Craig Rose, Will Sanford, Jim Burton, Kim Williams, Paula Senigar, Nickole Bouslog, Nina Vincent, Pam Perls, Dan Denis, Carl Tolentino, and Gabriel Rogin.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Vi Ibarra, Peggy Black, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Caroline Ortiz, Heidi Spaulding, Ken Talken, and Barbara Maize.

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.; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Valisha Fullard, CA Autism Foundation; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas, Inc., Carol McKinney, Harmony Homes; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored; Jennifer Steneberg, Dale Law Firm; Jamario Jackson, **Assemblymember Bonilla's office**; Leslie Werosh, CP Center; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Wally Mueller, Anka Behavioral Health; Pat Joyce, **Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office**; **Ajati Sankoh, Sierra Environmental Services**; Veronica Bercaives, CCC Office of Education.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Suzanne Anthony, Chair, and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The Summer Retreat minutes were approved as written, unanimously (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Heather Hackett).
- There were no additions to **today's agenda**

RCEB Update by Jim Burton, Executive Director of RCEB:

Jim did not comment on the State Budget and was leaving that topic for the presenters. He has been very involved in 2 large projects:

1. The closure plan for Sonoma Developmental Center:
 - The process is on the fast track with a projected closure date of Dec. 2018.
 - You can see the draft closure plan on www.dds.ca.gov
 - They have had several public hearings with families, who are still opposed to the quick closure plan, and are concerned about adequate services in the community.
 - 125 people leaving Sonoma will come to RCEB.
 - RCEB has received funds to start up new services in the community and Requests for Proposals will be posted on www.RCEB.org by the end of the week.
 - On Oct. 1st, the final draft of the closure plan will go to the legislature, with the likelihood of public hearings in the Fall of this year.
2. Self-Determination Project:
 - Jim reported that information on this project is posted on the RCEB website.
 - The advisory committee is meeting Oct 5th at 7:00 p.m. at RCEB-Concord; this is their 4th meeting.
 - **The State's Draft Plan is still under consideration at the Federal level for approval.**

RCEB is re-vamping its website to make it easier to stay current.

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

- Gabriel will be attending the legislative hearing tomorrow on dental care----he has collected 52 stories (nightmares) from families that he will be distributing to the legislators.
- September 28th there is a training in San Leandro on Employer Engagement----there **is still room in the class and each attendee will receive a "toolkit"** (RCEB San Leandro).
- September 30th the Deaf Task Force is meeting from 10 am – Noon at RCEB San Leandro.
- Also on September 30th the Advisory Committee to the State Council will be meeting at the Marin County Office of Education, from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, with a presentation on the Able Act.
- On October 23rd there will be a great Self-Advocate Celebration at 6:00 pm at the Ed Roberts Center. Gabriel is currently accepting nominations for self-advocate awards.

Committee Reports:

- Strategic Planning Committee: Suzanne reported that they are embarking on a Bylaws revision and are looking for volunteers to help with this endeavor. Let Suzanne know if you are interested.
- Legislative Committee: Carl and Josh reported that **the "Not So" Special Session has not acted on anything.** The Legislature has adjourned until January, although can be called back for a special session meeting.
 - **AB662 (changing table): is on governor's desk;**
 - **SB644 (internships): is on governor's desk;**
 - SBX 2-18 (MCO tax): is a 5-cent tax on cocktails (beer and wine excluded) to raise funds for our services, alcohol prevention programs. Pushing Republicans to support this is needed to acquire a 2/3 vote.
 - Josh requested assistance in making connections with Jim Glazier. Will Sanford and Krista Loomis volunteered to assist with this.
 - The East Bay Legislative Committee is meeting the 1st Wednesday in October in the Public Health Building in Oakland, 5th Floor. They welcome everyone, as there is always better discussion with more people.
- Nominating Committee: Nothing to report.
- Transition Committee: No report.

Hot Topics:

None

Break for Networking: 10: 33 – 10:55 am

Presentation: From There to Here: A look at current community issues and activities.

Presenters: Carol McKinney, Harmony Homes; Nickole Bouslog, CCDDC, CAC; Jamarion Jackson, Assemblymember Susan Bonilla's office; Will Sanford, Futures Explored.

- **Jamarion and Nickole discussed the impact of Nickole's testimony at a recent legislative hearing.** Jamarion stated that Nickole painted a picture that was clear and powerfully impactful, changing the mind of at least one legislator.
- Nickole re-played her testimony for us and received applause. Her testimony is also posted on YouTube.
- Will explained that the work of the Special Session did not result in any movement. The legislature will return to work in January.

- **The Governor's budget proposal for next fiscal year (2016-2017)** will be out on January 10th. The Managed Care Organization Tax (MCO) expires on June 30, 2016 and will leave a \$1 Billion hole in the budget unless reauthorized with a 2/3 vote. Our goal is to push for reauthorization and an additional tax to fund our programs.
- Unless these taxes are passed, we will be faced with battles for years to come. We need to change the conversation, have a consistent message for our next **action. The State has the funds and we weren't chosen, so we need to be loud and clear.**
- Carol described her feelings of hopelessness and shell-shock when the Governor **didn't fund us in his budget. For the first time in recent history we were united in our message and had support of the Assembly and Senate.**
 - As a member of a Community Services Committee Carol helped organized a successful rally at the Kress Theater in Sacramento on September 4th, with a march/speakers at the southern steps of the Capitol building.
 - **The committee's hard work resulted in over 1300 people attending and great presentations.....Carol has a video of the highlights.** People chartered buses from all over the State to attend. Their goal was to energize the community to keep on fighting.
 - Next Steps:
 - Now is the time meet your legislators in their community;
 - **Let him/her know they haven't delivered;**
 - Share personal information and program closure information;
 - Support the MCO tax reauthorization;
 - **Keep the funds from the closure of the DC's for the community services;**
 - **Put pressure on the Governor's office.**

Developmental Disabilities Task Force:

- Are working on re-vamping the DD System with no additional funds;
- Waiting for the results of the Special Session;
- **They are not far into the process....moving very slowly.**

RCEB Task Force:

- The poor funding is unusual when we are not in a recession;
- The Dept. of Finance seems to be running the government;
- **Whatever happens, it's can't cost anything.**
- While there have been some great discussions, there has been NO ACTION!

Discussion:

The presenters were thanked for their efforts. In addition, other comments included:

- Start voting for people who will take action;
- It is time to start embarrassing legislators;
- We should go from assertive to aggressive in our speech;
- It is time for an escalation in our face to face visits;
- One person is willing to be arrested for civil disobedience;
- Families are overwhelmed;
- We need to crash their websites;
- We need to organize large-group visits with the press present, mass letters to the governor, organize a "California Horror Story" rally.

Call To Action:

- **Bring a guest (service recipient, parent, or staff) to the next DD Council meeting.**

Announcements:

- On September 29th there will be a meeting at the Concord Senior Center (1950 Parkside Drive) to discuss affordable housing uses at the old naval weapons station.
- November 3rd the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors at 9:00 a.m. will be having an ADA celebration-----everyone is welcome.

Upcoming Meetings for 2015:

October 28, 2015: RCEB Concord

November 18, 2015: RCEB Concord

December 2015: No meeting scheduled

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

**Our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 28, 2015
@ RCEB Concord, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room
2151 Salvio Street, 3rd Floor
Concord, CA**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrory

Contra Costa ARC