

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
11/16/16**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony-Chairperson; Caroline Ortiz, Vice-Chair, Nina Vincent, Pam Perls, Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen, Douglas Quinn, Vi Ibarra, Paula Senigar, Krista Loomis, Bill Trinh, Marcelle Indelicato, Will Sanford, Nickole Bouslog, and Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez.

Josh Sullivan, Staff.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Jim Burton, Craig Rose, Heather Hackett, Dan Denis, Maria Marquez, Peggy Black, Ron Usac, Carl Tolentino, David Monohan, and Ken Talken.

**Guests:** Shakendra Burks, Futures Explored; Heidi Spaulding, CAC/ALIVE; Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Leslie Werosh, Ability Now Bay Area; Donna Feingold, Adaptive Learning Center; Guy Houston, Mission Hope; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Ronke Sodipo, Regional Center of the East Bay; Michelle Palmer, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Noralyn Giles, San Ramon Valley Unified School District; Susan Frankel, San Ramon Valley Unified School District; Jeanine Bishop, West Contra Costa Unified School District; and Jackie Johnston, CCS.

**Welcome and Introductions**

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

- The October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed and passed unanimously with no corrections (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/ Marcelle Indelicato).
- There were no additions to today's agenda.

**RCEB Update by Ronke Sodipo**

- Jim Burton is in Sacramento attending a meeting regarding the closure of Sonoma Developmental Center.
- He wanted to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- With the results of the recent election, it is unclear as to the impact of Medicaid and other benefits to the people we serve. In addition, many of our supporting legislators were re-elected, so orienting new legislators may be at a minimum.
- Ronke invited Vi Ibarra to speak about the Self-Determination Advisory Committee:
  - It is an 11-person committee and they currently have 2 openings, targeting providers or agencies, and service recipients. Josh has the announcement and application, with a submission deadline of Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - They typically meet on Monday evenings, switching between Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Josh announced a new Resource Guide format using a "GIS" system with Google maps. They have been testing it. You can put in parameters for a search and services will pop up on a map. He will keep us updated on the progress of this new format.

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office:** No representative was present today. No report.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Executive Committee: The Executive committee will be meeting in January 2017. No report today.
- Strategic Planning Committee: No report today.
- Legislative Committee: Nickole reported that this committee did not talk about bills, but focused on the upcoming Town Hall Meeting. They already have a couple of Legislators "nailed down" and a "Save the Date" flyer will be emailed soon.

The Town Hall theme has been confirmed:

"Unfinished Business: Keep the promise, Make the transition, Protect the Federal mandates."

They still have open slots for speakers----let Josh know if you are interested.

Nickole stated that they will address the details of new bills next meeting.

Nominating Committee: No report today.

Transition Committee: Donna Feingold reported that the Transition Conference is planned for January 20, 2017 (save the date), from 10 am – 4 pm. The location will be announced soon. They have 4 training tracks, and the Keynote Speakers are a Mother and daughter, speaking about transition from their own perspectives. The cost will be between \$25 and \$35 per attendee. The target audiences are individuals between the ages of 14 and 24 that are transitioning and their families/advocates.

Health & Emergency Services Engagement Committee (HESEC): Nickole and Josh reported that they have been attending this local committee meeting at the County Hospital in Martinez, the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month. It is attended by Dr.'s and nurses, addressing underserved populations. Their current focus is the LGBTQ community and they recently opened a specialty clinic for people who are transgender in Contra Costa County.

Josh and Nickole explained that being at this table is important and powerful, to improve health care for people with disabilities. Nickole will be bringing in people with personal stories about poor health care. There may be a chance to provide training and/or internships to physicians-in-training in the future.

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

### **Presentation: Empowering Employment**

**Speakers: Michelle Palmer-Contra Costa ARC, Commercial Support Services**

**Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen-TOPS, Mt. Diablo Adult Education**

**Will Sanford-Futures Explored, Inc.**

(Kate Rauch was unable to attend)

Michelle Palmer, from Commercial Support Services in Richmond, began this panel discussion by stating that Supported Employment has been around since the mid-1980's. Recently, a collaborative effort by Contra Costa ARC, East Bay Innovations, Futures Explored, Inc., and Mt. Diablo Adult Education has been funded by a Long's Foundation grant. This is a Project Search model, and is being called "**Hire Able**". To start, 6 individuals will be accepted into an internship program and will attend daily classes, receive 1:1 tutoring, and an 8-month internship at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek, near the Pleasant Hill BART station. The initial six candidates

have now been selected (yesterday) and will start January 9, 2017. From 9:00 am-10:00 am each day, the interns will receive classroom instruction by Mt. Diablo Adult Education staff; then they will receive job coaching support in various departments of the hotel.

In addition, there is a non-RCEB consumer track with people from the Department of Rehabilitation. This track will include a similar process. Other supports will include a parent educator from Care Parent Network, to assist families with addressing SSI and other concerns.

Another aspect of this grant is to provide paid internships to other age groups in Tailored Day Services. The goals of this service may include enrolling in college and/or finding employment.

Karen Lingenfelter-Carmen described the role of Adult Education in this project. The morning classes at the Embassy Suites will include topics such as job descriptions, workplace safety and other relevant topics. These internships will be 8 months in duration initially, then 9 months after the first session.

Karen is also working on developing entry-level certificate programs within the Adults with Disabilities program at Mt. Diablo, and also at other Bay Area adult schools. They serve people starting at 18 years old and older. Mt. Diablo currently has a certificate program in Customer Services and by late spring 2017 will add a certificate program in Personal Care Attendants. Adult schools in Castro Valley and Pleasanton are embracing this concept and will soon have a program for adults with disabilities in Dietician Aide.

The **Hire Able** project will re-launch with a new round of internships in October 2017. The outcomes for the interns may include being offered positions at the Embassy Suites, develop good resumes, and acquire letters of recommendation for future employment.

Will Sanford spoke about the global picture and other influences on employment including:

- Unemployment in our State is around 4%, while unemployment for people with disabilities is at 85%;
- Home and Community-based settings rule (March 2019);
- WIOA (7-22-16);
- California Blueprint, involving DDS, Dept of Rehab, and Dept of Education (start on page 36 of the 69 page report);
- Self-Determination;
- Reducing our reliance of 14C certificates;
- The Budget Act: includes paid internships and incentives for vendors when someone is hired in competitive integrated employment.

There is a lot going on that is changing the employment environment! Our roles are in flux, and we are trying to make it all work. Will is involved in securing additional Project Search/**Hire Able** internship sites, including the Double Tree in Pleasanton and Kaiser Permanente in Walnut Creek.

In addition, they have embarked on a Media Campaign with a **Hire Able** website for job seekers and employers. Will put the website on a screen and announced it would be launched on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

The great news: so far **Hire Able** has already placed 15 people in competitive integrated employment.

**Announcements:**

Marcelle passed out the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services' latest Training and Workshop Opportunities.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

No Meeting in December

January 25, 2017

February 22, 2017

March 22, 2017

April 26, 2017

May 24, 2017

June 2017: to be announced (Annual Dinner)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**Our next meeting is January 25, 2017, 10:00 a.m. at  
RCEB-Concord's NEW LOCATION:  
1320 Willow Pass Road, Suite 300  
Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC