

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**February 28, 2018**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Caroline Ortiz, Chair; Heidi Spaulding, Vice-Chair; Bill Trinh; David Monahan; Maria Marquez; Douglas Quinn; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez; Krista Loomis; Marcelle Indelicato; Karen Lingenfelter; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Suzanne Anthony; Ria Mercado; Rosa Valledor; Paula Senigar; Pam Perls.

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Stephen Dale; Ken Talken; Donna Feingold; Dan Denis; Ria Mercado; Nina Vincent; Will Sanford; Sheraden Nicholau.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Murri Banis, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Patricia Albeno, CARE Parent Network; Jordane Tofighi, Adaptive Learning Center; Cheresse LeBlanc, CARE Parent Network; Marnie Raymond, Parent; Audrua Sysum, ALIVE East; Danielle Hudson, Futures Explored; Donovan Davis, ALIVE-East; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Leslie Werosh Visbal, Ability Now Bay Area; Jackie Johnston, CA Children's Services; Craig Rose, CIWP; Sanaa Gad, Community Service Bureau of Contra Costa County; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Ron Usac, SCDD Bay Area.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

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

- The meeting minutes of January 24, 2018 were approved as submitted (M/Maria Marquez; S/Suzanne Anthony).
- There was one addition to the agenda regarding Bridge to Success.

**UPDATES**

**RCEB by Beth DeWitt for Lisa Kleinbub:**

Beth reminded us of the State Budget Hearings in Sacramento on March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>. She noted that several RCEB vendors received awards to fund projects to reduce disparity in POS budgets.

Regarding the closure of Sonoma Development Center, there are 150 residents left, with 47 returning to RCEB. It appears that everything is on track to close Sonoma DC by December 2018.

Beth reviewed the new Respite policy---the entire policy is explained on the RCEB.org website.

The State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has begun a routine 5-week audit at RCEB last Tuesday and they are reviewing vendor files.

Finally, Beth reported the CMS has made an initial approval of the California plan, which is scheduled for implementation by March 17, 2022. A self-survey will be coming to all vendors soon.

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office:**

Ron Usac stated that the SCDD is meeting tonight in San Mateo. SCDD is currently sponsoring 2 bills:

- AB2171 (Frazier) –interagency agreement between Education, DDS and Dept. of Rehab to share information.
- SB1274 (McGuire) –information sharing between CalWORKs and welfare-to-work programs with DDS.

SCDD is implementing “National Core Indicators” surveys----400 for each Regional Center. People are randomly selected to participate in this survey.

**Executive Assistant to the Council:**

Vi reported that tomorrow she will be attending Contra Costa County’s tabletop exercise in a Point-of Dispensing (POD) medication as a response to a simulated emergency situation.

Vi recently toured RESSUCCESS day program and also Choices in Aging, a program for seniors that has about 10% of their population with I/DD. She will also be having a table at the College of Alameda for an Alameda County Transition Fair. This is being held March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Vi asked for a volunteer to help her at this event and Maria Marquez volunteered.

Vi is also assisting in planning the joint banquet with the Alameda County DD Council. This will occur in June, with the date yet to be determined.

Finally, on March 24<sup>th</sup> there is a Special Needs Talent Show at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Lisa Kleinbub will be a guest judge for this event. All are welcome to attend this great show!

**Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee: no report

Nominating Committee: A motion was made to nominate David Monahan, Board Member, as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (M/ Karen Lingenfelter; S/Heidi Spaulding) and was approved. Caroline noted that several members will be terming out of Board service, so there will be several Board positions to fill at the June meeting. Three people volunteered to assist on this committee: Marcelle Indelicato, Rosa Valledor, and Maria Marquez.

Transition Committee: no report

Pam Perls stated that she attends a Forensic Work Group meeting chaired by Karen Toto and Sandy Soliday in Alameda County. This committee is working on several projects:

- Develop more crisis response homes in our communities;
- Replicate the Schriber Center for mental health services in Contra Costa County;
- Improving services to people with I/DD that are witnesses, victims or perpetrators of crimes;
- Providing training to law enforcement, and assisting people through the processes of the Justice system and DA’s offices.

Pam recommends that our DD Council join this committee in an official capacity to assist in educating and improve relationships between all involved. Caroline stated it would be put on next month’s agenda for further discussion.

**Community Liaison Reports**

Health and Emergency Services Engagement Committee: Vi and Nickole reported that this committee is interested in providing assistance to people that don’t speak English, those that are afraid to speak up and those that are unable to fill out medical forms. Vi also stated that they

want to link patients to other services, such as the Food Bank, STAND, etc. They appreciate Vi's and Nickole's input on how to better serve people with I/DD.

Subcommittee on Employment: Elvia and David reported that this committee had a presentation on College to Career, a pilot project with the Department of Rehabilitation. The referral process to this project is closed.

Also, the ARC of San Francisco is advertising jobs available at the Amazon distribution center in Fremont. It is 4 miles from Fremont BART. The pay is \$13-\$14 per hour with benefits.

Caroline distributed a job announcement for the Bridge to Success project (for people with I/DD) at Contra Costa County. This is an entry-level position for cleaning and food preparation tasks in Martinez. Starting pay is \$32,480 annually. There is a modified application process, as explained in the announcement. This project has been in the planning stages for a few years and now the excitement begins! Caroline mentioned that a clerk's position is coming soon.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Nickole spoke about a Crisis Response program in Alameda County that diverts people with I/DD and mental health issues from being 5150'd.

CCTA Paratransit Coordination Council (PCC): no report

Emergency Services Engagement: Marcelle distributed a flyer about upcoming local blood drives by the American Red Cross.

She also announced that on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be an opportunity to simulate an earthquake evacuations of people with I/DD and seniors out of vacant homes in Concord. Volunteers are wanted. This is an opportunity to train about 200 people in law enforcement.

### **There was a short break for coffee and conversation**

### **Presentation: Mental Health and Developmental Disability: Navigating the Challenges**

#### **Speaker: Robert Field, Ph.D. – Quest Family Guidance Center**

Dr. Field explained that Quest Family Guidance Center is a private practice which accomplishes assessments through the Regional Center and for the Livermore public schools. In addition they operate therapeutic summer camps for 36 hrs. /week, for 7 weeks (private pay). Brochures for this service were at the back table.

This service does not provide ABA treatment, however, focuses on social interactions and emotional control. The camp has been operating for 30 years, and 4 licensed therapists are in attendance. They have a 1:6 staffing ratio for the older kids (up to 20 years old), with a 1:4 staffing ratio for the children 5-7 years old.

Dr. Field related that fewer and fewer mental health services are available in the community. Too few providers take Medi-Cal, as the reimbursement rate is so low. With so few community services, crisis situations are on the increase. The highest risk time for a mental health diagnosis is puberty. He stated that Pennsylvania has good mental health services for people with I/DD.

He recommends that parents scream and yell for services, as they are the best advocates for their kids. Go to fair hearings with an advocate/attorney. Don't accept what the school is saying.

He also recommended several sources of information:

- Understood.org
- Parents Education Network is having a conference at AT&T Park on April 17<sup>th</sup>
- CHAD.org
- Attitude Magazine

Caroline stated how much Dr. Field has helped her and her family and thanked him for his presentation.

**Announcements:**

- The STAR Conference is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at Diablo Valley College. This conference features workshops on Autism. Kaiser is doing a workshop on the latest research findings. Classes are in English and Spanish: \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. This is particularly helpful for families with a child with Autism that is up to 16 years old.
- Congreso Familiar will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> in Oakley and August 4<sup>th</sup> at Chabot College in Hayward. This conference is for Spanish-speaking families with children with I/DD of all ages. Free child care is provided. All workshops are in Spanish.
- There will be a Self-Determination introductory meeting in West County on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Vista Hills Education Center in Richmond.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

**2018 Upcoming Meetings:**

**April 25, 2018**

**May 23, 2018**

**June 2018-to be determined**

**September 26, 2018**

**October 24, 2018**

**November 28, 2018**

**Our next meeting is March 28, 2018  
10:00 a. m.  
RCEB-Concord  
1320 Willow Pass Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Concord, CA 94520**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC