

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
October 27, 2021

Board and Liaison Members Present: Leslie Werosh-Visbal, Vice-Chair; Caroline Ortiz; Suzanne Anthony; Marianne Iversen; Pam Perls; Will Sanford; Nickole Bouslog; Marcelle Indelicato; Stephen Dale; Donna Feingold; Ria Mercado; Craig Rose; Karen Lingenfelter; Kimberli Buckley.

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Bill Trinh; Rosa Valledor, Chairperson; Audrua Sysum; Maria Cabeza; Rebecca Corbett.

Guests: Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB Executive Director; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Kristina Jensen, Liberty Union High School District; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD Community Services Bureau; Sheraden Nicholau, State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Veronica Varela, Open House Center; James Mercado, Open House Center; Mirna Leal, RCEB Case Manager Supervisor; Sakeara Hasani, Office of Congressman DeSaulnier; Patricia Albeno, The Arc CA; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Mitra Mostofi, Futures Explored; Jenna Kiive, Futures Explored; Troy Russell, Self-Advocate, Adaptive Learning Center.

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Leslie Werosh-Visbal, Vice-Chair, at 10:01 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 September 22, 2021 were approved, unanimously, with one correction (Karen Lingenfelter was present). (M/ Donna Feingold; S/Will Sanford).

There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES

Contra Costa Health Services - Deputy Health Officer Dr. Tom Warne:

Dr. Warne was not present today. However, James Mercado, Louise McClellan, and Ria Mercado announced that Open House Center is, again, open for Flu and Covid-19 vaccines in a sensory-sensitive environment. Their email and phone contacts are in the chat to make an appointment.

Donna Feingold announced that CVS, Safeway and Walgreens will come to your site for flu clinics, as well.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa reviewed the new public health order for vaccinations/masking and exemptions for Regional Center staff and the staff of vendored services by November 30th. She was happy to report that prior to this mandate, about 90% of the RCEB staff were already vaccinated. For the staff of vendored services, she wants to keep an eye on staff shortages. Increasing the number of people that are vaccinated in our community gets us closer to full in-person services!

Transportation providers are currently experiencing severe driver shortages.

DDS has posted a 26-page letter on their website listing the policy changes from this year's budget trailer bills. It is the longest in recent history. Some of the highlights include:

- Implementing provisional eligibility for Lanterman services for 3- to 4-year-olds (not Early Start services).
- Funding for Social/Recreational Services (RCEB will develop an outreach plan announcing this).
- Hiring another person to assist in Self-Determination.
- Developing a performance incentive program for RCEB outcomes.
- Hiring 2 rate specialists to implement the vendor rate increases next April and beyond, including performance incentives for the final 10% of the increases for vendors.

Lisa further reported that last night the RCEB Board of Directors passed an Employment First Policy.

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

Sheraden announced that the State Council is recruiting for a bilingual (English/Spanish) person to focus on Bay Area advocacy. The deadline to apply is November 10th.

The State Council is hosting Self-Advocacy Chats by Zoom throughout the State. The next 2 are on November 15th and December 15th.

Congreso Familiar is hosting an IEP training on Zoom in Spanish on November 6th, from 11:00 am – Noon.

Cal-TASH is hosting an HCBS webinar on November 16th, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm.

There will be a conference for California Youth with Disabilities July 17-27, 2021. Registration is being held in December.

Links to these various meetings and events were put in the Chat.

If your community is interested in specific training, please contact Sheraden for resources. In addition, Sheraden is able to secure free PPE from the California Office of Emergency Services---do not hesitate to contact her!

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor: No report.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reported on the success of the *Vision for the Future* conference, focusing on post-secondary education. It was held electronically over 2 Saturday mornings. There were about 100 attendees, hearing presentations on Adult Education resources, Transition Planning (DREDF), San Francisco State University, UC Davis, and a panel of college students who spoke about their challenges.

Vi has posted links to the resource documents, PowerPoint presentations, and recordings in the chat.

Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum: No report: 2 positions are open.

Outreach Workgroup Report by Kimberli Buckley:

This is a new group that met on October 4th to discuss outreach activities in our community by this Council. Kimberli reported that they had numerous outreach ideas for Board members and Committee members, such as:

- Including personal stories;
- Providing handouts about RCEB and community services;
- "Show and Tell" products, like the *Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared* booklet for emergency preparedness;
- Talk about employment opportunities;
- Connect with other groups, such as public libraries;
- Connect with the Contra Costa County Equity Team;
- Provide info in newsletters, and social media;
- Develop a DD Council Facebook page.
- And many more!

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra): The PCC has not met since July – the next meeting is scheduled for November 15th. However, Carol reported on the recent development of an Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan Task Force, coordinated by the Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCTA). Carol was invited to join this task force to assist in the implementation of the most recent strategic plan to

coordinate accessible transportation within Contra Costa County. Example of activities of this task force is to secure long-term, stable funding, develop a coordination entity to oversee the services, develop and test projects such as one application and certification process (one click/one call), eliminate inter-transit transfers within the County (one seat/one ride), develop same day services and much more.

There is an opportunity to advocate for local tax dollars for this project with the Board of Supervisors (Measure X funds) either November 2nd or November 9th. This project has the support of the Board of Supervisors, as Supervisor Karen Mitchoff is the Chair and Teresa Geringer is Vice-Chair (Chair of the CCTA).

The next meeting of this task force is November 18th, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., virtually. These meetings are open to the public, with access through www.ccta.net. There are public comment opportunities throughout the meeting.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford): Will provided the following presentation: "East Bay Legislative Coalition: What do we do???"

The EBLC is made up of 5 core members

- Alameda DD Council
- Contra Costa DD Council
- Provider Vendor Advisory Committee to RCEB
- RCEB
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Bay Area Office

The EBLC welcomes all members of our community and have regular attendance from:

- RCEB participants and their families
- RCEB provider
- Other interested community members

EBLC was established as way to develop and magnify the voice of the community supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

- Tracks Legislation (State and Federal), including taking positions
- Promotes active civic engagement of our community
- Hosts Legislative educational events (such as Town halls, breakfasts, etc.)
- Works to build relationships with our representatives at all levels
- Has drafted and worked legislation to help improve access to opportunities and our community

Everyone who has an interest in the Legislative Process, including just wanting to understand the process is welcome! We meet the First Wednesday of each

month from 10 am to noon, currently via ZOOM. To get the invite email: Vi Ibarra - Vi.Ibarra@cchealth.org

October Report

- The State Legislature is on recess until early January, the Governor has signed or vetoed all bills from the session that ended in September.
- The Federal Legislature is actively engaged in a significant effort to increase supports in a lot of areas, including potentially increasing funding for Direct Service Professionals in the Long-Term Care arena. The bill started as a \$ 3.5 trillion proposal, its latest iteration is now about half that and the details of the changes have not been fully released to the Public.
- EBLC is planning for our Legislative Breakfast tentatively scheduled for January 28th from 10 am to noon (subject to confirmation).

Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol Anne McCrary and Aimiee Vitug-Hom):
Carol and Aimee presented info on their roles as volunteer Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Co-Coordiators for the Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services.

Disabilities and Access & Functional Needs (DAFN) Coordinators

- Offices of Emergency Services are at different levels in our community:
 - Cities (Concord, Richmond, Danville-Marianne Iversen)
 - Counties (Contra Costa-Carol & Aimee)
 - State (in Sacramento-Vance Taylor)

All do emergency planning for their communities; All respond to emergencies, such as earthquakes, fires, floods, power outages, etc.

During an emergency, an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) is activated and sometimes, in a large event, mutual aid is requested for assistance.

- The DAFN Coordinators represent people that might need assistance in an emergency by:
 - Attend and give input in planning meetings
 - Attend tabletop exercises to provide solutions
 - Attend in-person exercises
 - Organize training for first responders and search and rescue teams (Ex: what to expect when they encounter someone with Autism)
 - Special projects, such as the *Don't Be Scared, Be Prepared* booklet
 - Host a DAFN Steering Committee representing various populations.

If you would like input into emergency planning, exercises, or keep us informed about your challenges in your own personal emergency plans, please contact any one of us...we would love to hear from you:

- Carol Anne McCrary: cmccrary@vistability.org
- Aimee Vitug-Hom: avitug-hom@vistability.org
- Marianne Iversen: Marianne@dsconnection.org

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen): This committee is a joint committee with Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. They are also integrated with the Master Plan on Aging (Bill Pelter). Their top concerns are housing, transportation, recreation and retirement. In November Marianne will be presenting on Alzheimer's and Down syndrome at a meeting of the Providers of Services to Seniors & Disabilities Group. At the next COA meeting they will be having a presenter from the Jewish Family & Community Services to discuss their Memory Cafe program which provides a relaxed social environment. This committee welcomes new members and would also like to hear concerns of self-advocates and families that need to be addressed. She has put a link to a flyer in the chat.

HireAble (Donna Feingold): Donna stated that HireAble was originally developed through a Long's Foundation grant to increase employment opportunities for people with I/DD. Their goal is to promote internships with employers and increase community integrated employment. They meet monthly and have presentations from entities such as local employers, the Mind Institute, and colleagues accomplishing employment opportunities in creative ways. They meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. and everyone is welcome. You can contact Donna to get on their mailing list.

They are looking for on-going funding for a stronger infrastructure and recently received a grant from RCEB to be certified benefits educators. Denyse Curtright will be retiring soon as the leader of this group, and Donna will be taking that position in January 2022.

Transition Task Force (Open): A report will be available next month.

Mental health Commission (Pam Perls): A report will be available next month.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Donna announced that the Adaptive Learning Center will be hosting a training on December 1st on Zoom for *Person-Centered Thinking*. It will be held from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Donna also relayed a message from Becky about the On-Line Resource Guide that the Transition Task Force is updating which includes local services.

Stephen Dale announced that there is an upcoming 2-hour training on navigating Cal-ABLE. More info will be distributed by Vi soon.

Vi thanked Miguel for his wonderful Spanish translation for these meetings!

Information from the Chat:

Open House Center contact information is (925)349-4244 or at ohc@openhousecenter.org, and the link to request OHC vaccine is <https://forms.gle/V5QJFCoSNSTiwYXR9>

Vision for the Future resource document can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZWnfID-qPZcWQxkCoF74w_EFGATF3JumG93xYxX0yuE/edit?usp=sharing

Registration for CalABLE presentation on Special Needs Trusts and CalABLE on November 17- https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kuH3dlmlRqmqGoQqu4Ry6A

Next meeting for the Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan Task Force meeting is Nov 18th, 2 pm - 4pm. Find Agenda and links to Zoom meeting: www.ccta.net

JOIN THE STATE COUNCIL'S BAY AREA TEAM AS A COMMUNITY PROGRAM SPECIALIST II: <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=274741>. The final file date (FFD) is November 10, 2021.

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) invites you to join the monthly California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats. Zoom session details and registration: https://bit.ly/ca_selfadvocacychats2021. What/Why: The "California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats" are intended to give self-advocates throughout California the chance to talk about topics that matter to them. Resources and information on chat topic(s) will be shared with participants in an email following the chats. When: The third Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in sharing your advocacy story, need accommodations, and/or have questions related to the California Statewide Self-Advocacy Chats, please email riana.hardin@scdd.ca.gov or call 916-263-8196.

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

Next meeting will be held on November 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.

Respectfully submitted electronically by,
Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility