

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)
November 16, 2022

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Christine Rottger; Donna Feingold; Karen Lingenfelter; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Stephen Dale; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Kimberli Buckley; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Mirna Leal, RCEB; Hailey Solares with Congressman DeSaulnier's Office; Deborah McGrath, All Abilities FitClub and parent; Marcelle Indelicato, Town of Danville, Emergency Services Manager; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Christa Guinto, California Children's Services; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla, EHSD Community Services Bureau; Teresa Gonzalez, Contra Costa Health Services, Enhanced Care/Community Connect; Patricia Albeño, The Arc of CA; Ashley Henderson, RCEB; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network and parent

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone at 10:00 a.m. and asked guests to enter their names and organizations or affiliations in the Chat. Attendees were invited to select their language of choice in Spanish or English.

Vi took Board attendance and determined quorum was established.

The meeting minutes of October 26, 2022 were approved unanimously, with no corrections (M/Nickole Bouslog, S/Stephen Dale). There were no additions to today's agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa shared information about two grants. Information is now available on the RCEB website for Community Integration/Social Rec grants for children and adolescents. Community based organizations are also encouraged to apply. Funding comes from ARPA funds and is limited to 8 months. The hope is funding will expand as people participate. Applications are due December 16, 2022 and DDS intends to make award decisions by March 2023. Video instructions on how to apply can be found on the RCEB webpage.

Also, RCEB received 29 applications for the Service Access and Equity Grants. Most applications are from providers in our area although there are a number that are statewide. Announcements on grant awards are expected in March 2023 from DDS. Lisa cited the Georgetown Cultural Competence Center on the success of equity grants and that they are doing what they are intended to do.

There is not an update on the Employment grant applications. DDS has not yet provided details.

The [Little Hoover Commission](#) is looking at the Regional Center service system, with a focus on disparities in the system. The Commission has met three times. Lisa reported most Commissioners do not understand the complexity of the I/DD system including how dependent we are on Federal funding. A lot of comments are complaints about our service system; however, comments that offer solutions are important as well. For example, before median rates were set in 2008, some Regional Centers were more generous in their rate settings and those impacts continue to this day. RCEB has a 2-tier median rate structure that impacts new providers – i.e., for new providers that go by median rates, they have to go with the lowest rate. This was put in place 11 years ago and has not changed. It's important to educate the Commission on our challenges as a community.

The final RCEB Board meeting for this year will be held on the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday. All meetings provide Spanish interpretation and other languages if requested.

Other comments/questions from Council members and/or guests:

- A question was asked about eligibility for services. Lisa shared that the pandemic delayed eligibility intakes. Since kids have returned to school, RCEB has been overwhelmed with applicants and struggling with availability of psychologists to weigh in on eligibility (which is required). Lisa also responded to a concern about self-advocates who don't have parents or people to help them. When individuals apply on their own, it is a priority because they only have their own voice.
- Vi shared information about a new resource for kids coming into the Contra Costa County health plan. The Health Plan has contracted with the Jigsaw Diagnostics that assesses children up to 8 years old for autism via remote/video assessments. Lisa said RCEB uses assessments from the CC Health Plan. They are also doing some remote assessments, looking for new vendors to perform remote assessments, and researching the health and safety waiver to see if they can get a higher rate to do so.
- On the Little Hoover Commission – Donna attended the hearings and thought it interesting to hear feedback from Commissioners unfamiliar with IDD system but who have very strong feedback. It is unusual to have a large amount of money being managed through 21 different Regional Centers. Lisa said there is an

agreement within the Association of Regional Centers to bring standardization across areas (e.g., vendorization, respite, etc.).

- A question was asked about how the Little Hoover Commission functions? Lisa explained the Commissioners are supposed to advise the Governor and Legislators. They are getting testimony from different people including Nancy Bargeman, some Regional Centers, and some self-advocates. Reports are available on their website. Lisa hopes Commissioners will do more homework on the IDD community.

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

Gabriela shared upcoming meetings and dates:

- The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee will meet on November 28th at 1:30 p.m. This is a statewide committee that advises the Council on policies and issues.
- The SCDD Council meeting will take place on November 29th from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on November 30th from 6:15-9:00 p.m. to discuss 2023 planning and needs, and more. The agenda can be found at <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2022/11/BARO-RAC-Outreach-Flyer-11.2022.pdf?emrc=ac20b1>

Sheraden puts together the agenda for the RAC, which usually includes a presentation of some kind as well as planning updates that can be reported from the Bay Area to the larger statewide group.

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network plans to meet On December 14th-15th. The dates might change.

For the complete SCDD Meetings Calendar, go to <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/> .

SCDD still has a PPE program running with Cal OES and can support antigen test distribution at no cost. Supplies are winding down. Send requests to Sheraden at Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov or to bayarea@scdd.ca.gov.

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa congratulated Care Parent Network on their new location in Concord. It is easy to find, welcoming, and has pretty good parking too!

She reminded everyone that there will not be a December meeting due to the holidays.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi did not have anything to report. She gave the usual reminder for guests to enter their information in the Chat, to record attendance.

Board Membership Report Troy Russell:

Troy announced Seth Hendricks as a new member nominee. As of this meeting date, Seth has attended 4 meetings. He introduced himself and shared a little information. Seth was a foster care youth. He is a client of RCEB and is currently employed at Full Circle of Choices as a payroll benefits clerk working with the Specialty Health Ambassadors. He has found the DD Council to be informative and wants to be able to give input in the meetings.

Rosa commented that Seth's background can help to diversify the Council. He has a lot to say and a lot of good ideas. A motion was made to nominate Seth to the Board (M/Donna Feingold, S/Will Sanford) and it passed unanimously. Welcome, Seth!

Committee Liaison Reports:

Transition Task Force (Becky Wieringa): Becky reported on the first virtual Central County Transition Fair held on October 19th. There were 238 people who registered for the 3-hour event. Providers shared information in their own Zoom rooms, and participants could attend up to 8 provider presentations. The Task Force chose this format in the hopes it would be more effective for attendees to get the information they wanted.

Overall, they heard positive comments. One challenge was being able to determine the actual number of attendees. During the next Task Force meeting, they will review feedback given in the participant and provider surveys.

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

See Will's presentation slides for the full report. Following are a few notes from his presentation.

As of this meeting date, results were still underway for the mid-term elections.

- At the State level, there were no real surprises. The new controller is Malia Cohen.
- The Assembly stayed similar. At this point, Liz Ortega is leading the race in District 20 (southern Alameda County).
- In the Senate race, Aisha Wahab of District 10 – also southern Alameda County - is in the lead. Aisha is a friend of Friends of Children with Special Needs.

The Federal elections might be the most interesting. Historically, during a non-presidential election year there is often a flip in power. At this point, the Senate will continue under Democratic control. The House of Representatives is still up for grabs. As of this morning, there were about 13 seats to be called, mostly in California. If it

does go to Republican control, the presumed Speaker of the House would be Kevin McCarthy. It's a wait and see!

The next EBLC meeting is on December 7th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The Committee is planning a virtual legislative townhall on January 27th, where they will be looking for personal stories to help educate legislators that will be at the event.

To get on the EBLC email list, send a message to Vi at vi.ibarra@cchealth.org.

Mental Health Commission (Pam Perls):

Pam reported that the Commission's Quality of Care Committee is working on K-12 social services or mental health services in the schools, which is a difficult thing to survey as there is no data collected. Their Financial Committee is trying to survey many contracts and persuade the County's Board of Supervisors to listen to the Oversight Committee.

***** Presentation *****
Make-A-Wish Greater Bay Area with Dennis Schrag

Dennis introduced himself as the Senior Director of Individual Giving for Make-A-Wish (MAW) of the Greater Bay Area. Leslie invited him to share information about MAW and the local chapter...and the joy they get to bring! Leslie and Dennis met at an MAW event – she has since joined their East Bay Advisory Council and is now the Chair.

See attached presentation slides for Dennis' complete presentation. Following are some notes from it:

Make-A-Wish has a presence in every state with Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana being the biggest. There are 59 chapters across U.S. and internationally. Locally, there are several chapters in 17 counties from Monterey to the Oregon border. It is truly a global brand!

Wishes have a lasting impact! Beyond a singular experience, research shows a lasting impact in relieving the child and family from traumatic stress, giving the child confidence, joy, and hope. Data also shows that kids who get their wishes granted spend fewer days in the hospital.

In fiscal year 2021 MAW granted 144 wishes, which was impacted by the pandemic. In fiscal year 2022 travel opened back up and they granted 274 wishes! Their goal is to grant 322 wishes in 2023.

Some things to know about the "Wish journey":

- A child can be referred by anyone including the child themselves. The eligible age range is 2.5 to 18 years old. During the pandemic, a lot of kids had to wait and

so they are playing catching up and granting wishes to kids who are now 19 and 20 years old.

- Referrals can include any kind of cancer diagnosis, life-long diseases, and some transplants. All referrals go to a national clearing house that determines eligibility.
- Multiple nominations can be made for one child.
- It is a good idea to check with the family first before applying on behalf of someone.

When a wish is granted, MAW tries to send two volunteers to meet with the children and families, to be able to get the true wish from the child directly whenever possible. Wish granters, like our very own Leslie, visit with the child and families three times to get to know the child. Wish granters try to come away with 2 to 3 wish possibilities with at least one non-travel related wish. Once the wish is determined and planning is underway, granters go back for the Wish Reveal. The third visit is the celebration - like a send-off to travel, or ribbon cutting, or the party itself!

There are many ways to get involved and help. The main asks are for:

- Referrals - They are not sure whether all communities are represented. Based on incidence rates of qualifying medical conditions, they believe they are only reaching half of the kids who would qualify. They also hope to engage with more non-verbal kids.
- Donations - MAW is funded 100% through philanthropy. They rely on financial and in-kind donations like airline miles.
- Volunteers - With a goal to grant 322 wishes this fiscal year, this means 644 volunteers or "wish granters" are needed!

Other comments/questions from Council members or attendees:

- Comments were made about children and their families who have had wishes granted. It has been seen to unify families to be able to do something together that is fun.
- A question was asked about referrals from oncology departments? Dennis is looking at it internally to be able to grow the referral process. They have a strong need for a Director of Outreach, which if filled can help to solidify partnerships with hospitals and private practices.
- There was a question about Spanish translation. The online application is currently available in English and Spanish. Additionally, they have several Spanish speaking staff members, which was very much needed to shorten the timeframe for Spanish speaking families who were waiting 3 to 4 weeks longer to get their initial wish interviews established.

Dennis will get materials and collateral to Leslie to share widely.

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Contra Costa Health Services is giving out 4 free Covid test kits to every resident. All you have to do is click on this link
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3tkqKC3cY0OGJvKwA0OMRZO2Otu20z5KmoBRWjDcfJIUNEZRVUxUMVhPSFJMQ0laOUpQSUUpaUUVEUS4u>
- HireAble's monthly meeting is on November 28th at 3:00 p.m. They will have a panel of employers discuss their job opportunities and share their perspectives as employers. Here is the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82931624178>. They will also be opening registration this week for their ACRE training. The December 1st Benefits training is now full. Anyone who wants to be added to the listserv can reach out to Donna Feingold at donna@hireable.org
- Friday Night Out (social/rec. program for young adults with I/DD) Annual Fashion Show at Macy's in Pleasanton is on December 4th! Click here for tickets
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friday-night-out-east-bay-56010305713>
- Congreso Familiar: El programa de Autodeterminación. jueves, 17 de noviembre, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Si ocupa ayuda para registrarse, contacte a Selene al 510-806-8590 LINK: https://thearcca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_E-8PN4w5SxaEMfb6I8mMLg. Congreso Familiar has a presentation on November 17th on the Self-Determination Program for Spanish speaking families. If families need help with registering, they can contact Selena directly at 510-806-8590.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

<p>Next meeting will be held on January 25, 2023 at 10:00 am. (No meeting in December. Happy Holidays!) Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.</p>

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility