

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 28, 2019

Board and Liaison Members Present: Rosa Valledor, Vice-Chair; Suzanne Anthony; Stephen Beard; Donna Feingold; Marianne Iversen; Ria Mercado; David Monahan; Caroline Ortiz; Elvia Osorio Rodriguez; Craig Rose; Will Sanford; Heidi Spaulding; Bill Trinh; Leslie Werosh Visbal.

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Audra Sysum, Chairperson; Marcelle Indelicato; Pam Perls; Stephen Dale.

Guests: Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Murri Banis, Contra Costa ARC; Patricia Albeno, Care Parent Network; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Christine Rottger, Contra Costa ARC; Sean Kearns, Assembly Member Jim Frazier's office; Tracy Butler, Contra Costa ARC; Rebecca Corbett, Futures Explored; Tiffany Speerbrecker, Contra Costa ARC; Teresa Gonzalez, Contra Costa Health Services; Allan Velazquez, Woodbridge Clayton; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Megan Brown, CCC Library; Maria Raymud, Parent; Cherese LeBlanc, Care Parent Network; M. Cortez; Laul Rodriguez, La Familia; Carl Tolentino, OHC, Louise McC., OHC; Shital Agrawalla, Care Parent Network; James Mercado, OHC; Johana M, WBT/WBC.

Welcome and Introductions:

Rosa Vallador, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The meeting minutes of September 25, 2019 were approved (M/Caroline Ortiz; S/Suzanne Anthony) ---Will Sanford, Donna Feingold, Marianne Iversen, and David Monahan abstained, since they were not in attendance of that meeting.
- There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Elvia Osario-Rodriguez:

Elvia reported:

- DDS has awarded 5 start-up grants for projects to include: Housing in Berkeley; Mental Health services in Contra Costa; Micro-enterprises; Training in employment benefits; and Early Start services.
- The RCEB Board is meeting on October 28th at the Concord location. Everyone is welcome.
- On November 22nd, additional people will be picked for the Self-Determination project.

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

Sheraden announced:

- The State Council will be meeting on November 14th in Sacramento and Dec 4th in Alameda County (6:30 – 9:00 pm) at RCEB in San Leandro.
- The National Disabilities Rights Network is hosting a listening session and written comments from Californians before midnight on Oct. 29th. Go to ncddreport@ndrn.org
- You can now submit comments to the State Council for their 5-year plan. There are surveys on-line and paper surveys in various languages.

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reported:

- Board members can sign up to bring meeting treats. Please do.
- Vi thanked the members that joined in the Contra Costa Health Services listening session. Your input was very valuable!
- CAC advocacy outreach: Heidi shared they will have 3-4 meetings to design PowerPoint presentations to youth and parents who are transitioning from school to adulthood.
- Today there is a flu shot clinic at Mt. Diablo Adult Ed in Concord from 1 p.m.-7 p.m.

Membership:

David Monahan reported that there are 3 openings on the Board. Two must be filled by self-advocates or parents. Send any nominations to him or Vi.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi): No meeting.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will): The 2nd legislative tour took place on October 15th at Ability Now to highlight transition issues and adult services. It was well attended and was a great tour.

They are planning a legislative breakfast on January 31st.

Will distributed a packet of bills that the EBLC are monitoring.

Emergency Planning Engagement: Ria Mercado reported that a Public Safety Power Shut-off (or de-energization) resulted in PG&E opening 2 Resource Centers for people to go and re-charge equipment. She suggested that individuals make sure their personal emergency plans and support systems are up to date. Also, if there are people that are dependent on electricity for health care needs, they can register for Medical Baseline status with PG&E and get a reduced rate, and get more than 48 hours' notice of a power shut off.

Please also check in with your neighbors in case anyone needs assistance during these power outages.

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HireAble: Donna Feingold reported that they have a new finance company and will be meeting this coming Friday at 10 am at the Ed Roberts Campus. Website: HireAble.org

Health Equity Team: They are on hiatus and are regrouping. Vi asked for a volunteer to represent us on this committee.

Transition Committee: Vi reported that this committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at RCEB-Concord. They are considering using 211 as their resource guide and planning lectures on topics such as employment vs. SSI benefits, offered several times per year.

Ten minute break occurred for coffee and conversation:

Thanks go to Rose Valledor and Suzanne Anthony for the coffee and generous treats!

Presentation: Healthcare Advocacy and Ethics

Speaker: Sheraden Nicholau, Manager, State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Sheraden wanted to start a conversation about Healthcare Advocacy and Ethics. Her PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the DDC Website for reference.

Highlights:

- Disability is a natural and typical part of the human experience. The service system complexities must not delay, reduce or deny access to services, including multiple health care needs, preventative care, mental/behavioral health treatment, dental care, durable medical equipment, and reproductive health needs.
- Patients with disabilities experience unconscious bias when receiving care, for example:
 - Assumptions about quality of life----who decides?
 - Health care provider's lack of knowledge/training on disabilities---need better training and education.
 - Accommodating a person with a disability is not considered a priority, such as the exam table height.
 - Health care providers tend to make assumptions about capacity, consent and confidentiality.
- Bioethics is a growing field, studying ethical issues emerging from advances in biology and medicine; however, there is no type of bioethics standardization, certification, or credentialing.
- People with disabilities are often affected by the biases and assumptions found in areas of bioethics.

Sheraden would like to continue this conversation, especially around women's health issues and dental issues.

- One topic of concern in culture sensitivity in healthcare.
- Another is about including a healthcare directive as part of the Regional Center IPP.

Sheraden was thanked for her presentation. A follow up to this presentation will be in January, presented by Ria Mercado, discussing tools and options available to support healthcare advocacy.

Announcements:

- Chereese LeBlanc of Care Parent Network announced that she is part of a new program for African American families, called the Community Empowerment Program (CEP). They will be holding a conference in February 2020. Flyers about this new program are at the back table.
- Chereese also announced that she has started a support group on the 4th Thursday of the month for African American parents/women. Please contact her at Care Parent Network for more information (925-313-0999).

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

**Next meeting will be held on November 20, 2019
At RCEB-Concord
1320 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA
4th Floor**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary

Contra Costa ARC