

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
September 22, 2021

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Bill Trinh; Maria Cabeza

Guests: Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB Executive Director; Bill Pelter, Ability Now; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Rebeca Sordo, RCEB; Tom Warne, Deputy Health Officer, Contra Costa Health Services; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Kristina Jensen, Liberty Union High School District; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Michelle Mankewich, EHSD Community Services Bureau; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Eric Bakke, Parent; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Adelita Gonzalez

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.

Rosa announced there was not a Spanish interpreter available for today's meeting and communicated the welcome and announcement in Spanish.

The meeting minutes of June 23, 2021 (Board) and August 25, 2021 (Planning) were approved unanimously, with no corrections. (M/ Will Sanford; S/Craig Rose).

There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES

Contra Costa Health Services - Deputy Health Officer Dr. Tom Warne

Dr. Warne provided an update on the Coronavirus and the main things that are happening:

- The big news is the FDA authorized Pfizer booster shots for the immunocompromised. For the general population, the FDA has recommended the Pfizer booster for individuals 65 years old or older or those 50-64 years old with complications; the recommendations are going through a committee process to determine whether it will be authorized. Dr. Warne expects a similar process to follow for Moderna.
- Additionally, the FDA is considering an emergency use authorization from Pfizer to vaccinate kids ages 5 to 11 years old. Dr. Warne anticipates this consideration to be made in about a month.

Other key updates in Contra Costa County and Bay Area:

- Effective today, 9/22/21, Contra Costa County issued a new health order requiring a proof of Covid-19 vaccination or negative test result within 72 hours when going into high risk indoor business venues (restaurants, gyms, etc.). Home tests do not qualify. This important development is hoped to create a situation where businesses and customers are more comfortable and feel safer. Masks are still to be on. San Francisco and Berkeley are already doing this.

- Really good news is that case rates are continuing to decline – current case rate is 15.5 per 100K, down from 18 per 100K last week. It peaked mid-August at 40 cases/100K primarily affecting the unvaccinated.
- Hospitalizations came down from 220 in early August to 176 last week and 135 as of today's meeting date. This is really good news.
- 80.5% of the eligible population in Contra Costa County are fully vaccinated and 85% have received at least one dose.

Case rates for the unvaccinated tends to be 5-10% higher and hospitalization 10 times more likely. The vaccines do work!

There was a question from the public regarding data on the vaccine for 12 to 15 years olds, and expressing concerns with a mandate preceding the approval of a vaccine. The community member expressed his wish to make informed decisions on behalf of his children whose pediatrician advised against the vaccinations. He is interested in seeing hospitalization data for children with COVID and that is not currently available on the county COVID dashboard.

Dr. Warne acknowledged that, while the vaccine is deemed safe and authorized for children between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, the FDA has not yet approved it. It will take more data to be evaluated to rise to the level of being approved. The FDA engages expert panels – researchers and scientists across the United States – to ensure sound and correct data. While not unreasonable to wait to make a decision for children until a vaccine is fully approved, school settings may pose higher risks due to more interactions, for example in sports.

For more information and the latest data, visit the County website at <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org>.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa wished everyone a happy fall season – it started today! She provided several updates on what's going on at RCEB:

- As Dr. Warne reported, Covid case numbers are going down and RCEB saw far fewer cases in the last few weeks especially as compared to August. This is based on what they're seeing in primarily licensed facilities, as there is a data lag from those outside of licensed facilities.
- DDS has opened the process to apply for Service Access & Equity Grants and is accepting submissions through November 3, 2021. Applicants are encouraged to review Welfare and Institutions Code 4159.5. The priority areas of focus are:
 - Community partnerships for learning and advocacy
 - Developing leaders
 - Access to Early Start services for children who were not referred early on
 - Deaf services
 - Workforce diversification
 - Access to culturally responsive services
- A public meeting on the Performance Contract for 2022 will be held on Thursday, September 30, 5:30pm. RCEB has objectives set by the State as well as local objectives to address service needs. Community participation is important to get input on activities that will help to achieve equity, increase employment, and meet other compliance measures. Information about the public meeting will be sent to those on the RCEB listservs. Please join if you'd like.
- RCEB is in the process of scheduling another meeting in early October for the African American community due to systemic and other prominent issues in our community. Look

for an upcoming announcement and details on the RCEB website. Outreach notices will be sent as well.

- Assembly Bill 445 - authored by Assemblymember Calderon - was signed into law by the Governor. The Bill was sponsored by the Association of Regional Center agencies, which removes the requirement for Regional Centers to collect social security numbers of its consumers' parents. This was, at times, an impediment for families coming into the Regional Centers in questioning the security of their data and enrollment. Birthdates will still be required and the law goes into effect January 1, 2022.

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

Sheraden reported several items to put on everyone's radar:

1. The deadline to enter "There Should Be a Law Contest" is October 15th. Everyone is invited to submit ideas about laws that can fix policy issues, which have an impact on those with I/DD and their families. Send the problem with a proposed policy solution. A link to how to submit idea was provided in the Chat. Sheraden is looking forward to brilliant recommendations (and Rosa is excited about the contest)!
2. There is a housing rights workshop today, September 22nd, from 5PM to 6:30PM. It is via Zoom and is free with Spanish interpretation available. The focus of the workshop is looking at fair housing rights for renters with disabilities. As part of it, at the end of the update, there will be a listening session with SCDD on trends that have impacted members of community.
3. On September 24th, Lisa Kleinbub will be presenting at a Bridging the Gap symposium to share what's working and not working for people with I/DD when it comes to mental health services. The symposium is primarily for professionals and policy makers but everyone is welcome.
4. The next Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting is scheduled for September 29th at 6:30PM, with networking at 6:15PM. There is to be a panel discussion with professionals that want to move forward new services and supports for mental health, in addition to workgroup and legislative updates. Spanish interpretation will be available.

Links to the various meetings and events were put in the Chat.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor: Rosa thanked today's meeting note taker (Aimee Vitug-Hom).

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi thanked Aimee who substituted for Carol McCrary for taking meeting at the June meeting as well as today's meeting. She reminded all attendees to put their names in the Chat if they wanted their attendance noted in the minutes.

Vi also thanked the Board for returning board commitment information with updated contact information. Once everyone sends in their information, she can complete and send out the Roster.

Vi provided information and updates on the Measure X Advisory Board. Measure X is a sales tax in Contra Costa County that was passed in November 2020, and will be in place for the next 20 years. It is projected to bring \$80M/year to fund the regional hospital, safety net services, and protections of vulnerable populations. Many county services are included under that broad umbrella. The Advisory Board has met weekly since May 2021. In June, Vi and Nikole presented information specific to the I/DD community including mental health services, employment, transportation and housing. Vi feels encouraged by the champions (of I/DD community) that she is seeing on this

committee. Also, even if they're not speaking specifically to I/DD needs, our identified issues can and need to be woven through various topics. The committee is now wrapping up their work – their role is to make recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors on funding priorities. This evening, at 5:00 p.m., they should be voting to finalize their recommendations. Some items of interest for the DD Council, which are included in the top 10 priorities in their draft are: community mental health crisis response, children's mental health, transportation, and community based aging services. Recommendations are for the first year funding – there is to be a process to review the priorities on an annual basis.

The Vision for the Future conference will be held virtually this year over two Saturdays on October 16th and 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is designed for students, parents, and care givers to explore post-secondary educational opportunities and other lifelong learning opportunities. Karen Lingenfelter will present on adult education and DREDF will offer a presentation on using the IPP to plan for transition out of high school. Other presenters include representatives from San Francisco State University and UC Davis who will be presenting on each of their new programs for students with I/DD, and also a panel presentation by former and current college students with I/DD. It should be a fun and interesting conference!

Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum: Audrua announced there are two board openings. Anyone who is interested can contact her or Vi.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra): The Council has not met since July – the next meeting is scheduled for November 15th. Vi reported they continue to have many open seats that are designated for paratransit riders and that seem to stay open. She is working in a small subgroup on outreach to increase rider participation in these meetings. As always, if you have any feedback about transportation, let Vi know. She is happy to receive it and bring to the PCC.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford): Will opened up with the good news: the people voted on September 14th and Governor Newsom kept his seat! Everyone hopes to be back to "regular business" now that the recall election is over. The not-so-good news is that \$300M was spent on it!

Will also reported on:

- Senate Bill 639, which phases out 14C with requirements for the State Council to work with stakeholders on a plan. The Governor still has not signed it.
- Big stuff happening on East Coast (Washington D.C.) – the House of Representatives is hedging on \$100B of the proposal to pass a spending plan that moves forward \$400B over the next 10 years into long-term care. Will explained the Federal government has to increase authority in order to increase debt and, right now, the House is forcing the Republicans to ignore the debt limit. We are in for interesting politics! Our push is to maintain pressure on the support of the \$400B, which would benefit direct support professionals.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Aimee Vitug-Hom): Aimee shared the following: VistAbility participated in the Concord's 2021 Emergency Preparedness Fair and handed out approximately 70 "Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared!" booklets. The resource is available online on Contra Costa County's Community Warning System web page. Also, free emergency preparedness training is available – "Prepare U 2" is a series of one-hour trainings through October 21st. See link in the Chat for how to register.

HireAble (Donna Feingold): Donna reported that they took July off. They resumed meeting this month and had a representative from Amazon come to talk about jobs. The next meeting is scheduled for September 24th at 9:30 a.m. There will be a presentation from the Department of Rehabilitation on workplace learning and a report on a study from the UC Davis MIND Institute.

Transition Task Force (Vi Ibarra): Vi shared there are a couple of projects in the works – a Person Centered Thinking presentation and continuing to keep updated the resource guide they have created provides information about adult programs and services. They are working on adding a section on college programs and supports. There will be an ongoing mechanism for programs to be added into the booklet.

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen): Marianne reported there was not an August meeting. They had a really good presentation on “later in life planning” earlier this month. Several committee members are networking with aging agencies in the area and trying to merge needs with the I/DD community. On October 5th, Bill Pelter will present at the next provider’s meeting along with the Contra Costa’s Area Agency on Aging to discuss the needs of the I/DD community. In November, Marianne will present on Alzheimer’s and Down syndrome. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 12th. Contact Marianne for more information.

Planning for Resumption of In-Person Meetings:

Vi provided some background on the Brown Act Rule from the State of California:

- As a governmental advisory body, our Council is subject to certain rules. There are strict rules on board members participating remotely in public meetings. Due to complications, remote participation was not offered by phone or virtually prior to the pandemic.
- Governor Newsom waived some of the Brown Act requirements due to the pandemic, which are set to expire September 30th. Starting October 1st, we would have to go back to the Brown Act Requirements and the Board to return in person for meetings.
- BUT, yesterday September 21st, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 that extends the ability to meet virtually. We can continue meeting this way for the foreseeable future. There might be some changes. Vi is awaiting guidance and may touch on it during next month’s meeting.

Rosa thanked Vi, acknowledging it was a challenge to work through.

The Work of the Council:

Rosa reported on the work of the Council during the retreat in August. Board members and guests continued the conversation about the continuing relevance of past priorities. They reviewed the previous priorities and topics as well as additional topics such as the Self-Determination Program, younger kids’ issues, and service delivery in light of Covid-19. As they talked about the work of the Council, they found it can be divided into three categories:

1. Transition to adulthood – including what to expect, higher education, employment, and independent living. Past Council work included “Employment IS an Option” and the Crossroads Speaker Series
2. Housing – availability of housing for the community and considerations for those with unique or intensive behavioral or medical needs
3. Service capacity in the community

Vi created a spreadsheet that captures each of the three main categories and started filling in with the work of the Council, from January 2019 through the present time, based on:

- Outreach and education
- Empowering individuals and capacity building
- Systems change
- Standing agenda items

Board member liaison on subject matter expertise

Vi will send "The Work of the Council" document to Board members and asked that they take a look and add particular areas of knowledge with a lofty goal of identifying any gaps. The document is a tool that shows the work of this very active Council to help us to be intentional and thoughtful on planning activities and addressing unmet needs.

"The Work of the Council" spreadsheet will be a living document and shared as a Google document with all Board members. Vi will send link later today, September 22nd and asks that members review and add comments by September 29th.

Leslie Visbal commented that everyone has so much to contribute. Sometimes, we forget how we represent our community in the work that we do. Additional topics were identified during the retreat and the comments of the spreadsheet reflect those who attended the August meeting. There is a lot of subject matter expertise in this Board.

Rosa agreed and stated how very lucky we are to have a wise and active Council. She, herself, is reviewing the robust information to see where she can add as far as knowledge and expertise. She expressed her appreciation to Vi for making sense of their ideas and organizing the information.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Pam Perls shared information about the Mental Health Commission – she has been attending the main meetings and suggested this be a part of the regular Liaison reports, in case there is something to share. The ruling body of mental health is pushing a crisis response, with Commission members who are well meaning and energetic but finding a lot of resistance. It is a complicated system with a lot of roadblocks. Pam urged that we make mental health a focus so that we can avoid unfortunate incidents like the ones that occurred in Walnut Creek and Danville.

Will Sanford announced that the first DDS task group on Regional Center Performance Contracts is taking place today. They do post what they talk about on DDS website, for those who are interested.

Michelle Mankewich provided the following public comment in the Chat: CSB Head Start and Early Head Start programs (0-5-year-old childcare services) are here to serve all children in the County. Feel free to refer families to the new website (see table below for the link).

Information from the Chat:

Resources, events, meeting information shared in Chat:
Your Fair Housing Rights: Updates for Renters with Disabilities, 9/22, at 5:00 p.m.
Bridging the Gap Symposium, 9/23/21, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Captioning, ASL and Spanish interpretation will be available. To register: https://hopeservices.org/symposium
State Council Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in English and Spanish will be on 9/29, 6:30 p.m. Networking at 6:15 p.m.
"There Should Be a Law" Contest – send your problem and solution to the SCDD for a chance for your idea to become SCDD's next legislative priority! https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2021/09/There-Should-Be-a-Law-Contest-Flyer-v-3-Accessible-Edits.pdf
Link to the Measure X Advisory Board Meeting – 9/22, 5:00 p.m. http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?mt=ALL&get_month=9&get_year=2021&dsp=ag&seq=1901

Vision for the Future Conference event flyer in English: https://drive.google.com/file/d/119W6DipFRkk_bsq1PU1XArkTKdghXv14/view?usp=sharing
Vision for the Future Conference event flyer in Spanish: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VW15SOywFvKC81n016tHzMPN5D1rWYj8/view?usp=sharing
Prepare U 2 Emergency Preparedness Training series. Classes through 10/21. To register go to https://bit.ly/3xcpsWH
Link to the “Don’t Be Scared, Be Prepared!” emergency planning booklet written in plain language: https://cwsalerts.com/resources/#ac_6186_collapse1 . Click on Resources, then scroll down to booklet.
Committee on Aging – next meeting on 10/12 at 1:00 p.m. To join the meeting, click on link or paste in your browser https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82397200722
HireAble Member Meeting – next meeting is 9/24 at 9:30 a.m.
East Bay Legislative Committee – next meeting is on 10/6. Contact Vi if you want the link. The Committee will be working a Legislative Breakfast in January 2022.
CSB Head Start and Early Head Start programs – link to the new website https://www.csbconnect.org/request-info

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

<p>Next meeting will be held on October 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.</p>
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Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility