

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
9/26/18

Board and Liaison Members Present: Paula Senigar, Chairperson; Heidi Spaulding, Vice Chair; Bill Trinh; Craig Rose; David Monahan; Elvia Osorio Rodriguez; Leslie Werosh Visbal; Marianne Iversen; Ria Mercado; Rosa Valledor; Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Pam Perls; Sheraden Nicholau

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Audrua Sysum; Donna Feingold; Douglas Quinn; Marcelle Indelicato; Nickole Bouslog; Will Sanford

Guests: Tracy Butler, Contra Costa ARC; Jason Parks, Futures Explored/ALIVE; Megan Crain, Office of Congressman DeSaulnier; Patricia Albeno, Care Parent Network; Shital Agruwalla, Care Parent Network; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, RCEB; Ken Talken, WCCUSD; Karen Lingenfeltar, Mt. Diablo Adult Ed.; Marnie Raymond, Parent; Sharmila Wright, California Children's Services; Cherese LeBlanc, Care Parent Network; Pam Perls, SCDD/RAC EBLC; Christine Rottger, Contra Costa ARC; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Miriam Gomez, La Familia; Sanda Gad, Community Service Bureau of Contra Costa

Welcome and Introductions:

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

There were corrections to the meeting minutes of 5/23/18. Paula Senigar and Elvia Osorio Rodriguez should be listed as present at the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected (M/Heidi, S/Marianne).

There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

- The Community Resource Development Plan was submitted. If funded requested, it will provide an opportunity for RCEB to possibly include other services such as adult mental health services, enhanced behavioral support homes, housing, and crisis supports.
- The closure of Sonoma Developmental Center continues. Twenty residents remain that are awaiting the completion of three additional homes. Construction delays and staff recruitment have contributed to the delays.
- Lisa was pleased to announce that Steve Robinson has replaced Beth DeWitt as the Community Services Director. He will continue to see the SDC Closure plan through.
- RCEB is accepting proposals to address funding disparities in the community. Considerations will be made to agencies that can (1) provide monolingual/Asian

recruitment of family homes, or (2) support individuals who are deaf by providing American Sign Language fluency.

- As part of the HCBS rules, RCEB is in the process of training all staff on the features of Person Centered Thinking.
- With the selection of 2,500 consumers, the Self-Determination Program pilot is moving forward. Of the 484 names submitted to the Department of Developmental Services from RCEB, 155 will be selected. Orientations are anticipated to begin in the next six months, once the individuals are finalized.

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

Sheraden said the Developmental Disabilities Council retreat in August was a lot of fun and productive, and thanked everyone for their contributions. She gave updates on various legislative activities:

- A few weeks ago, Assembly Member Jim Frazier spoke at the California Assembly Select Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee (a new committee formed in February 2018.) He has asked all assembly members to carry a bill that supports the I/DD community and wants to hold public forums in the next year in Fresno, San Diego, and Concord. Constituent presence and participation is key!
- SB 1274 authored by Senator Mike McGuire passed, which will allow for exchange of information between CalWORKS and welfare-to-work programs with the Department of Developmental Services.
- The final draft of a year-long Lanterman Housing Alliance project is expected in the coming weeks.

Upcoming dates on the State Council calendar:

- Regional Advisory Committee meeting at the Office of Education in Marin, Oct. 3rd, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- North Alameda People First Chapter public meeting on Oct. 6th.
- Carlos Quintong advocacy celebration to be hosted at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley, Oct. 19th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- National Disabilities Resource Fair for employers at the Oakland State Building, Oct. 25th, mid-morning.

Executive Assistant to the Council report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi welcomed everyone back from the summer break, and shared the following updates:

- In July, three members of the Council – Paula, Audrua, and Vi – were invited to present information to a local hospital that was very well received.
- Sandi Solliday, Coordinator of Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council for Alameda County, has retired and her position is now posted.
- The District Attorney’s Office Community Academy is an outreach program in its first year. It is a 10 week program and participants meet weekly. The goal is to build bridges in the community through the engagement and education of its residents.
- The Council has been invited to participate in “CoCo 2020” on Sept. 27th. The daylong event is centered on improving the lives of all residents. Rosa Valledor and Vi will attend and shall report on it at the next Council meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Executive Committee: Paula stated that Council meeting snacks and refreshments have routinely been purchased out-of-pocket by Staff. She will circulate a sign-up sheet so this can be done on a rotation and thanked everyone in advance for contributing to it.

The retreat in August was collaborative. It was good to have Sheraden there as well. Heidi added that they had a good time and “Sheraden is wonderful!” On behalf of the Council, Paula presented Vi and Sheraden with beautiful flower bouquets as tokens of appreciation.

- Nominating Committee: David was pleased to announce Pam Perls’ nomination to the committee. Pam is an attorney whose daughter has a developmental disability; she has been active in advocacy since her daughter was in preschool and has served on the East Bay Legislative Committee and other various committees. Pam extended her appreciation for the Council’s work. Craig stated that he has gotten to know Pam over the years and finds her to be an amazing resource. A vote was taken and Pam was unanimously welcomed to the Committee (M/David, S/Craig).
- Transition Task Force: Since a representative was not present today, Paula invited audience members to contribute updates or information. Karen Lingenfelter expressed she is looking forward to future activities including a conference of sorts for parents with a focus on employment. It will be a half-day event to be held on a Saturday in February. Issues will be discussed such as concerns with SSI, types of available employment options, and terminology. The system is complex and most parents are unfamiliar with options after their children turn 22 years old.

Ken Talken announced that the next Employment Task Force meeting will be held on 9/28 at the RCEB San Leandro office.

Community Liaison Reports:

Health Equity Team - there was not a representative at the meeting.

Employment Task Force – Donna Feingold was not present. Ken Talken reported that Bill Peltier and Sandi Solliday are part of the employment conversation in Alameda County; they are tackling the same issues as the larger community. Karen Lingenfelter stated there is talk of centralizing resources for “HireAble” and creating an online resource “Info Center” with major marketing around it. To support the resource on an ongoing basis, the idea of establishing membership is being discussed. Stephen Dale mentioned he might have some resources.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Lisa Kleinbub reported on a forum held for 15th district candidates, which Audrua Sysum moderated. The focus was on education. The candidates seem to understand the issues surrounding our community and were prepared to answer questions. Futures Explored will host another candidate forum on Oct. 10th in Lafayette. Catherine Baker and Rebecca Bauer are scheduled to speak.

Lisa also mentioned that federal legislation is being introduced, which would make an individual have to be considered medically fragile for eligibility purposes. It is sponsored by a Democrat in Massachusetts and a Republican from Mississippi. She did not have the legislative number but will share details when she has more information.

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council – Bill had notes from a meeting last Monday and asked Vi to read it for him. There are three vacancies on the board – one seat for Central County and two seats for West County. Candidates must be current paratransit riders. Also, there is a Cal Trans grant that includes an accessible plan and a potential for a county wide program.

Emergency Planning Engagement – Marcelle was not present, so Vi gave a few updates on her behalf.

- Marcelle along with Josh Sullivan recently presented information on Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs (D/AFN) at a “change agent fellowship” at the Health Department.
- Josh, a Functional Access Service Team (FAST) member was deployed to the Lake Fire. There is an upcoming training on Oct. 15th and 16th, if you are interested in becoming a FAST member
- The Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force exercise that was held on 8/11 was very successful!
- The Annual D/AFN Forum will be held on Oct. 4th. It is a good place to learn about available resources, open to the public, and free!

Presentation: Plotting Our Course, Part 1

Speaker: Sheraden Nicholau

Sheraden gave a recap of the work done at the Aug. 22nd Council retreat:

- It opened with a team building exercise, as no Council is an island and it was important to get to know one other.
- Vi facilitated discussion on demographics and who we are serving as it relates to the broader community.
- Bylaw components were reviewed as well as the foundation of the Council, Robert’s Rules, the Brown Act, and the roles of board members.
- A session on current opportunities was held – visioning of Council work and global trends.
- Attendees also discussed how to be present in broader communities in order to share common issues (mental health, violence, elderly, etc.).
- A survey was done via SurveyMonkey. It “put a lot of fuel in the tank” and informed the next part of the presentation.

Presentation: Plotting Our Course, Council Priorities, Part 2

Speaker: Vi Ibarra

Vi thanked everyone for participating in the survey, which is to be used as a guide for the Council Executive Committee. The survey was sent as a link in the most previous edition of the

Council's Corner. Respondents included current and past board members, heavy representation by service providers, more advocates than self advocates (by 2:1), and a sprinkling of those not connected.

Accounting for 71% of total selections, were life stage topics including transitions to adulthood and aging/senior needs.

The Council priorities are:

1. Service capacity in the community
 - a. Service provider recruitment and retention
 - b. Program expansion and development
2. Housing
3. Transition to adulthood

Additionally, there is a need to look at skill sets for board recruitment and an opportunity to consider members who might be knowledgeable about legislation, parents of younger kids, self-advocates, and/or someone with business connections. This is something for the Executive and Nominating Committees to be aware of.

Opportunities to increase our presence in communities via resource fairs can allow us to connect with those who are already doing similar work.

Based on the survey priorities, Vi and Sheraden facilitated three group breakouts during this meeting to open up discussion. The three Council priorities: (1) Service Capacity in the Community, (2) Housing, and (3) Transition to Adulthood. Meeting attendees were invited to join whichever group was of interest to them.

There was a short break for coffee and conversation, after which meeting attendees joined one of three breakouts.

Each group focused on a particular priority, referring to questions that were provided in the Council packet in order to facilitate discussion. (What did we learn? What can we do?)

Following the discussions, a report-out was made by each of the three groups:

Transition to Adulthood:

Karen Lingenfeltar summarized the group's discussion:

- Transparency is lacking and a seamless transition process is needed.
- It can't just be completely up to the parents. Teaching staff can become more knowledgeable about resources, and how to provide options.
- There seems to be a disparity between the K-12 system and adult world. Additionally, some schools and districts are better than others.
- Continuing, professional education of transition staff (teachers) is important. There was talk of inviting service providers to teacher in-services, or having teachers visit/tour programs in their school district.

Service Capacity in the Community:

Craig Rose stated his group concerns included sustainability and loss of service as it relates to the workforce. It would be important to learn about the rate study results and what it will mean, in addition to the impact of increasing minimum wages. There is a specific skill set required to work with our population, and service providers are competing with the same recruitment pool as everyone else.

Ria Mercado stated their group also discussed the need for legislative advocacy around workforce development. We should partner with universities to address skillsets (e.g., opening up to public health nursing). Also, care giving and transportation jobs are often training grounds but service providers can't retain staff due to wages.

Housing:

The group agreed that housing issues impact the entire community. The availability of affordable housing is diminishing, particularly in the Bay Area. The idea of legacy housing was discussed with incentives for shared housing. It would be good to develop a central hub for information, worker incentives, and better living options.

Announcements:

- Rosa announced the Care Parent Network annual fall picnic is coming up. It is free to families! See their Facebook page for details in Spanish and English. Fliers are also available. IEP workshops are starting on Oct. 22nd, and Transition to Adulthood workshops will also start in October. Please register online. Go to the Care Parent Network web page for more information.
- Paula thanked everyone for coming and the work done in the breakout sessions.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

2018 Upcoming Meetings:

October 24, 2018

November 28, 2018

**Our next meeting is October 24, 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