

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
May 24, 2023

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Christine Rottger; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; Marianne Iversen; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; Seth Hendricks; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Kimberli Buckley; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Nickole Bouslog; Rebecca Corbett; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Stephen Dale; Will Sanford

Guests: Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Jess Pawlak, Parent; Paul "Ian" Mendoza, RCEB Case Management Supervisor; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; Ashley A. Henderson, RCEB Case Management Supervisor; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Nora Lewis Specialty Health Ambassador for Contra Costa Health; Erin Ballou, VistAbility Early Intervention Program; Christa Guinto Medical Social Worker, California Children's Services; Krista Peterson, Contra Costa Health-California Children's Services; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Andrea Garcia-Perez, Educational Advocate from DREDF; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Estela Nunez Care Parent Network; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD-Community Services Bureau; Eddie Esquivez, Manos Home Care; Mary Juarez-Fitzgerald, Parent; Alexis Damian, VistAbility George Miller Center; Angela Haynes, Education Advocate DREDF-PTI; Sarah Dell'Aquila-Infant Development Specialist

Welcome and Introductions: Vi welcomed everyone in at 10:03am. The meeting was held in hybrid format – some people were in person at Las Trampas campus and other joined by Zoom. Everyone was reminded to mute phones and devices. Caroline filled in for Rosa who was absent today. Vi took roll call of board members and it was determined quorum was established. Virtual guests were asked to enter their names and affiliations in the Chat for attendance purposes.

The meeting minutes for April 26th minutes were approved unanimously as submitted (M/Donna, S/Pam). There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

The Governor's May revise for 2023-2024 was released earlier this month. Items related to our I/DD system include:

- An update to ILS rates. Rates are being adjusted to reflect adding rehabilitation counselors and teachers as comparison professions as part of the duties for ILS workers. This is good news for the reimbursement rate for this service.
- Trailer bill language that talks about changes to early start eligibility including provisional eligibility that would allow for some Medicaid funding for certain services. They are keeping an eye on this one.

California is in some uncertain times as far as the budget. The State proposed pulling back money for Regional Center positions that have not been filled yet which includes some of the expansion in Early Start. Also, growth in Purchase of Services and Social Recreation haven't occurred within the time expected. (Social Recreation is growing but new providers are still ramping up.) Even though the monies are not being utilized going forward the same allocations will continue.

RCEB is currently accepting Requests for Proposals:

1. Providers for a deaf and hard of hearing home being developed in Newark
2. Someone to work on a computer system to track and monitor HCBS compliance
3. Organizations to provide community based, outreach and best practices for language access and cultural competency in Black, American Indian and South Asian communities

Their hiring fair in San Leandro in April was very successful and they are planning another one in Concord.

Comments/Questions:

- A question was asked about the lack of growth in Purchases of Services and Social Recreation. Lisa clarified this has to do with fiscal year 2022-23. The amount of money will be in the budget for the new fiscal year. If consumers have a service in their IPP, then the State is obligated to provide the funding for it.
- Another question was asked about the service code 028 for Social Recreation. Lisa explained service code 028 is a miscellaneous code only for social skills training for consumers younger than 18 years. Soc Rec can be under different service codes and can include camps, gym memberships, etc. for all ages. They are having difficulties finding providers willing to be vendored.
- A parent spoke of a problem with finding vendors within SDP that don't seem to have setup to assist individuals that might need 1:1 service. There is a pot of money but nowhere to go with it.

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

Vi shared upcoming events and trainings on Gabriela's behalf who was absent today.

- Join the next Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat next Wednesday, May 31st from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Zoom. These chats are a safe space for self-advocates throughout the state to connect with each other and talk about topics and issues that are important to them.

- Register here for the Statewide Self-Advocacy Chat:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrf-2srT4oHdT62CWozc3OOTQ5_P1pRRmG#/registration
- SCDD LA Statewide trainings on Special Education will be held in June and July. Flyer with more information is here: <https://files.constantcontact.com/be05f332501/bd19eb68-3ae8-4ac7-a925-a7b9c0186cb7.pdf>
- For the complete SCDD Meetings Calendar go here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
- SCDD has secured federal technical assistance for the (*National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network*) Competitive Integrated Employment Community of Practice. A Community of Practice (CoP) is a powerful and effective means to support our staff. The California CoP, led by national SMEs (subject matter experts), targets diverse stakeholders like employment providers, regional center employees, and other direct service staff involved in the 14(c) transition. Starting in June into August, they are offering a series of training sessions related to employment. CA NEON Community of Practice: Session 1 will be on 06/28/23 from 9-11:30 a.m. on work incentives and benefits planning. Here is the Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pquVkvu7QWGauexhOaPjSA#/registration

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Caroline had no report.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi thanked Las Trampas for hosting the meeting and offered a tour of their newly remodeled campus afterwards. The June meeting will be held at the CCHS administrative building in Martinez. After that, the Board can provide direction on which location worked better or if they should continue trying to find another meeting site.

The Specialty Health Ambassador program is hiring to fill part-time positions. A final version of flyer in the works that Vi will distribute when ready.

Proposed Board of Directors

The Board Roster includes dates each member started on Board of Directors, and which term the person is in. Members are welcomed to continue a 2nd term. After the 2nd term, they must wait until 12 months have lapsed before serving again if interested. There are currently 15 board members on the roster – Donna and Will will be terming out in the new year and Kimberli Buckley will not be moving into a 2nd term.

The summer planning meeting will include board member recruitment. If you know anyone who is interested, reach out to Vi, Troy Russell or any of the board members. Requirements: must be interested in supporting people within Contra Costa County and have attended three board meetings.

A reminder to register for the annual joint county Awards Event, taking place on June 6th.

Register at: https://cchealth.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMuce-gqzMvG9wR3r_1pTu65HVEvjBagSsl#/registration

Board Membership Report Troy Russell:

Troy was happy to announce a nomination of Ramsay Mashy to the board. Ramsay introduced himself as the Director of CAF community services. He served on the DD Council in the 1980s. Ramsay was voted in unanimously (M/Troy, S/Craig) and welcomed back to the Board!

Committee Liaison Reports:

HireAble – Donna Feingold

Donna reported on a very busy month of May. They held the first series of virtual workshops for students and families on what comes next after transition. Three sessions were held in each county. Attendance was low – about 30 people registered across seven different school districts. They will be offering the same series again in the fall, also virtually.

Earlier in the month, they had a fabulous speaker – Dr. Nancy Dome – present on Compassionate Dialogue. The next meeting will be on June 26th with a presentation by Mains' l about Person Centered Planning in employment goals.

Emergency Planning Engagement – Carol McCrary

Carol was absent today so Aimee shared information. She shared the following links to great emergency planning resources.

1. [Community Warning System](https://cwsalerts.com/) – Register for alerts at <https://cwsalerts.com/>
2. [Listos California Resource Hub](#) – one stop shop for disaster readiness
3. [Red Cross Emergency Apps](#) – free apps for Apple & Android

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council – Vi Ibarra

Vi did not have a report today.

A short 10-minute break was taken for people who attended in person.

***** Presentation *****

My Child is Turning 3, What's Next?

A Panel Presentation

Presenters: Mary Fitzgerald-Juarez, Parent; VistAbility - Christine Rottger, Director of Childrens Services and Alexis Damian, Lynn Center Program Coordinator; RCEB - Franco Carroll, Case Management Supervisor and Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Assoc. Director Children's Services; Angela Haynes, Education Advocate, DREDF. The presentation slides can be [found here](#).

How can a parent prepare for a child's transition?

Know your child's needs and be ready to advocate for it. Have documentation ready such as insurance, medical information from your provider, and reports from your child's program. Be prepared to present your child's needs and information to various entities.

As a provider, how can parents best prepare?

Understand what educational barriers might be present in your child's environment. Educate yourself on important transition dates and meetings, and plan on attending all meetings. Time can fly! Children can come in to Early Start services at any time before 3 years old. Sometimes, kids have just gone through process but then turn 3 years old. So, being aware of timelines is important.

What went well for Mary?

Mary shared her personal experiences and insights. She did a lot of research on different process, on her rights, and timelines. It was clear early on that there was not a guidebook and nobody was going to hand things over! She wished there was more accessible information. For example, she reached out to RCEB when her child was age 2 but it is not always clear to parents on when to reach out who might not have the same access to the information. For eligibility beyond age 3 years, she had to ask about processes. In her son's case, she was able to find information and learn about rights.

From a provider point of view, where can things get stuck?

Alexis and Christine said that awareness levels of the different processes can have an impact on whether things can go well or not. Completing all paperwork within the required timelines is important. If families put it off, it can result in delays in start dates.

One of the big challenges in Early Start is that kids that are aging out and there are not spaces in the school districts right now. Schools are also facing challenges with hiring and retaining staff system wide. For kids born in the early part of the year, this is resulting in them having to wait to enter until the fall.

Educational vs. RCEB services

See Lisa's presentation slides on eligibility types for regional center services.

How does RCEB support families through the transition process?

Elvia explained that once a child turns 3 years old, the majority is determined through eligibility. Status 2 eligibility is driven by families and supported by the planning team including whomever the families want involved. Provisional eligibility is called Status "U". One of the differences to Early Start for kids over 3 is that RCEB connects with family once a year by law versus every 6 months.

A question was asked about OT and PT, if continued services also mean continued therapies? It was explained that after 3 years old, school districts have the responsibility for providing therapies like OT, PT, and speech. The Regional Center can support if families invite the case manager to IEP meetings. The case manager can help the family with preparing for the IEP meeting. Lisa added that another place for therapies is through health insurance - for example, children with autism, where an OT or ABA can come in.

Another question was asked about provisional eligibility and who the case manager is? It was explained that for kids older than 3 years, it is assigned to the children's division and requires an annual meeting with the families. More meetings may be needed to obtain medical information.

Comments/Questions:

There was a question about eligibility. Once eligible, are they eligible for life?

1. If made Status 2 – also known as Lanterman eligible – the person is considered served by the regional center for their entire life. They can transfer to any regional center in the State.
2. For Provisional Eligibility at age 3, the child will need to be redetermined for Status 2 before they turn 5 years old.
3. If the child is older than age 5, they may still be eligible if the I/DD occurred before the age of 18 years old. RCEB does get referrals for people in their 40s and 50s.

An explanation was offered on assessments. If child received an assessment from a medical provider – for example a diagnosis of autism - the regional center does not do another new assessment. They try to use what was done already. They receive a lot of referrals from children who were assessed in school districts but haven't had cognitive testing so regional center then performs cognitive tests. Clinical staffing is a big challenge these days.

Comments and concerns were raised about children who turn 3, are eligible and entitled to school district services only to be told there are no spots yet. It was likened to having a wait list for school placement. This is a big problem – it is not just county wide; it is happening system wide in under-resourced school districts. Families should have the issue documented in the IEP and can contact CARE Parent Network and/or DREDF for help. CARE can assist with filing compliance complaints. Also, there are ways to file complaints with the state's Department of Education. The need for advocacy is important.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Troy announced there will be a community health fair held in San Pablo on Saturday, June 10th. See the flyer for details.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on June 28, 2023 at 10:00 am.
Look for the location information and Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility