

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
2/27/19

Board and Liaison Members Present: Paula Senigar, Chairperson; Heidi Spaulding, Vice Chair; Bill Trinh; Craig Rose; David Monahan; Donna Feingold; Elvia Osorio Rodriguez; Leslie Werosh Visbal; Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; Rosa Valledor; Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Will Sanford, Cheresse LeBlanc

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Audra Sysum; Sheraden Nicholau; Caroline Ortiz, Ex-Officio

Guests: Murri Banis, Contra Costa ARC; Teresa Gonzalez, CCC Health Services Community Connect; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC; Krista Peterson, Contra Costa CCS; Marnie Raymond, Parent; Rebecca Corbett, Futures Explored; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Michelle Mankewich, Community Services Bureau Head Start; Megan Crain, Congressman DeSaulnier's office; Danielle Hudson, Futures Explored; Mitea Mostofi, Futures Explored; Austin Frame, Futures Explored; Amanda Porter, Futures Explored; Star Sneed, Futures Explored; Amber Ortisi, Futures Explored; Tiffany Speerbrecker, Contra Costa ARC; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Rose Dowd, RCEB; Alejandra Sanchez Ezidro, Assembly Member Tim Grayson's office; Natalie Abbott, Contra Costa County Library; Tracy Butler, Contra Costa ARC

Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Paula Senigar, Chair, at 10:05 a.m., and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The meeting minutes of January 23, 2019 were approved (M/Craig Rose; S/Suzanne Anthony).
- There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa reported that a budget hearing specific to Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is scheduled for March 6, 2019. The Community's request for an 8% rate increase - as a down payment - is a real ask as findings from the service provider rate study will not be implemented this year. Also:

- Briefing sessions on the rate study were held on February 25th and 26th and recorded on live stream.
- Lisa viewed the live stream on February 26th and commented that the report is very, very complicated. There will be increases and decreases in certain rates based on certain assumptions such as geography (rent and wage considerations), and worker

skills and experience. The study folds some rates together and half-day billing will go away and be replaced by hourly rates.

- A full report was completed by Burns & Associates and is available. Will warned to not hit 'print' – the report is 2,000 pages!
- DDS is accepting public comments through March 22nd. RCEB will post a link to the survey very soon.

Lisa also gave an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). DDS held train-the-trainer sessions for Regional Center staff in preparation for the SDP participant orientations, and she and Ronke Sodipo attended one last week. Orientations are to start in April or early May. There are still questions about implementation.

There are still disparity grants available. Organizations that can provide Family Home Agency services to deaf or Asian/monolingual communities are invited to submit proposals. RCEB is holding community meetings about Purchase of Services disparities data and will be offered in various languages. Visit the RCEB website for meeting dates, times, and locations.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office:

Vi reported the following, on behalf of Sheraden and in her absence:

The SCDD Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting was held on the same date of this Developmental Disabilities Council meeting (February 27, 2019) at the San Mateo County Office of Education. Agenda items included RAC member reports, a review of the annual reports for the SCDD Clients' Rights Advocacy and Volunteer Advocacy Service program, and a Forensics overview.

SCDD is co-hosting two sets of a 2-part UC Davis/MIND taught Support Decision Making trainings for professionals, family advocates, and self-advocates. One in Concord with the Contra Costa County Developmental Disabilities Council on February 28th, and one set in San Mateo with Golden Gate Regional Center on April 10th.

The next SCDD legislative and public policy committee meeting is scheduled for March 7th in Sacramento, the next State Council meeting will be on March 12th also in Sacramento, and on March 11th is the next self-advocates' advisory committee.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra: No report.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee: Nothing to report. Paula thanked Heidi for filling in for her last month when she was sick.

Nominating Committee: David offered the reminder that three seats are still available.

Transition Committee: Donna participated in the "Employment is an Option!" mini conference held on February 2nd in Antioch. Eighty people attended and the event was recorded by Futures

Films – once available, the video will be posted on the Developmental Disabilities Council website. Thanks went to Huckleberry Catering for providing the food.

Vi reported the Transition Task force meets on the third Thursday of every month. They will be reviewing the next event and invite others to join in the planning efforts. Also, handouts on transition resources are available – “Links We Like” and a flyer on the Transition Alliance.

Community Liaison Reports:

Health Equity Team: Nickole reported the team met last month for a presentation on healthcare disparities: Nickole found it confusing and complicated. Unfortunately, she arrived late because the bus was late. A discussion on how various County divisions address health equity issues will happen at the next meeting.

Employment Task Force: Donna reported on an update from CC County’s Bridge to Success (BTS) program. This provides for an alternate application and hiring process for specially created County positions. Originally, two jobs were offered and filled, and since then two more have been added including a library associate position. There is still one position open. Task Force meetings are held on the last Friday of the month. Lauren Ludwig from BTS was last month’s guest speaker. The next meeting is scheduled for March 22nd in Oakland.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Will Sanford reported the Assembly Budget Subcommittee has a hearing on March 6th to discuss the critical funding need. He encouraged attendance to support the 8% rate increase request: if you cannot make it on March 6th, visit your local legislators to make the same pitch, or write, phone, or email. It is important we do this together.

With regards to the Rate Study, Will emphasized minimum wage increases were not factored in; data from the Bureau of Occupational Statistics was used in the formula. It is very very complicated. Cities like San Francisco and San Jose that increased their minimum wages early on were factored in the Bay Area rates as compared to the city of Los Angeles that increased wages at later time. The results differ. Additionally, hourly rates would replace full-day billing except for residential; certain service codes “fold” into others, e.g. Tailored Day Service code is taken out; and employment rates would be lower (e.g., a Work Activity Program component would be funded at a 1:35 ratio).

There is a PowerPoint presentation available that walks through the Rate Study. Implementation will require regulatory change and possibly legislative action. Donna expressed that we need to convince the legislature that we don’t have just a minimum wage workforce.

Pam Perls suggested having someone provide commentary on how to provide feedback, as she wants to be able to comment but would like guidance. Lisa responded that ARCA and the Lanterman Coalition will weigh in on it.

The next EBLC meeting is scheduled for the same date of this Council meeting, at 12:30pm, here at RCEB.

CCTA Paratransit Coordination Council: Bill announced that Link fare will increase by \$1.00 to \$5.00 starting March 10th.

Emergency Services Engagement: Marcelle reported:

- Planning for the annual Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Forum is underway. Based on last year's success, a larger venue is needed and live streaming is required.
- Thanks to Carol McCrary, the Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) awarded a \$2K grant for "go bags" (emergency kits).
- There is an East County Disaster Committee meeting on March 7th – details are on the Office of Emergency Services. All are welcome.
- Volunteer groups and individuals are invited to participate in the American Red Cross's Sound the Alarm Campaign. Smoke detectors will be offered and installed in neighborhoods located in Brentwood, Richmond, Pacheco and Antioch.
- Thanks to Carol McCrary, Rosa Valledor, and Catherine Godlewski for sharing their expertise and experience at a recent Search and Rescue training on responding to individuals who have autism. It was very well received and they have been invited to participate in a field exercise in March.
- The County Citizens Academy is starting on March 6th and will run through May 15th. There is still space available.

THERE WAS A SHORT BREAK FOR COFFEE AND CONVERSATION.

Thank you to Craig and Bill for providing the refreshments!

Presentation: Introduction to the Contra Costa County Local Partnership Agreement

Speaker: Rose Dowd, Employment Specialist, RCEB

Rose presented an overview of the County Local Partnership Agreement.

Over the last 20 years, a person's trajectory into employment was thought to be Work Activity Program to Supported Employment to Individual Placement. It was found that this was not really happening: it seems that once an individual transitions from school into a work program they "stick" to the first choice.

Employment First provides options and supports that are appropriate IF a person wants to have a job in the community. The California Competitive Integrated Employment Blueprint is an agreement made at the state level. The idea is to improve collaboration between three major departments: Dept. of Education, Dept. of Developmental Services, and Dept. of Rehabilitation. For Contra Costa County, our main partners are RCEB, DOR, and education partners. Local Partnership Agreements (LPA) will document the way local partners work together. Education partners must have Workability contracts: participating districts include Mt. Diablo, WCCUSD, San Ramon, and Spectrum. We are still very early in the process and laying the foundation. Program outcomes and measurements are still to be determined.

Tracy Butler asked about how the Workforce Innovation Act (WIOA) overlays with Employment First. Rose explained that it is not the same but the initiatives weave together, with Employment First clearer on Competitive Integrated Employment. There is a need to identify and address service gaps to increase CIE opportunities.

As part of the Transition Task Force, Karen Lingenfelter said they are making progress with linking schools with employment resources. Paula Senigar commented that in her experience school districts do a poor job in transition planning: they are the payer of first resort and she would like to see information brought to school districts. Rose noted that the Local Partnership Agreement has no authority over school districts. Cherese Leblanc suggested having someone come to share information to address the service gaps (e.g., attend a teacher inservice).

The PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the Developmental Disabilities website at a future date. Look to an announcement and link address in the Council's Corner.

Announcements

- Rosa announced that a new Concord support group has been formed. See flyer for details.
- Nickole shared there is a Self-Determination Program meeting on March 4th to be held at RCEB San Leandro. Also, the Health Equity Committee will meet next week in Martinez from 3:30-5:00pm. All are welcome.
- Elvia announced the date for the annual Congresso Familiar in Oakley is set for Saturday, April 27th. Workshops are provided solely in Spanish; however, you do not have to speak Spanish in order to attend. Daycare and lunch will be provided. Look for details in the next Council's Corner and put the word out to families.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:54am.

2019 Upcoming Meetings:

**Our next meeting is:
March 27, 2019
RCEB Concord
1320 Willow Pass Road, #300
Concord, CA 94520
10:00 a.m. - Noon**

Respectfully Submitted By,

Aimee Vitug-Hom, Contra Costa ARC