

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)**  
**April 27, 2022**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Caroline Ortiz; Christine Rottger; Craig Rose; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; Kimberli Buckley; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marcelle Indelicato; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Audrua Sysum; Marianne Iversen; Rebecca Corbett; Will Sanford

**Guests:** Fabiola Calderon, SW California Children's Services; Veronica Varela, Open House Center and Woodbridge Health Services; Christa Guinto, SW California Children's Services; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Kristina Jensen, Liberty Union High School District; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Meera Sreenivasan, CCHS Deputy Health Officer; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Gabriela Solval, State Council of Developmental Services; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Mirna Leal, RCEB; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Sakeara Hasani, CA District 11 Representative, Rep. DeSaulnier's Office; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Imara Ampire, Parent; Becky Wieringa, Adaptive Learning Center; Megan Miccio, CocoKids Inclusion Warm Line; Maria Cortes Lamas; Ernesto De La Torre, CCHS Program Manager; Angela Gattis, Care Parent Network; Nicola Ifill-Fraser, CCHS Program Coordinator for the Adult Ambassadors Program; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Diana Aleman, CCHS Program Coordinator; Teresa Gonzalez, CCHS Community Connect and Enhanced Care Management

**Welcome and Introductions:** Rosa welcomed everyone and the meeting started at 10:03 a.m. Guests were reminded to type their names and affiliations in Chat for attendance purposes. Board attendance was taken and it was determined a quorum was established.

The meeting minutes of March 23, 2022 were approved as presented with Caroline and Pam abstaining (M/Troy Russell, S/Nickole Bouslog). Thanks to Craig Rose for taking the notes. There were no additions to today's agenda.

**UPDATES:**

**Contra Costa Health Services by Meera Sreenivasan, MD, Deputy Health Officer:**

See the Health Officer Update presentation slides for complete information, data, and resources provided by Dr. Meera. Here is a summary of the presentation:

- The County now has four Deputy Health Officers. Dr. Ori Tzvieli is the Health Officer, taking over after Dr. Chris Farnitano's retirement.
- As of April 26th, 82.2% of the entire County is fully vaccinated, 57.9% of people 12 years and older have received a booster/additional dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, and hospital rates are coming down with 28 people currently hospitalized.
- We now have more tools to fight Covid than ever before. The County launched a new program this month called "Path to Zero" to stop all preventable Covid deaths.
  - Any Contra Costa resident sick with Covid can call the County's 24/7 Advice Nurse Line at 877-661-6230 and ask for a prescription.
  - The County will host 56 equity vaccination clinics from Oakley and Bethel Island to Richmond between now and the end of June.

- Outreach teams will offer over-the-counter test kits and treatment information to community-based organizations located in neighborhoods hit the hardest by Covid.

Everyone age 12 years old or older should get vaccinated and boosted for additional protection against Covid-19 and its variants.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Open House Center will hold a sensory friendly vaccine clinic. They can accommodate anyone who wants a Covid vaccination and meets the criteria. Registration is required. To register, go to <https://myturn.ca.gov/appointment-select?config=d4bd112d-cbbb-4be4-923c-3451db42174b>. You can also contact Open House by email [ohc@openhousecenter.org](mailto:ohc@openhousecenter.org), or by phone (925) 349-4244, Monday to Friday 8 am to 4 pm.

Stephen asked about the effect on reporting data with more people testing at home and who might test positive for Covid-19 but don't report it. Dr. Meera responded that when a person comes to a County site, they are asked about all positive tests and those are captured. She acknowledged that they are not going to capture the true prevalence of daily cases with an increase in home testing. They do reliably capture the severity of illness when hospitalizations go up as a marker for trends. The challenge is finding a balance between adequate protection for high-risk populations and adverse effects of preventative measures.

**RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:**

Lisa reported that RCEB has spent the last few months working with DDS on the rate study implementation for service providers. To date, RCEB has received three batches of rates from DDS and those have been entered into their system. Any rates that have not been input will be entered in the next month and paid retroactively to April 1, 2022 (mainly, specialized rates). Service providers will receive a letter with their rates from RCEB or DDS, so stay tuned.

As a community, we need to focus on moving the rate implementation up from 25% to 50% of rate differences as of July 2022 to be able to hire staff and get people back into their programs. The Regional Centers and SEIU are pushing for reform in the Core Staffing Formula. Both issues are going on in the State's legislative subcommittee that oversees this area.

RCEB will have a Zoom meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> when they will share all caseload ratios that were not met due to a shortage of case managers. The ratios of 1 case manager for every 62 consumers, and 1 case manager for every 66 consumers, are required by law. Regional Centers have not been able to hire staff to meet those levels at the current salary. RCEB expects to receive at least 30 new case management positions as of July 2022 that can be funded at more realistic salaries. During the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will invite the community to give feedback on where RCEB should prioritize staff.

They have hired a new associate director for Early Start and young children after Evelyn Hoskins retirement. They are also anticipating getting reduced caseloads for children under 6 years old, at one case manager for every 40 consumers.

They received letter from DDS about funding in the budget to improve language access and cultural competency. It can go towards translation of materials, meetings and reports. This also goes along with initiatives to have lower caseloads for those who do not have Purchases of Service and looking at those issues more closely. Annual funding to support these activities may be possible – which is really exciting! By June, they have to put together a plan.

Lastly, as of April 15<sup>th</sup>, Regional Centers will no longer be able to make people presumptively eligible. During the pandemic, they were able to make people eligible under presumption without testing or documentation. This does not change provisional eligibility for 3- and 4-year-olds if no diagnosis.

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

Gabriela Solval, Community Program Specialist, reported updates in Sheraden's absence.

There is a grant opportunity for Community Based Organizations to fund new projects that support an overall strategy for systemic change in education, employment, health and safety, and housing.

The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. They have been hosting a policy discussion with Children Now covering key issues including early childhood development, children's mental healthcare, foster care, and youth justice.

SCDD still has PPE. Email Sheraden or Gabriela if you need help to secure supplies.

There are two upcoming trainings on accessible communication: Easy Read Text on June 7<sup>th</sup> and Plain Language on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Trainings will be held virtually and registration is required, see links below.

For other SCDD meeting dates and events, follow the link below to find the Council Calendar.

- State Council on Developmental Disabilities upcoming events can be found at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilcalendar/>
- Easy Read Text: Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Pacific Time. Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvfu-grjwrE9MCChitKfa4b2svtgdTZMpn>
- Plain Language: Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Pacific Time. Registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvf-2vrjoqGNzhCFCm-llgHcq\\_TLoSL\\_gv](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvf-2vrjoqGNzhCFCm-llgHcq_TLoSL_gv)
- Link to download One Idea Per Line: A guide to making easy read resources <https://www.selfadvocacyinfo.org/resource/one-idea-per-line-a-guide-to-making-easy-read-resources/>

### **Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:**

Rosa gave a reminder about the Annual Awards Event on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which will be held virtually. There's still time to send in nominations! There is a lot of great work being done in the community – if you would like to recognize and appreciate someone for their work, send in your nomination by May 9<sup>th</sup>. The link to the event flyer can be found in the following section under Vi's report.

Rosa thanked Carol McCrary for taking Council notes for all these years, for being timely and detailed, and for finding a replacement note-taker (Aimee). Carol wears a lot of different hats and the Council appreciates the time she gave to help out.

### **Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:**

Vi asked all guests to introduce themselves in the Chat.

Cal State East Bay is planning a college certificate program for students with I/DD and is seeking feedback from the community. The online form to share your ideas about the program is here: [https://csueastbay.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_02nSMmoHIHZfBl4](https://csueastbay.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_02nSMmoHIHZfBl4).

The link to the Annual Awards event flyer is here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bbPLXeU2kgPa\\_c1NQAz-F9aSY3ZbUL3g/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bbPLXeU2kgPa_c1NQAz-F9aSY3ZbUL3g/view?usp=sharing).

Make your nominations by May 9<sup>th</sup>!

### **Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum:**

Rosa provided an update in Audrua's absence. The Council has two openings for board membership. Anyone who is interested must attend at least three meetings. Interpreters will be provided for Spanish speaking members of the community who are interested.

### **Committee Liaison Reports:**

#### CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

Carol gave an update on the accessible transportation task force, which last met on April 21st. There are lots of good things happening with CCTA and Accessible Transportation! The One Seat One Ride pilot is coming to fruition. This is where someone can take public transportation from one place and go all the way to their destination outside of their transit providers boundaries without having to transfer. With the support of advocates, East Bay Paratransit is now joining the project allowing it to be expanded. The pilot is tracking to become permanent and the hope is to have this be a regional program. Maybe one day someone will be able to ride from Antioch all the way to Solano County!

Another exciting possibility is One Call One Click where you dial one number to find transportation options. This is based on the Los Angeles model, with calling 211 to find the best options. The task force is in conversations with Contra Costa 211 as possibly being our County's transportation resource. It is not confirmed yet but still pretty exciting.

They have secured more Measures J and X tax funding to fund consultants for the projects and to lower paratransit fares through fare subsidies. Long term projects include establishing one entity to coordinate paratransit services in the County; they are currently researching models.

This is the first time anything has been funded! They are very excited about the progress and having excellent advocates on the task force. Multiple meetings will be scheduled over the summer to help get things in place. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### East Bay Legislative Coalition (EBLC) (Will Sanford):

Will was absent, so Vi went over the slides that he sent.

The EBLC's current focuses include supporting:

- The Lanterman Coalition Proposal to accelerate the implementation of the Rate Study,
- The Lanterman Coalition Proposal to require the Department to review and update some of the areas that are problematic,
- ARCA's proposal to require DDS to update the current "Core Staffing Formula" that was set in 1991.

Action is needed! You can help by emailing the two Budget Committees to share your brief story and why it's critical to help support the I/DD community. Email your story to:

Assembly Sub-Committee 1 (Chair: Dr. Arambula) at [BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov](mailto:BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov)

Senate Sub-Committee 3 (Chair: Susan Eggman) at [SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov](mailto:SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov)

Type "Budget Item: 4300- Department of Developmental Services" on your email's subject line.

See attachment for a list of current bills that ELBC is supporting.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. All are welcome.

#### Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol McCrary):

Carol reported the Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Steering Committee (DAFN) has been renamed DAFN Collaborative. The Collaborative last met on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

There are lots of good things happening:

- The Collaborative was awarded a CAER grant to translate the Don't Be Scared Be Prepared (DBSBP) tool into Russian, Bulgarian, Dari, and Hindi. The Russian translation has already been completed. And, through the DAFN Collaborative, they found translation resources for Dari and Farsi! If you would like to share the DBSBP tool and promote emergency preparedness, contact Carol or Aimee.
- The new County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is scheduled to have its first in person exercise on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The scenario will be an earthquake and include problems that have to be solved by those participating in the exercise. Carol, Marcelle, and Aimee will be evaluators.
- The DAFN Collaborative is planning another DAFN workshop on lessons learned in most recent emergencies for March 2023.

If you have a generator at your house or are dependent on power for critical medical reasons, PG&E is offering a free transfer meter so that it automatically transfers power from a generator to the electric meter. Go to PG&E to find out if you are eligible and apply for it now if you need it – supplies are limited. To learn more about the generator information and rebate programs, go to: [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/electrical-safety/electric-generator-safety/electric-generator-safety.page?WT.mc\\_id=Vanity\\_backuppower](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/electrical-safety/electric-generator-safety/electric-generator-safety.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_backuppower)

Upcoming events:

American Red Cross "Sound the Alarm" campaign is on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to help install free smoke detectors and provide emergency preparedness support for community members that live in Richmond. For more information, go to:

<https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal/about-us/our-work/home-fire-campaign.html>

The City of Concord will host their annual preparedness fair at Todos Santos Park on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Farmer's Market and Music-in-the-Park series will also be happening!

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen):

Bill Pelter reported on Committee updates, Marianne's absence. The last meeting was held April 12<sup>th</sup>, with a presentation by the Center for Elders Independence (CEI) on the PACE program. PACE is a health plan designed exclusively for people 55 years old and older who are dealing with multiple health challenges, needing assistance in daily routines, and wanting to stay in their own homes. In the next few years, 1 in 4 Californians is going to be a senior. This is a major demographic shift!

It was an informative presentation and clarified eligibility criteria for the PACE program specifically as it pertains to RCEB Consumers. For example, residents of groups homes can be eligible. In the program, you would not be able to receive IHSS as PACE is funded through Medi-Cal. You would have to choose one or the other.

The Committee is continuing conversations between CEI/PACE and RCEB to better understand how and when RCEB's aging consumers might benefit from PACE services. With the I/DD community getting older, it will be the first generation that is going to outlive their parents in significant numbers. About 2/3 of adult consumers live with their families – with parents that are now needing care themselves. Bill thanked the RCEB staff who attended the last meeting and Chris Hanson who created an at-a-glance resource for case managers.

The Committee meets every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom. The next meeting will be on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

Donna reported that HireAble has met two times since the last Council meeting. They had a great presentation from the Transition folks, including students. The May HireAble meeting is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and will be focused on staff recruitment. All providers are invited to attend.

They are accepting nominations for the HireAble award that will be presented at the Annual Awards event. This nomination is for employers who have been champions in hiring individuals with I/DD. Here is the link to make this nomination: <https://forms.gle/Shx8YjdekqeYCmB19>

Contra Costa LPA is hosting a virtual job seeker event on May 16th at 11:00 a.m. LPA is a local partnership agreement between schools, RCEB, and Department of Rehabilitation. They will have several employers who are hiring at this event so encourage job seekers to sign up. Registration is required. Here is the registration link: <HTTPS://BIT.LY/3KERLHS>

If you have any questions about HireAble or their upcoming meetings/events or to be added to their listserv, email Donna at [donna@hireable.org](mailto:donna@hireable.org).

Transition Task Force (Becky Wieringa):

Due to time constraints, Becky provided the following information in the Zoom Chat:

- The West County Transition Faire occurred in person outside last Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Planning continues for the Central County Virtual Transition Fair to be held in October 2022.
- The Task Force meets the third Thursday of every month via Zoom at 3:15 p.m. Meetings are open to the community.

Mental Health Commission (Pam Perls):

The Commission is required to look at facilities including the Martinez jail. They will be touring the jail on May 24<sup>th</sup> and the Commission has been asked to submit questions in advance. If you have any, email Pam and she will be happy to forward your questions to them.

**\*Presentation: Contra Costa Health Services Specialty Health Ambassador Program\***  
**Presented by Ernesto De La Torre, Program Manager, and**  
**Nicola Ifill-Fraser and Diana Aleman, Program Coordinators**

The Health Ambassador Program started 3/16/21 to address equity gaps in the County in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The program began with a focus on providing equitable access to vaccines – which is really important to curbing mortality rates and decreasing the burden on the healthcare system. Members of the community were key to building trust with target populations. These ambassadors, trusted community connectors, provided information to impacted communities, and addressed misinformation and fears. Over the past year, the Ambassadors had over 6,000 community engagements!

Lessons learned from their engagements:

- \* The importance of community partnerships with community-based organizations to help address vaccine hesitancy, develop culturally competent messages, and assist with outreach efforts.
- \* Trust is an ongoing process and requires consistency.
- \* When they provide a clinic, setting dates and times that are convenient to those served and not as providers, and also choosing a place that the community trusts and uses is essential.

The program is based on a social and ecological model. For example, for someone with type 2 diabetes it is easy to point to a single cause like the person being overweight. The model says we should look at multiple factors such as weight, geography, access to healthcare, and cultural

considerations. This is the same approach that Ambassadors have taken to ensure equitable vaccine access.

As Covid-19 response changes so will the Ambassador role in general. One of the big things is to help people access services beyond vaccines and testing – such as rental assistance, food, and a variety of other essential areas. Another aspect is for Ambassadors to continue building public health skills and awareness of public health as a future career field.

Expansion efforts of the Ambassador Program are underway, which will be built on lessons learned and tied to additional funding or resources. Efforts are in partnership with community-based organizations and individuals who work in the communities in need. The program will adjust its focus on other areas and not just Covid-19 such as Adult Health, Behavioral Health, Specialty Health, and Young Adult Health. Current Ambassadors will work with Specialty Ambassadors to leverage activities across these programs.

Employment opportunities will be available, as the program is looking to hire four part-time employees.

“Specialty Health Ambassador” – These positions are for people who are regional center clients. They are part time at 20 hours/week, temporary position, pay variable \$18.59-\$20.10 based on education. Job seekers who want to help people with disabilities to get services and improve health are encouraged to apply. Lots of training and ongoing support will be provided to ensure that these ambassadors are prepared to go out in the community to do outreach work.

“Program Coordinator” – full time 40 hrs/week, \$38.74/hour, also a temporary contract. This position does not require applicants to be regional center a client, although clients are certainly encouraged to apply. The Coordinator works with current Health Ambassador Program Coordinators, creates specialized training and outreach materials, and writes reports, always reports!

Ernesto invited anyone who is interested to see the Ambassadors at work. They have a mobile vaccine clinic in Antioch every Tuesday 3:30-7 p.m. at the Cielo Supermarket. Stop by to see the clinic operation and what Ambassadors do.

Pam asked about how to apply and also commented on transportation difficulties for some individuals with I/DD. Ernesto explained one of the requirements is for Ambassadors to meet at various meeting spots. Meeting hubs are BART accessible. They are still working out details on the job postings – they are looking to accept applications in May and schedule interviews in June.

**Public Comment and Announcements:** There were no additional comments or announcements.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next meeting will be held on May 25, 2022 at 10:00 am. Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.</b></p>
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Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Aimee Vitug-Hom*  
VistAbility