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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 28, 2009**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Stephen Dale, Mindy Lee, Penny Musante, Kate Rauch, Carol Rossi, Will Sanford, Pat Yamamoto

Excused: Rosemary Almand, Suzanne Anthony, Lacey Friedman, Joseph Jimenez, Elree Langford, Carol McCrary, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks, Norma Ramos

Guests: Stephanie Chapralis, CCARC; Maggie Cox, RCEB; Joan Crook, CARE Parent Network; Francine Davis, RCEB; Gene Gracey, Mass Mutual Financial Group; Michael Hansen, MetLife; Lupe Henry, New Way Services; Alex Huezo, Pathway to Choices; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas; Rock Jocelyn, CCARC; Melanie Kilcorse, RCEB; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Joanne Nakamura, Congressman Miller's Office; Pam Perls; Jan Shapiro, RCEB; Heidi Spaulding, Alive, Full Circle & People First; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Juan Velasquez, Pathway to Choices

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Pamela Newachek, Acting Secretary

Welcome and Introductions Anne Long

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She welcomed all to the meeting and everyone present introduced him or herself.

Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2008 Town Hall Board Meeting - Meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Stephen Dale, second by Will Sanford)

Additions to the Agenda Area Board 5 Board position

Special Presentations

Darci Trill - Golden Sealers and Dental Health - Darci is a registered dental hygienist with a special license (Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice) that allows her to provide oral healthcare to people who cannot get to a dental office. Darci and her assistant travel to the client's home, group home or day program, set up a dental office, and clean and check teeth for oral cancer, signs of infection, decay or disease. As it has been shown that dental neglect is tied to major health problems, this service goes a long way toward improving the overall health of the consumer. Darci has been providing this service for 4 years, and has approximately 500 patients in both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. She received almost 50% of her funding through CARH, but with various budget reductions she is not sure what to expect in 2009. To learn more about services and payment structure call Darci at (510) 886-4199 or e-mail trilogy@sbcglobal.net.

- **Joan Crook and CARE Parent Network** - CARE Parent Network supports families of children with development disabilities from birth through 22 years old, and has been providing this service for 17 years. Though their early focus was on younger children, they now support a large base of family who have teenagers, and CARE is expanding to meet this need and is hoping to create a transition center. CARE has a staff of eight, including three bilingual staff. All information is provided in English and Spanish, and anyone can be referred to CARE. There is no fee for services as everything is 100% grant-funded, there is no waiting list, and the staff strives to return all calls within 24 hours. CARE provides family support, resources and referrals, early childhood connections, parent education and health care information and much more.

To find out more about CARE Parent Network call (925) 313-0999 or via the internet at www.careparentnetwork.org.



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Planning

Topic Planning A list of presentation topics from last year was distributed and reviewed. There are five topics remaining therefore; it was recommended that the staff continue to work on coordinating presentations on the remaining topics. It was also suggested that the following topics be added to the list:

- Proposition 10 What is available for families
- Mental Health Learning more about what services are available and ways to the connection between mental health and developmental disabilities
- Conservatorships-Learning more about what this means and how families of lower income can get help
- Changes in the Courts System and how it impacts individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their families
- Alliance for Justice-What can non-profits do to advocate at the state and federal level

Recruiting for Next Year - Gina reviewed the term of service for a board member, reminding members that it is a three year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms (6 years). At that point a one-year break in service is required before serving again on the board. The Council is a 21-person board that must include a minimum of 14 persons (2/3 its members) who either have a developmental disability or is a family member. Recommendations for next year's board will soon be taken, and everyone is encouraged to think of people who may be able to serve in this capacity.

Electronic Distribution of Meeting Minutes In an effort to become more environmentally green and be more cost effective with postage and printing costs, the Council meeting minutes will be distributed electronically via email. In order to facilitate the transition, a card is being mailed to each of the 500 people on the mailing list announcing this change requesting email addresses. Prompt completion and return of the card will be appreciated. We will still be able to offer mailed minutes for those who do not use the Internet.

Area Board 5 This board meets 5-6 times per year, and Heidi Spaulding and Pam Perls are our current representatives. A replacement is needed for Heidi who has dutifully served for the past 6 years. The only requirement is that the candidate either has a developmental disability or is a family member of a person with a developmental disability. The Council will recommend candidates to the Board of Supervisors, who makes the final appointment. Candidates do not need to be a member of the DD Council board. Please let Gina know if you are interested.

State Budget and RCEB Update Jim Burton

Jim gave a detailed outline of what is happening as of today with the California State Budget and the Governor's Proposals. He remarked that things change daily and it is important to stay connected to be informed as things change daily.

Current situation

- There is an expected \$41 billion dollar deficit. Last October, when the current budget was passed, the deficit was only between \$2 and \$3 billion.
- At this point, the only budget proposal under discussion is the Governor's.
- The Big Five is meeting and may agree on a budget this week.
- If a budget is not passed soon, California's credit rating may sink as no entity is willing to loan California funds
- Future revenues from income taxes are expected to be much lower.
- The basic problem is with the way the state establishes its budget; based on variable revenues and fixed (and growing) expenses. This is causing serious cash flow issues for the state to pay its bills.
- SSI will continue to be sent to consumers.
- DDS worked with Regional Centers to ensure that Regional Centers will receive their monthly funding early. RCEB will be able to pay their vendors for February and March. If there is no budget by the end of March, it will be more serious than just a cash flow problem.
- If there is a problem with paying vendors, RCEB will notify them as soon as possible.

Governor's Proposals

1. 3% across the board rate cut to Regional Centers (RC) and service providers, which is an approximate savings of \$150 million over 17 months. This is in addition to the \$300 million in cuts already in place due to frozen provider rates.
2. Unbudgeted case load growth. RCEB already has 2,500 consumers over last year, and the proposal is for no new funding for this increased caseload. There is concern that the RC system is growing too fast given growth in number of children with autism entering the system.



- The Director of DDS will work with RCs to balance the budget (with no new funding) without a budget deficiency at all 21 RCs . \$100-130 million is needed just to cover **current** growth.
- Jim noted concern that unbudgeted caseload growth is not consistent with the mandates of the Lanterman Act to serve all eligible consumers.
- 3. An addition \$334 million cut from the State s General Fund, which funds DDS services.
 - The Governor s proposal says it will cut \$334 million while preserving the entitlement and integrity of services by creating a group of stakeholders who will address how to implement the cuts which will require changes in laws and regulations.
 - Jim noted that due to losing matching federal funds for DD services, if state funds are cut, the **actual** cut (unallocated reduction) would be about \$500 million.
 - If this occurs, the Lanterman Act/Entitlement would, for all intents and purposes, be gone .
 - To put into perspective, to cut \$500 million from our system, **on top** of the 3% cut, and the cuts made in previous years, they would have to close 3 of the 21 regional centers and waiting lists will be common. Jim commented that This is the worst fiscal crisis I have seen in my 33 years in the system .

The Challenge

- Jim noted that having the legislative Town Hall on December 5th was strategic in communicating the effect of cuts on our community.
- We have to hope that we have done our advocacy work well over the years, so legislators recognize what the Governor has proposed is catastrophic .
- Jim noted that communicating this information to consumers and families is difficult since the updates change quickly but this really is shaping up to be a unique set of circumstances with potentially devastating outcomes that can affect people on many levels.
- He urged electronic communications with families as the fastest way to disseminate updates and proposed action. Consumers and families need to be educated on how to take action and our challenge will be how to organize.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee, Will Sanford - A sample letter to State legislators, along with the addresses of state and federal legislators was distributed. Everyone who felt compelled was encouraged to personalize the letter and send it to their appropriate representatives regarding the proposed cuts that Jim had just described. The Legislative Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of the month in Oakland. Contact Gina for more information if you would like to join the committee.

Transition Committee, Penny Musante - There were approximately 250 attendees at the January 6th Conference at DVC, and it went off without a hitch. This conference is a huge success and a true collaboration!

Family Support Committee Update - No report

Annual Dinner Planning Gina Jennings

Gina reminded the Board that this year the Annual Dinner meeting will be hosted by our Council in May or June, depending on the venue and the guest speaker s schedule as tradition holds. Volunteers will be needed. There will be a planning meeting in Berkeley next week.

Announcements

The Area Board 5 dinner is tomorrow, January 29.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is Wednesday, February 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary



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