

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)**  
**January 25, 2023**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Craig Rose; Christine Rottger; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; Kimberli Buckley; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Seth Hendricks; Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra

**Board and Liaison Members Absent:** Caroline Ortiz, Rebecca Corbett, Ria Mercado

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Hailey with Congressman DeSaulnier's office; Meera Sreenivasan, Deputy Health Officer, CCHS; Mirna Leal Case Management Supervisor, RCEB; Selene Gonzalez, Project Coordinator, Congreso Familiar/The Arc of California; Julia Pelayo-Ruelas, La Familia Case Manager; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Anthony Rowe, Executive Director, Adaptive Learning Center; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, RCEB; Gabriela Solval, SCDD; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network and parent; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla EHSD, Community Services Bureau

**Welcome and Introductions:** Rosa greeted everyone Happy New Year and at 10:00 a.m. welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the year. Guests were asked to put their names in the Chat along with their title, organization or affiliation. Rosa gave instructions on how to select the language of preference, either English or Spanish.

Vi took Board attendance and it was determined Quorum was established.

The meeting minutes for November 16, 2022 were approved as submitted and without any corrections (M/Nickole Bouslog, S/Craig Rose). One change was made to the agenda to re-order the Committee Liaison Reports. HireAble will report first.

**UPDATES:**

**Contra Costa Health Services by Deputy Health Officer, Dr. Meera Sreenivasan**

Dr. Meera provided a health services update on COVID-19 and on other respiratory illnesses that we've been hearing on the news.

Following are some notes from Dr. Meera's updates. For her full report, here is a link to Dr. Meera's presentation slides: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-gBexhW6aBC8katO7FS8KAoc41EVDPFs/view?usp=sharing>

COVID-19 recent trends:

- The predominant strain is XBB.1.5 also known as “The Cracken” variant in medical circles! It is the offspring of Omicron, and is more transmissible and spreads faster. The good news is that it doesn’t seem to be causing severe illness at this point. Also, the current bivalent booster is protective against it.
- Despite which variant is circulating, any amount of protection from vaccine helps prevent severe illness.
- In Contra Costa County, current data shows we have the lowest number of deaths since the start of the pandemic. The things we have been and are doing to protect ourselves work!

The current recommendations for COVID-19 are not really changing, which reflects stability. Wearing a mask is still effective and strongly recommended be worn indoors especially for people at higher risk.

The County still has a 24/7 advice line and test-to-treat locations, as well as mail order test kits available.

Other respiratory illnesses:

- Flu peaked early around the holidays and is decreasing. The strain of flu (H3N2) is being detected the most, which, fortunately, is one of the strains in the flu vaccine.
- RSV is actively decreasing in California. It tends to cause the worst illness in children 5 years old and younger. High risk infants can be offered a prophylactic medication.
- For more information about flu, RSV and other respiratory diseases as well as the latest trends, follow this link:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx>.

If you have other topics you’d like Dr. Meera to talk about, she is open to sharing additional information.

Questions/Comments:

There was a question about the COVID-19 vaccine becoming an annual shot much like the flu, and whether the County is going to adopt that practice. Dr. Meera explained the challenge is COVID-19 doesn’t fall into a seasonal pattern like the flu virus. For example, flu generally circulates in late Fall-early Spring. In comparison, COVID-19 mainly likes it when we crowd around each other. The FDA (Food & Drug Administration) advisory committee is going to meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Meera hopes that meeting will clarify long-term response. Next year could be more telling, but the County will align with whatever CDPH does.

**RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:**

Lisa reported on the HCBS rule, which is about services provided to people receiving Medicaid services to ensure they are in the most inclusive setting as possible and integrated into their communities. For California, the deadline to complete documentation requirements is March 17, 2023. Providers have until June 2024 to implement all practices outlined in their plans. This is important because it impacts federal funding and people being able to be part of the community as much as they want and is possible.

DDS issued a directive on January 24, 2023 to put a moratorium on referrals if a provider has not completed their documentation. The directive also requires information be shared with consumers and families. RCEB has a few providers who have not responded yet.

All work activity programs in the RCEB catchment area have come into compliance!

Lisa also provided information about the State budget:

- Governor Newsom released his budget proposal for next fiscal year 2023-2024. There are significant gaps in revenue anticipated BUT the I/DD system did not face significant reductions. Inclusive preschools programs have been placed on hold for now, however. Otherwise, we see full funding for provider rate increases and some new rates related to increases in mileage reimbursements.
- There is a proposed autism services branch, at DDS, that would focus on needs for people with ASD including reviewing services for adults.
- The core staffing formula (i.e., case management funding) related to children's caseloads has been corrected in the new year's budget proposal.

RCEB continues to actively recruit for new case managers. They have been unable to hire enough case managers, which is a serious concern. They have seen people leave RCEB because they have moved out of the area. Their new Human Resources Director is thinking through the plans. They are hopeful staffing will stabilize in the next 6 months.

All case managers have been brought back to the office at least two days/week. In-person monitoring visits are also back.

Additionally, the next RCEB Board meeting will be held on February 3, 2023 when they will be reviewing the 2021 performance outcomes contract and launching a new community brochure project. The meeting will be conducted in English and Spanish – other languages can be requested on the RCEB website. They have already received requests for Cantonese and Vietnamese. In February and March, they will have a lot of community meetings on purchases of services (POS) and disparities in those areas. It is important to hear concerns as it relates to resource development. RCEB is looking to update POS policies -- hearing what changes may be needed is important to making changes in resource development in order to meet a person's needs.

Regional centers are expecting a rollout of Family Coordinator Support Services, as soon as draft regulations come out of DDS. These services are for adults (18 years and older) who live in family homes, similar to SLS for clients living independently. Lisa is excited to see how it will be developed to meet people's needs.

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

Gabriela greeted everyone and shared the following calendar items:

- The next Employment First meeting is scheduled for February 2nd from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- The SCDD Los Angeles Office is hosting upcoming zoom trainings on Disparities in Regional Center Services on Monday, January 30th at 10 a.m.
- The Regional Center Fair Hearings and Complaints will be on Monday, February 13th at 10 a.m.
- And the next Advisory Committee Meeting will be held February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The agenda will be posted at least 10 days before the meeting.

The same zoom link is used for all SCDD Statewide trainings:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/be05f332501/bd19eb68-3ae8-4ac7-a925-a7b9c0186cb7.pdf>

- o ID: 829-8230-7774
- o Password: 123456

For the full SCDD Meetings Calendar go to: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>

Other items: You can share your bill ideas year-round on the SCDD website. To share your idea, go to: [https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0](https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0). And lastly, PPE & antigen tests are still available. Email requests to: [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov)

**Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:** Rosa thanked all presenters for speaking at a good pace and clearly, which helps the interpreter. She also shared a few reminders:

- there is still time to register for the EBLC legislative breakfast,
- if you have upcoming events to share with the group, type the information into the Chat. You can save the Chat for future reference by clicking on the 3 dots (...) and then clicking on save,
- and the next DDC meeting will be held February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:**

Vi gave a quick reminder for all guests to introduce themselves in the Chat. Also, she updated the board member attendance to note that Karen L. was present at the meeting.

Christine Rottger provided information about a project that she, Vi, and Hannah Michaelson are working on. They looking to involve more parents and providers of very young kids and adolescents in the DDC meetings. They created a flyer about upcoming DDC meeting presentations that will specifically address the age groups of younger people. Upcoming topics include Family Empowerment in February; Social/Recreational opportunities from RCEB in March; and “My Child is Turning 3, What’s Next?” in May.

The flyer for upcoming DD Council presentations that are of interest to families with Early Intervention or school-aged kids is here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vgn3EwH810-Dv\\_HELi7Vfnem48yvCaUw/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vgn3EwH810-Dv_HELi7Vfnem48yvCaUw/view?usp=share_link)

Additionally, Vi shared great news – the County received funding for a second year of the Specialty Health Ambassador (SHA) Program! They will be in a position to bring on more Ambassadors. She put it out there in case anyone is interested or support someone who would be a good fit. Now is a good time to help the person prepare. Vi can connect us with the

Ambassador team if someone has questions about the job. In the Fall, she may check with Board to see if the Council wants to get an update on the program. Troy is an SHA and is glad it is continuing!

### **Board Membership Report Troy Russell:**

Troy reported that when the Special Health Ambassadors have events, he promotes the Council and membership opportunities. Rosa welcomed Seth to his first meeting as a Council Board Member!

### **Committee Liaison Reports:**

#### HireAble – Donna Feingold

Donna reported their meeting last Monday on Neurodiversity had a great turnout. The trainers will be offering a series of trainings on ASD at \$30 per training.

There is an upcoming presentation on February 27<sup>th</sup> – an East Coast organization called CreatAbility has developed an app and software that helps people with identifying strengths and matching them to potential jobs. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a presentation by the author of “Let’s Talk About Race and Other Hard Things”. Hopefully, this is a topic of interest for anyone not just employment organizations.

Lastly, Donna shared good news -- HireAble received a DDS employment grant focused on training students and parents to excite people about employment. It will be a virtual series of three presentations and offered in both Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

A question came up about Spanish interpretation at the event. Donna said she will check on the grant funds for interpretation and report back. To see the slides for the HireAble report from Donna go to: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pZ4-s3OKp3ADEkf32woM505GRp71nj24/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pZ4-s3OKp3ADEkf32woM505GRp71nj24/view?usp=share_link)

#### CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Committee – Vi Ibarra

This Committee meets every other month. As of the end of the year, they elected new Chair and Vice Chairpersons and are shifting directions of meetings. They are pushing to do outreach for paratransit riders to join the Council and speak from their points of view as riders. If you or anyone you know would like to spend a little bit of time to improve services, Vi is happy to connect them with the PCC. Their next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Emergency Planning Engagement – Carol McCrary

Carol reported there have been lots of emergencies as of lately – at one point, there were three State emergencies going on at the same time! It impacted all of us. RCEB activated their emergency communication system called Everbridge for the first time due to the storms.

The County was not designated as a disaster area but they are gathering information on business and personal damages. They will use the data to qualify for FEMA assistance.

There was very good disaster response during the storms that included:

- PG&E contacting every single person on their Medical Baseline Program.
- the County opening up extra shelters for unhoused people and families. Two shelters reached full capacity during the rain.
- County Connection pushing out bus schedule change alerts to individuals that use the MyTransit app.
- and County OES and others funneling information through the 211 system.

If you have a need during an emergency situation, calling 211 is recommended. Many languages are available and they have resources online, too.

There is a grant opportunity through CAER for emergency preparedness activities for non-profits. Grant awards are up to \$2,000. Carol will create a “cheat sheet” with various preparedness resources and opportunities, like the grant, and send to Vi to share out.

The next Accessible Transportation/Strategic Plan Task Force meeting is next week. They are currently writing legislation to get direct funding to paratransit services. Stay tuned – they may ask for EBLC support!

**\*\*\* Presentation \*\*\***

**Governor’s January Budget Analysis**  
**with Will Sanford, EBLC Co-Char**

Will provided a comprehensive analysis of the Governor’s January budget. Here are the slides from his presentation: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d67HAKase94h4qiTaU1A8\\_hc-IXidzA/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d67HAKase94h4qiTaU1A8_hc-IXidzA/view?usp=share_link)

We are now entering the legislative review process where we have the most opportunities to have an impact on things we should change. The Legislature will move back to traditional hearings in March.

This year, the State is projecting a \$22B shortfall for fiscal year 2023-2024. What changed was less revenues and inflation impacted spending. The State reserves, currently at about \$32B, will be left alone, meaning it will not be used to cover the shortfall. Instead, the Governor will delay some projects - for example, shifting \$10M Early Start funding to the next fiscal year 2024-2025.

There are very few new policies but lots of moving parts. One proposed policy is to modernize the Regional Centers’ 1980s technology to replace SANDIS and also to increase transparency through an accessible database for the Regional Centers and their consumers.

As Lisa mentioned earlier, the reduction of caseload for kids up age 5 years is a huge win!

Important “asks” include eliminating the Annual Family Fee Program Fee and Family Costs program that seems to put barriers in place, and also to correct Rate Model issues such as the inclusion of certain providers that don’t really have a pathway to move forward.

The EBLC Legislative Event is this Friday at 10:00 a.m. This meeting date is the last day to register – go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd-iorDguGdx9NFyvSKj3w6m2QSdsA4A8>

**Public Comment and Announcements:**

- Congreso Familiar continues to have presentations in Spanish for families:
  - Serie de Educación Especial, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
  - sábado, 28 de enero
  - sábado, 11 de febrero
  - sábado, 25 de febrero
  - Link: [https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_es7Edf\\_ZTLWNyYysHHZoUQ](https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_es7Edf_ZTLWNyYysHHZoUQ)
- ¿Que es el Departamento de Servicios de Desarrollo de California (DDS)?
  - jueves, 9 de febrero
  - 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
  - Link: [https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UChN93OgQFKqjE66uIVTlw](https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UChN93OgQFKqjE66uIVTlw)

Oportunidades de Inmigración Para Padres con Niños con Necesidades Especiales

- sábado, 4 de marzo
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Link: [https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5WYFL9hiSxS0QTpUssKmlw](https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5WYFL9hiSxS0QTpUssKmlw)  
[www.congresofamiliar.org](http://www.congresofamiliar.org) for more information.

Demystifying the Autism Spectrum & Autistic People:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-the-autism-spectrum-autistic-people-tickets-517150469977?fbclid=IwAR0uQNWE-X\\_K10jpNVwDgKhodJhn3erqOOwCdPGB-rAvnw4\\_oj6GSdi7tk](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-the-autism-spectrum-autistic-people-tickets-517150469977?fbclid=IwAR0uQNWE-X_K10jpNVwDgKhodJhn3erqOOwCdPGB-rAvnw4_oj6GSdi7tk)

Rosa had to leave the meeting a little early, so Leslie took over and adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on February 22, 2023 at 10:00 am.  
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,  
*Aimee Vitug-Hom*  
VistAbility