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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 25, 2009**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Lacey Friedman, Joseph Jimenez, Carol McCrary, Penny Musante, Pam Perls, Rocio Smith, Pat Yamamoto, Norma Ramos.

Excused: Rosemary Almand, Ian Bremner, Stephen Dale, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks, Carol Rossi, Will Sanford.

Guests: Ana Aravio, CSB Head Start-Early Head Start; Stephanie Chapralis, CCARC; Maggie Cox, RCEB; Francine Davis, RCEB; Gene Gracey, Mass Mutual Financial Group; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Jan Shapiro, RCEB; Bonnie Witcomb, RCEB.

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

Welcome and Introductions Anne Long

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. She welcomed all to the meeting and everyone present introduced him or herself.

Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2009 Meeting - Meeting minutes were unanimously approved with the following change: Pat Yamamoto and Lacey Friedman should both be listed as excused. Penny Musante made the motion, with the second by Lacey Friedman.

Additions to the Agenda - Gina Jennings added Nominating Committee to **Committee Reports**

Special Presentation Rocio Smith Responding to Today's Challenges: Educate, Motivate, Activate

Rocio gave a history of how our California budget system works and how we got to the current situation; the main points are bulleted below:

- California's budget is proposition controlled and it takes a 2/3 majority to pass a proposition and a simple majority to undue once it becomes part of the budget.
- Majority of money for the California state budget comes from income tax and capital gains, which can fluctuate widely as we are currently experiencing.
- The significant cuts to the current budget were suggestions made by only 5 elected officials behind closed doors. Two democratic senators, two republican senators and the Governor are referred to as the Big Five.
- There is very little leeway in budget negotiations as some monies cannot legally be moved or changed. This leaves Health Services as one of the few areas that can be cut by legislators.

Further, Rocio emphasized the importance of being educated about the issues that are on the ballot for the special election on May 19, 2009 as there are propositions that could strongly influence services for individuals with developmental disabilities, education, etc. The following are brief summaries of the upcoming propositions on the May 19 ballot. For more details, go to the California Budget Project web site: www.cbp.org or to the League of Women Voters web site: www.lwvc.org.

- Proposition 1A: Will cap expenditures for California based on projections made by the State. If it passes, taxes increased in the current budget continue for 4-5 years. If it doesn't pass, the tax increase will continue for two years.
- Proposition 1B: Closely linked to Prop 1A this transfers the money outlined in Prop 1A to education.

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- Proposition 1C: Shifts lottery money.
- Proposition 1D: Transfer of funds from local First 5 to the State General Fund to fund early childhood services. Will last for 5 years.
- Proposition 1E: Shifts money from Prop 63 (Mental Health Act of 2004) to the State General Fund.
- Proposition 1F: Eliminates paychecks to State Legislators when budget isn't balanced.

There are several issues happening concurrently that will continue to impact services to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. As many of you are aware; on February 1, 2009 all community services received a 3% reduction in payment. In addition, Department of Developmental Services (DDS) was charged with finding \$100 million in additional reductions to its budget and if DDS was unable to come up with those reductions, services in the community would take another reduction of 7.1% in permanent reductions. There were several Stakeholder meetings where DDS took input from the community about how they might make the \$100 million reduction. The Stakeholder meeting in the East Bay was attended by the most people. One of the recommendations was to look at reducing funding to the remaining developmental centers, which seems to have been removed as a possibility. However, we will have to wait and see what is proposed in the April 1, 2009 report.

Another area of negative impact is with the economic triggers that are in our current budget. If California is not able to draw down \$10 billion in Federal Stimulus funding, the trigger WILL NOT get pulled, and the following recommended **reductions will be put into place** in the areas of IHSS, Medi-Cal optional benefits and others. If California DOES get the \$10 billion, then the trigger WILL BE pulled and the additional reductions **won't go into effect**.

In order to be a good advocate the following actions were recommended:

- Read the information and recommendations of the League of Women Voters.
- Read the information and recommendations that the California Budget Project publishes www.cbpp.org.
- Read the information and recommendations from Health Access.
- Attend the Legislative Breakfast information attached.
- Respond to newspapers via editorials to educate the public.
- Encourage all to VOTE! It is expected that only 15% of Californians will vote in this Special Election, which may not be positive.
- Call your elected officials and let them know how you feel about the propositions on the ballot. Attached is an up to date list with contact information.

State Budget and RCEB Update Jim Burton

Jim began by stating that this is the most dire situation that California's economy has experienced. He reported that there was some good news about the sufficiency of allocation for Regional Centers; DDS is working on covering that deficit. Details are still pending. Also, the State is reversing the 3% reduction to SSI for those who are in residential care and residential care homes will only receive the 3% cut in the service rate. Jim reported that it will take RCEB a little time to undo this reduction, but he and his staff will be working on getting it done as soon as possible.

The Stakeholders meetings went really well and Jim feels that they did have an impact, and folks worked very hard to come up with alternative ideas. Recommendations from DDS on how to make these cuts are due out April 1, 2009 to the Legislature, though it won't be final. There is just no easy way to reduce that amount of money.

Every human service is affected by the budget cuts for 2008-09. The cuts that were made are just beginning to filter down and their effects are coming to light. This is a very complicated time, and we all need to advocate appropriately. Jim suggested that the community continue to stay involved with the process by attending meetings, hearings, etc.

Committee Reports:

In the interest of time Committee Reports were postponed until the April meeting, except the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee: Gina reviewed the following with the Board.

The list of individuals below is completing their 1st term. (Remember terms are 3 years in length and you can serve two.)

- Curtis Braxton
- Ian Bremner
- Steven Dale
- Anne Long (is still able to remain as Chair for 1 more term)



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- Carol McKinney

The list of individuals below is completing their second term.

- Rosemary Almand
- Ange Burnett
- Jim Burton
- Carol McCary (Vice Chair)
- Will Sanford
- Pat Yamamoto

Therefore, we will have six openings on the Board, including Carol McCary as Vice-Chair. After some discussion it was suggested that the Nominating Committee revitalize itself and the following board members volunteered work on the committee: Norma Ramos, Carol McCary, Dwayne Cooper, Joseph Jimenez and Pat Yamamoto.

Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, which will coincide with Assembly Budget Subcommittee Hearings and Board Members are encouraged to attend. Therefore, a motion was made (Lacey Friedman), seconded (Carol McCary) and passed **moving the next meeting to Wednesday, April 29.**

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

Pamela Newacheck
Acting Secretary

