

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

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Bill Trinh, Craig Rose, David Monahan, Kimberli Buckley, Donna Feingold.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Milan Sanders, CCHS, Project Coordinator for COVID-19 Adult Ambassadors Program; Taylor Anderson, CCHS, Project Coordinator for COVID-19 Adult Ambassador Program; Nicola Ifill-Fraser, CCHS Project Coordinator for COVID-19 Adult Ambassadors Program, East County; Teresa Hernandez, Mother; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network.

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 February 24, 2021 were approved with no corrections (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Audrua Sysum).

There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES

Contra Costa Health Services by Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Tom Warne:

Case rates for COVID-19 have improved since the winter surge. We continue in the red tier with a case rate of 5.7 per 100,000 people (about 79-100 new cases in our County per day). He expects us to be in the orange tier in April. He is concerned that it may go up again, due to the increase in the variants and the higher transmission rate the variants bring.

They are testing 4-8,000 people per day and have recorded 738 deaths. They have about 37 people hospitalized today. Right now there are 13 local outbreaks in congregate living facilities.

About 21% of Contra Costa is fully vaccinated (196,000 people) and the availability of the vaccine is reflective of the supply. They are now able to vaccinate about 12-14,000 people per day.

Waterworld in Concord will be opening soon as a drive-up vaccination site from a collaborative partnership with CC Health Services, the National Guard, and Kaiser. They are expected to vaccinate about an additional 3,000 people per day.

The State may relax the tier system in the coming months and there are now changes in allowing school children to socially distance by 3 ft, instead of 6 ft.

A question was raised about the call center having long wait times (over an hour) and Dr. Warne recommended registering online with MyTurn.ca.gov, or with the County (cchealth.org), through Kaiser, and various private labs at local pharmacies, such as Walgreens and CVS. Lisa also asked about retraining the call center staff, stating that 16 & 17 year olds can only receive the Pfizer vaccine. He stated the call centers are trained regularly to keep up on the ever-changing and expansion of eligibility.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa reported that letters went out to all RCEB clients ages 16 and above to let them know of their eligibility for the vaccine. There are planned local Points of Distribution (PODs) for our population, similar to the Open House Center pop-up clinic that was discussed last month. There is one planned in partnership with Loma Vista and the Adaptive Learning Center on March 31st, and one in the planning stages for West County and one for East County as pilot projects.

People receiving vaccinations is being tracked by Case Managers. At this point it is not mandatory. Families are concerned about day program safety and Lisa expects that DDS may recommend that we preserve the good parts of Alternative Services in the coming months.

The initial phase-in period for Self-Determination is ending on June 7th. Once the phase-in period ends, it will be available to most regional center clients age 3 and over. There will be an orientation for new people to enroll in Self-Determination services in June or July. Stay tuned.

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

Sheraden thanked RCEB for getting out the letters on eligibility and also commended the County Health Services for their effective mobile vaccination strike teams. She mentioned that State Council's website is a good resource for "health guidance for schools". She also recommended "Vaccinate All 58" as another good resource.

Fire season is expected to start early this year and upcoming power shut offs are certainly a concern. The PUC is accepting feedback on how to improve notifications to people with I/DD and others with access and functional needs when a planned power shut off occurs.

Our advocacy for getting people with I/DD moved up on the eligibility list for vaccinations was successful and she thanked everyone who responded to these efforts.

The State is focusing on health equity and has targeted 400 zip codes around the State to vaccinate---a few are in the Bay Area.

There are 14 bills that the State Council is monitoring and they also co-sponsored SB 639 to phase out 14C certificates.

The State Council meeting schedule is posted on their website: www.scdd.ca.gov

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa indicated that there will be a DD Council meeting on June 23rd, but NO MEETING in July. The Council meetings will resume in August with August 25th being a strategic planning meeting.

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 reported that there will be a virtual Town Hall meeting covering the Contra Costa Health Services 21/22 budget on March 31st @ 10 a.m.

Board Membership Report by David Monahan: No report.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council: Vi reported that their next meeting is May 17th. They have open seats on their Board if anyone is interested in participating.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Will reported that their next meeting is April 7th from 10 am – Noon and everyone is welcome. They will be reviewing 12 bills. In addition:

- The American Rescue Plan passed and the good news is the stimulus checks coming out will not impact income.
- With the State stimulus check of \$600, it is unclear whether it will impact income.

- The State will be receiving billions of dollars, including our service system, but the details are unclear at this time.

Emergency Planning Engagement: Carol reported that the 7th Annual DAFN Forum is being held on March 31st for 2 hours on Zoom---everyone is welcomed to register for this event. The main topics are reports on how emergency responses are different due to the pandemic. Fire, Law enforcement, the Red Cross will be presenting. In addition, Carol and Aimee Vitug-Hom will be presenting a new disaster planning tool that includes a way to flag your address for your special needs in the 911 system.

Good news: The Transportation Strategic Plan (discussed by Debbie Toth last month) passed the County Board of Supervisors and the CCTA Board last week. This is the start of the long-awaited implementation of the plan to improve paratransit services for our community.

There is a planned exercise/training in early November, referred to as Golden Eagle---more to come on that as it develops.

The CAER grants were decided upon and Danielle Bell received one to put sensory items in the law enforcement vehicles in San Ramon and Carol received one for translation services of the new preparedness tool (Spanish and Cantonese).

Senator Steve Glazer's office (Susannah) hosts a monthly nonprofit call that you may be interested in. You can contact her at: susannah.meyer@ sen.ca.gov

Other reports from the chat (due to time constraints):

Transition Task Force update from Becky Wieringa, ALC placed in chat: Contra Costa's Transition Taskforce recently released an online resource guide with information about various programming and links to specific agency websites. This will be posted on RCEB's website and is currently on various school district websites. If you would like to post this or would like the guide, you can email me at bwieringa@alc-ca.org. The guide just came out and will be widely distributed.

HireAble update from Bill Pelter, posted in chat: Attached is the CalAble presentation from our last meeting
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/j0qx6hk3kqylbnb/CalABLE%202021%20Presentation.pptx?dl=0>. The HireAble meeting this Friday will feature a presentation by the newly vendored RCEB financial services (FMS) provider. FMS is the intermediary between employers and consumers who involved in Paid Internship Positions(PIP)

Presentation: It's Our Turn! COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility and Access for Residents with Developmental Disabilities by Tiffany Jefferson, Call Center Supervisor

Tiffany explained that we are in Phase 1B in vaccinations, including people with Disabilities and people age 50 and over.

She indicated that people at the call-center are retrained frequently, as the eligibility changes frequently. The call number is: 1-833-829-2626. However, she said this morning that had 1000 callers in the cue, which is a 3 hour wait!!!! There is an option to receive a call back, which she recommends over staying on hold. She also recommends that you register on-line or get a scheduling ticket on MY CHART, which takes 2 or 3 days. You can also register at multiple locations and take the first available appointment.

The County can also assist with transportation to/from the vaccination sites.

All vaccination sites are wheelchair accessible, but they have limited wheelchairs or other mobility equipment. You can have a caregiver stand in line on your behalf if you can't stand for long periods of time.

Tiffany also mentioned the upcoming Waterworld drive-thru clinic opening soon.

Tiffany was thanked for her presentation and her amazing work at the call center.

Becky Wieringa and Karen Lingenfelter discussed the closed POD vaccination sites being hosted in partnership between the Adaptive Learning Center, Mt Diablo Adult Ed and Contra Costa Health Services. These sites will prioritize vaccination for regional center clients who need a little extra support or accommodation to make the vaccination a success. Similar vaccination clinics will be offered in West County and East County in November.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Next meeting will be held on April 28, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility