

WILLIAM B. WALKER, M.D.
HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

WENDEL BRUNNER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH



**CONTRA COSTA
PUBLIC HEALTH**

DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES COUNCIL
597 CENTER AVENUE, SUITE 200
MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA 94553
PH (925) 313-6836
FAX (925) 313-6721

**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 29, 2009**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Rock Jocelyn (for Carol McCrary), Mindy Lee, Pam Perls, Norma Ramos, Kate Rauch, Carol Rossi, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spalding, Pat Yamamoto.

Excused: Rosemary Almand, Suzanne Anthony, Ange Burnett, Stephen Dale, Lacey Friedman, Joseph Jimenez, Elree Langford, Carol McCrary, Carol McKinney, Penny Musante, Lauri Parks, Will Sanford.

Guests: Darcie Azzolini, We Care Services; Stephanie Chapralis, CCARC; Maggie Cox, RCEB; Francine Davis, RCEB; Sandra Jackson, Las Trampas; Melanie Kilcourse, RCEB; Angie Lee, ALIVE; EllaAnn Liggins, RCEB; Krista Loomis, Full Circle; Ramsay Mashy, Calif. Autism Foundation; Joanne Nakamura, Congressman Miller's Office; Josh Sullivan, ALIVE; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Jessica Treat, Toolworks.

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Pamela Newacheck, 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. Anne Long announced that Roz Wofsy had passed away on April 23. Anne read the notice that Diana Jorgensen had written about Roz as she (Roz) was revered by all those who knew and worked with her for both her unusually gifted skills and her steadfast commitment to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Roz was the 1st Director of the Contra Costa DD Council, and she began her work with the Council in 1964 and retired in 1984. Her memorial service is on May 10, 2009 in Alameda.

Approval of Minutes from March 25, 2009 meeting - Meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The motion was made by Carol Rossi with the second by Dwayne Cooper.

Additions to the Agenda – No additions were made.

Special Presentation: A Close Look at the DDS Proposed Budget Cuts – Barbara Maizie

Barbara began by giving the history of how the DDS arrived at their recommendation for cutting their budget by \$122 million. When the current state budget was passed, DDS was mandated to reduce their budget by \$100 million. In February, stakeholder meetings were held around the state and over 600 individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and other interested community members were in attendance. Several suggestions were made, with the consensus that community services were not in a position to incur additional cuts. The suggestions that stakeholders put forth, by in large, were that further reductions be kept as far away from consumers as possible, securing more federal funding, drawing down possible stimulus money and looking at the DD system in it's entirety and see what cuts could be made in other parts than just services in the community. If the cuts couldn't be avoided, it was recommended that they be spread over the four points of the system: community services (regional centers), regional center administration, DDS and state developmental centers.



■ Contra Costa Community Substance Abuse Services ■ Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services ■ Contra Costa Environmental Health ■ Contra Costa Health Plan ■
■ Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs ■ Contra Costa Mental Health ■ Contra Costa Public Health ■ Contra Costa Regional Medical Center ■ Contra Costa Health Centers ■

When the small work group convened to review the input from stakeholders and make the recommendations to DDS, they were advised that both federal funding and the state developmental centers were “off the table”. This group reviewed all suggestions and developed 15 proposals that will affect many consumers, their families, and staff.

Of the 15 proposals, eleven have some potential if, and only if, the trailer bill language is done correctly. Many are taking a hard look at the language and revisions are being recommended. Advocates are also lobbying for some changes to make these proposals less detrimental. Please refer to the attached document or go to dds.ca.gov and click on DDS Budget Proposals in the Highlights section of the page.

The remaining four proposals (numbers 1, 2, 7 and 9) should not go forward as they will have a major impact to services and are being challenged. Barbara stressed that if the DDS doesn't reduce their budget by \$122 million, a mandatory 7.1% reduction goes into effect September 1, 2009, which could also be devastating.

A question was raised about why the development centers were being spared. Though there are political and historical reasons for this inequity, there is a movement to create a unified budget between community services and the developmental centers so that both share the burden of budget cuts in the future. Barbara summarized her presentation with a special emphasis on our role as a community, we must continue to meet with our local legislators to educate them about just how important and cost effective services in the community are, attend hearings and rallies as they do make a difference.

State Budget and RCEB Update – Jim Burton

Jim began by thanking Barbara for her excellent summary of the DDS proposed cuts, and then added the following:

- Though Regional Centers have brought in additional federal funds of approx. \$240 million, they haven't received credit for this, AND the funds are being diverted to help with the budget deficits.
- It looks like the state budget will be at a \$50 billion deficiency, which is an increase of \$8 billion from projections. There will also be an additional \$6 billion decrease added if Proposal 1A doesn't pass.
- Though all Regional Centers were under-budgeted (RCEB has approximately \$4.5 to \$7 million in deficiency), 50% has been made up, with the majority coming from federal funds. Jim thanked Pam Thomas and her staff for helping in this area, especially with regard to Medicare waivers.
- Thanks were given to those who attended the April demonstration and rally, and those who gave such poignant testimony.
- Since the state didn't bring in the \$10 million in federal stimulus funds, the proposed cuts will remain in place to IHSS worker wages, SSI and Medi-Cal reductions and optional benefits such as dental services. Until the Special Election and the May/June revise we will not have all the information.

Jim also announced that Senator Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg launched a Senate Select Committee on Autism (ASD) and other Related Disorders and the bill package. Go to <http://dist06.casen.govoffice.com/> for more detailed information. This is in response to the work of the California Blue Ribbon Commission.

Committee Reports

Legislation Committee - The Legislative Breakfast had a good turnout. There was good representation from our legislators, and we must continue to educate them. They heard firsthand from a mother of an adult/child with a developmental disability and a consumer about how further reductions to services in the community would impact them in a very harmful way. Several salient points were made in both the presentations and summed up in a very powerful and descriptive way by our moderator Rocio Smith.

Transition Committee - The West Contra Costa County Transition Fair was held last weekend and it was a great time where families and students with developmental disabilities could gather information about transition to adult services.

Family Support - No report

Nominating Committee - Phone calls have been made to potential nominees, and many are considering the position(s) on the Board. The committee will keep us posted.



■ Contra Costa Community Substance Abuse Services ■ Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services ■ Contra Costa Environmental Health ■ Contra Costa Health Plan ■
■ Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Programs ■ Contra Costa Mental Health ■ Contra Costa Public Health ■ Contra Costa Regional Medical Center ■ Contra Costa Health Centers ■

Annual Dinner Planning – Gina Jennings

The dinner is being planned for mid-June, and once the speaker is confirmed, Gina will announce the date, time and location. All are encouraged to prepare nominations for the Excellence in Service awards, noting that this year there will be a limit of four awards per county. ***Special Note: Late breaking news.... The Annual dinner will be on June 23. See details in packet.***

Announcements

- Swine flu information was made available, and cchealth.org was recommended as a good site for current information.
- Some West County parents of children between the ages of 12 to 16 are interested in gathering information on transitioning. Kate Rauch has offered to be a liaison for these parents, and will be looking to collect information from the community on this topic.
- May 7 the Senate Budget Committee hearing is scheduled and testimony will be taken on how the proposal put forth by DDS will affect the system. All are encouraged to participate in this important day.
- Congreso de Familia will be held on August 22 at Chabot College in Hayward.
- All were encouraged to become familiar with the upcoming propositions and VOTE on May 19.

Next Meeting

As the next meeting is scheduled for May 27 (Disability Action Day), it was decided to skip the May meeting and hold the next meeting on **Wednesday, June 24**. ***Special note: Several Board members suggested after attending the May 7 Senate Hearing that it may be important to reschedule the meeting for earlier rather than later. Therefore, the next meeting will be June 3.***

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

Pamela Newacheck
Acting Secretary

