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**CONTRA COSTA  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING  
September 23, 2009**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Anne Long-Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Jim Burton, Stephanie Chapralis, Dwayne Cooper, Joan Crook, Stephen Dale, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Ella Liggins, Barbara Maizie, Donna Mann, Carol McKinney, Norma Ramos, Kate Rauch, Will Sanford, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spalding.

**Excused:** Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Lacey Friedman, Penny Musante, Lauri Parks, Pam Perls, Peg Rimler, Carol Rossi, Barbara Sheehy, Elizabeth Wilson-Palmer.

**Guests:** Ana Araujo, Head Start; Francine Davis, RCEB; J. H. Dethero, Parent; Pat Hunt, Parent; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas; Melanie Kilcorse, RCEB; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Angie Lee, ALIVE Concord; Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Joseph Partansky, CA for Disability Rights/ADAPT; Craig Rose, Community Integrated Work Program Antioch.

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

**Welcome and Introductions – Anne Long**

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2009 Special Meeting** - Meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Motion made by Will Sanford and seconded by Joan Crook.

**Additions to the Agenda** – No additions were made.

**New Board Member Introductions**

Four of the five new board members gave a brief description of their background and experience with developmental disabilities. Heidi Spalding, a consumer who has been on the board many times over the past years, did not give a description as she is well known among the board members.

Stephanie Chapralis – Special Projects Coordinator at Contra Costa ARC

Ella Liggins – Associate Director of Community Services at RCEB

Joan Crook – Director of CARE Parent Network

Donna Mann – Emergency Planning Coordinator for Special Populations with Public Health, Contra Costa County

Suzanne Anthony, currently in her third year, has accepted the responsibility of Vice Chair for the DD Council. Suzanne is a parent of a 17 year old son diagnosed with autism.

**Planning Session (Topic and Areas)**

The Board discussed the possible need for a Board Retreat. From the discussion held it seemed that there was a need to go forward on planning a full Board Retreat for November or early December. Gina will follow up will all on the details as they unfold.



■ Contra Costa Community Substance Abuse Services ■ Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services ■ Contra Costa Environmental Health ■ Contra Costa Health Plan ■  
■ Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs ■ Contra Costa Mental Health ■ Contra Costa Public Health ■ Contra Costa Regional Medical Center ■ Contra Costa Health Centers ■

There was a brainstorming session on what areas or topics the Board would like to hear/learn more about in the next twelve weeks. The topics were posted around the room, and at the end of the meeting everyone was given four sticker “dots” and asked to put them by the four topics that most interested them. The following are the topics listed:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Swine Flu – H1N1                    | Project Search Update                                   |
| Legislative Advocacy                | Developments in Respite and Camps                       |
| Conservatorships                    | Future Trends – policy and economy                      |
| Accommodations                      | Generic supports for families – what’s left?            |
| Joint meeting with NAMI             | Writing grants and fundraising                          |
| Early Start changes                 | Mark DeSaulnier-Senate Select Committee on Autism       |
| Track impacts of latest budget cuts | What is the best way to get info to DD Community?       |
|                                     | What is the role of DD Council when action is required? |

### **Budget Update/RCEB Update – Jim Burton**

#### State Overview

- The reality is that the budget crisis could get worse next year as the shortfall for next fiscal year may increase from \$15 billion to \$21 billion as revenues continue to be less than anticipated. In January, the 2010-11 budget will be introduced and we may expect additional cuts.
- Federal monies will be expiring, which will increase the imbalance between revenues and spending on the state level.
- Advocacy efforts need to be increased. It is **CRITICAL** that families and consumers make themselves heard as tough decisions continue to be made.

#### RCEB Update

- Regional Centers across the state have been responsible for implementing the budget cuts; however, they were given no real plan of how to accomplish the goals. It has been a very difficult seven weeks as many new laws became effective immediately, which didn’t allow for careful planning at annual meetings.
- The fair hearing process is in place, and about 70 hearings have begun.
- The following areas have been seriously impacted:
  - Respite
  - Camps and Social Recreation programs
  - Early Start – a new Prevention Program has been put in place, however, Regional Centers is awaiting the budget for the program
  - Medi-Cal Optional Benefits
- The **Individual Choice Budget** is a new model that allows more choice within a constrained budget. There are very few details out on this, but it appears that it may become a major shift in how services are provided and Jim strongly suggested that we all stay informed about this as it unfolds.
- Jim reiterated the importance of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to continue all advocacy efforts and again underscored the projection that next year may be worse than last. Barbara Maizie commented that AB 1260, the recent failed legislature that was put forth to counteract some of the issues we are facing, emphasizing some changes that could be made in the new 1:8 senior program regulation and respite care cuts. She mentioned that though many organizations and families were supporting the bill, DDS was opposed it, and made reference to the legislature that most of the sponsoring organizations were service providers inferring that families were managing the cuts and providers were looking out for their own interest. Given this shift in the political arena, Barbara suggested that it comes down to the families having the only political muscle left and they must learn to flex it.

### **Announcements**

- January 6, 2010: Annual Transition Conference at Diablo Valley College
- January 22 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Town Meeting with local representatives at the State Building
- CC County Public Health Dept. will be providing free drive-up/walk-up swine (H1N1) and seasonal flu shots in November from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For details go to [www.cchealth.org](http://www.cchealth.org)
  - November 7- Penney’s at Hilltop Mall
  - November 14 - Somersville Town Center in Antioch
  - November 21 - Ygnacio Valley High School in Concord
  - November 21 - San Ramon (location to be determined)



## **Committee Reports**

### **Legislation**

- Will Sanford reported that after compiling the data from their survey, DDS has decided on the four additional mandated non-paid days: the day after Thanksgiving, the day before and after Christmas, and Columbus Day. However, due to time constraints this fiscal year, we will be taking April 5 off instead of Columbus Day. Help is needed in getting this information out to all families.
- AB 287 is on the Governor's desk to sign.
- Both Democrats and Republicans support AB 1260.

### **Transition Committee**

- No report

### **Family Support**

- No report

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Next meeting is October 28, 2009

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

*Pamela Newacheck*

Pamela Newacheck  
Acting Secretary



2009-10 SNACK SCHEDULE

November 2009:

January 2010:

March 2010:

April 2010:

May 2010:

June 2010:

