

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
May 26, 2021

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Nickole Bouslog, Audrua Sysum, Bill Trinh, David Monahan.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Dr. Tom Warne, Deputy Health Officer, CCHS, Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services; Rebecca Corbett, Antioch Alive; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Kristina Jensen, Liberty UHSD; Mirna Leal, Case Management Supervisor, RCEB; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Carol Asch, Department of Rehabilitation; Barbara Saylor, Supported Employment, VistAbility; Peter Kangas, RCEB service recipient in Self-Determination Program; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD, Community Services Bureau; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; James Mercado, Open House Center; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Teresa Gonzalez, CCHP Whole Person Care; Presha Ponnell, Futures Explored; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Shital Agrawalla, 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 April 28, 2021 were approved unanimously, with no corrections. (M/Marcelle Indelicato; S/Craig Rose).

There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES

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

Case rates are improving, with the current adjusted case rate of 3.7/100,000 people. Dr. Warne doesn't expect us to get into the Yellow Tier before June 15th when the tier system ends.

He was happy to report that vaccination rates have gone up, too. 73% of people over 12 years old have had at least one dose, while 63% are fully vaccinated. They are focusing on kids 12 – 15 years of age, as well as doing outreach to others. They are able to host smaller vaccination sites and are also going to people's homes. The Moderna vaccine is expected to be approved to 12-17 year olds in June, providing more options for kids. The vaccines are highly effective (90%), and it is rare to test positive when fully vaccinated. California is very conservative in re-opening to give us more time to increase our immunity.

On June 15th, California will be implementing "Beyond the Blueprint" guidance to protect any gains we have made in fighting this pandemic. Some sectors may re-open fully and there will be new guidance for capacity limits, masking requirements, physical distancing and travel. For now, the guidance is for full masking in indoor and work settings. There will also be new guidance in the Fall for schools, health care settings, congregate settings, childcare, and daycare.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa reported that the RCEB offices and some programs will be returning to in-person soon. RCEB will begin quarterly visits after Memorial Day. They are finding that there is a high rate of vaccination for people receiving services, and a lower rate for staff. They will be starting in-person evaluations in the next few weeks.

The RCEB offices are not yet open to the public. This will be re-evaluated after June 15th. Day Programs have been asked to give a 5-week notice to RCEB before resuming in-person services, so that RCEB may review safety plans and arrange for vendored transportation. She expects the State of Emergency for the pandemic will continue through December 2021.

The Governor's budget proposal looks promising, with the elimination of rate sunset dates. It includes subsidies for bilingual staff, DSPs that go through training, supplements for programs for the deaf and for Regional Center's resource development. Other items included:

- An Emergency Coordinator's position at each Regional Center
- Implicit Bias training at intake
- New eligibility requirements for 3- to 4-year-olds
- A caseload of 1:40 for those with no or only 1 POS
- A performance incentive program, targeting disparities
- Implementation of Self-Determination on July 1, 2021

At this point there has not been any funding of the Rate Study: budget hearings are happening today so let your representatives know that this is needed.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reported on Sheraden's behalf today. They are hearing that families are receiving vaccination supports in our area. If you hear of anyone having difficulties obtaining a vaccination, please contact Sheraden and she is happy to assist.

PPE is available. You can contact Sheraden directly to place an order.

Training and events have been requested and planning is underway on a variety of topics.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa announced that our next meeting is June 23rd. There will no meeting in July and August will be a planning session for the upcoming year. Rosa also encouraged everyone to register for the Joint DD Council Awards event next week----there are award winners in our Zoom meeting today!

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reminded all guests to put their names in the chat for attendance recording.

Vi also stated that we are still in a State of Emergency which allows for the county DOC logistics to assist in getting scarce PPE or PPE that is only available inflated prices. Let her know if you have PPE needs.

Board Membership Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi proposed a slate of Board members and officers for the upcoming year (handout). There are 2 vacancies at this time. Let Vi, Rosa or Leslie know if you would like to nominate someone or become a member yourself.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council: Vi reported that this Board has several seats available and would like to strengthen their Board with paratransit riders. If interested, contact Vi.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Will reported that budget hearings are occurring at 1:30 today. Of note: items that are NOT in both houses include:

- Lowering Regional Center caseload rates
- Certification training for DSPs
- Suspension of the sunset language for the 8.2% rate increase
- Case manager gap funding

- Community navigator programs
- Support for services for people that are deaf

One item in both houses includes support for Community Integrated Employment (CIE) modifications.

This is a sprint----as the budget has to be signed by June 15th. You will soon be asked to join an effort to “fund the rate study.”

Emergency Planning Engagement: Carol reported that the “Don’t Be Scared, Be Prepared” booklet will be distributed electronically next week. Look for it in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Current emergency concerns in our area include the drought, an early fire season, and potential PSPS (Public Safety Power Shut Offs) events----another reason to be prepared now!

Thanks to Marcelle, there are now 3 additional Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Coordinators in our county. The significance of this is our increased ability to influence emergency planning, training of 1st responders in supporting people with disabilities, and participating in local emergency exercises. This will benefit us all.

HireAble: Donna put upcoming meeting information in the Chat.

Transition Task Force: Vi reported that starting in June, the Transition Task Force will be meeting once per month. Next meeting is planned for June 17th at 3:15 p.m.

Committee on Aging: Marianne reported that their first meeting will be June 8th at 1:00 p.m. They would like to include a RCEB representative and Self-Advocates to their committee.

**Presentation: Self-Determination: Get Ready for Rollout
by Peter Kangas and Vi Ibarra**

Vi began the presentation with some history of the Self-Determination Program in California:

- It was enacted in 1999 as a pilot project to give greater flexibility to design individual services unique to each person.
- In 2013, Governor Brown signed SB 468 to make Self-Determination Programs available state-wide on a limited basis.
- In July 2021 it will be available as an option of all people receiving Regional Center Services.

The key features include:

- Each person's choices, control, and access to desired services and supports
- It is voluntary
- A budget to purchase desired services and supports
- Each person can hire their own workers, agencies, and can make changes for the best fit
- If a person moves, the program goes with him/her
- Each person must live in the community

The Self-Determination Process includes:

- Attending an orientation
- Choosing a plan facilitator and creating goals and a person-centered plan
- Obtaining a budget from Regional Center (based on 12 previous month spending) and making a plan to purchase services, using generic services first
- Participating in developing an IPP with the Regional Center that includes personal goals and spending plan
- Sending the plan to a required Financial Management Service to oversee the payments and monitor the budget
- Each person may hire an optional Independent Facilitator to assist in implementing the plan

Peter described his Self-Determination Program. His person-centered plan includes his goals to live in his own home in an independent way, earn income in the film industry, finish a script and make his movie, and find meaning and purpose in helping others. With one-to-one support, he has accomplished his 4th draft of his script! He is now pursuing production avenues. He has a circle of support for budgeting and one-to-one support for meal planning and cooking. He is helping others by being active on the local advisory committee for self-determination.

Vi talked about her 16-year-old son's Person-Centered Plan and how Self-Determination is assisting him to accomplish his goals of working part time, owning his own car and paying for his insurance and gas, organizing get-togethers with his friends, cooking his own meals and managing his own money. His Self-Determination Plan includes 1:1 teaching through a private school, 10 hours per month, in life skills, executive skills, personal finance and post-secondary exploration.

Challenges with the Self-Determination Program includes:

- The budget process is complex
- It is a new process for everyone to get used to
- COVID, of course

Vi and Peter were thanked for their presentation and were congratulated on their successes!

Public Comment and Announcements: Announcements were posted in the Chat.

Information from the Chat:

Resources shared in chat:
Bay Area restaurant hiring crisis: 'I've never seen anything like this' https://www.mercurynews.com/2021/05/04/bay-area-restaurant-hiring-crisis-ive-never-seen-anything-like-this/
The Disability Thrive Initiative's webinar today is on Strengthening Mental Health Through Empathy and Understanding, to register http://scdd.ca.gov/IDDThrive/
Next HireAble Meeting: May 28, 2021 at 9:30 AM https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88325536286?pwd=dGZtWDdaaDN5dU5GakwrMmd3UzZLQT09 Meeting ID: 883 2553 6286 Passcode: Open4US# (remember this starts with a zero not a capital o)
In response to questions regarding how earning income affects public benefits, the following resources were shared: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Here is a video on working while on public benefits that might be useful https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18iLT3PN0wI&list=PL5dEwICC642rAXeog8VbBk6T71wBu9Xrg&index=5 HireAble developed a presentation for special educators and program staff to discuss earning income and public benefits. This pdf version includes speaker notes with more information. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RXvs09TuHSGXUQV4Xxk_hTcG8ASGqogB/view?usp=sharing

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on June 23, 2021 at 10 a.m.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility