

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**October 28, 2020**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, Leslie Visbal, Vice-Chair, Caroline Ortiz, Suzanne Anthony, Donna Feingold, Kimberli Buckley, Marcelle Indelicato, Maria Cabeza, Marianne Iversen, Pam Perls, Craig Rose, Ria Mercado, Heidi Spaulding, Will Sanford, Audrua Sysum.

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Bill Trinh, Stephen Dale, Karen Lingenfelter, David Monahan, Nickole Bouslog.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Rebecca Corbett, Antioch Alive; Patricia Alberño, Care Parent Network; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Michelle Mankewich, CSB Head Start; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Karen Smith, Futures Explored; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Carlyn Obringer, Blue Shield of California; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services Program Administrator; Margot Aishiteru, Parent; Dora Gutierrez; Laura Rodriguez; Maria Teresa Kearns; Liz Dietz, American Red Cross; Briana Taylor, American Red Cross.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, at 10:04 a.m. Since this was a Zoom meeting, all guests were asked to sign into the Chat Box. Board attendance was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Rosa thanked Vi for all the work she has done to make this the first DD Council meeting with a Spanish interpreter. This is allowing new people to join the meeting today!

The meeting minutes of September 23, 2020 were approved with one correction (M/Marianne Iversen; S/Will Sanford).

There were no additions to today's agenda.

**UPDATES**

**Contra Costa Health Services Update by Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna, Deputy Health Officer:**

Dr. Rohan reported that on [cchealth.org](https://cchealth.org) there is a “Living in Contra Costa County” roadmap for the next 30 years. This document contains a narrative and measurements for living safely, healthy, and well. He welcomes feedback on this document, especially regarding the resiliency and sense of belonging by the I/DD community.

As of yesterday, Contra Costa County has moved into the Orange Tier (Moderate), with the adjusted case rate of 3.7 per 100,000 people and a positivity rate of 1.9%. He would like to increase testing to at least 4,000 people per day (currently at 3,500) as they have the capacity to do so. This allows for better monitoring of the transmission of the virus. A third measure is Health Equity, which measures the positivity in economically challenged and Latinx communities. It is currently 3.9%. They are focusing on increasing testing efforts in Richmond, San Pablo, and Bay Point and providing prevention information.

Dr. Rohan stated that he recommends monthly testing for frontline staff in homes and programs for anyone seeing their clientele face-to-face.

One question asked was about people coming into the County from elsewhere, that are bringing the virus with them and putting us at risk. Dr. Rohan responded that we have to model, for the long-term, and speak up when others are not wearing a mask or not physical distancing. We are all in this together. And we have to continue being vigilant in our prevention measures or we could be moved back into a more restrictive tier during the fall and winter months.

Dr. Rohan further stated that it will be many months before a vaccine is readily available. People that have had the virus, seem to think that they are now immune from it, but data shows that immunity or antibodies from Covid-19 only last for a few months.

In addition, the CDC states that surfaces are low risk for transmission, but airborne risks stay around for a few minutes. Ventilation is important (8 air changes per hour is recommended) and air filters with a MERV rating of 12 or above are also recommended.

The CDC has revised the social/physical distancing recommendations, stating that close contact with someone is defined as being closer than 6 feet, with a cumulative time of 15 minutes (can be 5 minutes at a time here and there, with a total of 15 minute) within a 24-hour period, whether wearing a mask or not.

There is a new antigen test that has been approved by the FDA with 15 minute results. If you are symptomatic, you may take this one and follow up with a PCR for confirmation.

A question was asked about schools opening. Dr. Rohan stated that the County Health Department does not restrict schools from opening, but can provide data and support. The school districts are making their own decisions, with some opening in January 2021.

This is a controversial topic and he recommends that each family make their own decisions/choices to have their children return to in-person school or not.

Dr. Rohan thanked Ria Mercado of this Board who arranged for 17 residential homes to get the flu vaccine---a great collaboration with public health, in which the mission was achieved. Dr. Rohan recommended that everyone get their flu shot before Halloween! He also posted resources in the chat.

**RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:**

Lisa Kleinbub reported that while the Covid-19 data shows that the spread for people with I/DD is lower than the rest of the State, but that there has been an increase in staff cases over the last few weeks. She mentioned that we have to double-down on our prevention practices!

The latest from DDS includes:

- A directive about extending various previous directives for 30 more days.
- A directive postponing the monthly service rates for nonresidential vendors to December 1, 2020. Vendors will be billing for November in the same manner as Sept. and Oct. 2020.
- No information on the engagement log---we need to be flexible and have patience.
- DDS will host community meetings for individuals and families on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A survey will go out in several languages to get feedback on what is working, what is not working and how is Self-Determination going.

RCEB is hosting a meeting regarding their Performance Outcomes on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The details and the report are on their website. In addition, Requests for Proposals for Disparity Grants are out, with a focus on Advocacy related to the disparities in POS's. RCEB is recruiting for 2 Board members: one representing the Asian community and one for a consumer. Finally, RCEB has a plan due to DDS on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> to explain their lack of maintaining caseload ratios. Lisa feels that the cost of living in the Bay Area is the culprit, hindering their hiring and she will be lobbying for higher wages for Case Managers in her budget.

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Bay Area Office Report by Sheraden Nicholau:**

Sheraden discussed several trainings that SCDD is currently involved in, including:

- Competitive Integrated Employment;
- Training for a local probation department;
- Technical assistance with education, Department of Rehab, and housing;
- Support for law enforcement in crisis intervention;
- Accessibility and the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Sheraden has secured PPE for 5 Bay Area Counties. You can contact her or RCEB for your PPE needs. They also have emergency backpacks. **Sheraden was thanked for her efforts in securing the PPE!**

Pam and Renee Perls are developing a Leadership training series for people with I/DD. There will be a self-advocates' survey coming out soon.

Upcoming meetings are listed in the chat and on the SCDD website---everyone is welcome.

**Council Chairperson Report:**

Rosa reported that there will be a speaker in the November meeting regarding local services for people with I/DD with behavioral health needs. Rosa also reported that the DD Council meeting will end each time promptly at 11:50 a.m. to give people a break between meetings.

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

- Please put your name and affiliation in the Chat box for attendance purposes.
- Vi was thanked again for her efforts in securing Spanish interpretation for this meeting!
- Vi commented on the success of 2 conferences this month: "Vision for the Future" has about 1—to 130 attendees at each of the 5 weekly presentations, and presentations are being recorded for later viewing; "Autism Star Conference" had about 100 attendees and will include another virtual presentation next Spring.

**Board Membership Report by David Monahan:** No report

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra): No report

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford): Will encouraged everyone to get out and vote, dropping off your ballot instead of mailing it! The next EBLC meeting is Nov 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-Noon---everyone is welcome. There are federal concerns around the relief funds being stalled and the ACA is being heard on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> in the Supreme Court.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Marcelle Indelicato): Marcelle made several announcements:

- The American Red Cross is still recruiting for External Relations volunteers for our community. Please spread the word to all those you might know who like working with community leaders and residents to help build our resilience.

- Dozier Libbey Medical High School E-Mentor program in Antioch begins next week for two weeks where professionals of all types can lend high school students career guidance and information via email chats----a great program!
- The Contra Costa Emergency Operations Center was activated for the PSPS/Fire alerts on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful for not having any significant fires.
- CAER Annual School Shelter-in-Place Drill is being held virtually on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Rick Kovar, Manager of the Contra Costa Office of Emergency Services, spoke at a Town Hall with Assembly Member Grayson on the importance of staying vigilant and preparing for evacuations.
- Congratulations go to Hannah Michaelson of Care Parent Network who was selected for a CAL-OES advisory committee on Standard Emergency Management System (SEMS) to assist in planning for training and exercises in our State. Marcelle thanked Hannah, and feels our community goes above and beyond to support our residents.
- Danielle Bell of San Ramon Valley Fire is conducting training to various Police Departments on Autism Spectrum Disorders. She has also developed a “sensory bag” for Fire and Paramedic crews (first responders) to have on hand to assist people with Autism in an emergency situation.

HireAble (Donna Feingold): Next meeting is this Friday with a speaker from the Pacific ADA Center on accommodations.

Health Equity Team: No report.

Transition Task Force Committee: Bridget Benjamin reported that the Task Force is embarking in developing and maintaining an on-line resource guide for adult programs.

**Presentation: Emergency Shelters: Meeting the Needs of People with Disabilities, by Liz Dietz, Regional Disability Integration Lead, American Red Cross.**

Liz described the unique situations she has been involved in over the last year, including 8 deployments for emergency shelters. Recently there were 3 significant wildfires, needing collaboration with other partners, including disaster health services, disaster mental health counselors, spiritual care, and IT services.

When the pandemic came along, they had to re-think congregate sheltering and make changes, including making them smaller, with 10 feet minimum between cots and other prevention measures. They have partnered with various hotel/motel chains (Best Western, Hyatt, Marriott, Hilton), RV parks, camps with cabins to house families together, as a first choice. They also have an agreement with Sonoma State University

gym and dormitories. They developed tele services for people that are deaf or blind. They also partnered with the Centers for Independent Living for Durable Medical Equipment (DME), such as wheelchairs, commodes, walkers and YETI generators to run CPAP machines, small refrigerators, etc.

They rely on FAST teams (Functional Assessment Service Teams) to do individual needs assessments with people with disabilities and access and functional needs in the emergency shelters.

Liz stated that the American Red Cross regularly plans for emergency shelters and partners with other resources when not deployed. She stated that the middle of a disaster is not the time to trade business cards! Preparation is key.

Liz would like to continue to be part of the DD Council to add to her list of collaborations, which include:

- FAST teams
- Medical Reserve Corp (EMTs, Doctors, Nurses)
- Centers for Independent Living
- VOAD
- And more.

If you would like to volunteer for the Red Cross, you can contact Liz or Briana Taylor (contact info in the Chat).

Liz was thanked for her informative presentation and her continued work in emergency planning and sheltering.

#### **Announcements:**

- Our next meeting will be November 18<sup>th</sup>. No meeting in December 2020.
- Ariel Mercado of BART invited everyone to participate in 2 upcoming meetings, which he posted in the chat. Topics include discussions about homelessness and handling incidents with people with behavioral health needs without armed police.
- Maria Cabeza announced she has support group openings for self-advocates on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. See Chat for her contact information.
- Patricia Albeño announced that Congreso Familiar is occurring every Saturday from 10 am – Noon for people speaking Spanish. Previous presentations have been recorded. Go to [congresofamiliar.org](http://congresofamiliar.org) for more information.
- Michelle Mankewich announced that Head Start is currently enrolling children from ages 0-4 years. Details are in the Chat.

Announcements from Chat:

Resources from Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna “Living Contra Costa”- <a href="https://cchealth.org/healthservices/strategic-planning/pdf/Strategy-Brief.pdf">https://cchealth.org/healthservices/strategic-planning/pdf/Strategy-Brief.pdf</a> “Living Contra Costa” Core Measures- <a href="https://dashboard.cchealth.org/sense/app/4f1e38b9-4a9a-48b2-b1be-0f17a9306e02/sheet/aa49cf8f-8a35-46c4-a25a-33f85537be32/state/analysis">https://dashboard.cchealth.org/sense/app/4f1e38b9-4a9a-48b2-b1be-0f17a9306e02/sheet/aa49cf8f-8a35-46c4-a25a-33f85537be32/state/analysis</a> Get Tested 1-844-421-0804
Upcoming meeting dates and times from Sheraden (SCDD): Nov 3: Employment First Committee, starts at 1115a Nov 30: Self-Advocates Advisory Committee, 1p-4 Dec 1: SCDD Council meeting, 10a-3p Dec 2: Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, 630p-9p Dec 9th : Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, 10a-2p
Link from Bridget Benjamin for the Questionnaire for the Resource Guide. <a href="https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXiro5atbMt5rtvqZ7D_upaHpC-wlOaxkjANDI1izTbNZhwQ/viewform?gxids=7628">https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXiro5atbMt5rtvqZ7D_upaHpC-wlOaxkjANDI1izTbNZhwQ/viewform?gxids=7628</a>
Contact information for Briana Taylor, American Red Cross: <a href="mailto:briana.taylor2@redcross.org">briana.taylor2@redcross.org</a> , 925-360-3460
For more information on the adult self-advocate support group, contact <a href="mailto:mcabeza@careparentnetwork.org">mcabeza@careparentnetwork.org</a>
Ariel Mercado from BART invited everyone to attend an outreach meeting to stakeholders on new public safety approaches that emphasize responding to homelessness, behavioral health and substance use issues without relying on armed police. BART General Manager Bob Powers has pledged \$2 million in operating funds, originally identified for Covid-19 pandemic enforcement using sworn officers, to be reallocated toward more unarmed civilian employees providing presence and assistance and to expand training.  That meeting will be held tonight, October 28, from 6:00-8:00 pm. Register at <a href="https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rDY413JOTYGFRtyDI-iA1g">https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rDY413JOTYGFRtyDI-iA1g</a>
From Michelle Mankewich : CSB Head Start is currently enrolling children 0-4 years old into Distance Learning and in person childcare Please share our automated intake line with families 925-427-8852 or I am happy to share our referral form if your agency would like to refer a family, email me at <a href="mailto:MMankewich@ehsd.cccounty.us">MMankewich@ehsd.cccounty.us</a>

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

**Next meeting will be held on November 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.  
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility