

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 27, 2020

Board and Liaison Members Present: Audrua Sysum, Chairperson; Rosa Valledor, Vice Chair; Caroline Ortiz; Suzanne Anthony; Donna Feingold; Marcelle Indelicato; Marianne Iversen; Pam Perls; Ria Mercado; David Monahan; Elvia Osorio Rodriguez; Craig Rose; Will Sanford; Leslie Werosh Visbal; Nickole Bouslog; Stephen Dale.

Staff: Vi Ibarra.

Board and Liaison Members Excused Bill Trinh; Heidi Spaulding; Stephen Beard.

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; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Kimberli Buckley, Concord Library; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Laura Rodriguez, La Familia; Ramsay Mashy, California Autism Foundation; Steven Scheer, Parent/Advocate; Heather Hackett, Futures Explored; Rebecca Corbett, Antioch Alive; Valisha Fullard, California Autism Foundation; Mike Pereira, Ala Costa Centers; Karen Lingenfelter, Mt. Diablo Adult Education; Maria Cabeza, Care Parent Network; Angelique Goldberg, Futures Explored; Jason Parks, Futures Explored; Tara Kopp, Office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier; Cherese LeBlanc, Care Parent Network.

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed and the meeting was called to order by Audra Sysum, Chairperson, at 10:10 a.m. Since this was a Zoom meeting, all guests were asked to sign into the Chat box. Board attendance was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

The meeting minutes of February 26, 2020 were approved (M/Leslie Werosh Visbal; S/ Marianne Iversen).

- There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES

RCEB Report by Lisa Kleinbub:

Lisa reported:

- This has been a horrendous year with the Covid-19 pandemic, along with serious State Budget shortfalls as a result.
- Unfortunately, 10 people with I/DD in our 2 counties have tested positive for the virus. As businesses open up, more is expected.
- A huge thanks go to DDS and SCDD for securing a large load of surgical face masks and hand sanitizer. These will be distributed in both Counties, as supplies last, to:
 - Families
 - Supported Living Providers
 - Care Parent Network and Family Resource Navigators (for their families)
- There have been several revised directives coming from DDS. We continue to wait for a directive about continuing absence billing for providers during this State of Emergency;
- Transportation services are expected to be a serious challenge for site-based services, when re-open, due to social distancing requirements. Currently, Paratransit is only transporting one person at a time to medical appointments.
- We need more direction from DDS, Community Care Licensing and Public Health to safely reinstate services outside of homes.

- The May revision of the State Budget Proposal will devastate our service infrastructure. All States need federal funds to reduce deficits. Severe cuts to provides may occur in Nov 2020 (up to 14%).
 - There may be standardized POS policies, as well.
 - There would be no limits on caseloads for RCEB Case Managers
 - Parental fees may increase.
- Be sure to contact your State and Federal legislators to advocate for our services.

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

- Sheraden reported that SCDD is advocating for the Federal Heroes Act to limit cuts to our service system.
- There is expected to be a budget shortfall next fiscal year, too.
- As Lisa described, SCDD received 2 Million units of PPE and have another 2 Million coming. They are working with Regional Centers and Centers for Independent Living to help distribute it.
- California Dept. of Social Services, with funding from the USDA, is mailing debit cards to families for the free school lunch program. New families can apply through their school districts with children with special needs up to age 22.
- See the SCDD website for their upcoming meetings and announcements.

Council Chairperson Report: no report

Executive Assistant to the Council Report by Vi Ibarra:

Vi reported:

- Dr. Rohan Radhakrishna, from Contra Costa Public Health, carried our comments to the State Task Force on Covid-19. Vi thanked everyone for participating in that discussion last meeting.
- Updated info is on the cchealth.org website, including a multi-lingual information line: 844-729-8410.
- Covid-19 virus testing is by appointment at 9 locations in Contra Costa County and you don't need symptoms or a doctor's referral. Just call: 844-421-0804.
- The County is looking for 22 volunteers to work 2-5 hour shifts to load and deliver food. You can apply with Shannon Ladler Beasley.
- The June Awards Banquet has been cancelled.
- A volunteer group is making face coverings for group homes. RCEB will help to get the word out that they are available.

Board Membership Report by David Monahan:

- There are 4 seats available on the DD Council Board and the election will take place during the June meeting. Audrua will be stepping down as Chairperson and she was thanked for her service to this Board. Rosa would like to continue as an officer and Leslie is interested, as well. Any other people interested in joining the Board, please reach out to Audrua or Vi.

Committee Liaison Reports:

CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council (Vi Ibarra): The Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan is now a big push and is an important issue. There is a link to their survey in the chat box. When you submit the survey, you are automatically entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card.

East Bay Legislative Coalition (Will Sanford): The Senate hearing was held last Sunday. We need to push for Federal funding and we are waiting for federal authority to provide virtual services. Frazier and Grayson are solid voices for us in the State; and Marc DeSaulnier is back to work and a solid voice for us, federally. Keep Advocating!

Emergency Planning Engagement Marcelle Indelicato reported:

- The Contra Costa County's Sheriff's Dept. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been open and operating for weeks now. There are numerous coordinating calls that include our very own Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs Co-Coordinators (Aimee, Heather and Carol):
 - A daily briefing by all parties;
 - State (Cal OES) Office of Emergency Services weekly calls;
 - CC Health Services calls;
 - Daily Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) calls;
 - Elected official calls;
 - Advanced Planning calls;
 - Multi-County calls;
 - And many more!
- In addition, there are many, many, Workgroups and Tasks Forces developed for:
 - Undocumented individuals;
 - Homeless;
 - Childcare for Disaster Service Workers;
 - Alternate Care Sites development (if hospitals are overloaded);
 - Outreach for underserved;
 - Health care assistance and monitoring of congregate care facilities;
 - Great Plates meal program for vulnerable Seniors not receiving Meals on Wheels;
 - Donations and Volunteer management
 - And many more.
- Other functions of the EOC to highlight:
 - County Logistics has supplied equipment for over 3000 requests, including PPE (masks and hand sanitizer) for RCEB;
 - A vehicle decontamination site was set up at the Concord Fire Training Center for emergency vehicles;
- In monitoring the finances, \$41 million was spent in one month on the emergency response
- Other collaborations in our County from law, fire, County Health and every partner throughout the area have been phenomenal! We are very lucky! The planning and responses are amazing! Vi and Marcelle are in the thick of it and are always looking out for us! (Carol's editorial)
- The State developed and mandated programs (surprise!), then made the County implement them.
- Continuing concerns include: The Covid-19 virus pandemic, it is fire season and the potential for PSPS is real.

HireAble: Donna Feingold and Karen Lingenfelter reported that the people they support in the hospitality business were laid off/furloughed. It is unknown at this time how many will be returning to their jobs.

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

Transition Task Force Committee: They met in May to discuss challenges and opportunities presented by the current shelter and social distancing order. West Contra Costa USD will be hosting a virtual Transition Fair.

Presentation: Re-Opening of Programs: What Should We Expect
By Michael Pereira, Executive Director, Ala Costa Centers

Michael has been hosting several day program committees with over 28 partners covering Alameda and Contra Costa Counties:

- One dedicated to health and safety practices;
- One looking at day program structure and alternative service models;
- One looking at different phases of getting back into the community;
- And one addressing transportation challenges.

All groups meet weekly with a goal of document sharing (universal documents) that can be adapted for each participating agency.

When asked when services will re-open, it all depends upon:

- The Shelter in Place orders;
- Staff availability and overall safety;
- Transportation availability;
- Availability of PPE.

There may be certain aspects of day services that do not return at this time, but we have to adapt and pivot, while looking out for everyone's health.

There are still a lot of unknowns, such as the economic forces, DDS funding, ensuring safety for all. Part of the process is also reaching out to the people we serve to assess their readiness to return to services. Keep in mind that some choices are influenced by a person's health status. And the interdisciplinary team process will be key in the final decision-making.

Several Board members commended Michael and his leadership in organizing these day program groups and he was thanked for all of his hard work!

Announcements: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting will be held on June 24, 2020 Look for a Zoom invitation from Vi Ibarra</p>

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

Carol Anne McCrary
VistAbility