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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
January 23, 2008

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Rosemary Almand, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Carol McCrary, Penny Musante, Norma Ramos, Kate Rauch, Peg Rimler, Carol Rossi, Will Sanford, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spaulding, Pat Yamamoto

Excused: Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Stephen Dale, Joseph Jimenez, Betsy Katz, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks.

Guests: Margaret Cameron, Parent; Laura Corona, RCEB; Joan Crook, CARE Parent Network; Lacey Friedman, Parent and CCC Health Services Hazardous Materials; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas, Inc.; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Joanne Nakamura, Congressman George Miller's Office, Jan Shaprio; RCEB.

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Pamela Newacheck, Acting Secretary

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:05am. She welcomed all to the meeting and everyone present introduced him or herself.

Announcement

Gina Jennings advised the Council that Board Member Wilson Barfield passed away on December 27, 2007 after being ill for quite a while. She requested for a moment of silence and this meeting be dedicated to his memory.

Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2007

Meeting minutes were unanimously approved (motion by Norma Ramos, second by Penny Musante).

Additions to the Agenda

Lacey Friedman requested that the Council re-visit the topic of emergency preparedness.

Special Presentation by Beth Nevins: Health Education for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities at Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood received a special grant to create and provide a sex education curriculum for people with development disabilities a few years ago. Though they currently don't have the grant, the curriculum is still available at no cost to the community. Beth can either come to your facility, or consumers can go to Planned Parenthood to receive education. The curriculum can be specialized to the specific group's needs, and she can teach groups or individuals. She can go to public schools, private schools, regional center, etc. The curriculum is divided into 4-5 sessions and covers the following:

- Assessment of students' knowledge
- The difference between public and private behavior
- Learning to say NO
- Sexual safety
- Anatomically correct terms aided by anatomically correct dolls



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There are videos that can be checked out at their Resource Center located at the corner of Grant and Pacheco Streets between 1pm and 5pm daily, or you can set up a time to view them.
For more detailed information contact Beth Nevins at Planned Parenthood at (925) 356-2436.

Budget Update/ RCEB Update – Jim Burton

For fiscal year 2007-2008, there have been no additional cuts due to the continuation of the last 4 years of cost containment measures, but caseloads at regional centers are growing substantially. There are more referrals and more consumers meeting eligibility requirements. This increased population did receive a modest funding increase.

The Governor's budget for next year was released in January, and details of it are available on the Governor's website and a copy of the Highlights from the Department of Developmental Services are attached. There is an expected deficit of \$14 billion, and the Governor has proposed a 10% cut across the board for the General Fund. DDS has placed a clear priority on protecting entitlement programs as this cut is seen as a clear erosion of entitlements under the law.

For 2008-2009, there is \$3.8 billion for community services, which includes money for 12,895 new consumers (though it isn't sufficient). It will be extremely difficult to serve 13,000 new consumers without new programs. There will be a continuation of cost containment measures that have been in effect since 2003. This includes funds for start-up programs and rates (except modest 3% last year), SSI and SSP, habilitation, work activity, etc. Intake assessment timelines have been extended from 60 to 120 days. Caseloads have increased from 1:62 to 1:66, though in actuality are higher. There is a recommendation to make these temporary cost containments a permanent part of the upcoming budget in order to help satisfy part of the 10% reductions necessary.

Further "low lights"

- Expand freeze on service provider rates
- Expand FCPP by including children age 0-3. The fee paid for by the parents would be based on income, and would apply to respite, day care and camping. This would affect approx. 150 families at Regional Center Oakland.
- Reduce rate for Supported Employment by 10% (generated by Department of Rehabilitation)
- State Development Centers would receive an 8% cut, and there would be no expansion to the sorely needed Porterville Center.

Other Department Cuts:

- Education would be cut \$4 billion
- Special Education would be reduced \$3.58 million
- In Home Support Services (IHSS) would receive a 18% cut to domestic services
- State SSP COLA would be eliminated
- Medi-Cal would receive serious cuts – 10% reduction in rates. We have one of the better programs in the nation but rates are so low that no physician can provide services at \$35 per hour rate.

Jim emphasized that Regional Centers have the responsibility to fund all these services if they are cut elsewhere. He stated this was the most frightening and precarious budget he has seen in years. The cumulative impact of previous budget cuts is severe. Though there is still time for many different types of reductions/cuts to be put forward, we must fight against them. It is recommended that everyone pay attention to Marty Omoto's web page (cdcan.us) for the latest news. It is important to stay in touch, stay organized, and to attend budget hearings when possible.

Partners in Policy Making – Joan Crook and Lacey Friedman

Joan and Lacey recently completed an 8-month class held monthly in Sacramento. There were 36 students in the class who had to apply to be accepted. Half of the attendees were family members of a person with a disability, and the other half were persons with a disability. This is a worldwide program that costs about \$5,000 per student, of which the student pays nothing. The purpose of this program is to empower attendees to learn to have a vision, and to tell the world what needs to be changed. Attendees practiced speaking at mock hearings and learned from some of the best speakers from all over the country. Upon graduation, they were given the mission of finding a cause to advocate for, and finding another person to mentor. Joan and



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Lacey are very excited to have been part of this training, and are looking forward to becoming better, stronger advocates for people with developmental disabilities.

Committee Reports

Family Support & Unmet Needs Committee Update – Gina Jennings

- The committee met in December, and their next meeting is January 29, 2008. The committee is dedicated to supporting families even though they have no financial resources. Their goal is to be creative and put their energies into what can be done. They are currently discussing how to instigate a mentoring program.

Legislation Committee – Will Sanford

- Next meeting is February 6 at 10:00am at Barbara Garcia's office.
- Save the Date---April 18th for the Legislative Breakfast.

Transition Committee Update– Penny Musante

- The Transition Conference was held January 8 at DVC with over 200 participants, and was very successful. Wendy Takuda was the keynote speaker and her speech about her brother was powerful.
- A Transition Fair in West County Contra Costa County is in the planning stages for April 12th. More details to come.

Aging Committee – Anne Long

- This committee has not met. They are currently supporting other committee activities.
- As part of a pilot project, Anne is taking a class to help plan for her daughter's future after she and her husband pass away. The goal of the project is to form a team that will take the place of the parents, with responsibilities of care spread among the members of the team. There is a new class forming soon. It was recommended that Bob Royeton, who facilitates this class, be invited to the February D.D. Council meeting to speak. Gina will follow-up on this.

Board Community Concerns

- Lacey Friedman recommended that the DD Council create an Emergency Preparedness sub-committee to focus on the specific needs of our population in an emergency. No decision was made on this recommendation. Gina did announce DD Council participation in a Special Needs ER Preparedness group with Contra Costa County on February 5, 2008.
- Thanks were given to Norma Ramos and Sandra Jackson for the delicious food.

Adjournment – Anne Long

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary

