

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
10/25/17

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz, Chair; Vi Ibarra; Maria Marquez; Douglas Quinn; Donna Feingold; Heidi Spaulding; Paula Senigar; Nina Vincent; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez; Ria Mercado; Krista Loomis; Bill Trinh; Dan J. Denis; Ken Talken; Marcelle Indelicato; Suzanne Anthony; Will Sanford; Heather Hackett.

Staff present: Josh Sullivan

Guests: Stephen Dale, The Dale Law Firm, PC; Mark Schmid; Marlana Zakon; Rosalind Brown, West Contra Costa Unified School District; Renita Johnson; Marta Avina; Craig Rose, Community Integrated Work Program; Brandon Bratcher, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Ron Usac, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, Regional Center of the East Bay; Nike Bouslog, ALIVE-Antioch; Pam Perls, RAC/SCSS, East Bay Legislative Committee; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Jeanine Bishop, West Contra Costa Unified School District

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Caroline Ortiz, Chair, at 10:01 a.m., and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The meeting minutes of 9/27/17 were approved unanimously as submitted (M/Suzanne Anthony; S/Maria Marquez).
- There were no additions to the agenda.

RCEB Updates by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa announced that the RCEB Board of Directors approved a revision to the purchase of service policy for respite, effectively eliminating the limit of 90 hours per quarter of in-home respite. The revised policy allows for purchase authorizations of up to 40 hours per month of in-home respite, and 21 days of out-of-home respite services, based on assessed need. The policy has been submitted to Department of Developmental Services for review and approval.

She also shared:

- There was ultimately a 97.5% return rate on the ABX21 surveys (wage pass-through funds). For those who chose not to return the survey, unfortunately, it means that their rates will be returned to the pre-July 2016 rates.
- The Department of Developmental Services will hold a public meeting on November 6th at the State building in Oakland in an effort to garner community input on reducing purchase of service disparities. On-site translation will be provided in Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Spanish. The meeting will be held from 9AM-12PM.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office:

Ron was pleased to share that the Celebration of Advocacy was well attended, with about 100 guests that evening. Fifteen awards were given to self-advocates, including our very own board member Heidi Spaulding!

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: Caroline announced that the search for a new Executive Assistant to the DD Council is over. Vi Ibarra has accepted the position and is very excited to start her new role! Vi stated that she will continue the path that Josh has set for the committee. Her official start date will be announced soon; in the meantime, she and Josh are underway with the transition.

Next month's DD Council meeting will be on the 5th Wednesday (November 29th), due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Caroline is working on the details of the DD Council's annual board member retreat, which will be held on December 13th in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting. The location is to be determined.

- Strategic Planning: With Vi coming on board as the new Executive Assistant, the next meeting will be on December 13th, the same date as the retreat.
- Legislative Committee: Will reported that the legislative session has ended for the year. And, also:
 - The Governor vetoed AB1607 (to facilitate community based employment development services) on the basis that it needs to be evaluated in the annual budget process.
 - But the Governor did sign six affordable housing bills. To put it in perspective, if the same package continues for the next 10 years, we would almost catch up to meeting housing demands.
 - The Department of Developmental Services has resubmitted the transition plan for the home and community-based settings rule, as publicized on their web site. Provider self-assessments will start soon...
 - The Committee will host a breakfast instead of a town hall meeting this year. With the success of local legislation like ABX21, we want to continue building our relationships at the federal level. The date and location are to be determined.
- Paratransit Coordinating Council: Bill reported that there are no further updates on the ridership issues on LINK. He invited others to participate in the next meeting scheduled for November 20th from 2-4pm.
- Nominating Committee: Vi tendered her resignation as a member of the Board, which Caroline happily accepted, as she will be assuming her new post as Executive Assistant! Caroline hopes to fill the opening with a service provider or parent. Will added that a service provider with Early Intervention services could be desirable. Please send recommendations to Caroline.

Craig, a former Nominating Committee member, recommended adding a seat to the Board and suggested Stephen. He meets all the requirements and stated he would be

pleased to serve on the Board. This item is to be placed on the next meeting's agenda as a pending nomination.

- Transition Committee: Ken announced that the West County Transition Fair will take place on the 4th Saturday of April 2018 from 10am-12:30pm.
- Health and Emergency Services Engagement Committee: Marcelle made a recommendation to have someone who accepts health care to represent the committee on health equity matters. Josh expanded on this idea – when the subcommittee was originally formed it was done in the context of dual capacity. The idea is to split it into two different sub-committees, with Marcelle continuing on as a member of Emergency Services and someone else who could serve as a Health Access member. Caroline suggested this be one of the topics to be discussed at the retreat.
- Subcommittee on Employment: Elvia reported that the September 28th meeting was very informative. There were presentations on benefits planning, paid internship programs, and tailored day services. Also, Rose Dowd gave a report on the successful employment fairs that were held for Case Managers. The committee's next meeting is on October 26th at RCEB-Concord from 10am-12pm.

<p style="text-align: center;">A break for networking was taken.</p>

At the beginning of the break Josh read an inspirational letter written by a person with autism. The author described his summer job in an industry he hadn't well-considered...fast food, McDonald's to be exact...as well as the insights and accomplishments he gained while employed there. In less than two months, he was promoted, named employee of the month, and - for the first time - made friends with people who were not classmates! Caroline quipped that he must have a great mother!

Presentation & Discussion: FAST and Fires: A look at the recent events in the North Bay, capacity building, and Contra Costa's support from the community. Speaker: Marcelle Indelicato, Sr. Emergency Planner, Office of the Sheriff, Emergency Services Division.

Marcelle introduced herself and provided an overview of FAST (Functional Assessment Service Team). She also acknowledged the FAST members deployed to the North Bay fires were Josh Sullivan, Heather Hackett, and Aimee Vitug-Hom.

The FAST program provides staff that are responsible for performing functional assessments of individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs within shelters. FAST members are volunteers who have been trained and certified by the California Department of Social Services. Within shelters, FAST facilitates the process of getting essential resources and typically collaborates with the Red Cross, Medical Response Care (MRC), and mutual aid.

By all accounts, the North Bay fires were unprecedented and quickly amounted to very complicated and fluid circumstances. As of this meeting date, the cause was yet unknown and still under investigation. There was massive mutual aid response to the fires in addition to the excellent response from first responders, emergency services, and "people who just wanted to

take action” and help. A former daycare operator in San Pablo called and offered her vacant house as a shelter.

Disasters are led by the local entity. There were eight Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) that were activated for the North Bay fires. Contra Costa County’s EOC was partially activated and conducted daily conference calls with several agencies including Fire, Employment and Health Services, Public Works, Department of Conservation, and Animal Services. County Health activated their Department Operations Center and worked with many departments to inspect shelters, assist with evacuees and offer shelter support.

FAST members cannot deploy themselves. CDSS requested FAST resources and our County deployed 10 members for one to three days from Oct. 9th through Oct. 16th, the largest activation to date. Each member’s experience was different, depending on the shelter one was deployed to and when deployment took place. There were many experiences, take-aways and learnings shared:

- Josh was activated six hours after the fires started and deployed to a non-registered shelter in Sonoma that sheltered residents from Sonoma Development Center. Initially, the actual number of shelter residents was unknown and there came a point where the fire was less than two miles away. The “cloud of confusion” was complicated by the fluidity of the circumstances as well as the different responding entities involved. The take-away: build capacity now and learn how to speak the “alphabet soup” (i.e., learn the incident command system of emergency response, acronyms, etc.).
- Two days after the start of the fires, Heather was deployed to a pop-up shelter in Petaluma but then redirected to Napa Valley College where she stayed overnight. She identified a need for 30 accessible cots on her first day, which were eventually delivered two days later. Additionally, 150 disposable underpads were needed – after getting approval from her FAST leader Heather obtained 160 pads that were donated to one of her programs. She was given the go-ahead to pick up the pads herself, which at the time was the fastest way for the supplies to get to where it was needed.
- Aimee was sent to the Sonoma County Fairgrounds one week after the fires began. There were three different shelters on site. Several shelter residents required transportation to medical appointments or to return home. Local paratransit and transportation companies were affected directly by the fires and unavailable. Paratransit services (i.e., American Medical Response) will evacuate but is not responsible for repopulation. Aimee found volunteer drivers and provided the contact information to the Red Cross and also directly to the residents for coordination of transportation.

Ken inquired about next steps as it relates to capacity building. Marcelle envisions an evolution of the FAST Steering Committee to be a representation of the Access/Functional Needs and Disabilities (AFN/D) community. Josh added that it would be a coalition approach. Splitting Marcelle’s current board seat (mentioned earlier) would be supportive of these efforts.

Lisa reminded us that in a year we will not have 250 individuals living in the SDC. About 35 people statewide have received residential placement. She encouraged continued focus on community-based efforts.

Maria suggested we have backpacks ready at home and equipped with important documents, an emergency supply of medication, and a change of clothing.

There have been conflicting messages about donations to help those affected by the fires. Marcelle said monetary donations (e.g., gift cards to grocery stores, restaurants, etc) would be best. Donations may be dropped off to local fire or law enforcement departments.

Announcements:

Stephen announced an open position at his law firm. Sadly, his Outreach & Education Coordinator passed away leaving a vacancy. The position offers a flexible part-time schedule starting at 20 hours/week. The ideal candidate would be a parent of a child with I/DD and comfortable with assisting with presentations, creating video programs, and class documentation.

For more information, you can contact the Dale Law Firm, PC at 925-826-5585.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 29, 2017 @ RCEB-Concord, 4th Floor

No December 2017 meeting

Board Member Retreat on December 13, 2017 – location TBD

<p>Our next meeting is November 29, 2017 10:00 a.m. RCEB-Concord 1320 Willow Pass Road, 4th Floor Concord, CA 94520</p>
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Respectfully submitted by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
Contra Costa ARC