

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 26, 2020

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz (filling in); Suzanne Anthony; Donna Feingold; Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iversen; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; David Monahan; Elvia Osorio Rodriguez; Craig Rose; Will Sanford; Heidi Spaulding; Bill Trinh; Leslie Werosh Visbal.

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused Rosa Valledor, Vice-Chair; Audra Sysum, Chairperson; Stephen Beard; Nickole Bouslog; Stephen Dale.

Guests: Bill Pelter, Ability Now Bay Area; Carol Anne McCrary, VistAbility; Murri Banis, VistAbility; Christine Rottger, VistAbility; Tracy Butler, VistAbility; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD; Monica Cardoza, CIWP; Eddie Lopez, ILRSCC; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Kimberli Buckley, Contra Costa Library; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Laura Rodriguez, La Familia; Valisha Fullard-Hains, California Autism; Krista Peterson, CCHS-CCS; Michelle Mankemoh, CSB Head Start; Chris Mathis, Inroads; Melody Tsang, Inroads; Sierra Schwitalla, Inroads; Lowelyn Santamaria, Inroads; Alejandra Sanchez Ezidro, Assemblyman Tim Grayson's office; Peter Engel, Contra Costa Transit Authority; Corinne Dutra Roberts, Advanced Mobility Group; John Cunningham, CC County; Steven Scheer, Parent.

Welcome and Introductions:

Caroline Ortiz filled in as Chairperson this morning and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- The meeting minutes of January 22, 2020 were approved (M/Marcelle Indelicato; S/Craig Rose).
- There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa reported:

- Important State budget hearings are coming up on March 4th (Assembly) at 2:30 p.m., and March 19th (Senate) at 10 a.m.
- There are incentives being proposed for specialized programs to reduce disparities. While this is a good idea, the Legislative Analyst's Office has pointed out that the rate structure for providers is not in place for long-term support of these services.
- There is a proposal on RCEB's website for affordable housing, with a deadline of the week of March 2nd to apply.
- Sunflower Hill is opening 30 housing units in the Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore areas.

- Lisa reminded us that the HCBS self-assessment is due March 31st. They have had technical difficulties with the portal and are offering assistance.
- Programs will receive “visits” if there were “no” responses on the HCBS survey or if the survey is not completed at all.
- Lisa pointed out that there is no mention of the rate study in the budget proposal. She recommended that everyone tell their legislators to move forward with the Lanterman Coalition’s recommendations to add to next year’s budget.

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

Sheraden announced:

- Feb 21st was the cutoff date to introduce new bills in the State legislature;
- SCDD sponsored 4 bills:
 - SB1118: Multi-family housing for setting aside 25% of the units for people w/ I/DD;
 - SB1063: Includes WIOA in State law for protection if the Federal government backs away from this;
 - SB1062: DDS cannot pay anyone sub-minimum wage under a 14C certificate;
 - SB1264: Language clean up around allowing an authorized representative to be included in advocacy activities, when a person’s rights are not upheld.
- There is a paid pilot project that focuses on performance measures.
- Upcoming meetings that are open to everyone:
 - Feb. 26, 2020: Advisory meeting at the Millbrae Library at 7 p.m. (long-term services);
 - March 4th and March 5th are self-advocacy meetings in Sacramento. There is a call-in number if you are unable to make the trip;
 - March 12th there is a public policy meeting in Sacramento;
 - March 17th is a SCDD Council meeting in Sacramento;
 - April 23rd is an Employment First Committee meeting in Sacramento.

Council Chairperson Report: no report

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reported:

- The joint Contra Costa/Alameda Counties DD Council Annual Dinner is being planned for June 9th at Scott’s Seafood Restaurant at Jack London Square. Information for nominations for awards and registration will be coming out next month.
- Alameda County’s Transition Fair is on March 14th at the College of Alameda. Let Vi know if you are interested in volunteering to assist at this event.
- There will be a training on March 7th in Fremont to become an Independent Facilitator in Self-Determination services.
- The committee that organizes the Vision for the Future Conference is kicking off on March 18th at 10 a.m. at RCEB-Concord. Volunteers are needed to join this committee.

Board Membership Report by David Monahan: no report

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi): The have not met since the last Council Board meeting.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will):

- The committee is supporting the implementation of the recommendations from the rate study.
- In addition, the Regional Center system statewide, is short 800 case managers.
- There needs to be a fix in the budget to address local minimum wage increases.
- The current rate increases for January 2020 will be suspended in June 2023--- they are asking that the suspension clause be removed.
- There will be hearings on the rate model proposal.

Heidi stated that the legislative breakfast was wonderful and a great day. However, she recommended a reduction in the number of high tables, as they were not accessible to her.

Emergency Planning Engagement Marcelle reported:

- The COVID-19 (Corona Virus) is the current event—hand washing is key in prevention, as is not touching your face.
- The 7th Annual Forum will occur on March 31st, 2021 in the new Emergency Management building in Martinez (seats 100). The plan is to have a panel of people that experienced the Kern County earthquakes (over 4000) and a panel to discuss the PSPS.
- Marcelle commented that the fire department is pleased with the minimal amount of rain so far, as it makes for low weeds and less fuel for fires.
- September 12th is the estimated date for the MAMFF/SAR (Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force-law enforcement/Search and Rescue teams) annual exercise. We are looking for volunteers of people with disabilities to teach and roll play in this important training opportunity.
- March 10th is a local VOAD meeting (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) at the Concord Police Dept.
- There is going to be a FAST (Functional Assessment Service Team) training in our County on June 1st and 2nd. Upon completing this training, you would be eligible to assist people with access and functional needs and disabilities in evacuation centers or shelters during a disaster. It is rare that this training comes to our area. Vi will develop a flyer for this training and they can train up to 50 people.
- Our local Interfaith Council is having a disaster planning meeting tomorrow afternoon.
- The East County disaster planning quarterly meeting is on March 5th.
- Contra Costa County has a new Emergency and Safety Coordinator, Emily Aragondo, replacing Tom Ta.

- The new emergency management building in Martinez will be opening in April or May----it is very state-of-the-art!
- There will be a state-wide exercise on Sept 17th, called Golden Eagle. It will feature an earthquake and test of critical transportation.
- If you would like to support our high schools, Antioch High is looking for volunteers on March 18th to do mock employment interviews with the high school students.

HireAble: Donna Feingold reported that at their last meeting they had a presentation. Their next meeting is Feb 28th at 10 a.m. at RCEB Concord.

There will be a job fair for people with I/DD on April 22nd at Acalanes High School in 2 sessions (morning and afternoon), partially due to limited parking. Resource tables are wanted.

Health Equity Team: They are on hiatus and are regrouping.

Transition Task Force Committee: Bill Pelter reported that this group is discussing surveying families in the transition process (school to adult services). They are interested in seeing where families are stuck in the process and possibly provide 1:1 assistance.

Ten-minute break occurred for coffee and conversation:

Thanks go to Bill Trinh and David Monahan for the coffee and great treats!

Presentation 1: *Census 2020, Count Me In*, by Matt Lardner, Census Outreach Coordinator:

Matt explained that census, done every 10 years, is important to:

- Determine legislature representation;
- Distribute federal funding;
- Plan for infrastructure;
- And inform businesses.

Matt stated that it is **easy** (9 questions), **safe** (confidential and does not ask about immigration status) and **important** (California receives \$76 Billion in federal funds based on population).

Each person not counted = loss of \$2000 each year. And 250,000 people in Contra Costa County are hard to count (20%)----a huge loss for us!

Census day is April 1, 2020 and you can respond by mail, on-line, or by phone, by April 30, 2020. You will receive a Census I.D. number by mail and you can take it to a Questionnaire Assistance

Center for translation services. Thirteen languages are on-line, and paper formats are in English and Spanish.

Matt encouraged us all to promote the Census 2020 to everyone we come in contact with. In addition, you can apply on-line for jobs with the Census Bureau at \$30/hour.

Matt was thanked for his presentation.

Presentation 2: Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan, by Naomi Armenta and Marvin Ranaldson of Nelson/Nygard (with an Introduction by Peter Engel of Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCTA)).

Peter, Director of Programs for CCTA, with the support of John Cunningham of Contra Costa County, announces the process of formulating an Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan for CC County. This study is funded by CalTrans and is expected to be completed by Fall 2020. The purpose of the study is to find service gaps and for the next few months, Nelson\Nygaard is gathering the information with a paper survey, on-line, and soon, a Spanish version. Peter introduced Naomi and Matt who wanted input from the audience, which was being recorded.

Naomi stated that this plan is to examine the transportation challenges of seniors, people with disabilities and veterans in Contra Costa County. The plan will recommend improvements to the transportation system.

They opened the discussion to comments from the audience. In general, problems discussed included:

- Routing inefficiencies
- Diverted buses
- Late buses and impacts on programs/people
- Difficulties crossing transit borders
- Cost
- Lack of evening and weekend operations

They also asked about people's wish list:

- Subsidized Uber/Lift direct rides with more accessible vehicles in the fleet
- Shorter trips/shorter wait times

Next, Naomi and Matt will continue to gather public comment, collect service and operational data, then research various transportation models to include in the final report. It is expected that this report will be out this coming Fall.

Naomi and Matt were also thanked for their presentation!

Announcements:

Save the Date: Annual Awards Dinner will be on June 9, 2020.

Hannah announced that the STAR Autism conference will be held on March 28th at Contra Costa College in San Pablo.

She also announced April 25th as the Oakley Congreso Familiar conference for Spanish-speaking families.

April 25th in West County, is the West County Resource and SPED Transition Fair in Richmond.

Carol announced that Contra Costa ARC is using a new name (currently a dba), *VistAbility*. She distributed a nice newspaper insert about the name change and articles about the services.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Next meeting will be held on March 25, 2020
At RCEB-Concord
1320 Willow Pass Road, Concord, CA
4th Floor Conference Room**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility