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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
March 24, 2010**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Stephen Dale, Lacey Friedman, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Ella Liggins, Barbara Maizie, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura, Kate Rauch, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spalding

Board Members Excused: Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Stephanie Chapralis, Joan Crook, Donna Mann, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks, Norma Ramos, Carol Rossi

Guests: Lita Guerrero, CIWP, Richmond; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Lia Munoz, District Representative for Senator DeSaulnier; Stan Schmidt, CIWP, Hayward; Steven Scheer, parent; Pam Thomas, RCEB

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

Welcome and Introductions – Anne Long

Chair Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. All present introduced him/herself.

Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved with the following two corrections:

- The Respite Inn has served approximately **700** families, not ‘70’ (first line under *Respite Inn*)
- John Rumsey is the **Executive Director** of Marin Ventures, not the ‘Ex-Director’ (first line under *Special Presentation*)

Motion made by Stephen Dale, second by Ella Liggins.

**Special Presentation – Senator DeSaulnier’s Senate Select Committee on Autism
Rocio Smith and Liz Munoz**

The Senate Autism Committee has been established in order to promote policies and legislation to better assist individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. The Committee is focused on addressing four important issues that are related to this disorder: evaluation and treatment for children at an early age; ensure private health plans do their fair share to provide medically necessary services; access to adequate employment opportunities; and the development and expansion of appropriate and affordable housing.

The Senators who comprise this Committee have appointed 12 Autism Regional Taskforces that consist of consumers, families, advocates and autism experts. These Taskforces, which represent some of the foremost leaders in the field of ASD, are working with the Committee to provide recommendations that will improve the outcomes for individuals with ASD, and their families, during the current economic crisis. Senator Mark DeSaulnier accepted his appointment to the Committee and formed a regional taskforce.

Rocio Smith and Jim Burton co-chair our local taskforce, East Bay Autism Regional Taskforce (EBART). Rocio acknowledged and thanked Lia for all her help as she keeps EBART well coordinated and updated.



Committee Reports

Legislation – Rocio Smith

Rocio reminded the Board that East Bay Legislative Coalition (EBLC) meets monthly on the 1st Wednesday of the month in Oakland at 10:00 a.m. This coalition is made of members of Alameda and Contra Costa DD Councils and other interested individuals. The East Bay Legislative Committee is recommending the following positions on the following bills:

State Legislation:

- SB – 1282: Support in Principle – Legislation that would provide for the certification of applied behavioral analysis therapists. (Steinberg)
- SB – 1283: Support in Principle – Legislation to provide clarification on the duties imposed upon health care service plans and health insurers to provide medically necessary services for the diagnosis and treatment of autism. (Steinberg)
- SB – 1256: Support – Legislation would proclaim January 23 as Ed Roberts Day, having special significance in public schools and educational institutions, and would encourage commemorative exercises. (Hancock) *Gina Jennings reported that action on behalf of the Board was taken as she had already sent a letter of endorsement/recommendation on behalf of the Council in support of SB 1256, as it was being heard in committee earlier in the week.*

Federal Legislation:

- HR 1675: Support – Legislation would improve the program for supportive housing for persons with disabilities – Christopher Murphy – Connecticut (This would ensure vouchers stay with the program, increase dollars for extremely low income and authorize those dollars thru 2014.)
- HR 4247: Support in Principle – Legislation to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools. George Miller – California (new legislation, want to see details.)

Transition Committee – Penny Musante

- The Transition Task Force has had wonderful speakers/topics for the last two months: Fragile X, and Club House Inc. Next month's topic is 'Mindful Schools'. The committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 3:15 p.m. at RCEB in Concord.
- The West County Transition Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Vista Hills School in Richmond.

Family Support – Lacey Friedman

Lacey has been doing research on how to best support families after the initial diagnosis and help keep the family intact, and now needs assistance in determining how best to get this information to the parents. She is asking for two or more volunteers. Heidi Spalding, Kate Rauch and Ella Liggins have offered assistance.

Budget Update/RCEB Update – Jim Burton

- The extension of the 3% reduction for an additional year was approved in Special Session and signed into law by the Governor.
- The IHSS 'trigger', suggested by Gov. Schwarzenegger, was rejected by the legislature.
- We are waiting for the May budget revision with hopes that the revenue differential will be less than expected.
- The report on the plan to close Lanterman Development Center in Pomona is due April 1.
- The Budget Advisory Group (BAG) will be meeting again in April, formerly called the Stakeholders Group.
- About \$1 million (of the promised \$1.6 million for the Department of Developmental Services) for the new "Preventative" program that began in October has been received. Alameda First 5 is providing additional financial assistance, and Barbara Maizie is working with Contra Costa First 5 for similar assistance.
- Regional Center of the East Bay's has almost enough information to project the POS budget for the future. It appears that cuts that have been implemented are working financially; however, the service cuts will continue to affect families negatively. There is continued serious concern about the narrow categorization of Early Start, camps and respite care, and its effect on consumers and families.



- The focus of Grass Roots Day on Tuesday, May 25 is to impart the impact of recent cuts on consumers and their families. Assemblyman Chesbro will become the new Budget Chair, and recently visited homes designed under SB 962 for consumers with significant medical needs. It was noted that the wages for the staff in these homes are based on current wages, and two of the homes report there has been no turnover of staff during the last 18 months.
- The RCEB move went well, and all 260 staff are in their new office. The only significant glitch was with the internet. The main phone number remains the same, however all extensions have changed. An extension referral has been added to direct callers to the new extensions.

Review Draft Mission Statement – Gina Jennings

Gina Jennings and Kate Rauch distributed five similar drafts of the mission statement. After much discussion, the following Mission Statement was unanimously approved. Motion made by Heidi Spalding, second by Stephen Dale. Kate will check with a grammarian to ensure that the grammar is correct.

“The mission of the Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County is to advocate for and promote the coordination, improvement, and growth of services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.”

Annual Dinner – Gina Jennings

The 21st Annual Award Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 at Scott’s in Jack London Square. The Keynote Speaker is Alex Briscoe, Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Nominations for Excellence in Service Awards must be submitted by March 31 at 4:00 p.m. Gina requested volunteers for a Nomination Committee whose responsibilities are two-fold: (1) help determine the Excellence in Service Award winners, and (2) recommend nominations for next year’s DD Council board. Names of volunteers included Suzanne Anthony, Dwayne Cooper, Anne Long, Carol Anne McCrary and Heidi Spalding.

Announcements

- The Transition Options Program (TOPS) has not been cut by the MDUSD, and will be starting its next Quarter on April 13 at Loma Vista Adult Center. This program is for adults age 18 and above who have a primary diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome, have exited the K-12 school system, and have a high school diploma.
- Congreso Familiar Conference is scheduled for Saturday, August 14 from 8:30 a.m.to 4:00 p.m. at Chabot College in Hayward.
- Area Board needs recommendations of self-advocates who have demonstrated leadership, courage, etc. They will be recognized on June 2, 2010 and the Carlos Quintong Leadership Award nominations must be in by April 12. Call Area Board for more info. at (510) 286-0439.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck
Acting Secretary

Snacks to be provided by Anne Long at the April meeting.

