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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 23, 2011**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long - Chairperson, Curtis Braxton, Jim Burton, Stephanie Chapralis, Joan Crook, Stephen Dale, Heather Hackett, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Ella Liggins, Carol McKinney, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura, Pam Perls, Will Sanford, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spaulding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino.

Board Members Excused: Suzanne Anthony, Laura Beard, Ian Bremner, Lacey Friedman, Anne Long, Kate Rauch, Carol Rossi

Guests: Nickole Bouslog, ALIVE; Barbara Hamilton, RCEB; Danon Jenkins, ALIVE; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Angie Lee, PC ALIVE Central; Stacy Maher, RCEB; Caroline Ortiz, Care Parent Network; Erin Rogers, Cole Vocational Services, Antioch; Gina Terranova, ALIVE; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Ron Usac, AB5; Kim Williams, ALIVE, Francine Davis, RCEB.

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

Welcome and Introductions – Anne Long

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

- The January 26, 2011 minutes were approved unanimously. Motion was made by Ella Liggins with a second by Carl Tolentino.

AB 171 Autism Spectrum Disorder Insurance Bill Sponsored by Senator Beall – Presented by Karen Fessel

This bill will require private health insurers to pay for critical services and programs, including screening, diagnosis and treatment for children and adults with autism spectrum and related disorders (ASD). Key components include:

- Require health plans to cover screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders
- Require health plans to develop and maintain networks of qualified autism service providers
- Close real and perceived loopholes in current law that health plans exploit to deny essential treatments to individuals with autism spectrum and related disorders
- Leave the practice of medicine to doctors instead of insurance companies
- Provide significant and immediate cost savings to the state, which is currently paying the cost of health care services for many insured Californians with autism spectrum disorders, through the Regional Centers, counties and school districts.
- Provide long term cost savings in the form of reduced state spending on special education, welfare and other ongoing social services by ensuring Californians with ASD receive comprehensive treatment.



The biggest hurdle will be the insurance companies as they may not want to take on the expenses, but those promoting this bill are prepared for the fight.

After a short discussion, a motion was made by Josh Sullivan with a second by Joan Crook for the DD Council to do the following:

- Write a letter of support to Assemblymember Jim Beall (or Chair of Health) for AB 171
- Write a letter asking Assemblymember Nancy Skinner to consider co-sponsorship of the bill with Assemblymember Jim Beall

The motion was unanimously passed. A letter was written and is attached to your packet.

State Budget Update – Jim Burton

There is some good news in that the recent advocacy at the state level by people with developmental disabilities and their families may have made a difference, as there has been a shift in legislative attitudes since the two hearings in early February. Attached is a brief summary of what has happened to date.

The key legislators to be thanked are Representatives Mark DeSaulnier and Mark Leno, Senate Pro-Tem Steinberg and Dianne Van Maren and Senate Budget Senior Staff. However, our job is not over and we need to continue our advocacy efforts. There will be opportunities to impact trailer bill language. There was a motion made by Josh Sullivan and Joan Crook to write a letter to the legislators (Senator DeSaulnier and Leno) thanking them for their support, letting them know we are still counting on them to help save services and the Lanterman Act. The motion passed unanimously. A letter was written and is attached to your packet.

Carl Tolentino distributed a flyer about the Rally to be held on Friday, February 25 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Todos Santos Park. The rally will include a demonstration march, video message booth and letter writing stations. It is spearheaded by the Consumer Action Committee of ALIVE and supported/sponsored by Alive, Contra Costa ARC, The Respite Inn, Harmony Home Associated, Futures, Care Parent Network, East Bay Services, RES and Full Circle.

Planning the West Contra Costa March Meeting – Gina Jennings

It was decided that the March 23, 2011 DD Council meeting will be held in West County on the regularly scheduled date and time. Since no venue has been finalized, Stephanie Chapralis and Joan Crook have volunteered to help secure one. Possibilities include Spectrum, El Cerrito City Council and the Library Community room. The topic will be the State Budget and Kate Rauch is working on securing a speaker.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee – Will Sanford

- AB 171 will be heard on the legislative bill agenda and could be a way to save the state some money without imposing Purchase of Service Standards.
- The upcoming trailer bill language is out and Will and others are keeping informed and will keep us informed. The challenge is trying to understand what the impacts will be.
- Continue advocacy, especially with Assemblymember Skinner and Senator Mark DeSaulnier and Senator Leno.



- Efforts are being focused on June tax extensions, as we all need to remember that if the tax extension is not voted in it will have an extremely negative affect on services to individuals and families.
- Stakeholder meetings are being coordinated to develop purchase of service standards. It is important to stay current on the exact nature of how this process may work.

Transition Committee

No report

Family Support Committee

No report

Parent Coordinating Council

No report

Announcements

- Rocio Smith – California State Council on Developmental Disabilities will be holding a public forum to develop a 5 year plan (2012-2016) on Thursday, March 3, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Alameda County Public Health Department in Oakland. For more information call 510-286-0439.
- Steven Dale – Distributed a flyer with information on how to learn more about the Lanterman Act (www.gspt.org), and also on available videos on topics such as The Overview of ARC, Limited conservatorships, etc. He also mentioned that he will be talking at the ARC/UCP Conference on March 7 on the topics of limited conservatorships and sexual abuse.
- Mark DeSaulnier is holding a Townhall meeting on Thursday evening in the Pleasant Hill City Hall Chambers. RSVP is recommended.
- The Annual Dinner planning has begun and will be hosted by Contra Costa this year. The Keynote speaker selection is dependent upon the outcome of the budget. It is being planned for late May or early June.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at a location to be determined in West County.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary

