

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
June 22, 2022

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Christine Rottger; Craig Rose; Donna Feingold; Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Rosa Valledor, Chairperson; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Absent: Audrua Sysum; Karen Lingenfelter; Kimberli Buckley; Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado; Stephen Dale

Guests: Mirna Leal, RCEB; Gabriela Solval, SCDD; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Meera Sreenivasan, Contra Costa Health Services; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Christa Guinto, California Children's Services; Seth Hendricks, Full Circle of Choices; Geneva Ziaoure, Manos Home Care; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Sakeara Hasani, District Representative, Congressman DeSaulnier's office – CA-11; Becky Wieringa, Adaptive Learning Center; Julia Pelayo-Ruelas, La Familia; Patricia Albeno, The ARC of CA; Selene Gonzalez, The ARC of CA; Ruth Hernandez; Tiffany Speerbrecker, VistAbility; Isela Benavides, parent; Angela Gattis, Care Parent Network

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone in Spanish and English and the meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

Vi took board attendance and it was determined a quorum was established. The meeting minutes of May 25, 2022 were approved as presented with no corrections (M/Troy Russell, S/Nickole Bouslog). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

Contra Costa Health Services by Dr. Meera Sreenivasan, CCHS Deputy Health Officer:

See slides for Dr. Meera's complete presentation and that includes data recorded since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following are highlights from the presentation:

The FDA approved Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for children 6 months to 5 years old – hotly anticipated news. In clinical trials, Pfizer was 80% effective and Moderna 51% effective in preventing symptomatic COVID-19. Both are considered effective and both are recommended. After being vaccinated, breakthrough infections tend to be very mild. In general, the vaccine has been safe in kids, teens, and young adults – in Contra Costa County, over 90% of 12-18 years old have been vaccinated and 60% of 5-11 years old are partially vaccinated.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are very rare heart conditions where the heart muscle becomes inflamed affecting primarily teens and young adults. Out of 100M children who have been vaccinated, only two cases in 5–11-year-olds occurred, and approximately 400 in the 12–17-year-old age group – and whose symptoms resolved over time. The COVID-19 virus itself can cause much more severe conditions of myocarditis.

The virus is peaking right now. Dr. Meera reminded us of the County's Path to Zero initiative, which provides a 24/7 advice nurse line that ANYONE can call if sick. Evaluations are performed by a nurse and are free. Treatments are recommended for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 -- especially for those who are at higher risk – and work best if given within 48 hours of a positive test result.

Lisa Kleinbub remarked on her optimism with more kids being vaccinated leading to less spread and asked about the future direction. Dr. Meera responded that the thought is, overall, as more people are vaccinated the less chance of variants being created. We can act locally and there are more systems at play globally. While the new variants are more transmissible, the good news is they are not considered to be more severe. Prior data shows that once vaccines were available and widely distributed severe disease did go down.

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa observed there is a lot of similarity to last month's report – we are still in a weird period of limbo with the 2022-2023 State budget. The Senate and Assembly passed it but the Governor seems to be a little more cautious on the spending of money. He seems a little more concerned about investments that will be for the long term. The budget needs to be signed by the end of this month. We are waiting to hear what's going to happen.

There is trailer bill language that include certain requirements in changes to the fair hearing process, alternative services, and Tailored Day Services (TDS). These items could wait until end of August before being put into law.

The Regional Centers are keeping an eye on what's going on right now, on things like speeding up rate implementation. Lisa encouraged everyone to keep advocating with the Governor.

In early July, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) should come out with Regional Center performance measures. They are expecting that it will include information about bi-lingual staff and data from satisfaction surveys. RCEB is just about to submit language access and cultural competency plans to DDS. They have developed a plan that includes providing Spanish translation for every public meeting without request and translation into other languages upon request. Additionally, RCEB is collaborating with the Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) on some work with the deaf population, and they are intending to develop relationships with people who identify as American Indian so they can better understand the community.

They are in the process of beginning Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes (EBSH) for children who are dually served between the Regional Center and foster care system. Two will be in Contra Costa County with plans to open in the fall. Lisa will share more information as they come online.

Rosa commented it is wonderful that families won't have to ask for Spanish translation at regional center meetings. She also shared that Congresso Familiar is hosting a coffee and dialogue with Lisa this Saturday from 10am-12pm. It will be in Spanish. To register go to https://thearca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7VcbRvswTkGaESsujASSNw

Donna Feingold asked about interpretation during PVAC, which is a committee of the Board. Lisa replied that they have not received translation requests for the meeting. Most providers speak and read English but they can provide ASL when requested.

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

Gabriela shared upcoming meeting dates:

Self Determination Program (SDP) on June 28th

Self-Advocate Advisory Committee meetings on June 29th-30th

Employment First on July 14th

Also, please join them for their Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting on Wednesday, June 29th, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Click here for the agenda <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/06/RAC-Agenda-6.29.2022.pdf>

For all Committee calendars and links go to <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilcalendar/>.

Also, grant proposals are being accepted from Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to fund new and innovative projects that increase services to the I/DD community and are part of an overall strategy for systemic change – such as education, employment, health and safety, housing. Proposals are due July 27th. For more information go to Cycle 45 Program Development Grants: <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>

Lastly, the SCDD still has PPE. Email Gabriela if you know of a group that needs help with securing PPE.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa asked for a motion to adopt the proposed 2022-2023 board roster and meeting schedule (M/Will Sanford, S/Troy Russell). Vi took a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Rosa asked for Council input on whether the August planning meeting should be in-person or virtual. Nickole expressed a preference for hybrid due to COVID still being here. Rosa clarified that they cannot have a hybrid format for the planning meeting but she is hoping they will be able to offer it in the fall. After some discussion, it was determined it is a

good idea to keep it virtual because virus infection rates are peaking. Donna Feingold suggested having a lunch afterwards for those who are comfortable. Vi added it would have to be a social event, with no decision making or council topics discussed. A motion to meet in August virtually for the summer planning meeting was made (M/Donna, S/Will S.) and passed unanimously. Non-board members are welcome to join. There will be no liaison reports as the meeting is an opportunity for board members to plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

Rosa congratulated Troy Russell who is the new chair of the Membership Committee! He will start in the new fiscal year. She also recognized Annual Award recipients: Norayln Giles for "Friday Night Out", Amanda Eicher for her leadership at NIAD Art Studio, Jennifer Noah for her advocacy work, and Rocio de Mateo Smith for the lifetime excellence award.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi asked guests and non-board members to introduce themselves in the Chat for attendance purposes.

She put out a reminder about the recruitment announcements for the County's Specialty Health Ambassador and Coordinator positions. Interested individuals should send their resumes and cover letters by end of this week. The County is budgeted to hire four part-time Ambassadors – individuals who are served by RCEB and who want to go into the community to do outreach work. Vi offered to help anyone who is potentially interested and talk with them about position expectations. Lots of training will be provided!

Patricia Albeno asked if it is possible to have a brief overview of the positions? Vi responded with the following:

- Specialty Health Ambassadors – RCEB clients who will be trained by Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) to do outreach work. It is funded by a DDS service and equity grant to reach people who are connected with the Regional Center but not receiving services. Ideally, the Ambassadors will be helping with other social determinants of health – such as housing, food, domestic abuse issues, and all those things to support people's health. Applicants must be 18 years old, able to work legally, and willing to work through the County.
- Coordinator – they are looking for one full-time person who will work with the Ambassadors. Applicants do not need to be RCEB clients but should be familiar with the service system.

All positions are an expansion of an existing program. These Specialty Ambassadors will further enhance work being done on issues affecting people with disabilities. People who are bi-lingual are encouraged to apply.

Board Membership Report by Audrua Sysum:

Rosa reported in Audrua's absence. There are currently four openings on the Board. If interested, you have to attend at least three meetings before being nominated to the board. The board meets 10 months out of the year, except in July and December. Rosa is excited that some Spanish speaking family members have expressed interest. And, again, we welcome Troy Russell as Chair of Board Membership starting in the fall.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra):

No report. They have not met since the last report given in May, and the next meeting is to be in July.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (EBLC) (Will Sanford):

See Will's presentation slides for his complete report. Here are the highlights:

The SB154 legislative budget bill was sent to the Governor on June 13th that accelerates the rate study, updates the Regional Center core staffing formula, and requires DDS to review missing service codes and find revised rates every three years.

Right now, the Governor has until June 25th to act. He can veto, reduce amounts, or do nothing and the bill would go through without his signature. Advocacy is still needed!

For more information and to take legislative action go to

<https://thelantermancoalition.org/>.

Trailer bills trail the budget. Once the budget signed, trailer bills will come in. (See Lisa Kleinbub's report above.) There is also language moving SDP Financial Management Service costs from the individual budget to Regional Center costs.

The next ELBC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6th, 10:00 a.m.- noon. Email Vi if you would like to be included in the distribution for EBLC.

Emergency Planning Engagement (Carol McCrary):

Aimee reported on Carol's behalf. We are at the front end of the fire season and there are a lot of emergency planning and preparation efforts underway.

Vance Taylor, Office of Access and Functional Needs at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, is hosting a virtual Statewide meeting for all AFN coordinators. Vance and other panelists will discuss the roles of their office before, during, and after disasters.

On a national level, a National AFN Symposium will be held virtually July 19th-20th from 9:00 a.m.-noon. This is the first of its kind to bring the disability community together with emergency managers, disaster planners, and first responders from across the country. All are welcome! To register, go to

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-access-and-functional-needs-symposium-tickets-362727677247>

Marcelle announced the next AFN Collaborative for our partners and stakeholders in our entire county is scheduled for Monday, July 18th at 9:00 a.m. It will be virtual. The AFN Collaborative could use someone that has expertise in young children to cover gaps in membership or to present information. If you'd like to check us out, please reach out to Aimee or Marcelle.

Committee on Aging (Marianne Iversen):

No report. Marianne announced the next meeting will be August 9th.

HireAble (Donna Feingold):

The next HireAble meeting will be June 27th, and include a presentation on CalABLE. CalABLE is a way for people with I/DD to open an account that won't affect Social Security benefits. Providers, family members, and people receiving services are invited.

Here is the link to the next HireAble meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87514867188>

Transition Task Force (Becky Wieringa):

Becky reported that Transition Task Force traditionally takes a break in June and July. Currently, they are in the process of planning an October transition fair. A recent survey was sent to vendors to get an idea of participation preferences. If you are a vendor, please share your input by submitting the survey.

Mental Health Commission (Pam Perls):

Pam shared that the Commission talked about a new K-12 mental health project in schools. She reminded them of the I/DD population and is hoping to collaborate with them through the DD Council, as they do not have data on I/DD mental health.

***** Board Planning Update *****

Vi Ibarra and Developmental Disabilities Council Board Members

Vi co-presented with Marcelle – see the attached presentation slides.

In the fall of 2021, to follow-up on the summer planning meeting, Vi had asked if folks would be interested in joining her in a small workgroup. Kimberli Buckley, Leslie Werosh Visbal, Rebecca Corbett, Pam Perls, Marcelle Indelicato, and Vi met three times. The objectives of the group included presentation topics, ways to connect members to interested topics, and board member recruitment.

A big thing that kept coming up was connecting with others in mutually beneficial places. The group concluded the Council can approach it in two ways: 1) How can we learn from the work being done by other workgroups or committees, and, 2) How can we support or enhance the work they are doing?

Using that approach, opportunities were identified:

- Committee Liaisons: sometimes important information can be overlooked due to tight time constraints, sometimes not enough context in liaison reports, and some reports can be hard to connect with. They have tried to put more focus on liaison reports to make it more accessible and broaden the scope.
- Outreach: materials needed revision; flyers on announcements and board member recruitment are updated and provided in English and Spanish. The group also talked about new places and ways to share announcements on events. Outreach is much more effective in person but now there is a need to think about it in virtual terms, too.
- Specialty Health Ambassadors: only more recently did they learn funding would be received. We can think about ways to use the work of the Ambassadors in partnership with the DD Council.
- Board member recruitment: The Board has 21 seats; bylaws require at least 10 seats be filled by primary stakeholders (recipient or family member), at least 5 filled by service providers, and 6 can fall into either category or something else. This is ongoing, and it is important to have a diverse board. They got an application recently, which will be first thing on Troy's list! The Board needs to fill at least two of the open seats with direct stakeholders and the other two with either direct stakeholders or agency representatives.

In considering what's important for someone who is thinking about joining the Council, the group discussed creating a packet of general board information. The content includes things that might be important for interested people to know, like:

- Bylaws: what do they look like?
- Who are my partners and who would I be working with?
- A sample agenda

During the upcoming summer planning meeting on August 24th, topics will include what to do about tight agendas and board recruitment, as well as brainstorming presentation topics and/or presenters. Vi asked the Board for input on the agenda. Christine Rottger suggested how to involve more families or providers serving young children in presentations or joining the meetings. Rosa agreed it has been a challenge to get parents of young children, probably because trying to learn terminologies is a challenge itself. She encouraged interested folks to visit the DD Council website at <https://cchealth.org/ddc>.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Lisa announced that RCEB has hired an Emergency Coordinator who will start on July 11th. They are excited to have someone in the role!

Donna mentioned they are expecting grants in employment arena from DDS, so stay tuned for it.

There will not be a meeting in July.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on August 24, 2022 at 10:00 am.
Summer Planning Meeting – all are welcome.
Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hern
VistAbility