

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
April 26, 2023

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

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Kimberli Buckley; Rebecca Corbett

Guests: Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services Administrator; Jason Parks Las Trampas; Frank Paré, Regional Center of the East Bay (Board); Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; Sadia Mumtaz, VP and Board Member, RCEB, Co-chair of Diversity and Equity Committee; Aaron Sanchez from Rep. DeSaulnier's Walnut Creek office; Christa Guinto from California Children's Services; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Gabriela Solval, State Council of Developmental Disabilities; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Susy Zaragoza, Dale Law Firm

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone to the second hybrid meeting of the year at 10:01AM. Guests attending on Zoom were asked to enter their names and affiliations in the Chat for attendance purposes.

Vi took roll call and determined quorum was established.

The meeting minutes from March 22, 2023 were approved unanimously and without corrections (m/Nickole B., 2nd/Suzanne A.). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa commented that April has been quiet in the world of I/DD. She reported on the following:

Today at 1:30PM, there will be an Assembly hearing on the Little Hoover Commission and Georgetown reports. The commission is looking at oversight changes in the I/DD system and how Regional Centers can be consistent across the State. For instance, they are looking at differences in service access across various backgrounds such as ethnicity as well as across Regional Centers.

Also, RCEB continues to have challenges with having enough case managers. They are holding a job fair at the San Leandro office today with a focus on case management

recruitment. They need to hire about 80 positions over the next month. A more enhanced training program is being offered to candidates that might not have as much experience with the Regional Center system as others. Lisa notes that funds have been made available to reduce caseloads, however, many people have moved out of the area which has contributed to the staffing challenge.

Comments from the President of the RCEB Board – Frank Paré

Frank extended gratitude on behalf of the Board for the invitation to speak on a few items today. He is a parent of a 27-year-old daughter who is a client of RCEB, and has gotten more involved in advocacy work not just for his daughter but also for others. He joined the RCEB Board three years ago without the intent to become President and is honored to represent them. Frank was invited to share information about the RCEB Board.

There are currently 14 board members - they can have up to 20 and so they are actively recruiting. The board is required to have 50% of membership filled by individuals with I/DD or who are parents/guardians, and at least 25% are to be clients of the Regional Center. There are several advisory committees including PVAC, the SDP local advisory, Community Advisory, and Diversity and Equity committees. If you are interested in the committees, you are encouraged to attend the Board meetings.

The role of the Board is to determine what can be better. Lisa K. is their sole employee who navigates what is happening in Sacramento and in the community. Sometimes parents bring issues to the Board to identify blind spots and to try to figure out ways it can be addressed. For families feeling a lack of service, it can impact their lives to a large extent. The Board tries to figure out whether it is a one-off situation or if it is a systemic issue, and how to make it better.

Sadia Mumtaz, Vice-President of the RCEB Board, is the co-chairperson of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Sadia has been on the board for a 1.5 years and has a child with I/DD. Her son was born in Boston and the family tried to live in Pakistan but found there were not a lot of inclusive services.

Sadia and Frank are exploring how to bring about changes related diversity and equity brought forth during the public comment periods of their meetings. The Diversity and Equity committee has several new initiatives, including:

- advocating policy changes if needed from the bottom up level
- ensuring access for families whose primary language is not English
- training families and consumer about their rights

Additionally, they are looking at the flow of board meetings to make sure there is more time to discuss issues and get perspective from members. Legal issues are discussed during closed door sessions.

Consumers, families, and others interested in the work are encouraged to attend one of the monthly Board meetings. The next meeting is on May 22nd from 7-8:30PM. You can

go to the [RCEB website](#) to get on the mailing list, and to find information on meeting schedules and agendas, committee information, and bylaws.

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

Gabriela shared upcoming meetings and events:

- The Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting is tonight April 26th from 6:30-9:00PM on Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85137045245?pwd=cVI2K2ZKci9NZWFrZXZ0L3ZSQW5mUT09>
 - For more information about RAC, check out their [Outreach Flyer](#).
- Employment First Committee meeting is on May 4th from 10:30AM to 3PM on Zoom. They will be talking about strategies for people who are interested in Competitive Integrated Employment. Join on:
<https://zoom.us/j/93566847127?pwd=Vkm0VVQ4aXJOUDVIVTdvU3BGdFizUT09>
- In May, the SCDD L.A. is holding [statewide trainings](#) on a variety of topics.
 - The Mental Health training will be offered in English on May 1st and 15th, and in Spanish on May 8th and 22nd. Meeting ID: 829-8230-7774, Password: 123456
- For the SCDD Meetings Calendar go to <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
- SCDD Virtual Trainings Calendar: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-trainings/>

You can still secure PPE and antigen tests by sending a request to:
bayarea@scdd.ca.gov.

- Mande una solicitud para PPE a: sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa did not have a report for today.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Make your awards nomination by May 5th for the 33rd annual awards event that will be held on June 6th via Zoom. Feel free to share the flyer with anyone who may be interested or have a nomination to make.

- Awards Event flyer in English: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aneniPR6n-YLzVuS_tt92OAwVA1eK-5o/view?usp=share_link
- Awards Event flyer in Spanish:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d2YAsgEasWrijULu9lxm--UAUiuvEgu-/view?usp=share_link

Vi added that both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties have committed to resuming in person in 2024, and they are also looking at ways to increase accessibility to community.

Also, the next two Council meetings will be held at two different locations.

- The May 24th meeting will be at the newly remodeled Las Trampas in Lafayette.
- On June 28th it will take place at Contra Costa Health Services' new administration building in Martinez – the same location where the Board of Supervisors meet. Parking is limited. Both the small parking lot and street parking are metered.

After giving both locations a try, the Council can decide if one works best or consider another location. Meeting locations must have enough room, decent technology, adequate parking and be accessible to the community.

Comments/questions

- A question was asked whether BART goes to Lafayette. It does!
- There was another question about the use of the RCEB boardroom. At this time, they are not allowing public meetings and technology could present a challenge.

Board Membership Report Troy Russell:

Troy attended the West County Transition fair on Saturday, April 21st, where he combined forces with another Specialty Health Ambassador and Vi to spread the word about the Council. On April 26th, he will be presenting at Rocketship School in Antioch.

Also, two or more board members are needed to review the Annual Awards nominations on Wednesday, May 10th. Rosa and Caroline offered their help!

Committee Liaison Reports:

Mental Health Commission – Pam Perls

Pam reported being busy with various meetings and committees. Their quality-of-care committee is looking at mental health in schools K-12 - there is no data out there! The County will be doing a 4-district project focused on communities that have the most kids where English is the 2nd language (Antioch, Pittsburg, West County, and John Swett account for about 60% of students in the County).

The justice committee is trying to get cooperation from the Board of Supervisors, focusing on mental health facilities in the newly expanded jail and finding out about youth programs. Lastly, Pam learned the “BHBH” project - Behavioral Health Bridge Housing program - includes the I/DD community as well. BHBH grant applications are now open for funding that will go towards housing needs for people that are homeless and have mental health diagnoses.

East Bay Legislative Commission – Will Sanford

See Will's PowerPoint presentation, attached, for details of his report.

Committee on Aging – Marianne Iversen

See Marianne's presentation slides for her full report.

***** A brief 10-minute break was taken before the presentation. *****

***** Presentation *****
Limited Conservatorships for Persons with Developmental Disabilities
by Stephen Dale

See Stephen's PowerPoint slides for his full presentation.

Stephen suggests the Council look into how the County is handling these processes, and consider training on supported decision making that passed last year under AB1663.

Comments/Questions

- A question was asked if a family can go to court to obtain conservatorship without the person being conserved being notified? Stephen clarified that a family can file a petition without the person's involvement, but otherwise the person would be notified and expected to be involved with the court proceedings.
- Vi proposed as next steps for interested board members to observe court proceedings, with Steve's help in facilitating that. Ideally, board members would observe before the August annual planning meeting.

Public Comment and Announcements: In order to provide break time to the Board, everyone was asked to enter any comments and announcements into the Chat.

- To watch the KTLP training on IPPs, follow this link
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fU7Za01Nlw&list=PL5dEwICC642rRy_CKX_8zHNPFBcNk5iof
- HireAble's training series in both Contra Costa and Alameda Counties starts next week. The series is for students (16-22) and their families on "What Comes Next: The Value of Work". If interested, contact Donna at donna@hireable.org

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:55am

**Next meeting will be held on May 24, 2023 at 10:00 am.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility