

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
February 22, 2023

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Marianne Iversen; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado; Will Sanford

Guests: Mirna Leal, RCEB CM Supervisor; Julia Pelayo-Ruelas, La Familia Case Manager; Aaron Sanchez, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla- EHSD- Community Services Bureau; Selene Gonzalez, The Arc of CA & Congreso Familiar; Gabriela Solval, SCDD; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services (CCS); Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Adrienne Bridges, Specialty Health Ambassador Coordinator; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. and asked guests to enter their names, organizations, or whether a parent or caregiver in the Chat. Instructions were given on how to select Spanish or English for interpretation.

Vi took roll call for Board attendance and it was determined a Quorum was established.

The meeting minutes for January 25, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted and without any corrections (M/Nickole Bouslog, S/Craig Rose). There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa was absent today and provided notes to Vi who reported on her behalf:

- RCEB is holding meetings to share Purchase of Service (POS) data based on age, ethnicity, and language. Some of the meetings will be held as webinars and some in-person. They are interested in hearing from individuals served and their families. You can check the RCEB website for upcoming dates and times. Various language interpretation is available.
- Coordinated Family Support Services (CFS) is a new service being developed that will support people 18 years and older to be able to continue living in their family homes. RCEB is currently reaching out to identify vendors for the program.
- National Core Indicators Survey Data – each year Regional Centers are required to share data obtained from NCI surveys during a public meeting. Details about RCEB's upcoming meeting can

be found on the RCEB website. The data that will be shared is from 2020-2021 in-person surveys of adults served.

- Request for Proposals (RFPs) – every year Regional Centers request funds from DDS to develop services for people moving from restrictive settings into the community. RCEB’s current projects include services for deaf people who live in Newark and a microenterprise development. Those who are familiar with providing services in the East Bay Community are encouraged to apply.

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

Gabriela shared the following:

The next Bay Area RAC Meeting is today, February 22nd, from 6:30-9:00 p.m., with networking from 6:15-6:30 p.m. On the agenda is 2023 policy priorities and policy updates. [Click here](#) to join the meeting, and you can find the [Bay Area RAC Agenda here](#).

Gabriela reminded us that the SCDD L.A. office is hosting statewide trainings on Zoom. The same Zoom link and password is used for all trainings. Upcoming trainings and topics:

- February 27th at 10:00 a.m. on Regional Centers and will be offered in Spanish.
- March 6th at 10:00 a.m. on the Self Determination Program (SDP), offered in English.
- March 13th at 10:00 a.m. on SDP offered in Spanish.
- Here is the Zoom link for all trainings:

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

Project Safe is holding a hands-only non-certified CPR training. The [event flyer is here](#).

For all SCDD meetings and events, go to the links below:

- SCDD Meetings Calendar: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
- SCDD Virtual Trainings Calendar: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-trainings/>

Lastly, you can secure PPE and antigen tests by sending a request to: bayarea@scdd.ca.gov. Mande una solicitud para PPE y pruebas de COVID-19: sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov .

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor: Rosa reminded us to mute our devices when not speaking.

The Council has a flyer to share with everyone that posts the next three presentations starting with this month’s meeting. Thanks go to Vi, Hannah Michaelson and Christine Rottger who helped to create the flyer.

Also, there will be changes with the virtual DDC meetings. The State Executive Order that permitted meetings to take place virtually ends on February 28th. Starting in March, we can either return to pre-pandemic meeting rules (Brown Act) or we can decide to comply with AB 2449 which is newly enacted.

Open Meeting Requirements as of March 2023 (ACTION ITEM):

Vi presented information so that Board Members (also referred to as a Director) could decide on how they want to proceed. Under AB 2449, quorum must be achieved in person and the meeting has to take place in a single physical location open to the public. (Quorum is established when 30% of members are present.)

Under AB 2449, a Board Member can attend the meetings remotely only two meetings per calendar year. There are two reasons for remoting in: “just cause”, which includes reasons such as caring for family member, or if the Director is sick, or has a need due to a disability; or an “emergency circumstance”. In circumstances of just cause, the member will need to notify Vi in advance with a general reason for absence. Emergency situations do not require advance notice and then will be put to the Board for vote to approve request. When remoting in, the Board member must have their camera and audio on most of the time and also has to disclose publicly if anyone 18 years old or older is present. The new rules are applicable through December 2025.

Under the Brown Act, if a Board member calls in from a remote location it is considered a teleconference site and the address needs to be posted on the meeting agenda, made accessible to the public, and public comment allowed from anyone at that teleconference site. In comparison, under AB 2449, Directors can Zoom in without having physical location designated as a teleconference site and it does not need to be publicly accessible.

The in-person meeting requirements only apply to Board Members. Guests and community partners can continue to participate virtually or attend in person. Guests and community partners will have opportunity to provide public comment regardless of if they are attending virtually or in person.

Questions and comments:

- There was a question about how Board members would know if quorum is established ahead of time? Under AB 2449, if no quorum is at the physical location, then the meeting cannot take place. Potentially, people could show up and the meeting would need to be cancelled if a quorum was not present.
- Vi announced the meeting location for March will be at the Office of the Director for CCHS in Martinez. This will be just for March - the room can accommodate a full Board of Directors but probably not everyone who typically attends meetings. There will be kinks to work out! Vi suggested guests join virtually just for March they work out technology and logistics.
- Rosa thanked all in advance for their patience. Also, for the Spanish speaking community, if you come in-person, bring a headset and phone to be able to listen to interpretation.

Following Vi’s presentation, Rosa opened up voting to decide on the Brown Act or AB 2449. Craig motioned to proceed with future meetings under the requirements of AB 2449 and Donna seconded the motion. Vi took Board roll and the motion passed for AB 2449 with two nays (Caroline and Nickole) and one abstain (Pam).

Vi will communicate directly with Board members to advise on the meeting location. Directors are asked to let Vi know their intentions as to whether they will be in-person or remote. Based on 18 current Board members, 6 members will need to be in-person for quorum.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi invited everyone to share [this flyer](#) on upcoming DD Council presentations that are of interest for families with Early Intervention through school-aged children.

Board Membership Report by Troy Russell:

Troy reported he has been promoting the Council during SHA and other events.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Committee on Aging – Marianne Iversen

Marianne was not able to attend today's meeting, so Vi shared the following on her behalf:

There is a webinar presentation for Regional Center staff, service providers, support staff and families on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. PT - "[Aging and Down Syndrome](#)" by Dr. Julie A. Moran.

During the last Committee meeting, they had a presentation from CORE Open Door Evergreen Day Services about their two new programs in San Leandro and Hayward. Services are specifically for RCEB older adults ages 55 years old and older. One program serves about 40 people and the other around 35 people.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 11th at 1:00 p.m.

Mental Health Commission – Pam Perls

Pam reported she was elected to the Commission's executive committee and invited to co-chair their justice committee. She welcomes suggestions on anything she should be raising. There are some serious conflicts – Disability Rights California has a lawsuit with the CARE Court with concerns about privacy and due process for individuals who might be required to get treatment. The Mental Health Commission are people either deeply involved in servicing the mental health community or their family members – their perspective is that it is a GOOD thing for people to get care! Pam also hopes raise questions on equity.

Another great concern is with inadequate community services such as stable housing. There seems to be a misconception that the I/DD community has not only adequate funding but more than its share.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

Will was absent today in preparation for today's Assembly Budget Hearing.

Vi gave a shout out to Will and Michael Pereira on the EBLC event on Jan 27th. The way they embedded community vignettes into their presentation was really impactful. Over 90 people attended – including lots of self-advocates -- and a good number of legislative staff as well!

Donna added there are two follow-up legislative events coming up in March to be held at the San Leandro and Concord RCEB offices. It will give an opportunity for the community to network with legislative staff.

***** Presentation *****

Family Empowerment Center: IEP Help and More for Students Ages 3 to 22
with Hannah Michaelsen, Program Director, Care Parent Network

See Hannah's PowerPoint slides on the [DD Council webpage](#). Following are some notes:

Care Parent Network (CPN) has long participated with the Council as directors and parents and is one of the County's best kept secrets! Hannah herself first connected with CPN when her son was about 3 years old and newly diagnosed. As a Family Resource Center (FRC) serving Contra Costa County for over 30 years, Hannah is excited about CPN now also being designated as a Family Empowerment Center (FEC).

To give context on why it is so exciting, Hannah provided a little background:

- There are 4 special education local planning areas (called SELPAs): Mt. Diablo, WCCUSD, and SRVU are single districts, and CC SELPA is a multi-district SELPA.
- 23,196 students in our County receive Special Education services – a staggering number!
- Family Resource Centers serve kids 3-22 years old but lack dedicated funding.
- In 2001, 12 FECs were created and funded by legislature, which were not even servicing half of the State's population receiving special education services. In 2021, the State approved additional funding and there is now a total of 22 FECs across the State including CPN.
- Family Empowerment Centers are now funded by the CA Department of Education, becoming an integral part of the service system!

As an FEC, Care Parent Network will be able to provide parent training and support on alternative dispute resolution (ADR) such as between a family and their school district at no cost. A lot of districts have some form of an ADR process.

Also, CPN will be able to attend IEP meetings if needed. This is huge, as some families benefit from additional support as they learn to advocate for themselves in the IEP process.

Hannah also shared information about a free peer-to-peer navigation program developed by the UC Davis/MIND Institute called "Mind the Gap". It's available to families whose children are suspected to have a developmental delay. Care Parent Network is in the starting stage of offering "Mind the Gap" to any family that might be eligible. Eligibility requirements include:

- Families must live in Contra Costa County
- The child must be 0 to 10 years old and newly diagnosed or suspected to have a developmental delay.

Families will be connected with a CPN peer navigator for 12 coaching sessions over a period of 4-6 months. They can serve families who speak Spanish or English.

Lastly, CPN recently moved to a new location in downtown Concord that is easy to get to - feel free to stop in for a visit!

Questions/Comments

- Rosa congratulated Hannah and CPN on the extra funding and new programs that are happening.
- An observation was made that 23,196 students is 2% of our total County population, or 12-13% of total student population! Hannah shared that KidsData.org is helpful – originally funded by Lucille Packard’s foundation, you can usually see the data for more than 1 year.
- There was a question about FEC allowing for an expansion of staffing? Hannah hopes it will allow them to hire additional staff members so they can focus more on the work and less time writing grants and seeking funding.
- Another question was about how parents can support CPN or other families? If interested in working 1 on 1 with a family as a mentor, feel free to reach out to Hannah. Also, CPN has a holiday adopt-a-family program for those interested.
- Rosa, Vi, Hannah, and Caroline were all mentors for Care Parent Network at one point!

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Vi made an announcement about a presentation she is working on for parents called Community Resources. It’s not a resource fair, rather it’s community partners in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties that provide supports including FRC, La Families, Congresso, and DRC presenting high level snippets about what each agency does and how to contact them for more information. There will be language translation in Spanish, Cantonese, and ASL, and English. The meeting will be on February 28th. Families are welcome and people who work with families. If you register but can’t attend, presentation slides will be shared with you. Troy said he has already signed up!
 - [Community Resources flyer in English](#)
 - [Community Resources flyer in Spanish](#)
 - [Community Resources flyer in simplified Chinese](#)
- Selene Gonzalez thanked the Council for all the wonderful information. She mentioned that Congresso Familiar is still doing Zoom presentations for families that speak Spanish. Families who have any questions or need help with registration can contact Selene directly.
 - Serie de Educación Especial, sábado, 25 de febrero , 10am - 12pm https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_es7Edf_ZTLWNYysHHZoUQ
 - Oportunidades de Inmigración Para Padres con Niños con Necesidades Especiales, sábado, 4 de marzo, 10AM - 12PM, Link: https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5WYFL9hiSxS0QTpUssKmlw

- Aprenda Donde Obtener Servicios Legales Para su Ser Querido, sábado, 11 de marzo 10am- 12pm (hora del pacífico), Link: https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fub8z9oAQ-mheiclhJdSXg
- Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/congresofamiliar.org>, or contact Selene@thearcca.org 510-806-8590
- Stephen Dale shared a link to a program he is working on called KTLP. This first program is on the [history of the Lanterman Act](#) and is an in-depth look at the IPP process. Please consider sharing with others.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 A.M.

**The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2023 at 10:00 am.
at the Office of the Director for CCHS in Martinez.
This will be a hybrid meeting - look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility