

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
January 26, 2022

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; Rosa Valledor, Chair; Leslie Werosh-Visbal, Vice-Chair; Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iverson; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado; Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Audrua Sysum; Kimberli Buckley; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls

Guests: Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Mirna Leal, RCEB; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Gabriela Solval, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Isela Benavides; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services; Ben Chen, Alameda County DD Council; Barbara Saylor, VistAbility; Sakeara Hasani, Office of Congressman DeSaulnier; Patricia Harris, One Step Closer, Inc.; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Alejandra Sanchez, Senior Field Rep for Assemblymember Tim Grayson; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Joanne Funtilla, Cocokids; Kristina Jensen, Liberty Union HS District; Troy Russell, Adaptive Learning Center; Jennifer Quallick, Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Candace Andersen's team; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Michelle Mankewich, CSB Head Start

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:02AM. Since this was a Zoom meeting, all guests were asked to sign-in the Chat. Board attendance was taken, and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Rosa also welcomed all the Spanish speaking families in attendance and thanked Luis for interpreting for them. Vi invited attendees to select their interpretation preference – Spanish or English so that questions or comments can be responded to accordingly.

The meeting minutes of November 17, 2021 were approved, unanimously with no corrections (M/Leslie Werosh-Visbal, S/Craig Rose). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa reported an uptick of Covid-19 cases. As of the end of December, 483 cases have been reported to RCEB since the start of Covid. Most who tested positive were vaccinated and many were boosted. There have been only two hospitalizations, which is a positive during this surge. Schools, and RCEB and service provider staffing issues remain a concern.

This year's budget is a good budget with new incentives for regional centers. Lisa noted:

- It proposes case management positions, implementing 25% of the full rate adjustment, and adds an initiative for children ages 1-5 years old to be served at a case management ratio of 1:40.
- The initiative for the 1–5-year-olds can be attributed to CA Health and Human Services Secretary Ghaly's focus on children's services. It is exciting while daunting at the same time with at least 100 case management positions to backfill.

A community meeting on social recreation and non-medical therapies will be held Friday, February 11, 2022, at 1 pm. The Board approved the new Purchase of Service policy and will share it with the community. Case managers will be trained as well. The goal is to make sure that everyone has access to social recreation activities.

At the State level:

- There is a lot of work being done on Regional Center performance incentives, measurements, and performance incentive payments.
- Work groups are developing quality indicators for service providers. The last 10% of the fully funded rate increases in 2024-25 will be tied to some measures. It is a work in progress.

On the rate study implementation:

- Regional Centers must provide verification of current provider rates to Burns & Associates and DDS. Then, Burns & Associates must update the rates to reflect current wages, salaries, and costs for each region. It is a very individualized process, and it could take until April to be certain about everyone's rates.
- The Lanterman Coalition is looking at how the rate adjustments can be accelerated, given the budget surplus, economic realities, and staffing issues.
- It has been over 10 years since rate changes of this size have been a possibility!

Lastly, there will be public meetings held in March as part of an annual requirement for input on service expenditure data. There will be eight meetings, and two will offer translation in any language requested with one-week advance notice.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Sheraden Nicholau:

Gabriela filled in for Sheraden who was unable to attend. She introduced herself as the new ADPA serving in state planning work. Previously, she was a case manager and worked closely with the disparity reduction program for Regional Center community members.

SCDD continues to support community groups in securing PPE for people with disabilities, their families, and support staff. Send an email to Sheraden if your organization has a need.

They are advocating for more access to at-home testing. If you haven't already, visit [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) to order the four free antigen tests available per household.

All upcoming SCDD meetings are listed in the Chat.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Until further notice, DD Council meetings will continue Zoom. There is no word on when this can change, at this time. Rosa gave a special thank you to Open House for doing vaccinations – her son benefitted from it!

The Outreach group is working on a flyer to help with DD Council membership recruitment.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi thanked Dan Hogue and the Las Trampas team for organizing a recent booster clinic.

She is getting fewer calls from a health department standpoint. If you have a need, don't hesitate to contact her!

Vi reminded guests to include their names in the Chat to record attendance.

Also, a survey is being shared by Contra Costa Behavioral Health. They are looking for input from the community to direct future funding from the mental health services act. Mental health comes up a lot and it is important to get input from our community. The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete and demographical information is kept anonymous. See the Chat for links in Spanish and English.

Donna Feingold commented that she sat in on the County's "A3" program (crisis program) and wondered how well I/DD is represented in the emergency crisis unit. Vi will find out if there is representation and follow-up with the Council.

Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum: Rosa reported for Audrua in her absence. She was excited to announce a new member nomination: Christine Rottger! Christine is the Director of Children's Services at VistAbility and, in working with the younger population, will help round out diversity on the Council.

Christine thanked the Council. Her entire professional life has been in early intervention both at VistAbility and in Chicago where she worked in a hospital setting with a lot of medically fragile kids.

A motion was made to nominate Christine to the DD Council (M/Leslie Werosh-Visbal, S/Donna Feingold). Christine was voted in unanimously. Welcome Christine!

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

Vi reported on the meeting of 1/24/22. The presentation was of interest – a pilot project called "One Seat" that endeavors to improve passenger experience. In the pilot, it allows for a passenger to get on one vehicle and not have to make transfers; the idea being to reduce long trip times, transfers, and downtime. There are some drawbacks to the rollout, and it is not clear if there will be ongoing funding.

The Paratransit Coordinating Council will meet on March 31, 2022, at 2 pm. If you would like to attend or know anyone interested, let Vi know.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford):

Will reported on the following:

On the Federal front, the "Build Back Better" is the second key piece of the President's plan, which is currently tagged with a \$1.75 trillion price tag. Building infrastructure for key services – education, long-term care, etc. – has been shelved due to lack of votes.

At the State level, there are some changes in legislative representation – Assemblymember Jim Frazier is no longer a sitting member. Also, with the redistricting comes a special election that will be held in February in current districts. Then, members will have to run again in the revised districts.

Key meeting dates (all on Zoom):

- EBLC Townhall meeting on January 28, 2022, tentatively from 10-11:30 am. All are welcome.
- Regular EBLC meeting on February 2, 2022, 10 am – 12 pm. Topics will include budget review and initial new bill screening. Everyone is welcome! Contact Vi to get the invite email.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol McCrary):

In Carol's absence, Aimee reported on the D/AFN Steering Committee meeting that was held on January 24, 2022:

- Julie Cavallero, currently the County's only Emergency Planning Coordinator was introduced.
- Upcoming exercises include a tabletop exercise on March 15, 2022, and a region-wide exercise for transportation on May 19, 2022. Another exercise with a flood scenario is also being planned.
- An Emergency Preparedness grant request for proposals is open and due February 11, 2022. For details, go to www.crhmro.org/CAER. Let Carol or Aimee know if you have ideas or suggestions.
- Anna Kornfield is the new PSPS (Public Safety Power Shutoff) Care Coordinator for the Contra Costa Crisis Center/211. Natalie Maier is the American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager.
- Emergency planning ideas for the coming year include mental health, complying with new regulations, participating in exercises, and preparing emergency messaging in a variety of requested languages including Russian and Bulgarian.

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

Donna announced that a HireAble monthly meeting is scheduled for today at 3 pm (see link in Chat). They are excited to talk about innovative programs in their areas where they successfully helped to transition folks out of employment programs. Working with the Department of Rehabilitation can be a barrier to employment; the conversation will be on new ways to do employment in our area. Providers who don't traditionally provide employment services are encouraged to look at what was done in Central Valley.

There is \$10 million in grant money at Department of Rehabilitation to incentivize employers to hire people with I/DD and DDS also has grant money. The question is how these monies can be used to increase employment opportunities.

Transition Taskforce (Becky Wieringa)

Becky reminded everyone that the Transition Taskforce meets every third Thursday of the month at 3:15 pm over zoom (see link in Chat). Recent topics included SDP. Please join if you are interested in learning more or have "on the ground" stories to share with others.

The Taskforce wants us to know the Transition Taskforce Guide is continually updated. There is a link in the Guide to submit updates or corrections. (See link in Chat.)

Another big focus is transition fair planning. The Taskforce has had to readjust because students and parents need information even as the pandemic continues. They are looking to plan a Central County fair and moving forward with school district partners in East and West Counties.

Becky announced that Rose Casarez of RCEB agreed to co-chair! She is an awesome addition – Rose has been on the taskforce for a while now and is excited about taking this leadership opportunity.

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen):

The Committee did not meet in January and will now be meeting bi-monthly. The next meeting will be held February 8, 2022, at 1 pm. Contact Marianne if interested in attending.

Contra Costa Health Services: Meera Sreenvivasan, MD

Dr. Meera introduced herself as one of the newer deputy health officers whose main role is a TB medical consultant and communicable disease controller for the County.

She reported on the latest Covid-19 information:

- There was a recent surge in cases, but the good news is we are now starting to see a decrease in cases.
- Those who are unvaccinated continue to have the highest rate of becoming infected and being hospitalized.
- As of January 25th, there were 281 people hospitalized. While case rates are starting to drop, hospitalizations are not yet peaking. This is to be expected, as there tends to be a lag with hospitalization rates as compared to case rates.
- The County is doing a great job with vaccinations – almost 80% of the population is vaccinated and of those approximately 50% have received a booster.
- The current health order still requires masking indoors and showing proof of vaccination or a negative test to enter restaurants and gyms. Right now, this order is scheduled to lift around February 15th if the following is met:
 - Less than 75 people in the hospital
 - Transmission rates are in the yellow tier as set by the CDC
 - 80% of County residents are fully vaccinated

The County has updated its isolation guidance, which is in line with the CDC. For a positive case, stay home for at least 5 days and re-test at day 5. If the test result

is negative, isolation can end but the person should continue to mask up for 5 more days regardless of vaccination status.

Quarantining is different than isolation. It means someone has been exposed to someone with Covid-19. There is no need to quarantine, if up to date on vaccinations (fully vaccinated and, if eligible for the booster, has received the booster). The person should get tested on day 5 after the exposure and wear a mask for 10 days. If unvaccinated, the County advises you quarantine at home and test at 5 days following the exposure. Quarantine can end with a negative test and no symptoms.

Other information:

- 12 years old and up are eligible for the booster and should get it. There is lots of data that shows the booster provides additional protection against Omicron.
- The booster is not available to the 5–11-year-old age group. They are still waiting to hear on approval; Pfizer is possibly submitting approval for it in February.

Stephen Dale asked for clarification on public places that are not subject to the mask mandate. Dr. Meera advised best practice is to wear a mask whether gathering at someone else's home or attending a convention.

Rosa Valledor inquired about the County giving out home tests. There are many households with more than one family living in it as well as several addresses with additional dwelling units on the same property but with one address. Dr. Meera hasn't heard of plans - there is not a program to provide local antigen tests because supplies are not guaranteed right now.

Rosa also asked to clarify "fully vaccinated". The CDC differentiates between fully vaccinated and up to date:

- Fully vaccinated still means 2 doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 1 dose of the Johnson & Johnson.
- Up to date means you are booster eligible and have received the booster dose.

**Presentation: Making Sense of the Proposed DDS Budget
Presented by Will Sanford, EBLC Co-Chair**

Before starting the presentation, Will shared that Secretary Ghaly extended the booster deadline for service providers from February 1st to March 1st due to supply problems. In the next few weeks, it is anticipated the Governor will sign a bill to provide two weeks of supplemental Covid-related sick time, retroactive to January 1st. The funding side of it is a big challenge.

Will provided a comprehensive presentation on the Governor's January budget proposal, which includes a helpful glossary of key terms.

Highlights from the presentation include:

- Sessions are just getting started since the release of the budget
- There is a projected \$45.7 billion surplus
- The Governor's top priorities include fighting Covid-19, combatting the climate crisis (wildfires, drought), confronting homelessness, tackling the cost of living, and keeping streets safe.
- First bills coming in for this session are still being identified including AB1663 that looks at conservatorship and supported decision making.
- Proposition 98 requires the State to spend 40% of General Fund expenditures on grades K through 14 (community college).
- The good news in the long term is \$31 billion in reserve funds.

On the proposed DDS budget:

- \$1.48 billion more to be spent in our system! 86 cents of every dollar are spent in our system – a good chunk of general fund money.
- Subminimum wage phase-out seems to leave out considerations for employment and day program vendors
- Purchase of Services will grow almost \$800 million to support community services for new clients. Over 50% of every dollar spent is to support people living in the community.
- Policy support is needed in the implementation of significant spending on new case managers to meet the case ratio. As part of the Performance Incentive Program, 900 case managers will be funded to reduce the overall ratio to 66:1.
- In the Early Start area, \$51 million is towards reducing caseloads for children up to age 5. This is huge. Regional Centers will need to hire.
- Service provider rate reform is a massive undertaking, with a full year of additional cost to implement the first 25% of fully funded rates.
- A big one is starting to modernize IT systems developed in the mid-1980's.
- There are no more residents in the state developmental centers, but monies need to be spent to maintain the facilities.
- The Family Resource Center has been receiving the same funding for the past 10 years.
- \$83 million for the Self-Determination Program, double what is being spent this year.

EBLC is asking DDS for the following, to:

1. Accelerate the funding of the rate models – move the second increase scheduled for 7/2023 up to this year effective 4/1/2022.

2. Ensure flexibility and participant safety by maintaining Alternative Services and updating rates.
3. Update the Core Staffing Formula (set in 1992!) to meet required Regional Center case management ratios and reflect the current economic climate.
4. Invest in technology and modify statute as necessary to increase the flexibility of supports to promote independence for those served.
5. Include individuals with I/DD into all low-income housing development options.

Bill Pelter commented on the long-term need for accessible transportation and inquired about the budget. Will can look to see if there is any to track (there is infrastructure for high-speed rail).

Rosa Valledor reminded everyone that it is not too late to register for the EBLC Townhall meeting. Spanish interpretation, ASL and captioning will be available. See link in Chat.

Donna Feingold noted that it looks like there is an increase in spending for the developmental centers and recalled past discussions about selling off properties. Lisa Kleinbub responded that the idea of getting any monies from a selloff of SDC is not going to happen. Some of the development that may happen may include some inclusive units.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Announcements: A round of congrats was given to Christine Rottger, the Council's newly nominated Board member! Also, Rosa reminded everyone how to save the Chat to access all the great information and resources shared at the meetings.

Information from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities shared in Chat:

- The next special education series in Spanish will be held on February 7, 2022
- Employment First Committee Meeting will be on February 10, 2022
- Statewide SDP Advisory Committee will meet on February 15, 2022
- Bay Area representative meeting will be on February 23, 2022
- For all SDCC meeting dates and times, go to <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilcalendar/>
- CA's Institute on Secondary Transition "Bridge to the Future V" will be held March 7-9, 2022. Registration is now open. Educators, families of students Pre-K through age 22 are encouraged to register. Go to <https://catab2tfainstitute.vfairs.com/>

Information shared in Chat:

From the Executive Assistant to the Council report:

- Mental Health survey in English:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZVH2KH3>, espanol/Spanish:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DY5RKF>

From the HireAble report:

- Monthly HireAble meeting on January 26, 2022, at 3 pm. To join, go to <https://zoom.us/j/96280571745>
- Future HireAble meetings will be on the fourth Monday of the month at 3 pm. February's meeting will be on the 28th.
- Email Donna at donna@hireable.org to be added to the HireAble listserv.

From the Transition Task Force report:

- Transition Taskforce meets every third Thursday of the month at 3:15 pm over zoom. Email Becky at bwieringa@alc-ca.org if you are interested.
- Transition Task Force Guide:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vT46tBhE43gx3ZDjGI7x1jj2NaPT5rXeJn9v_IoMDACXBdicuy87nuLaasUoxoVGVEQh31ht3BKNPaw/pub

From Stephen W. Dale: program series on the ABLE Act, with a focus on CalABLE is available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss-ibnJFGfU&list=PL5dEwICC642pAR-KnAMN19Pa-Jda56Npk>

Not too late to register for the EBLC Legislative Breakfast, Friday, January 28, 2022:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluf-grqzwiH903y7KI7KTuIc8zeJ8Tlqwu>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:46am

**Next meeting will be held on February 23, 2022, at 10:00 am.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Horn
VistAbility