

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
September 28, 2022

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Karen Lingenfelter; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Christine Rottger, Donna Feingold, Kimberli Buckley, Rebecca Corbett

Guests: Mirna Leal, RCEB; Selene Gonzalez, The Arc of California and Congreso Familiar; Marcelle Indelicato, Emergency Services Manager with the Town of Danville; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Cheryl Reed, VistAbility; Bill Pelter, Ability Now; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Barbara Saylor, VistAbility; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Gabriela Solval, State Council of Developmental Disabilities; Christa Guinto, California Children's Services; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD Community Service Bureau; Liz Wall, Occupational Therapist; Jen Quallick, Supervisor Andersen's team; Annette Odello, Blue Devils Special Needs Color Guard

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone back from summer break and the meeting started at 10:02 a.m.

Starting next month at the October 28th Council meeting, the Zoom room will open at 9:45 am so that everyone can have time to get settled in and a little social time before the meeting starts. The goal is to start the meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Vi took board attendance and it was determined a quorum was established. She also clarified the Board's voting procedures. If a board member was absent during a previous meeting, there is no need to abstain from voting on the motions to approve the minutes. The meeting minutes of June 22, 2022 and August 24, 2022 were approved unanimously with no corrections (M/Troy Russell, S/Will Sanford). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director: Lisa shared we are in exciting times in terms of funding for Regional Centers. She reported there is funding for new case management positions intended to reduce caseloads of people six years old and

older, and to also adjust caseloads for children younger than six years old. They are not sure how many new case management positions this will amount to but are estimating perhaps 30 to 40 additional case managers. Also, changes to provider rates are coming in January 2023 and we should see it going forward in more sustained way. Lots of advocacy will still be needed moving forward to make sure the rate implementation doesn't end but is built in system.

Regional Centers are looking to the reform of the core staffing formula, which was identified as not being appropriately funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) along with a few other issues.

This coming year all Regional Centers will have some new performance measures. RCEB will hold a public meeting on the draft of next year's performance contract to discuss the new measures. The meeting will be held on Zoom on October 18th and registration will be required. All are welcome! Spanish translation will be provided simultaneously. If there are other language needs, let RCEB know.

Lisa reported that DDS has issued guidance on group homes with more than six beds. Previously, homes with over six beds were left out of the rate study implementation. The updated DDS guidance indicates these homes will also have a rate adjustment retroactive to April 1, 2022, which will impact about 17 providers of RCEB.

Also, they are expecting DDS guidance on family coordinated services. The services are a kind of wraparound services for individuals who are 18 years old and older, and living with family. The services are to address the supports needed by aging families, to allow individuals to remain in home they want to be in.

Caroline Ortiz asked about case managers meeting people in person. Lisa stated that people who live with their families are able to select whether they want to meet with their case managers in person or on Zoom. They encourage people who want to meet in-person to request it. It is in law until July 2023 to have the option to meet virtually or in person.

Will asked about DSP survey completions and provider incentive payment. Lisa hasn't heard and doesn't think DDS has focused on it.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Gabriela Solval:

A few items for agenda today

- Join RAC tonight at 6:30, with a presentation on voting rights – election basics, rights, accessible voting.
- Reminder that "there should be a law" contest is still open for submissions, the deadline is Sept 30.

- Project Safe and SCDD are offering a presentation on Oct 14th at 9am on flood and mudslides as part of Emergency Preparedness training series.
- PPE still available through the Bay Area office.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor: Reminder that the meeting will be open for public comment at 11:35am – limited to 3 minutes. Attendees can also put info in chat. Meeting ends at 11:50am. Starting in Oct, meeting will start right at 10 – zoom room will be opened at 9:45am to give attendees and Board members a chance to get settled and socialize a bit before we get started.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

- Reminder to guests to introduced themselves in chat.
- Going to update attendance since Karen L joined after roll was taken.
- Reminder that everyone should select a language thru the interpretation feature on Zoom. English speakers should select English so that if any questions come in Spanish, they will be able to hear the English translation.
- Open House Center once again offering vaccination clinics specifically for people who have trouble receiving vaccination elsewhere and want or need a sensory friendly environment. See flyers posted in chat for instructions on how to register.
- Care Parent Network was recognized by the Board of Supervisors earlier this month in recognition of 30 years of service to our community. Hannah provided a presentation including info and photos of the founding mothers of Care and staff over the years.
- Once presentations for the upcoming year are confirmed, Vi will share that schedule. We would like to give the community advance notice for any presentations that may be of interest to them so that people who typically don't join may join. In October, the presentation will be "Getting to Know Your Speciality Health Ambassadors". November will be a presentation by Make a Wish Foundation. Leslie Visbal is the chair for our local Make a Wish chapter.

Board Membership Report Troy Russell: We have a couple of open seats on the Board. If anyone is interested, please let Vi know. There is a requirement to attend at least 3 board meetings so that they can get an idea of what the Council does before seeking a nomination.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Normally we have a long list of community liaison reports, but we have adjusted the agenda a bit to stagger the reports across the year. Attendees will see the liaison report list is a little shorter going forward.

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

The PCC elected a new chair and vice chair over the summer. It's a time of change, and a time to think about ways the committee can improve the work it's doing. The PCC Board consists of paratransit service providers, riders, and agency representatives who work with people who are riders. They are currently recruiting to fill Board for both the rider category as well as the service provider category. Vi encouraged service providers to consider service on the Board as well as encouraging and supporting their program participants to service. The PCC meets bi-monthly on the 3rd Monday at 2pm.

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

Shout out to Nickole who in 2014 worked on getting adult changing tables in larger facilities. There is now a mobile bathroom with changing table: "Momentum Refresh." It has a full lift, adjustable handrails, toilet, adjustable sink, and folding changing table with privacy curtain.

See attached slides for complete EBLC report.

Mental Health Commission (Pam Perls):

After attending meetings regularly, Pam has finally been appointed to Mental Health Commission so she can vote. She, Leslie and Vi visited Fred Finch in Oakland to better understand how they support people who are dually diagnosed with I/DD and mental health disorders.

Dr. Liz Wasler, a psychologist with RCEB, gave a wonderful presentation to the MH Commission, with an emphasis on dearth of services for people with dual diagnosis. Bill commented that the Schreiber Center is a replication of a program in San Mateo County that also services dual diagnosis. There are working models to look at, it may be helpful at some point to have someone from either of the agencies to help bridge this gap.

Lisa pointed out that there is a project that is providing mental health services who are dually diagnosed in Contra Costa County. Progress can be slow, sometimes it's 2 steps forward and 2 steps back.

Pam noted that the MH Commission benefit from continued education about the needs and services available to those with I/DD. We'll work to keep identifying common goals.

***** Presentation *****

Center on Me – A Virtual Person Centered Planning Platform that Puts the Person in Control

By Jamie Markey, Director of Community Development at Mains'l Services

See attached slide for complete presentation. Questions and answers included:

- What is the cost? This is provided through an annual membership which includes unlimited access, unlimited plans & contributors, for \$250 for a year. They are working on regional center vendorization which will make it available through a

POS to any regional center client. Will noted that it is currently available for use through Self-Determination funding.

- How would people get support to use it? The vision is that they would have people across the state that would be able to provide support. The long term goal is to have people trained in each catchment area. Right now support is available via Zoom.
- Does this support connecting specific goals to CalABLE account or special needs trust? Jamie to explore this further.
- How can agencies access this? Email Mains'l and ask for bulk purchase option. Each user will be registered via email. They are exploring pricing based on a tiered system.
- Is this presentation available in languages other than English? Currently there is not bilingual staff that could present the information, but they would hire an interpreter to provide language access if requested.
- RCEB has been a partner from the beginning in terms of developing this tool. When vendorization is in place, they will share that information widely.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Antoinette Odello announced the Blue Devils Special Needs Color Guard. They are based in Concord and entering 11 years of the Special Needs Color Guard program. They are now recruiting for new members, age 12 and up. Practice is in Concord, at Mt. Diablo High School, every Monday from 7-8pm.

Marianne shared that the Down Syndrome Connection is back to doing some services live. They have opened Thrive classes in Concord, from 4:15-5:45pm, which is an opportunity for people who want to socialize. It includes leisure and recreation activities and open to all, not just people with Down syndrome. Troy added that he has been in color guard in the past and his and girlfriend has been in it for many years. He shares that it's really fun!

Vi posted <https://www.september26.org/> in the chat. This is in honor of September, 26, 2020, the date a local mother and son died in a house fire. Fedal Almaliti was a fierce advocate for her autistic son, as well as others with I/DD. She escaped her burning house but went back in to rescue her adult son, Muhammed. The website provides practical and useful tips to help people with disabilities and their families be prepared for emergencies and avoid tragedies common to people with disabilities, such as drowning.

Rosa reminded everyone that you can save the chat via Zoom by clicking the three dots near where you type in to chat. There are lots of good resources posted there.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

**Next meeting will be held on October 26, 2022 at 10:00 am.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility