

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
February 23, 2022

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Christine Rottger; Craig Rose; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; Kimberli Buckley; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Audra Sysum, Stephen Dale

Guests: Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Troy Russell, Adaptive Learning Center; Sakeara Hasani, District 11, Rep. Mark DeSaulnier's Office; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Fabiola Calderon, CA Children's Services; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; Krista Peterson, CA Children's Services; Gabby Romabiles, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council; Christa Guinto, CA Children's Services; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD Community Services Bureau; Jen Qualick, District 2, Supervisor Candace Andersen's team; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Ramsay Mashy, CA Autism Foundation; Kristina Jensen, LUHSD; Scott Brooks, Futures Explored; Judy Hunter, Las Trampas; Valisha Fullard-Harris, CA Autism Foundation; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Melisha Linzie, Oakland Unified School District;

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone and the meeting started at 10:04 a.m. Guests were reminded to enter their names/affiliations in Chat for attendance purposes. Board attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

The meeting minutes of January 26, 2022 were approved with one absentia (Pam Perls) and with no corrections (M/Leslie Werosh Visbal, S/Will Sanford). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

Contra Costa Health Services by Meera Sreenvivasan, MD, Deputy Health Officer:

See the attached presentation for Dr. Meera's complete report. Similar to last month's report, cases and hospitalizations due to Covid-19 are decreasing based on data as of February 14th. Dr. Meera noted case rates based on vaccination status:

- Unvaccinated: rate of 56 cases per 100,000 people
- Vaccinated, no booster: 24 cases per 100,000 people, and

- Up-to-date vaccination (vaccination/s series completed plus booster): 18 cases per 100,000

It looks like the peak was around January 9th but we are not completely out of the woods yet. As of February 1st, 261 people (18 years old and over) were hospitalized as compared to January 1st when there were 84 people in the hospital. The County continues to work on vaccinations. Over 80% of people are considered fully vaccinated and 50% have received boosters! Pfizer has been approved for children 5-11 years old.

Donna Feingold asked if vaccine types have been a variable in those who completed their vaccine series and were boosted. Dr. Meera cited the CDC, which indicates that preferential vaccinations are rare.

Leslie Werosh Visbal inquired about the duration of protection for those who are vaccinated and boosted. Dr. Meera reported efficacy is at least 3 months but some estimates are longer. A second booster will be impacted by if we see another variant. It is possible vaccinations may be offered annually when respiratory viruses tend to increase, like the flu.

Christine Rottger asked about booster availability for kids age 5 to 11. Dr. Meera responded that the next push is to get children 6 months to 4 years old vaccinated, maybe in April or May. Boosters might be offered for the next age group possibly at the end of summer.

Marcelle Indelicato asked about the BA2 variant. Dr Meera offered reassuring information – they are seeing BA2 across the nation and state but at very low levels. In the nation, about 3% of Covid-19 infections are from the BA2 variant. Other countries have a much higher percentage.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director: Elvia reported

Elvia Osorio reported for Lisa in her absence.

- There is a lot going on at the State level. There were budget hearings yesterday, February 22nd, on funding to meet case manager ratios and provider rates. In April, providers will be eligible to receive 25% of the differences between the Rate Study's fully funded rates and current rates.
- The Social/Recreational Services policy draft is now on the RCEB website. They are training case managers and having community meetings on the new policy. For the past 10 years, they were unable to fund Social/Recreational activities and non-medical therapies. This will be very exciting to many!
- Upcoming meeting announcements and dates are posted on the RCEB website.

Will Sanford asked about the board policy for non-medical therapies. Elvia advised the policy is still under review by the Department of Developmental Services, so they are working with a draft, which is the policy that is posted at this time.

Rosa Valledor inquired about the length of time to get vendorized for non-medical services. Elvia shared the inquiries are being expedited by RCEB's Community Services department. The process for an existing vendor might amount to less time than a new applicant.

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

The National Core Indicators survey is getting mailed out statewide starting this week. Participation is encouraged. Contact SCDD directly with any questions or to get the survey in a different language.

Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee takes place tonight, where they will be hearing about RCEB updates as well as impacts to disability services that pandemic has had on our community. There will be panelists representing schools, the Regional Center, and In-Home Supportive Services. All are welcome. Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting February 23rd from 6:30-9:00p.m. Info and packet posted here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>

A series of stakeholder meetings are to take place in March and April around SB639, which is the phasing out of sub-minimum wage. Feedback directly from the community is wanted around resources, funding, data, outcomes management. Meeting dates will be shared once set.

Sheraden remarked on the great partnerships with providers that distributed no-cost PPE to their communities. If your agency has a need, reach out to SCDD. There are no updates on pilot projects for free antigen tests. There is currently one pilot, which requires a lot of paperwork. They are looking to have a less restrictive pilot - with less paperwork - that gets antigen tests directly to those in need. She will keep us posted.

There a lot of different activities, workshops and conferences scheduled for springtime. If you have ideas or want SCDD help, contact Sheraden. See the Chat for upcoming meeting dates and times.

- Statewide Self-Advocacy Network March 9-10th
- Legislative and Public Policy Committee March 17th
- Self-Advocates Advisory Committee March 21st
- Council meeting March 22nd
- For all upcoming meetings and other committee calendars go to <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilcalendar/>

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa reminded guests to sign-in on the Chat. There is a lot of information posted in the Chat – registration links, resources, meetings, etc. Rosa gave a tip on how to save the Chat to be able to access all the great information at our leisure. Also, a reminder that there are five weeks in March. The next DD Council meeting will be held on March 23rd.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi enabled the live transcription for those who preferred captions and advised that the subtitles can be hidden.

This is the time of year to start thinking about the Annual Awards event that is done in partnership with the Alameda Developmental Disabilities Council. She and Ben Chen (Vi's counterpart in Alameda) are pulling together a planning group. They are looking to have the first planning meeting sometime during the third week of March. If interested, email Vi!

On March 4th, Behavioral Health Services will host a virtual forum to get input on funding from the Mental Health Services Act. Registration is required. Flyers are available in Spanish and English. See Chat for the link.

A question was asked at last month's Council meeting about CCHS's "A3" program - "Anytime, Anyone, Anywhere" - which is the County's mental health crisis response program, and currently in development. The question was asking how the needs of residents with I/DD are being included in the program planning. Vi looked into it and found there are community members involved in the planning who self-identify as having I/DD or family members of individuals with I/DD and mental health needs. The program chief invites others to join in – monthly Behavioral Health Partnership meetings are open to those interested. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on March 15th from 1:30-3:00 p.m. If interested, send Vi an email.

Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum:

Audra was absent from today's meeting. Donna Feingold shared her pleasure in nominating Troy Russell to the Board. She met him 7 years ago and is impressed with his knowledge of the Brown Rules and politics! Troy introduced himself as a former student of College of Alameda where he took a class in organizational governance. Prior to that he founded a student government program in high school. Currently, he is attending the Adaptive Learning Center. A motion was made to nominate Troy (M/Donna Feingold, S/Rebecca Corbett). A roll call vote was taken (Audra absent, Karen Lingenfelter abstained), the motion was passed, and Troy was welcomed in as the newest board member!

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

Vi reported on the last meeting in January. The committee has historically have had many open positions and they are now evaluating why seats continue not to be filled. The Paratransit Coordinating Council will meet next on March 31st at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to attend or know anyone interested, email Vi.

As part of the report, Vi shared Carol McCrary's presentation from the Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan Task Force meeting on February 17. They voted to enter into an agreement with the County to use \$1.4 Million in the coming year to start the implementation of the plan from Measure X Tax funds. They also set their priorities for the first year, which are:

1. Lower the fare costs for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.
2. Continue to fund and expand the One Seat/One Ride program (no transfers between transportation companies).
3. Establish a Coordinating Entity to implement the Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan.
4. Develop a On-Call/One Click information and referral operations center.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (EBLC) (Will Sanford):

- Both State budget sub-committees on our issues have met. The Assembly asked more questions beyond what the Governor proposed in his January budget, including the cost of accelerating the implementation of the Rate Study.
- The overall rate study updates have been posted to the DDS website, which show most rates increase 10 to 15% from the prior version, which was to be expected: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/vendor-provider/rates-by-regional-center/>
- We are working on our bill list and will report out more next month.
- To make comments on the DDS Budget proposals, send your comments to the Assembly Committee at BudgetSub1@asm.ca.gov and be sure to reference any comments to Department 4300 - which is DDS.
- We are asking support for the acceleration of the Rate study. The Senate Budget committee input can be sent to: SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov
- The big push is to accelerate the implementation of the Rate Study and to pull up the second 25% differential slated for 2023 into this fiscal year. The next EBLC meeting is to be held on March 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol McCrary):

Aimee Vitug-Hom reported the following, in Carol's absence: Good news! VistAbility was awarded a CAER grant (Community Awareness and Emergency Response) to translate the "Don't be Scared Be Prepared" emergency preparedness booklet into more languages!

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen):

The last committee meeting was held on February 8th, with a presentation by Center for Elders Independence (CEI) PACE. They provide services for individuals 55 and older.

Providing total health care needs including, medical, eye, dental care, home care, transportation, senior gym, rehabilitation, nutrition, friends and spiritual care. They are a multi-lingual organization. They currently have one client from RCEB and are interested in learning from consumers & RCEB on need for individuals 55 and older. A flyer will be sent on the next meeting. To learn more about the COA and the next meeting contact Marianne at Marianne@dscba.org

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

Donna reported on the last meeting from January 26th. They learned a lot from the Arc of Fresno, which successfully closed a workshop. They are hoping to get good turnout for the next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 28th at 3:00 p.m. There will be a presentation by "Pathpoint" of Southern California that partners with Chevron. Zoom link to next HireAble meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92544431836>, email Donna at donna@hireable.org to be added to the HireAble listserv.

Transition Taskforce (Becky Wieringa): Becky was absent and Vi gave an update. The Task Force continues to work on expanding the adult transition resource guide as well as updating it. They have contacted providers to update information. A section on Social/Recreational will be added. If you would like to add or update information, let Vi know and she will send a Google form.

Gabby Romabiles from Alameda County announced their upcoming Transition Fair to be held virtually over two days - March 12th from 9 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and March 15th starting at 6:30 p.m. New to the Fair this year! – a youth track where young adults can socialize and participate in activities. Registration is required.

- To register for the Alameda County 2022 Transition Fair go to <https://tinyurl.com/AICo2022TF>
- To register as a vendor for the Alameda County 2022 Transition Fair go to <https://tinyurl.com/AICo2022TF-VendorRegistration>
- To be added to the Adult Resource Guide as a new provider, or make updates as a returning provider, please complete our Google Form at: <https://tinyurl.com/AICo2022AGD-GoogleForm>

Presentation: Specialty Mental Health Services: The Hume Center
Presented by Monica Sunzeri and Chris Celio

This project is a partnership between RCEB and Hume to provide mental health services to adults with I/DD – and who are at least 18 years old - in the Concord area. The hope is to be able to expand it throughout Contra Costa County.

Presentation highlights:

- Hume Center has been serving Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties since 1993, and individuals with I/DD since 2003.

- This project came about after needs assessments of the community indicated mental health is a clear need. An estimated 1,229 RCEB clients may need mental health services.
- The service is modeled after the Schreiber Center in Alameda County. Treatment plans will be designed based on best practices around communication and structure of sessions and therapeutic interventions. They will focus on feelings “not just facts”, meet more frequently, have shorter sessions, and offer flexibility of interventions.
- Assessments will be done in a therapeutic manner. The same therapist will follow-through from assessment to treatment.

DDS awarded start-up monies to develop the service, which is set to launch April 1, 2022. Referrals may be made through RCEB, psychiatry departments, or self-referrals. Funding mechanisms include Medi-Cal, RCEB, or other healthcare/insurance. Patients will be able to register online or by mail.

Plans are in the making for an open house and tours of Hume’s newly remodeled clinic. They are finalizing details but hope it will be mid-March or early April. Stay tuned for details.

Rosa thanked RCEB and Hume for working to provide a wonderful new service so desperately needed in our community!

Public Comment and Announcements:

Chris Celio from Hume Center honored his late friend, Percy, who would have greatly appreciated One Seat, One Ride. He had 3 different connections between paratransit systems to get to graduate school and joked that the paratransit phone operators were his best friends because of how often he talked to them. He passed away before being able to work on his goal to reimagine the paratransit system and Chris is glad for everyone’s efforts to see One Seat One Ride come to be!

From Pam Perls: Planning for your Adult Child with Disabilities Workshop
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-planning-for-your-adult-child-with-disabilities-workshop-series-tickets-239690429527>

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:48am

<p>Next meeting will be held on March 23, 2022 at 10:00 am. Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.</p>

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility