

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (ZOOM)

March 22, 2023

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Christine Rottger; Donna Feingold; Kimberli Buckley; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson**; Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Rebecca Corbett; Ria Mercado; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson**; Seth Hendricks; Stephen Dale; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Karen Lingenfelter; Suzanne Anthony

Guests: Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Jenn Kenny, parent; Gabriela Solval, SCDD; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Aaron Sanchez, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Najuma Henderson, parent; Angie Reese, parent; Nicola Ifill-Fraser, Contra Costa Health Services Ambassadors Programs; Meena Tadimet, Special Needs In My City; Anthony Rowe, Adaptive Learning Center; Nora Lewis, Specialty Health Ambassador; Jacqueline Lopez EHSD- Community Services Bureau; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Becky Wieringa, Adaptive Learning Center; Eddie Esquivel- Manos Home Care; Josh Sullivan, Full Circle of Choices; Jen Quallick, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Candace Andersen's team; Christa Guinto, California Children's Services; Deborah McGrath All Abilities FitClub & parent

Welcome and Introductions: Rosa welcomed everyone at 10:02 a.m. This was the Council's first hybrid meeting. All attendees in the meeting room were asked to silence their cell phones and Zoom attendees to mute their computers/devices. Zoom guests were asked to enter their names and affiliations in the Chat for attendance purposes.

Vi took roll call/board attendance and it was determined the in-person requirement for Quorum was established.

A vote was taken and the meeting minutes for February 22, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted (M/Caroline, S/Will). There were no additions to the agenda.

Special time was taken to recognize and honor Bill Pelter who, very sadly, passed away this month after a brief illness. Among his many significant contributions to the I/DD community, he led Ability Now Bay Area for several decades and was a founding member of HireAble. He was a true disability champion who will always be remembered for his kindness, leadership, and service for over 50 years. Throughout the meeting, presenters/attendees shared the many ways Bill impacted their lives and organizations. He will be greatly missed.

UPDATES:

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director:

Lisa encouraged everyone to get behind AB649 that would eliminate the requirement for Regional Centers to obtain an insurance denial letter from the consumer through an appeal process before funding medical or dental services. The bill is sponsored by the Association of Regional Centers and Assemblymember Lori Wilson. Eliminating the additional step is important to help people access generic resources.

RCEB is accepting vendor applications for Coordinated Family Services (CFS) that will serve adults 18 years old and older who want to continue living in their family homes. Providers that have language fluency in Spanish, Cantonese, and/or Vietnamese are encouraged to apply. CFS grew out of interest in looking at disparities in authorizations of individuals who live with their families as compared to those who live outside of home. Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez added that the State Budget has established funding for 1:40 caseloads that is designed to focus on Regional Center consumers who don't have authorizations in place or a low number of authorizations. RCEB will be conducting surveys so that people can be informed about the types of services available, and to address barriers.

Lastly, tomorrow is the Senate Hearing on the I/DD system. They will be looking at the Governor's proposed 2022-23 budget. There will be another hearing that is a follow-up to anticipated recommendations from the Little Hoover Commission as well as a review of findings from the study of the service, access and equity grants. This will be an Assembly subcommittee 1 hearing to be held on April 26th. We can expect more details to come.

Other comments/questions:

- There was a question about the Little Hoover Commission and the report mentioned. Lisa clarified the April 26th Assembly hearing is set up to review this report called the "Georgetown" report. She will make sure it gets posted on the RCEB website. Other sources of information include arca.net and subscribing to the Little Hoover Commission to get updates.
- Christine Rotter raised an advocacy issue concerning children who turned 3 years old in February being told by schools that no services are available until August. Lisa informed the group that the issue has been brought up to DDS. Also, Ben Braun, RCEB Associate Director of Early Start, will be performing a review of Early Start in the next few weeks.
- RCEB has created a new brochure to provide information to clients and their families including information about services available at different ages. The brochure can be found online at <https://www.rceb.org/clients/getting-started-with-us/>. Information will be translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, and simplified Chinese, and they are

looking to add other languages as well. Lisa offered to present the project in the fall, if the Council would like.

- During the presentation, a list of Social Recreation vendors was shared. That list can be found at <https://www.rceb.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Social-Rec-Vendors-List-2023.pdf>

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

Gabriela announced that the Alameda County Transition Fair is this Saturday. Registration is open until the day of the event. They will have a table in memory of Bill Pelter where people can share their thoughts and memories. Other items:

- California Self-Advocacy Chat is on Wednesday, March 29th from 11:00 -12:00 p.m.: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrf-2srT4oHdT62CWozc3OOTQ5_P1pRRmG . It's a safe space for self-advocates to talk about topics and issues important to them.
- SCDD LA Statewide trainings: <https://files.constantcontact.com/be05f332501/bd19eb68-3ae8-4ac7-a925-a7b9c0186cb7.pdf>, ID: 829-8230-7774, Password: 123456
 - March 27th -Self-Determination Program, in Spanish
 - April 3rd and 17th – Relationships, English
 - April 10th and 20th - Relationships, Spanish
- Project SAFEE & SCDD - Hands-only CPR Training on the 2nd Friday of every month: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/01/Hands-Only-CPR-Outreach-Flyer-Accessible.pdf?emrc=fd1d2c>
- Self-Determination Program Orientation Sign-ups online: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>. Languages available include English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Secure PPE & Antigen tests by sending a request to: bayarea@scdd.ca.gov

Council Chairperson Report by Rosa Valledor:

Rosa apologized to the Spanish speaking community for not having an interpreter at today's meeting. The interpretation request had been confirmed, it is unknown why the interpreter was not present via Zoom.

The Council has a wonderful lineup of upcoming presentations:

- April – Understanding Conservatorship
- May – My Child is Turning 3, What's Next?
- June – Adult Transition from Foster Care perspective – new topic

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

It is time to start planning to the annual joint awards event. Ben from Alameda County and Vi are recruiting Board and community members interested in helping to plan. The hope is there will be three volunteers who can be part of the planning committee. The committee will need

to decide whether to have an in person or virtual event sometime in early June. The event date has not been set yet. Planning meetings will be held virtually every other Wednesday starting March 29th. Donna Feingold, Troy Russell, and Ria Mercado offered to help!

Board Membership Report Troy Russell:

Troy reported he handed out Council information at a Friday Night Out and SHA events. There are three open positions – one should be filled by either a self-advocate or family member. If interested reach out to Troy or Vi. You must attend three meetings before applying.

Committee Liaison Reports:

HireAble – Donna Feingold

Their next meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 3pm. They will have representatives from One-Stop, which is part of East Bay Works, Maloney College, and Rubicon to talk about resources. In April, the presentation will be on job coach training by East Bay Innovations.

Other upcoming events:

- An in-person benefits training at this Saturday's Alameda County Transition Fair.
- A training series for students and families called "What's Next" happening in May; dates to be announced. The focus on the value and benefits of working.

Donna was happy to share that the 40-hour ACRE training is done! She hopes to have all 20 training participants certified to offer customized employment and create more jobs for more people.

Emergency Panning Engagement – Carol McCrary

Carol was not at the meeting today – she shared slides with Aimee who reported on her behalf.

There have been a lot of storms throughout the Bay Area and State leading to flooding and power outages. The good news is that the State's drought concerns are much less now. Even though it is still raining, it is not too early to start thinking about and planning for this year's fire season. If you live in a high-risk area, it is a good idea to prepare your plan, emergency supplies and go-bag. Contra Costa's Office of Emergency Services is hosting a fire response tabletop exercise on April 19th that Carol will be a part of.

The County's Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) is looking to strengthen their partnerships with non-profit and community-based organizations. If your agency is interested in joining their efforts and membership, let Carol or Aimee know and they can put you in touch with VOAD.

Transition Task Force – Becky Wieringa

Their most recent meeting was held in-person - the first one since 2020!

The task force is recalibrating and deciding on what to move forward with in this next year. Their previous focus has been on networking and internal education of school district vendors. They are currently working with the Acalanes School District on creating a transition resource guide.

There will be a presentation on the Self-Determination by Christine Kantor, an Independent Facilitator, during the April meeting.

Lastly, the task force will have a table at California Highschool's vocational fair next Wednesday. The fair is open to all students and families, and a broad array of employers and services will be there.

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council – Vi Ibarra

The last meeting was on March 20th. Nickole Bouslog attended and expressed interest in participating on this Council. They are currently working on a project that will allow transit providers to track unmet needs over time such as an unhoused person with no home address.

This Council meets virtually every other month with the next meeting on May 15th.

***** Presentation *****

Social Recreation, Camping, and Non-Medical Therapies

with Ronke Sodipo, Director of Client Services, and Steve Robinson, Director of Community Services, Regional Center of the East Bay

Ronke and Steve gave a presentation about one of the Regional Center's newer service options. See presentation slides for complete information. Following are a few notes:
In July 2021, social recreation services were restored in Regional Centers across the state. During the recession, there were regulations that prohibited RCs from funding anything that looked like social recreation. (RCEB adapted it to be able to fund vendored camps as out-of-home respite.) Now, leisure activities like camping and some non-medical therapies such as art, dance, music, and horse therapy can be funded. With this change, RCEB will be looking at their respite policy and phasing out camp as out-of-home respite over time.

Services can be accessed through the IPP planning team, as part of a person-centered planning process. Social recreation services will not displace a day program or educational resources. Something new is that people who live outside of the family home have historically been prohibited from receiving RCEB funding for camp. This policy allows RCs to fund camperships

for individuals who live in residential settings! There are some restrictions around social security or living more than 14 days outside of group homes.

There have been lots of questions around developing new services. The Regional Centers have done outreach to service providers and community organizations – one barrier is a lot of providers do not want to be paid in arrears. DDS has put out a directive to allow RCs to pay up front. Some families cannot pay up front so this will be helpful.

Other challenges with vendoring new providers include staffing and some services don't want to go through the vendorization process. If you know of a potential provider, let your case manager know.

New social recreation providers that are vendored:

- Full Circle of Choices – ages 14-22, also adults 22+, 1:1-1:4 depending on support needs
- 24-hour Home Care – Serving school aged and adults in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. This is where a family could get an aide to access generic resources.
- The Exceptional in Antioch offers cheer, dance, fitness, and skateboarding classes, at 1:1 to 1:5 ratios
- Fair Chance, San Ramon Valley Highschool – after school program for 12-22 years old

Some other things to know:

- Non-medical therapies - like horse or music therapy – must be provided by a therapist who is registered or certified in that area. RCEB may ask for documentation.
- Amusement parks, entrance fees to a ballgame, etc. are not automatically covered. If there is extreme financial hardship, RCEB may have a way to help families to purchase tickets. Families should talk to their case managers.
- If there is a specialized class – like swimming – parental reimbursement would need to be vendored if the lessons are provided by a non-vendored service.
- Case managers have been trained on this new service option. Services can start once the IPP is signed.
- RCEB may reimburse families for transportation to/from camp.

Questions/Comments:

- There was a question about service rates. Steve explained there is not a service code for social rec and so it was not covered in the Rate Study. There are median rates which are gone over with any interested provider.
- Some camps don't have the financial resources or staff to be able to provide roundtrip transportation. Families have used Uber and then are reimbursed but it can be a barrier for families that cannot pay upfront.
- If a social rec provider provides usual and customary services – as in to the general public – it can cut down on the vendorization process. A program design is not required, and a

brochure would be fine. There are other requirements that need to be met like insurance. RCEB is hoping the process will become more streamlined over time.

- Providers that host social events like dances at parks and recreation facilities may be vendorized for social rec.

Public Comment and Announcements:

The next meeting is on April 26th, which will again be a hybrid format. Vi will communicate the location to Board members in advance of the meeting.

The Alameda County Transition Fair is on Saturday, March 25th from 8:30-3:00 p.m. (@ College of Alameda): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-alameda-county-transition-fair-tickets-513244115967>

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

It will be a hybrid format, with the physical meeting

at 1220 Morello Ave, 2nd Floor, Walker Conference Room, Martinez

Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra.

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Aimee Vitug-Hom

VistAbility