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**CONTRA COSTA
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DEVELOPMENTAL
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 28, 2007**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Joseph Jimenez, Betsy Katz, Mindy Lee, Carol McCrary, Carol McKinney, Penny Musante, Pam Perls, Carol Rossi, Will Sanford, Barbara Sheehy, Heidi Spaulding

Excused: Rosemary Almond, Wilson Barfield, Ian Bremner, Dwayne Cooper, Stephen Dale, Elree Langford, Barbara Maizie, Elizabeth Wilson Palmer, Lauri Parks, Norma Ramos, Kate Rauch, Peg Rimler, Rocio Smith, Diana Thomas, Pat Yamamoto

Guests: Laura Corona, RCEB; Joan Crook, CARE Parent Network; Lacey Friedman, Parent and CCCH Health Services Hazardous Materials; Gene Gracey, Massachusetts Mutual; Alany Helmantoler, parent; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas, Inc.; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Jim Matyas, 2-1-1 Contra Costa; Mark Melanson, Toolworks

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

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all to the meeting and everyone present introduced him or herself.

Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2007

Meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Carol McCrary, second by Will Sanford).

Additions to the Agenda:

Alany Helmantoler would like to discuss her challenge to members of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District School Board to sit in a wheelchair for 20 minutes.

Board Community Concerns/Unmet Service Needs

- Will Sanford mentioned that Lonnie Hancock was holding a Transportation Forum on Friday, November 30 at 1:00 p.m., 5714 Martin Luther King Drive. We need to bring our transportation issues to this forum, especially with regard to the significant access issues in our county. Penny Musante mentioned that civil and human rights issues are action words being used when discussing transportation issues that individuals face.
- Alany Helmantoler mentioned that MDUSD is making cuts to Special Education, which will increase the number of children per classroom.
- Betsy Katz mentioned there is an increased level of concern regarding transition in the Antioch/Pittsburg area.

Special Presentation by Barbara Sheehy: California Child Services (CCS): Overview of Service

California Child Services (CCS) is a part of CCC Public Health located in Martinez. It is a statewide program administered by each county. It began as a response to the polio epidemic, and now serves children with a significant or chronic illness or disability. It provides services to approximately 3,000 children in CCC between birth



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■ Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs ■ Contra Costa Mental Health ■ Contra Costa Public Health ■ Contra Costa Regional Medical Center ■ Contra Costa Health Centers ■

and their 21st birthday. The only residential criterion is that the parents pay rent in California. Referrals can come from teachers, parents, physicians, etc. If eligible, the child will become part of the system. There are a number of families in both CCS and RCEB, and these two agencies have memorandums of understanding in place outlining their respective responsibilities. CCS often works closely with CARE Parent Network to help families/parents navigate the systems, and with public schools by attending IEP meetings. CCS also provides equipment for clients up to age 21, and their goal is to assist families with transition issues. There are two branches of CCS:

1. Medical/case management – this service is based on financial need. The general requirement is that a family cannot earn more than \$40,000 or they are spending 20% or more of their income on child's medical costs. This program oversees the case, ensuring that the family receives all the services they are entitled to.
2. Medical therapy program – this service provides direct care with an O.T. or P.T., and is located at five sites (public schools) within the county. This service is available to all, and is NOT based on financial need.

Special Presentation by Jim Matyas: 2-1-1, a Program of the Contra Costa Crisis Center

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has been offering suicide/grief counseling for twenty years, and has over 200 trained, empathetic volunteers manning their phones. They have recently been awarded the "2-1-1" phone number to provide health and human services information around the clock. The 2-1-1 number can be accessed from any land line currently, and they are working with cell phone companies to join. There are over 5,000 organizations listed in their database that is easily accessible and organized so their volunteers can quickly and efficiently find the help a caller needs. They provide three very important services:

1. Simplify the process of "navigating the sea" of health and human services information that is available. They can provide information in over 140 languages.
2. Advocate on behalf of the caller if the caller is unable to do it personally.
3. Handle calls during an emergency/disaster. They work closely with FEMA, Red Cross, Office of Emergency Services, etc. in order to provide the most current information with regard to evacuation routes, shelters, how to donate, etc. They are currently working to locate agencies in the area that will act as shelters/shelter managers for people with developmental disabilities during an emergency.

The public launch of this phone number is on February 11, 2008. Organizations can go to cccord.org to confirm they are in the database, and that their information is correct. Contact the Crisis Center with any updates, corrections, etc. The Crisis Center is continually identifying gaps in information and is working hard to cover these gaps and maintain accurate information.

The topic was raised of how the DD Council can provide expertise during an emergency. Ideas mentioned were:

- Serving as shelter managers.
- Helping the County take the needs of people with developmental disabilities into consideration when planning for emergency services.

It was recommended that there be a round table discussion in January regarding this effort. Gina Jennings will work on getting a group together from the Council to look at how we can help in the mentioned areas.

Committee Reports

Family Support & Unmet Needs Committee Update – Betsy Katz

In order to determine the next steps to be taken in this arena, a meeting will take place on December 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room at CCARC in Martinez. The goal is to choose one or two action steps to begin working on. Reminder to RSVP to Betsy if plan to attend.

Legislation Committee – Will Sanford

- Information still being gathered regarding modernizing the Lanterman Act. Two key staffers are leaving on December 1, which may slow progress. One additional hearing is scheduled in L.A.



- The next meeting is January 15, 2008, in Barbara Garcia's office, 1000 Broadway in Oakland.

Transition Task Force – Penny Musante

- The Transition Conference will be January 8, 2008, at DVC.

Aging Committee – Anne Long

Nothing new to report, the pilot project with Futures Explored is going well.

East Bay Autism Committee – Gina Jennings

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2008, after the Legislative Committee Meeting in Barbara Garcia's office, 1000 Broadway in Oakland.

RCEB Update – Jim Burton

- The state budget deficit is increasing due to decreased housing sales and related tax revenue reductions. The deficit is anticipated to go from \$3 billion to at least \$12 billion, which creates significant challenges for legislators.
- Our goal MUST be to educate new legislators to the challenges being faced due to freezes in rates and new programs.
- The Governor's budget will be published in mid-January and it is expected that due to the States financial challenges and the current cost containment measures and the freeze on start up funding that services to individuals with developmental services may be even eroded further. Jim reported that Department of Developmental Services has been asked to report to the Legislature on what impact budget reductions would have at 5%, 10% and 15%. We should expect this to be a tough budget year and once January comes and the budget is released will have a better understanding of how bad it may be. This will be a central topic of our January meeting.

Announcements

- Policies and policymakers would like to give a presentation at our January meeting.

Addition to Agenda

Alany Helmantoler is petitioning the MDUSD to finish re-paving all the school playgrounds. Her goal is to have 1,000 signatures on the petition to present to the board on December 11th. She is asking that the School Board spend 20 minutes in a wheelchair to experience difficulties involved in maneuvering on playgrounds with bark.

Adjournment – Anne Long

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2008. Snacks to be provided by Sandra Jackson.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

Pamela Newacheck
Acting Secretary

