

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**1/27/16**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony, Chair (presiding), Caroline Ortiz, Heather Hackett, Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Krista Loomis, Nickole Bouslog, Nina Vincent, Pam Perls, Vi Ibarra, Heidi Spaulding, Ken Talken, Will Sanford, Jim Burton, Paula Senigar, Kim Williams, and Ron Usac.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Peggy Black, Craig Rose, Carl Tolentino, Barbara Maizie, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, and Dan Denis.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Ronke Sodipo, RCEB; Marcelle Indelicato, Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services; Murri Banis, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Barbara Townsend, Futures Explored, Inc.; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Shakendra Burks, Futures Explored, Inc; Yolanda Whitt; Tracy Butler, Commercial Support Services-Antioch; Krista Peterson, CCS; Alisa Rosillo; Maria Marquez; Jasmine Williams, Anka Behavioral Health; Rick Levy; Vincent Martinez, Sheriff, Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services; Greg Simons, Las Trampas, Inc.; Judy Dawson; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas, Inc.; Tahira "Ty" Neckles, Thrive Support Services; Jeanine Bishop, West Contra Costa Unified School District; Jamario Jackson, Assembly Member Susan Bonilla's office; and Norlyn Asprek, Assembly Member Susan Bonilla's office.

**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 meeting minutes for November 2015 were approved unanimously **(M/Caroline Ortiz; S/Ken Talken)**.
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

**RCEB Update by Jim Burton, Executive Director:**

- Jim spoke of the horrific tragedy that occurred at the Inland Regional Center and explained RCEB's efforts to help, support, and assist the folks in San Bernardino. He explained that they have a new Executive Director and he did a great job leading their recovery efforts. Lessons learned were mostly in regards to communication.
- RCEB hosted an "Active Shooter" training for their staff in Concord yesterday.
- RCEB participated in numerous holiday events including toy drives, clothing drives, and parties----a very busy season.
- RCEB currently has a balanced budget---the first in over a decade. Unfortunately, this is due to program closures, over 20 vacant case management positions (hiring difficulties at current wages), and no start up funds.
- Over the past year, 947 new clients entered RCEB, with a total of 18,500 people served.
- Due to the differences in local minimum wages in various cities, RCEB is finding it difficult to process unanticipated rate adjustments with their 1984 computer system; the pass through to people is done individually, which is taking a long time.
- Vi Ibarra is chairing the Self-Determination advisory committee and explained that they have been having presentations on various components. Next meeting will include information on "Independent Facilitators" and "Outreach to Consumers".

- A question was raised about how caseload growth is determined. Jim responded that growth is usually determined by existing growth rates; however, restoration of eligibility for Early Start programs has brought growth rates up this year.

### **State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office: Update by Ron Usac**

- Ron reported that the next meeting of the advisory group will be Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in San Mateo. A guest speaker will be discussing Dementia in people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.
- In addition, the State Council is working closely with the Treasury Department to implement the Able Act (whereby people can have more than \$2000 in assets before losing social security benefits).
- NCI family surveys have been sent out randomly.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Executive Committee: This committee met on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> to plan DD Council activities for the next few months:
  - They are working with Assembly Member Tony Thurman **to develop a "carve out bill" regarding IHSS.**
  - The DD Council/Josh will be putting out an electronic newsletter monthly.
  - They are supporting CARE Parent Network in putting on 3 IPP trainings this year.
  - For the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year, they will be selecting presentations for our monthly meeting to include: the Governor's budget proposal (today); Disaster Preparedness (Feb. meeting) and the MCO tax.
  - For the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, they want to create a Facebook page and work on obtaining **a representative from the County's Board of Supervisors.**
  - They would like to create a Community Innovation Grant to be awarded at the Annual Dinner in June. CARE Parent Network will contribute \$500 towards it. They are looking for additional contributions and corporations to provide matching funds. This grant would have few strings attached and the recipient would report the outcomes at the following annual dinner. A motion was made to create this grant opportunity and it passed unanimously **(M/Kim Williams; S/Jim Burton).**
  - An announcement is forth coming about Tips for Change, a CARE Parent Network fundraising event in Danville in March.
- Strategic Planning Committee: They secured volunteers and are updating the **DD Council's Bylaws.** A draft has gone to the committee members and feedback is due by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. When the draft is finalized, it will go to the full Board for review and adoption.
- Legislative Committee: The next meeting is planned for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. at 1000 Broadway in Oakland. The committee is working on the Town Hall Meeting scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – Noon at the State Building (1515 Clay Street, Oakland). The theme is 50 years of the Lanterman Act, Past, Present, and Future. They are in need of micro presentations----please send your ideas to Josh.

In addition, Wednesday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, State Senator Steve Glazier and Assembly Member Catharine Baker are holding a Town Hall meeting at the Lafayette Library at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

- Nominating Committee: Douglas Quinn, a self-advocate, accepted a nomination as an interim Board Member. He was unanimously voted as a Board Member **(M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Heidi Spaulding).**

- Transition Committee: The Transition Task Force is meeting tomorrow in this room at 3:15 p.m. They are working hard to plan a conference at DVC next January. They are requesting volunteer help, ideas for break-out sessions, and connections to people at the college. At their February meeting, they will be hosting speakers on recreational opportunities (BORP, Camp Krem).

The West County Resource and Transition Fair will be held on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Vista Hills Education Center from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (Save the date).

- Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC): Josh reported that they had a meeting with the Office of Emergency Services for Contra Costa County. They are assessing the community transportation services to respond to disasters (like San Bruno) with evacuations.
  - Our issues continue to be on their radar for the Tax Expenditure Plan. The PCC is looking for a Central County representative that is also a paratransit service user.
  - The next PCC meeting is March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the CCTA office in Pleasant Hill.

- **A short break for networking was taken.**

**Presentations:**

**Update on AB662 by Norlyn Asprec of Assembly Member Susan Bonilla's Office**

AB662, sponsored by Assembly Member Bonilla, with a little help from the CAC, requires newly built large public venues to include an adult changing facility. The bill was signed by the Governor and we should be seeing the completion of these facilities by 2020.

Norlyn thanked Nickole for her impassioned testimony that helped get this billed passed. She presented Nichole with a nicely framed copy of the bill (Kodak moment).

**Panel Discussion: 2016 Governor's Proposed Budget, Overview, Issues, the MCO tax, and Potential Action**

**Panelists: Norlyn Asprec, Assembly Member Susan Bonilla's Office (17<sup>th</sup> District)**

**Jim Burton, Executive Director, Regional Center of the East Bay**

**Will Sanford, Executive Director, Futures Explored, Inc.**

Norlyn summarized that the Governor's budget proposal includes funds for Regional Center caseload growth and for additional case managers to reduce caseload size. There is also money in the budget to transition people out of the 3 remain Developmental Centers. Assembly Member Susan Bonilla supports the MCO tax, which needs a 2/3 majority vote to pass. This is expected to add funds for IHSS services, Medi-CAL, and Regional Center Operations and Purchase of Service budgets.

Jim reminded us that this budget plan is the Governor's proposal and while he tends to get 99% of what he asks for, there are still public hearings in March, a May revision, with the final budget passed in June.

Last year the Governor punted to a Special Session to decide on how to raise funds to increase funding for our services. The Special Session ended with no action. Currently, a Managed Care Organization and Reform Tax (new name) (MCO tax) on cocktails (not beer or wine) is being negotiated. It needs all Democrats and 3 Republicans to pass. If not passed, California is at risk

of losing \$1.1 billion in federal matching funds. This tax is important to increase funding for IHSS, Regional Center services, and Medi-CAL, however it does not define the split.

If the MCO tax passes, Jim feels that it will be good for our services, and will begin to address the service rates problem. The RCEB Board of Directors and Alameda County DD Council have both written letters of support for this compromise. While the tax is not promised to us, Jim also asked for this Council **to continue to support the Lanterman Coalition's 10% rate increase across the board.**

A motion was made that the Contra Costa DD Council support both the MCO tax and the recommendation of the Lanterman Coalition for 10% rate increases. This was passed unanimously **(M/Jim Burton; S/Nickole Bouslog).**

Will Sanford **distributed a Power Point presentation summarizing and comparing this year's budget with the Governor's budget proposal for 2016/2017.**

Overall, the Governor is supporting education funding, expanded health coverage in Medi-CAL and Covered CA, increased minimum wage to \$10/hour, **and is growing his "rainy day" fund.**

Several items are of concern:

- This year \$45 million is be taken out of the Community Services Purchase of Service budget and is being put into the Development Center's **budget**, to pay for the loss in federal funds due to de-certification. Translation: the State is using community services funds to continue to fund sub-standard services at Sonoma Developmental Center. **We would like to advocate that these funds be taken from the General Fund and not Community Services.**
- It is projected that by 2016/2017, the average annual cost per person in the Developmental Center will be \$621,059 (for 847 people). At the same time, the average cost per person in the community will be \$19,093 (for 290,496 people).
- While negotiations are underway for the MCO tax, **and a "deal" is expected soon, there is no guarantee of what percentage will be directed to our service system. While advocating for support for the MCO tax, we also want to continue to support the Lanterman Coalition's recommendation of a 10% across the board rate increase to stabilize community services.**

**Action Requested:**

**Write to your local State legislators today. With our grassroots efforts, we wouldn't have come this far, but we have to keep pushing.**

A question was raised about the property use after the Development Centers close. Jim explained that there are complicated constitutional considerations, along with land and water issues. It took almost 7 years for the property in San Jose (Agnews Developmental Center) to sell. It is unclear what would happen with the Sonoma property.

**Announcements:** A suggestion was made to address the topic of safety on public transportation in a future meeting. Also, there is plenty of room at the back table for more flyers and pamphlets----be sure to drop them off next meeting.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

February 24, 2016

March 23, 2016

April 27, 2016

May 25, 2016

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

**Our next meeting is February 24, 2016 at  
RCEB-Concord, Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
2151 Salvio Street,  
Concord, CA**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC