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**CONTRA COSTA
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2008**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Rosemary Almand, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Stephen Dale, Betsy Katz, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Carol McCrary, Penny Musante, Carol Rossi, Will Sanford, Heidi Spaulding, Pat Yamamoto

Excused: Joseph Jimenez, Barbara Maizie, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks, Pam Perls, Norma Ramos, Kate Rauch, Peg Rimler, Barbara Sheehy, Rocio Smith, Diana Thomas, Elizabeth Wilson-Palmer

Guests: Karrie Baez, RCEB Supervisor; Amy Bishop, Genesis; Shay Boomer, RCEB; Nimfa Y. Coleman, M-HDP, Laura Corona, RCEB; Lacey Friedman, Parent and CCC Health Dept; Gene Gracey, Mass. Mutual Special Care; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored-Garden; Elizabeth Hales, RCEB; Michael Hansen, MetDesk; Chris Hanson, RCEB; Ching Ho, parent; Lynn Khauss, Futures Explored–Alive; B. Khosa, parent; Angie Lee, Futures Explores–Alive; Ella Ann Liggins, RCEB; Joanne Nakamura, Congressman George Miller’s Office; Janice Newsome, RCEB; Bob Royeton, Futures Explored; Jan Shapiro, RCEB; Jennifer Steneberg, the Dale Law Firm; Barbara Whitgob, Parent Futures Explored Board Member;

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

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed all to the meeting and everyone present introduced him or herself.

Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2008

Meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Carol McCrary, second by Elree Langford). Gina thanked Pamela for doing such an excellent job taking monthly minutes.

Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda

Special Presentation by Bob Royten – Future’s Planning Pilot Project , *The Future is Now*

This program is intended to encourage and educate families to begin planning early to be prepared for how their loved one should be assisted in the future, once they can no longer do so. The basic concept of this program is:

1. Develop a portrait of the family and the individual with a disability
2. Develop a letter of intent for the future
3. Develop a support network to support the individual when their parents/caregivers are gone.
4. Regularly review and update the letter of intent and the support network.

Key items discussed:

- Often, the most difficult part of this process is putting together a network that meets regularly. The average size of a support network is about eight people, and it takes about 2-3 years for the group to gel. The younger the consumer, the better. The trustee should always be invited to be part of the network.



- It is recommended that the letter of intent be sent to Regional Center in order to create interconnection between everyone involved, and that this letter be reviewed at the annual meeting.
- It is recommended that a letter of Last Instruction be written advising what should be done in the first hour, first day, etc. after the death of the caretaker.
- The next classes begin in two weeks, and will be held at different locations and times.
- This is a vendorized program that pays up to 39 hours per year @ \$30 per hour.
- Bob will be giving information talks to RCEB Case Managers and parents at facilities.
- For more information contact Bob at Futures Explored at 284-3240.

Nominating Committee

Lacey Friedman was nominated to fill the opening on the Board. Lacey was unanimously approved (motion by Will Sanford, second by Penny Musante).

Budget Update/ RCEB Update – Jim Burton

All mid-year cuts proposed by the governor in accordance with the rules of Prop. 58 were approved, except that the reduction to Supported Employment by 10% has not been acted upon yet.

All temporary cost containments were made permanent:

- Rate freeze
- Freeze for new programs, even though it is expected that 13,000 net new consumers will enter the system next year
- Regional Center staff salaries, and ratio of staff to consumers increased to 1:66.
- RCEB now has 120 days to send confirmation of services to consumers over the age of 3.
- Expansion of the parent cost portion based on income.
- Decreased the number of regional center staff involved with moving consumers from hospitals to group homes.

Updates to other programs

- Medi-cal received a 10% cut to provider rates.
- Good news - dental was not cancelled, ICF rates were not cut, and IHSS was not cut.
- Special education was cut 10%.
- SSI/SSP suspended COLA for five months.

Legislative Analyst

- Revenues expected to decrease in April, with the projected deficit to increase to \$16 billion.
- Has presented an alternative plan to Governor's 10% cuts.

Other items of discussion

- It is recommended that families speak in Sacramento on the impact of these cuts as we have a big challenge ahead of us.
- Term limits make it more difficult as we are losing some experienced legislators. Senator Steinberg supports our issues and will be playing a bigger part.

Regional Center East Bay

- Has adequate funds for 2007-2008; actually a better cash flow position than last year at this time.
- Still struggling with case management loads and working diligently to fill case management positions. There are currently ten vacant positions, which means about 660 consumers without a case manager.
- 540 new consumers were added last year, with 60% having autism.
- Mr. Richard Long was recognized for his years of service on the Board of Directors as Chairman, Treasurer and board member.

Annual Dinner – Gina Jennings

The dinner will be held in conjunction with Alameda County, and the committee is currently looking for a location in the Tri-Valley area. Dr. Wong of the UCSF Dental Program will be the keynote speaker. The dinner is expected to be held the last week in May or first week in June. Volunteers were requested to help with the Excellence in Service Awards, and the following volunteered: Heidi Spalding, Anne Long, Rosemary Almand, Carol Rossi, Ange Burnett, Nimfa Coleman and Penny Musante.



Committee Reports

Family Support – Betsy Katz

- Everyone is encouraged to read the summary sheet of federal cuts as related to children and family, written by *Family Voices of California*.
- On April 19 there will be an all-day program at DVC for the parents of young children with autism. This is the first in Contra Costa County, and parent scholarships are available.
- The committee has decided to focus on residential living options for those in transition.

Legislative Committee – Will Sanford

- There are 5 new bills being discussed. AB 2424 authored by Beall is the “transition bill” regarding education and employment. A summary sheet was distributed.
- The next Legislative breakfast is April 18.
- ARCA Grassroots Day is March 5 – Gina will send letter to Legislature.

Transition Committee – Penny Musante

- Over 290 attended the January Conference, and planning has begun for next year’s conference.
- There will be a West County Fair on April 12 on autism.
- The committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month in this room.

Aging – Anne Long

No report

East Bay Autism Campaign

The parent resource Guide has been updated and translated into Spanish and Chinese, and is available on the DD Council website in English and Spanish.

Board/Community Concerns

There is continuing concern about the length of commute for consumers and that there is often no service available for Early Intervention programs. A board member and parent Rosemary Almand brought this concern forth.

Announcements

- The March meeting will have a speaker on Medical Services through Medi-cal Part D.
- Ange Burnett mentioned there is a conference on March 8 at DVC for childcare providers and parents. There will be a special needs session. Go to cocokids.org for more information.
- Stephen Dale mentioned he has new DVD’s on conservatorships and trustees.

Adjournment – Anne Long

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2008.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary

