

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
February 24, 2021

Board and Liaison Members Present: Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, Leslie Visbal, Vice-Chair, Caroline Ortiz, Suzanne Anthony, Donna Feingold, Kimberli Buckley, Maria Cabeza, Marianne Iversen, Ria Mercado, Pam Perls, Heidi Spaulding, Will Sanford, Karen Lingenfelter, Nickole Bouslog, Audrua Sysum, Craig Rose, Marcelle Indelicato, Stephen Dale.

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Bill Trinh, David Monahan.

Guests: Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Hannah Michaelson, Program Director, Care Parent Network; Rebecca Corbett, Antioch ALIVE; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, Regional Center of the East Bay; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; R. Dianne Stepney, MSW, CCSW Social Worker; Murri Banis, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Regional Center of the East Bay; Krista Peterson, CCHS California Children's Services; Melizza Cortez, Woodbridge Home, Open House Center; Cindy Delossantos, Open House Center; Ronnie Archeta, Open House Center; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; James Mercado, Open House Center; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Carol Asch, Dept. of Rehab; Kelly Kramer; Lucy Rivello, Regional Center of the East Bay; Ben Chen, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Patricia Albeño, Care Parent Network; Ken Talken, West Contra Costa Unified School District; Jackie Lopez-Padilla; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area.

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, at 10:00 a.m. Since this was a Zoom meeting, all guests were asked to sign into the Chat. Board attendance was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting minutes of January 27, 2021 were approved with no corrections (M/Will Sanford; S/Leslie Visbal) with one person abstaining.

There were no additions to today's agenda.

Presentation: Contra Costa County Vaccination Update by Gilbert Salinas, Chief Equity Officer, and Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna, of CC Health Services. Prioritization and Access for Residents with Disabilities.

Dr. Rohan was wearing Red, as he predicts our County will be in the Red Tier soon. In January, the adjusted case rate was 60 per 100,000 people, and today it is 12.5. It needs to be under 7 to get us to the Red Tier.

Vaccinations are doing well, with 81% of people over 75 and, 54% of people over 65 being vaccinated.

THE PROBLEM IS SUPPLY! They have the capacity to ramp up vaccinations, however, they have not received adequate supply.

The State has contracted with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to manage vaccinations and starting March 15th all appointments will be made on the website: MyTurn.ca.gov. Also, he estimated that on March 15th that eligibility for vaccinations will expand.

Dr. Rohan will be leaving Contra Costa County, as he has been promoted to the California Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity. He was congratulated and appreciated by all! He will be missed.

Gilbert discussed how to get an appointment. Currently you can still call 1-833-829-2626 or go to: cchealth.org. Then by March 15th you can make an appointment on: MyTurn.ca.gov. He mentioned that you can expect to get on a waiting list.

Vaccination sites are ADA accessible, but if there are other considerations, please tell the scheduler. The Richmond Auditorium is the most wheelchair accessible. Also, if transportation is needed, ask the scheduler. To dispel any myths about the vaccination, there is no impact on fertility, no live virus being injected, and no microchips being injected. If you arrive early, you will not be seen early, and, of course, masks are required.

Dr. Rohan mentioned that the gathering and travel protocols are still in place currently, but things change quickly.

Presentation: Community Partner Highlight: Open House Center by Ria Mercado

Ria and Open House Center in Concord partnered with RCEB and County Public Health to provide 54 consumers and caregivers with a specialized vaccination clinic. This clinic was either drive-thru or walk thru and included a low noise and uncrowded environment for people with I/DD and their caregivers. If people needed more time, it was provided. It was a quiet and friendly approach and more than ADA compliant.

Lessons learned:

- Registration needed to be easy;
- Friendly, polite and uncrowded environment was key;
- It was hard to prioritize people;
- It took a community to make it successful

Open House will host additional clinics for our population.

Ria and her team were commended for their outstanding work!

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa thanked Open House Center for their specialized clinic and excellent collaboration.

DDS asked Regional Centers to reach out to all persons served by letter. It is expected (advocacy going on now) that on March 15th there will be a change in eligibility to prioritize people with I/DD and other disabilities. There is confusion about health care workers vs. family caregivers at this time.

The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is coming out and it requires only one injection rather than two. Lisa is also advocating for more vaccination sites. There is no requirement for vaccinations in day programs at this time. While we are still in the Red Tier, she recommends that activities occur only outdoors.

Regional Center's Medicaid Waiver Audit has been successfully completed. Lisa thanked all the residential providers that participated virtually. They did not do any day programs.

Starting March 4th RCEB will be hosting virtual POS Data and Disparities meetings. Info is on their website. The results of these meetings will determine the Disparity Grants for next year.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Sheraden Nicholau:

Sheraden reported that the State Council is updating their policies for the New Year.

In addition, Sheraden has been active in supporting the Federal/State partnership for mass vaccinations at the Oakland Coliseum and 50 miles surrounding it. They have received rave reviews for its accessibility. They are accomplishing about 6000 vaccinations per day, with 700 walk-ups and the rest in drive-thru.

They want to have 2 mobile sites per day and Sheraden helped secure 50 locations in the running. They have a reserved block of appointments for people of color and people with disabilities (underserved populations). There is a code that various agencies have that allow people to make an appointment.

This vaccination site prioritizes Alameda County residents and is a partnership with FEMA, California Office of Emergency Services, and the National Guard.

The State Council continues to advocate for the prioritization of people served by IHSS, RCEB and others with disabilities.

Sheraden put upcoming meeting dates in the chat, that was distributed by e-mail.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa reported that the annual joint Alameda and Contra Costa Awards event is planned as a virtual event in June. She is looking for volunteers to help in the planning. If interested, please contact Vi Ibarra.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reminded us all to put our names in the chat for attendance recording. She also noted that in today's packet of materials, there is some information/handouts about testing and vaccinations to help others, like your friends and neighbors, to access them.

She announced that the STAR Autism Conference will be virtual this year: April 24th. More details to come.

This week the Contra Costa Health Services Foundation in partnership with RCEB delivered 156 pulse oximeters to residences in our County. Thank you!

Board Membership Report by David Monahan: No report.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

No report

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford):

Will reported that there were 2 budget hearings and thanked Lisa for her excellent testimony.

- The Governor signed an immediate State action for a stimulus payment to people receiving SSI/SSP. A concern is that it may impact the Federal stimulus package.
- The \$1.9 Trillion Stimulus Package passed the House and is on its way to the Senate. The \$15/hr. minimum wage may not make it.
- The next EBLC meeting will be devoted to the many bills that are being introduced.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Marcelle Indelicato):

Marcelle has moved from an Emergency Planner with the CCC Sheriff's office, to the Emergency Manager's position for the Town of Danville. Congratulations! They are moving to a new building and she is currently touring the area with PG&E, EBMUD and San Ramon Fire.

In addition, congratulations go to Marianne Iverson, the new volunteer Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Coordinator for the Town of Danville!

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

No report----next meeting is this coming Friday and info is posted in the Chat.

Health Equity Team:

No report.

Transition Task Force Committee (Bridget Benjamin):

No report. The Adult Services Resource Guide is almost complete.

Announcements:

- Stephen Dale announced that The Arc of California is hosting a public policy conference virtually, for 4 days. Cost is \$25 if you register by this Friday.
- All other announcements were in the Chat and were distributed to all by email.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Next meeting will be held on March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility