

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5/23/18

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz, Chair; Heidi Spaulding, Vice-Chair; Bill Trinh; David Monahan; Donna Feingold; Douglas Quinn; Marcelle Indelicato; Nickole Bouslog; Suzanne Anthony; Ria Mercado; Rosa Valledor; Stephen Dale; Pam Perls; Will Sanford; Krista Loomis; Ken Talken; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez; Paula Senigar

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Dan Denis; Nina Vincent; Sheraden Nicholau

Guests: Patricia Albeno, CARE Parent Network; Craig Rose, CIWP; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, RCEB; Miriam Gomez, La Familia/RCEB; Krista Peterson, PH-CCS; Marianne Iverson, Down Syndrome Connection; Teresa Gonzalez, CCC Health Services Whole Person Care; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Brandon Bratcher, Office of Congressman DeSaulnier; Leslie Werosh Visbal, Ability Now Bay Area; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Audrua Sysum, Futures Explored; John Bolle, Contra Costa ARC; Sanaa Gad, CSB; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Ron Usac, SDCC; Jeanne Chinn; Marilyn Lucey; Michelle Krakowski, Contra Costa Library Association

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Caroline Ortiz, Chair, at 10:03 a.m., and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- John Bolle introduced himself as the new Executive Director of Contra Costa ARC – today was his first meeting!
- There were two corrections to the meeting minutes of 4/25/18. Pam Perls was present at that meeting, and Will Sanford was absent.
- The meeting minutes of 4/25/18 were approved unanimously as corrected (M/Bill Trinh; S/Heidi Spaulding).
- There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

- The Governor's May revision to his budget proposal includes an increase in rates for nursing care at Intermediate Care Facilities. There were no significant changes to the Regional Center budget that would impact the community.
- Last week, the Senate sub-committee moved to reject the uniform Holiday schedule and restore social recreation funding. The sub-committee is to meet on 5/24. There is a lot of negotiation going on and letters/emails to the legislature are needed!

- Will added that there is a debate on how the \$60M in “savings” from the Sonoma Developmental Center closure should be used. There are no dollars allocated to the Regional Center.
- The results from the Rate Study surveys will be shared soon. Other studies are going on that use different methods for higher-cost areas.
- Beth DeWitt has resigned. She is now at the North Bay Regional Center, closer to where she lives.
- Providers eligible for funding to become compliant with HCBS rules have been notified. There is work to be done on actual implementation plans.

Heidi asked about camp being available as respite for people who live on their own. Lisa said that if the social recreation funding is passed, they could look to see if it is limited to any specific group. Historically, camp has been funded for people who live with their families.

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

Ron Usac reported that the Office is looking for self-advocates that can speak to licensed group homes and Community Care Licensing program analysts and who are also open to role playing for a training scheduled on June 12th. This is an annual training with Community Care Licensing with 30-50 attendees expected this year. There would be a small stipend available to the panelists.

Other upcoming dates on the Council calendar:

- Self-Advocates Advisory committee meeting in Sacramento on 5/30
- State Council meeting on 5/31
- Employment First meeting 6/5
- Legislative public policy meeting on 6/11
- Meeting about affordable housing at the Artist’s Den on 6/27

Executive Assistant to the Council report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi stated there was an excellent response to the nominations call for the Annual Awards Banquet. Tickets are still available and can be purchased up until 6/5. During the Banquet, a new executive team will be elected. After, the Council will break for the summer and return in September.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: Today’s meeting was Caroline’s last official meeting as Chair. She reminded everyone that Bridge to Success positions are still open in the County.
- Nominating Committee: There are three open seats on the Council and the following nomination considerations were made: Suzanne Anthony, a parent and longtime associate of the Developmental Disabilities Council; Nickole Bouslog, an advocate and VP of the Consumer Action Committee; and Craig Rose, also a

longtime associate. The nominations were accepted unanimously (M/Rosa Valledor, S/Donna Feingold)!

New member considerations were also discussed: Audrua Sysum, a community outreach advocate; Marianne Iverson, Director of Programs and Adult Services at the Down Syndrome Connection; and Leslie Werosh Visbal, a step-parent of child with autism.

Council by-laws require that interested persons attend three meetings before being nominated. Votes will take place at the awards dinner, where formal nominations will be made including nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Heidi added that she would like more time as Vice-Chair unless someone else is interested. There was none. It was approved unanimously that she will continue her current seat as Vice-Chair (M/Will Sanford, S/Rosa Valledor).

- Transition Committee: Ken thanked everyone who attended or supported the West County Transition Fair in April. On behalf of the Transition Task Force, Donna reported that during their last meeting for the year, they discussed the Self-Determination Program and the Final Rule. Douglas added that they spent a lot of time talking about choices.

Community Liaison Reports

Health and Emergency Services Engagement Committee: Nickole reported they had a presentation on how to interact with people with disabilities and increase their access to computers, at the County Regional Hospital in Martinez. She has been asked to present on how to communicate with people with disabilities who do not have a caregiver.

Subcommittee on Employment: Donna reported the next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 6/1, at the RCEB San Leandro office. They met with the Workforce Board last month but otherwise there is nothing new to report.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Nickole said she will attend a BART Accessibility Task Force meeting on 5/24.

Will reported on the following:

- Assembly Members Chris Holden and Jim Frazier have requested a meeting with the Assembly Sub-Committee. He hopes the 14-day Uniform Holiday Schedule will go away.
- AB-1607 was unanimously approved but, disappointingly, was vetoed by the Governor. It would have allowed a person in a work activity program to request tailored day services in conjunction with his/her existing program to achieve employment goals.

CCTA Paratransit Coordination Council (PCC): Bill reported that Tri-Delta has received a lot of requests for taxi vouchers that can also be used towards Lyft and Uber. Supposedly, there is a pilot that provides drivers with wheelchair accessible vehicles. Caroline asked if Uber and Lyft currently provides services to people who use wheelchairs. Lisa looked up the Uber app on her phone and found that “Uber Way” is being piloted in a few cities including Washington DC and Boston.

In California, there are no drivers that have wheelchair access right now; however, United Taxi can provide the service but requires 1-2 days’ notice for scheduling.

Emergency Services Engagement: Marcelle reported on several emergency planning activities:

- The Office of Emergency Services (OES) had a ground breaking on 5/2 for their new office building. Projected move-in is in spring 2020.
- There is a Yellow Command Exercise on 9/6 that will involve a full-scale activation at the OES. The scenario will be a major earthquake.
- The annual Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Forum is scheduled for October. More details to come soon. Anyone interested in donating raffle prizes, please let Marcelle know.
- Upcoming meetings include a transportation committee meeting on 5/30, and also planning meeting on 6/5 where all are welcome.

Heidi added that she presented at a Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force Training (MAMFF) that was held at the Marsh Creek Detention Facility. It was her first time there – she took the Link and it was okay. Late, but okay. She had a good time talking about the upcoming drill on 8/11, which will be held at Victory Village in Concord. Heather shared that she found the MAMFF attendees to be open and wanting to learn ways to identify those who need help.

There was a short break for coffee and conversation.

Presentation: Updates & Information from the Consumer Action Committee
Speakers: Nickole Bouslog, Heidi Spaulding, and Audrua Sysum

Heidi, Nickole, and Audrua informed us about the Consumer Action Committee (CAC) and its goals. It is run by advocates and their mentors, and everyone is welcome! There are a lot of members, represented by different programs, and they invite more to join. Members might be self-advocates, peers, family members, etc. If interested or if you know anyone who is interested, please contact the CAC.

They have been focusing on legislative action – “the more money we get, the more staff can get better wages.” Heidi said their favorite legislators are Assembly Member Frazier and Congressman DeSaulnier. Nickole added they won’t be favorites if they

mess up – they'll be all over them if so! They can mobilize quickly – “when Will calls, we go!”

The CAC uses social networks to share information about their mission, peer advocacy support, events, and the Lanterman Act. They have a website and also use Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

They meet two times a month, on the first and third Fridays, and rotate meeting locations between Antioch, Concord, and Lafayette. They do not meet in July.

Presentation: Exploration of Opportunities with the County Library System
Speaker: Michelle Krasowski, Contra Costa County Library Association, Library Specialist

Michelle introduced herself and explained her role was newly created in January 2018. She works for the Adult Services Interest group and liaisons between workforce development, the housing authority and animal services. She shared that:

- there are 26 libraries across the county,
- ebook and audio books are available online,
- free Wi-Fi and public computers are available at all libraries, and
- they host wonderful outreach events.

She encouraged everyone to check out their Discover and Go program, which is free and available to anyone with a library card. The program provides free museum passes to select locations, among other fun places. Last year, they partnered with BART to provide free train passes along with the museum passes.

Other library programs include ESL conversation groups; “Insiders” groups offered at seven libraries; and Reach Out and Read. The Insiders Club started in Antioch in 2007 and offers presentations and events to people with developmental disabilities.

Their challenges are not unlike ours --- funding. Currently, they receive funding to operate an average of 30 hours/week.

Announcements:

- Craig announced there will be a 90-minute meeting on Friday, 6/8, at the RCEB in San Leandro for programs to discuss strategies on implementing the Final Rule.
- Bill shared that he went to see the movie trailer “Angels of Mercy” coming out in summer 2019. If you’re a horror movie fan, look out for it.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

2018 Upcoming Meetings:

June 12, 2018 – Awards Banquet

September 26, 2018

October 24, 2018

November 28, 2018

Our next meeting is September 26, 2018

10:00 a.m.

RCEB-Concord

1320 Willow Pass Road, 4th Floor

Concord, CA 94520

Respectfully submitted by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom

Contra Costa ARC