

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

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Christine Rottger, Will Sanford

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla-EHSD-Community Services Bureau; Mirna Leal, RCEB; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Julia Pelayo-Ruelas, La Familia; Meera Sreenivasan, CCHS, Deputy Health Officer; Selene Gonzalez, The Arc of CA and family member of a RCEB client; Hailey Solares, District Representative of Congressman DeSaulnier; Renee Perls, Specialty Health Ambassador; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Naz Sattari, CCHS Office of the Director; Krista Peterson, Contra Costa California Children's Services; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council; Patricia Albano, The Arc of CA/Congreso Familiar; Christa Guinto, Contra Costa County California Children's Services; Marcelle Indelicato, Town of Danville; Fabiola Calderon, Contra Costa County California Children's Services; Susan Gage; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Jen Quallick, District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen's team; Adrienne Bridges, Specialty Health Ambassador Coordinator; Nora Lewis, Specialty Health Ambassador; Ruby Tobor-Vasquez, Specialty Health Ambassador

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone in, and the meeting started promptly at 10:00 a.m. Guests were asked to enter their full names and organizations in the Chat.

Vi took board attendance and a quorum was established. The meeting minutes of September 28, 2022 were approved unanimously, with no corrections (M/Troy Russell, S/Marianne Iversen). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) by Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Meera Sreenivasan

California's State of Emergency is to end in February 2023, and the details of how that will impact our county is still to be determined.

COVID-19 update:

- The County is still focusing on vaccination efforts. Close to 85% of people living in Contra Costa County are fully vaccinated, and 55% of children five years old and older are vaccinated.

- Deaths in long term care facilities are becoming a rare event showing that high risk populations are getting protected by the vaccines.
- The updated Omicron booster is referred to as bivalent, meaning that it protects against both the older virus strain and newer Omicron variant. The bivalent booster replaces the previous monovalent booster that is being gradually phased out.
- The County is still running vaccination sites that offer the boosters, and test-to-treat locations where you can get tested, evaluated, and receive treatment if needed. To schedule an appointment, you can go online or call Contra Costa Health Services Advice Nurse line 877-611-6230. They take walk-in appointments, too.

Winter is upon us and so is flu season! Other respiratory viruses – like RSV – are also circulating in our community.

Dr. Meera strongly recommends continuing the same practices that are proven to be effective not only against COVID-19 but also flu and RSV:

- Wear masks especially when in public indoors and/or when you are with other people who are at higher risk for respiratory illnesses,
- wash hands,
- stay home when sick,
- and get vaccinated if it is available.

There are no vaccines against RSV unfortunately. For people who are 65 years old and older, there is a high dose flu vaccine that is preferentially recommended by the CDC. Talk to your health care provider about its availability and eligibility.

A question was asked about expired COVID antigen tests. Dr. Meera said the FDA website has information on extended expiration dates and you can verify whether the test is still okay to use.

Rosa V. added that we are lucky to have providers like Open House and Full Circle of Choices that provide vaccinations to our community!

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa reported on a few updates. Right now, there is a lot going on with the Governor signing a lot of bills. One is a process change in conservatorships - supported decision-making is being put into law. As it moves forward and is more flushed out, Lisa suggests having a presentation on it.

RCEB in the process of opening three new homes for kids in foster care. These much-needed homes were developed with community placement funds and based on information gathered from the community through resource development surveys. There are two types of homes: one is an enhanced behavioral support home and two are community crisis homes.

There will be a funding opportunity to promote social recreational opportunities for children and teenagers served by RCEB. Community organizations such as the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.

are eligible to receive Community Integration Funds. RCEB will be posting the Request for Proposal (RFP) on their website soon. They will also reach out to community organizations that might be interested. If you know of an organization that might be interested, let Steven Robinson or Lisa know. The funds will have to be expended by 2023.

RCEB will submit updated activities on the 2023 Performance Contract. This year the process is a little different. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has it extended through June 2024 and then it will move to a calendar year. Performance objective measures will be based on a new satisfaction survey as well as outreach done for Child Find and Early Start. Eventually, 10% of caseload funding will be tied to these performance measures, and measures will be consistent across Regional Centers across the state. This is similar to the incentive payments for service providers.

California has an independent oversight agency called the Little Hoover Commission. The agency investigates areas where there is a need to improve things. Currently, there is a study on Regional Center services focused on disparities in race and ethnicity and the different ways various Regional Centers put processes in place that may impact service access. This bipartisan advisory committee is comprised of former legislators. The committee will be holding a roundtable on October 27th on the State's developmental disabilities system, and there will be a chance for public comment.

A question was asked if the Performance Contract goals are those strictly in purview of what RCEB can do, housing, for example? Lisa said with some of the activities, such as someone living in their own community, they do try to get Community Placement Plan/Community Resource Development Plan funds.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Gabriela Solval: Sheraden reported on Gabriela's behalf today and said she misses seeing members at this meeting on a regular basis.

This is a hectic time of year for SCDD. They are mapping out additional needs, trends, policy events – if something is on your mind, reach out to Sheraden. In the next month, they will be selecting a proposal from the 2nd annual “There Should Be a Law” contest and work with the submitter. Sheraden thanked all for supporting the contest and submitting ideas.

They are seeing a continued need for PPE but do not have the same supply availability as they did previously. SCDD still has a program running with Cal OES and can support antigen test distribution at no cost. Email Sheraden at Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov if you have a need.

Upcoming meetings and events:

- November 16th, CA Statewide Self Advocacy Chats, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
https://bit.ly/ca_selfadvocacychats2022
- November 28th, Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
<https://bit.ly/SCDDSAACNov2022>

- November 29th, State Council Meeting, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
<https://scdd.ca.gov/events/category/publicmeetings/2022-11/>
- November 30th Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (RAC), 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. <https://scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/>

SCDD offers a statewide orientation to the Self-Determination Program in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. There are multiple days/months available, and they are working on offering additional languages. For more information and to register, follow this link <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>.

If you would like information about local energy bill payment assistance programs and other discount programs go to: <https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/lowerbill/>.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa reminded everyone that next month’s meeting will be on the third Wednesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Housing for our population has become an even greater challenge. An idea came to Rosa’s attention, which is to create a resource list of available/accessible places to rent. If you or someone you know owns an apartment building, consider offering available apartments to a self-advocate.

Also, don’t forget to register for Open House’s upcoming vaccination clinic. Go to the Public Comments section for information and link.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reminded all guests to introduce themselves in the Chat for attendance purposes.

CCHS is seeking input on their website. There is a survey link at <https://cchealth.org/>, which should take about 6- 8 minutes to complete.

October has been a busy month! They had a successful Vision for the Future Conference, and the Transition Task Force organized this year’s virtual CCC Resource Fair. They will be debriefing on the events soon.

Will Sanford was not able to attend today’s meeting and though the East Bay Legislative Committee (EBLC) was not on the agenda today, Will provided some information slides. To see his EBLC report, follow this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/13FbNflbagOHPa8XVDiO2_rU3tWPhiTaG/view?usp=sharing

Board Membership Report Troy Russell:

Troy reported that in his work as a Specialty Health Ambassador and also during Friday Night Out events he distributes flyers about the Council to promote board member recruitment.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol McCrary):

See Carol's presentation slides for her complete report. Here are some notes from her presentation:

It was a busy summer for emergency planning activities!

- In July, Vance Taylor of California's Office of Emergency Services (OES) had a statewide call with Access and Functional Needs (AFN) coordinators to share successes throughout the state. Vance was also a key person in a first-ever national AFN symposium. California is the only state in the nation that has an AFN department in OES. One story that stood out to Carol – an assisted living home caught fire and displaced 50 residents. The residents were evacuated to hotels and it was found that they helped one another when they were placed in the same locations.
- In August, the County's OES held its first live exercise since the pandemic – a pretend flood of the Delta levee - and in its new Emergency Operations Center. It was a large exercise with many organizations involved. There were lots of interesting resources including drones and a PG&E underwater gas tank!
- Downtown Concord had its annual preparedness fair in September. It was 99°F that day! They distributed Don't Be Scared Be Prepared pamphlets that are available in multiple languages.

Carol invited feedback on the recent heat emergency when it was over 100 degrees for 3 days. Libraries and malls were being touted as cooling centers. Kimberli Buckley said the Concord Library was closed due to roof work, but they do otherwise consider themselves a cooling center in hot weather and warming center in the winter. Comments included:

- It appears there might not be any cooling centers in West Contra Costa County. There is a suggestion to include a wider reach across the County. Using air conditioning at home increases electricity bills so having more cooling centers available would be helpful.
- Concord Senior Center was a cooling location that offered water and light refreshments. A lot of houseless were inside trying to get cool.
- At a particular day program, there was a decreased attendance of those who have air conditioning at home, and an increase of those who don't have air conditioning. The program also provided transportation to BART during the extreme heat days.
- Regarding the best place to communicate emergency information resources, use of social media was suggested. Other suggestions were the Family Resource Center and NextDoor. RCEB has the Everbridge system to target specific communities which could be utilized.
- There is talk about heat pumps being a more cost-effective way to cool a place instead of air conditioners.
- As shopping malls are declining so we have to be more creative about identifying cooling centers.

- A suggestion was made to create cooling kits for families that include cooling cloths, for example, if there is funding.

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen):

The last Committee on Aging meeting was cancelled. Carol McCrary and Carmen Palacios from VistAbility will be speaking about their Senior Program at the November 8th meeting. It will start at 1:00 p.m., email Marianne if you'd like to join.

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

- October is National Disability Awareness Month.
- Social security benefits will see an 8.7% increase in SSI, the biggest in over 40 years!
- Other good news – State Disability Assistance (SDA) for individuals on Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) will also see an increase from \$1350 to \$1470 per month. This means they can earn up to \$1470 per month before their benefits are impacted. Increases are usually about \$20/year so this is a big jump!
- A benefits training will be offered December 1st at 4:00 pm. Spots are limited. Register in advance at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUf-6rqjovGtycqp8CpBIADvEmI4KRNesU>
- HireAble is offering free training with a focus on customized employment, to certify staff on Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators or ACRE, made possible by an HCBS grant.

The next HireAble meeting will be on November 28th at 3:00 p.m. when different employers on HireAble's Business Development Committee will present information. This will be a virtual meeting. Email Donna if you are interested and she will send you the link.

Anyone who wants to be on the HireAble listserv can send an email to Donna.

***** Presentation *****

**Get to Know Your Specialty Health Ambassadors
with Adrienne Bridges, Program Coordinator, and the Specialty Health Ambassador Team**

Adrienne introduced herself and the Specialty Health Ambassadors (SHA) team. See slides for their complete presentation. Following are some notes:

The SHAs are part of Contra Costa Health Services' Equity Team and promote accessibility to health care and other services in the East Bay. They focus on people with special needs including those who might not be diagnosed, to share information and help connect them to services.

There are currently four SHAs and they are looking to hire one more. Adrienne introduced the Ambassadors, each of whom bring unique skills and talents to the work!

- Renee is a networker who does outreach and gets their name out there. She loves being an SHA, bringing people to their resource table, and “getting to learn about resources, things you don’t know about.”
- Nora gathers information, and helps Adrienne with setting up and breaking down tables during community events. She enjoys being out of her comfort zone and “getting to learn from people from all walks of life.”
- Troy is their resident tech person who has helped with fixing electronic forms. He also likes researching organizations and resources, and going to places he’d never been before like Antioch!
- Ruby has previous experience and brings knowledge from other ambassador teams as well as her artful ways.

The SHAs are available for workshops and other community events. Contact Adrienne if you are interested in inviting them to an event. They are available to groups, teams, individuals, churches, etc.

One question clarified that the work of the SHAs is not as individualized and intensive as other supports in the community, such as the Family Resource Center services. The SHAs provide more general guidance and resources with limited follow up available.

There was a question regarding transportation resources. Adrienne provided the following: MediCal provides medical transportation to health-related appointments; if someone is in the Self Determination Program, they can write in transportation as part of their budget; and some traditional service vendors provide transportation. You can contact her or the SHAs for a list of approved vendors through MediCal.

Adrienne and the team will be connecting with RCEB to get direct training in order to get a broader understanding of services available, and the intake process. They work with the general population at events - part of grant is to identify people not connected with RCEB but maybe should be. The program won’t solve all problems in the community, such as limits to transportation resources, but they are learning as much as they can about available services to provide the community.

A comment was made that the SHAs might help with the CalAim health plan transition that will impact people with I/DD. The plans will be more expansive than MediCal and it might be good information to share.

In response to a question about the program’s funding, Vi shared the SHA program is funded for one year through 4/30/23. The funder is DDS and program outcomes include the number of people reached and languages spoken. She applied for another year with the hope of continuing the program.

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Carol McCrary is on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) task force and had an exciting announcement. Last week, the task force voted to develop a single entity for all transportation needs and outlined a plan in which a new non-profit will be developed as a centralized place to provide transportation information – called One Click, One Call. It may take a year or two to be implemented but it will be funded (through Measure X funding). This is landmark!
- Open House Center offers Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 Bivalent Booster (Pfizer and Moderna Brand) every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. until November 18th. To register follow this link: <https://myturn.ca.gov/appointment-select?config=ead09d5d-67f9-43fd-b34f-4a8afae796ed>. Email louisem@openhousecenter.org with any questions.
- FREE Congreso Familiar Webinar for Spanish-speaking IDD Community: It is important to talk to your child or loved one about their disability. In this presentation we will talk with Dr. Pilar Bernal about how to start this conversation. Go to www.congresofamiliar.org for information.
- Steve Dale shared PART 1: Preview of Keep the Lanterman Promise (KTLP), a preview recording that will be formally released in November as part of a larger program. This segment is on the History of the Lanterman Act, and what is needed to ensure that the entitlement continues. <https://youtu.be/Ol34qbYIGzQ>. If you have any comments, email them to steve@gspt.org.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on November 16, 2022 at 10:00 am.
(3rd Wednesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.)
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility