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**CONTRA COSTA  
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
May 25, 2011**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Suzanne Anthony - Chairperson, Jim Burton, Stephanie Chapralis, Heather Hackett, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Ella Liggins, Penny Musante, Joanne Nakamura, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino

**Board Members Excused:** Laura Beard, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Joan Crook, Stephen Dale, Lacey Friedman, Anne Long, Carol McKinney, Kate Rauch, Carol Rossi, Heidi Spaulding

**Guests:** Francine Davis, RCEB; Betty Jo DuBois, CCARC/CSS-Richmond; Valisha Fullard, Calif. Autism Foundation; Kelly Kramer, Toolworks; Claudia Lam, CCARC/GMC-Richmond After School Program; Darin Lounds, Housing Consortium of the East Bay; Ramsay Mashy, Calif. Autism Foundation; Carol Anne McCrary, CCARC; Eren Mendez, CCC Elections Dept.; Erin Rogers, Cole Vocational Services, Antioch; Craig Rose, CIWP Antioch; Hilary Shen, MDUSD; Ron Usac, Area Board 5; John Visbal, Calif. Autism Foundation

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

**Welcome and Introductions – Suzanne Anthony**

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

- Since a quorum was not present, the April 27, 2011 minutes could not be approved. They will be voted on at the next meeting. However, the following correction was noted: The next meeting scheduled is not June 22. It is May 25.
- No changes were made to the agenda; however, Gina Jennings wanted to make sure the summer board meeting schedule was discussed.

**Services available to voters with Special Needs – Eren Mendez, Contra Costa Election Outreach Coordinator**

As Outreach Coordinator of the Contra Costa Elections Office, Eren Mendez presented an overview of the services available to make voting accessible for voters with disabilities. She explained that her office is constantly working to improve accessibility at polling places. The following are some of the improvements that have been made to simplify and improve the voting experience for voters with disabilities:

- At all polling places ballots can be brought to the curbside
- You can vote up to 29 days prior to the election day at her office
- Most polling places have an ‘auto-mark’ that allows people with disabilities to vote independently
- Practice ballots and the auto-mark machine can be brought to a site for practice



Her office is developing a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee. The Committee will meet quarterly and the purpose of the committee is to expand the pool of accessible polling places and ensure feedback from advocacy groups on how to better meet the needs of voters with disabilities. If you need more information about accessible voting services or have an interest in the Advisory Council, contact Eren at (925) 335-7821.

### **Budget/RCEB Update – Jim Burton**

- Today is Capital Action Day, which explains why so many of our fiercest advocates are missing from today's meeting.
- The May revision came out on May 16, with very few changes.
- State revenues were up \$6 billion (mostly capital gains tax), but there is still a \$9.6 billion deficit.
- The Governor still wants put the tax extension before the voters.
- Possible compromises being discussed: (a) On-going caps on spending, which greatly affects our entitlement services, and (b) State employee retirement cuts.
- There are still \$591 million in cuts, in addition to last year's \$334 million from the State general fund (not including the loss to Federal matching funds). However, good news in that \$55 million in cuts from last year has been credited toward this year's cuts.
- There were very few surprises in the DDS proposed trailer bill language, as it mostly reflected what had been previously discussed.
- It is likely that the Prevention Program will be eliminated.

Jim reminded all that there could be severe cash flow issues if the budget is not signed by June 30. Banks are tired of enabling California's 'budget woes' every year. Again, it was suggested that service providers should try and secure lines of credit if possible as a security in case the budget isn't signed. Jim also mentioned that RCEB initially received only 15% of what they were due in April. They did not receive any notice of that and it took some time and effort and the remaining 85% was finally sent. He is hoping not to have cash flow problems, but times seem to be uncertain.

### **West County Meeting – Full Board**

It was unanimous that the meeting in West Contra Costa was a success and that this type of meeting should be done annually or more frequently, if possible. There was discussion about when to meet in East County this year. It was decided that October would be a good month and the Antioch library may be a possible venue. Gina will follow up.

### **Annual Dinner – Gina Jennings**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual DD Council Award Dinner will be held Wednesday, June 8 at the Marriott in Walnut Creek. Senator Mark DeSaulnier is still on tap as the keynote speaker. Tickets are still available and a reminder went out that seating is limited and NO tickets will be sold at the door. Deadline to register is May 31.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legislative Committee – Will Sanford**

Both AB 171 and SB 166 may be going into suspension.

#### **Transition Committee – Penny Musante**

- The Conference has been has scheduled for January 2012, again at DVC.

It was noted that this is the longest standing committee of the DD Council (25 years or so) and it has been hosting events (fairs and conferences) and self-supporting, however, their funds are low and the group is



putting in even more volunteer hours to accomplish their goals than in the past. Gina Jennings offered kudos to this committee for their hours of hard work.

#### **Family Support Committee**

No Report

#### **Media Outreach – Josh Sullivan and Carl Tolentino**

Josh and Carl believe strongly that a Media Outreach Committee needs to be formed. They were reminded that Kate Rauch had indicated prior interest along with some others. It is hoped that the group will meet soon and report back to the full board. Gina, Josh and Carl will work together to get a meeting scheduled in the next couple of months.

#### **Summer Board Meeting Schedule**

There was discussion about holding a meeting in June and July so that the Board could stay current on the budget. It was decided that there would be an ‘express’ June board meeting, and at that meeting the need for a July board meeting could be determined.

#### **Announcements**

- Jim Burton thanked Contra Costa for ensuring that the Annual Dinner takes place. It is a very positive event that provides encouragement to all during these difficult times.
- Darren Lounds announced that the Housing Consortium of the East Bay is looking for board members to represent Contra Costa County. If anyone is interested, please contact Darren. Their electronic newsletter is the “Housing Connection”. Darren also thanked the community for supporting their Walnut Creek 3<sup>rd</sup> Street project. Darin can be reached at (510) 832-1315 or [www.hceb.org](http://www.hceb.org).

#### **Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22 at the Concord Regional Center office.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

*Pamela Newacheck*

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Acting Secretary

