

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)**  
**April 28, 2021**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, Leslie Visbal, Vice-Chair, Caroline Ortiz, Suzanne Anthony, Maria Cabeza, Marianne Iversen, Pam Perls, Heidi Spaulding, Will Sanford, Karen Lingenfelter, Nickole Bouslog, Marcelle Indelicato, Stephen Dale, Craig Rose, Donna Feingold.

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Ria Mercado, Audrua Sysum, Bill Trinh, David Monahan, Kimberli Buckley.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Krista Peterson, California Children's Services; Valisha Fullard-Harris, California Autism Foundation; Michelle Mankewich Community Services Bureau; Rebecca Corbett, Antioch Alive; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Kristina Jensen, Liberty UHSD.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Rosa Valledor, Chairperson, at 10:00 a.m. Since this was a Zoom meeting, all guests were asked to sign into the Chat. Board attendance was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting minutes of March 24, 2021 were approved with one correction to the attendance (Becky Weiringa) (M/Nickole Bouslog; S/Marcelle Indelicato) with 2 people abstaining.

There were no additions to today's agenda.

**UPDATES**

**Contra Costa Health Services Report by Deputy Health Officer Dr. Tom Warne:**

Case rates for COVID-19 have flattened recently. We continue in the orange tier and he expects we will be in the yellow tier around June 15<sup>th</sup>. Contra Costa County is hard at work getting people vaccinated and we have the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest vaccination rate in the State (Marin County is #1).

There have been 15 deaths from Covid in the last 3 weeks, with 27 people currently hospitalized. It is encouraging that there are only 3 cases in long-term care facilities at this time. The hot spots right now are El Sobrante and Oakley.

About 47% of Contra Costa is fully vaccinated and the availability of the vaccine is reflective of the supply, which is good. They now have drive thru and walk-in clinics open. The mobile clinics are now focusing on persons that are homebound.

The CDC has indicated that it is now endorsing resuming outdoor activities without a face covering, unless in a large gathering. When the California Dept. of Public Health gives a written endorsement, Contra Costa County will adopt it. At this time, California has the lowest case rates in the U.S.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is back. There were 15 incidents of blood-clotting out of 8 million doses given, primarily to younger to middle-aged women.

Lisa asked about the County's communication about vaccines and suggested utilizing community ambassadors and partners in those efforts. Dr. Warne said he would make those suggestions. He also stated that his experience is that some people are making a measured decision to wait.

**RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:**

Lisa reported that on April 17<sup>th</sup> there was a successful vaccination POD at RCEB. She asked that people inform case managers if program participants are vaccinated or not. They will be targeting and educating people that are not vaccinated. In the month of April, four people tested positive in our 2 counties.

A question was raised if Community Care Licensing is requiring vaccinations of persons served, and the answer was a firm "no".

She is receiving a lot of questions about shorter school/program hours as they slowly resume in-person services. Lisa assured everyone that RCEB will continue to provide supports to families, as needed. On May 14<sup>th</sup>, she is hosting a virtual meeting with parents and care providers.

The Self-Determination committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month. The initial 3-year phase in of the project ends soon and it is expected the program will be available to anyone who wants it starting in July.

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

Sheraden reported that 29,000,000 people in California have been vaccinated. The State's case rate is 4.5 per 100,000 people She is adding to the Chat the link to the next meeting on May 12th (and a recording of the last meeting) of the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee.

State Council has the ability to get more PPE---just reach out to Sheraden (Thank you!!!).

The State & Regional grant proposals deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>, targeting inclusive education.

State Council is offering a training on Fair Housing on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. A symposium on dual diagnosis (I/DD and Mental Health) is being planned for the Fall.

There is a short survey out now for self-advocates, so they can prioritize topics for a future workshop series. Details are in the chat.

**Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:**

Rosa stated that for the June election, there is 1 Board member opening. We will also be voting for the Chairperson and Vice Chair positions. We are accepting nominations and interest now.

Also, if you are unable to attend the June 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Council Awards Event, please let Vi know of any barriers to your attendance.

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

Vi reminded all guests to put their names in the chat for attendance recording.

Vi announced that the Autism Star Conference was held last Saturday and went well, with about 100 people in attendance. The keynote was given by Lilian Ansari, with presentations on supporting your child's behavior, and mental health, during COVID times and distance learning.

Las Trampas held a vaccination POD. Since the Johnson & Johnson one-shot was paused at the time of the clinic, they will hold a second clinic so folks can receive their second does. No other specialized clinics for our I/DD community are scheduled at this time.

Vi brought up her concern of vaccine hesitancy among parents of children with Autism. Rosa added hearing about hesitancy due to concerns about how parents would care for their children if they experienced severe side effects. Vi asked that if you have families sharing any vaccine concerns, please let her know. She wants to help facilitate information exchange and communication between our community and the health department.

The Mental Health Commission meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our Council has discussed some of the challenges of accessing mental health support for our residents with I/DD. Vi suggested our board may want to consider connecting with this commission and Pam Perls volunteered to represent this Board at those meetings.

The Joint Council Awards Event is planned for June 1<sup>st</sup>, virtually. She included the flyer with links to register, make award nominations, and for accepting donations to provide translation services and plaques to the winners. This is a free event.

**Board Membership Report by Vi Ibarra:**

Vi asked for volunteers to review and select the winners from the award nominations. Volunteers included: Marianne, Rosa, Caroline, Donna and Leslie from the Board.

## **Committee Liaison Reports:**

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council: Vi reported that their next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>. There has been no meeting since the last Council meeting.

East Bay Legislative Coalition: Will reported that their next meeting is May 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – Noon and everyone is welcome. He specifically mentioned several bills they are trackings:

- AB126: expanding grants to Family Resource Centers (like Care Parent Network).
- AB1417: Sponsored by Jim Frazier, to recognize and compensate fairly Direct Support Professionals.
- AB313: Expand the LEAP program to increase the number of interns employed by State agencies.
- AB445: A change in requiring Regional Centers to collect certain parent information.
- SB 639: Requires 14C certificates to expire in 2025. There is debate about the need for service alternatives prior to this expiring.

Will confirmed that the Federal and State stimulus checks that people received will not be included as earned income.

May 10<sup>th</sup> the revision of the State budget proposal is expected to be released (only about 300 pages). He will keep us informed.

Emergency Planning Engagement: Carol reported that your Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Co-Coordinator have finished a preparedness booklet in plain language that has 2 scenarios: evacuate or shelter. It is currently being translated into Spanish and Traditional Chinese and we will distribute it widely, electronically.

Thank you goes to Vi and her Health Services colleagues who did a great job organizing the pop-up vaccination clinics----well done!

The County Office of Emergency Services, located at the Sheriff's office, has 2 new emergency planners starting in late May. They will be coming in on the heels of serious concerns of a drought and an early fire season. There will be a weather briefing on May 5<sup>th</sup> and there will be a drought preparedness workshop in June or July.

HireAble: Donna reported that the group met last Friday. They had a wonderful speaker from Lawrence Livermore Labs. Their next meeting is planned for May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Transition Task Force: Their next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 p.m. They will be discussing new projects to take on now that the Resource Guide has been updated. They will also consider returning to monthly meetings versus meeting semi-monthly as they have been since late last year.

**Presentation: Aging Concerns in the I/DD Community by Bill Pelter (Ability Now Bay Area) and Marianne Iverson (Down Syndrome Connection)**

Bill and Marianne asked us to consider restarting a joint Alameda County and Contra Costa County Committee on Aging. They showed a power point presentation that included:

- Seniors are the State’s fastest growing age group;
- A shift in caregiving responsibilities on family members being more complicated;
- Current issues in our community:
  - Lack of planning;
  - Lack of services for retirement and dementia care;
  - Lack of available housing options;
  - Poor training of caregivers;
  - Aging parents;
  - People with Down Syndrome age in an accelerated manner, often with early onset of dementia.

The State launched a “Master Plan for Aging” in January and we would like a seat at the planning table, representing people with I/DD.

A motion was entertained to participate in a bi-county committee (M/Will Sanford; S/Nickole Bouslog) and passed unanimously, to have representation on the Committee on Aging. Marianne will represent this DD Council, and others are welcome to join the efforts.

Bill and Marianne were thanked for their presentation.

**Public Comment and Announcements:**

1. Maria Cabeza is hosting a Zoom Dance Party next Friday from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. It is themed for the 80’s and 90’s. Everyone is welcome. There will be games, prizes, a DJ and great fun! They are looking for contest judges, if you would like to volunteer. Get in contact with Rosa or Maria for the Zoom link and more information.
2. Stephen Dale shared that the Arc of California has a good video on the issues of aging in the I/DD community. He also discussed a study from the University of Delaware.

**Information From the Chat:**

CDC “Choosing Safer Activities” chart: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/324153\\_choosingSaferActivities11.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/pdfs/324153_choosingSaferActivities11.pdf)

State Council plain language docs around vaccines, including this one warning about scams (including paying for the vaccine): <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2021/01/Avoding-COVID-Scams.pdf>

Walk in vaccination sites in Contra Costa County: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org//walk-in-vaccine>

Community Vaccine Advisory Committee Upcoming Meetings

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 - 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Access Information:

English Toll-Free: 844-867-6169, English Access Code: 7117998

Spanish Toll-Free: 877-402-9753, Spanish Access Code: 1424990.

Live stream via YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkNEUklwtlc\\_kPenEZMUIOw?app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkNEUklwtlc_kPenEZMUIOw?app=desktop)

To view the last presentation from the CA Community Vaccine Advisory Committee, go to

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/CVACPresentation4.12.2021.pdf>

SCDD Statewide Grants! (May 15th due date): <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/> (up to 160k, health and safety, up to 100k in inclusive ed)

Please consider completing this survey for self-advocates to build a self-advocate leadership development series (initiative led by RCEB board member Renee Perls and RAC member Pam Perls.) [https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eeAbwRkec2qaaMK](https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeAbwRkec2qaaMK)

This evening's SCDD Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:15pm networking and 6:30pm meeting: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2021/04/RAC-Packet-4-2021.pdf>

Disability Thrive Initiative - Vaccination information recorded webinars –

English - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NMvMOfQLCs>

Spanish - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoHJvYyqC8U>

Awards event: to make an awards nominations, go to

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchd41Ac9rSbi0qzZ-dcuiIPbDofQKsGPadJ2Z9hc6OXALMA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchd41Ac9rSbi0qzZ-dcuiIPbDofQKsGPadJ2Z9hc6OXALMA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

A video from the Arc of California on issues concerning future planning from a policy perspective

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoyGtZD7OoQ&list=PL5dEwlCC642oh1uQMbr0mMnaj\\_vhAn4ak&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoyGtZD7OoQ&list=PL5dEwlCC642oh1uQMbr0mMnaj_vhAn4ak&index=2)

Master Plan for Aging info can be found at <https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>

A flyer for Care's Funky Dance Party

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i2Xuwwz2dMLgzhku0OENr9GVicQwFe8H2/view?usp=sharing>

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on May 26, 2021 at 10 a.m.**

**Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,  
Carol Anne McCrary  
VistAbility