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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 28, 2011**

Board and Liaison Members Present: – Suzanne Anthony - Chairperson, Nickole Bouslog, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Jim Burton, Stephanie Chapralis, Stephen Dale, Heather Hackett, Ella Liggins, Stephanie Meakin, Penny Musante, Pam Perls, Craig Rose, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spalding, Josh Sullivan, Carl Tolentino, Kimberly Williams

Board Members Excused: Laura Beard, Joan Crook, Lacey Friedman, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Anne Long, Carol McKinney, Kate Rauch, Carol Rossi

Guests: Betty Jo Dubois, CCARC; Claudia Lam, CCARC; Angie Lee, ALIVE/Futures Explored; Carol Anne McCrary, CCARC; Mayra Padilla, CCC Community Services Bureau-Head Start; Will Sanford, Futures Explored; Hilary Shen, MDUSD; Rocio Smith, AB5; Pam Thomas, RCEB; Ron Usac, AB5; Cynthia White, Aspiranet Family Focused Support Network

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Kimberly Robinson, Acting Secretary

Welcome and Introductions – Suzanne Anthony

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

- The April 27, May 25, June 22, and July 28 minutes were unanimously approved. Motion was made by Ella Liggins with second by Curtis Braxton.
- No changes were made to the agenda

Media Outreach – Martha Ross for Kate Rauch:

Martha Ross is a former writer for the Contra Costa Times, was an overseas reporter and editor, has written for Diablo Magazine and currently writes a blog (AOL local news) for the Walnut Creek Patch and the Diablo Regional Arts Association.

Martha provided some excellent information regarding Media Outreach her suggestions are as follows;

- Utilizing the online Patch newsletter (operating in Concord, Danville, Martinez, etc.) is a good way to get stories out and stay connected.
- Try to build a relationship with the reporter who covers the topic you want to highlight and tip them off to possible stories. Become familiar with their deadlines and needs, try emailing them as a first contact. Daily newspapers lack resources and if you provide reporters with all the information a reporter may need for a “story” that is very helpful.
- Send press releases through email - provide as much information as possible, including contact phone numbers, so reporter doesn’t have to check so much and hunt for information.



- Take control of your own story – create your own article and post on your program website, make it personal, highlight impact on specific participant and/or employee. If there is bad news, get your own version out first.
- Cross promote with peers through use of blogs, social networking, to increase interest in your own program or event. Be the one to go to for information, even if it's not about your own event.
- Remember – conflict and cover-ups create interest. Show the effects on the average person and the larger community.

Martha can be contacted at rossmartha@att.net and is happy help with ideas etc. She is also a writer/editor, making her a good resource for editing blogs etc.

New Board Members 2011-12

1. Craig Rose, Director of CIWP in Antioch
2. Stephanie Meakin, People First;
3. Nickole Bouslog, Consumer Action Committee
4. Kimberly Williams, President of Consumer Action Committee
5. Angie Burnett Childcare Council of Contra Costa
6. Jim Burton Regional Center of the East Bay

Budget – State and RCEB Update – Jim Burton

- Our state legislators are on summer recess and no significant changes are expected until December 15, which is the date the Director of Finance determines if the 'trigger' must be pulled; if the state hasn't received enough revenue at that time, additional cuts will be triggered automatically. Unfortunately, HHS/DDS is on the first tier of cuts and an additional \$100 million in unallocated budget reductions may be taken from our system. Jim noted he has no information, at this time, of where the cuts would be made, and that our system has already incurred the largest percentage of cuts.
- New forms created by recent DDS regulations dealing with transparency and accountability, and designed by the state do not work well and RCEB is too short-staffed to review all the new forms. New regulations are 'killing RCEB with paperwork' and not saving any money, especially for families receiving behavioral services.
- New emergency regulations are posted on DDS website. It is important to stay current on the info, so please check the RCEB website regularly.
- Effective October 1, 2011, new regulations change the structure of how parent-vouchered respite is paid in California. This includes daycare, nursing and transportation. Currently, parents may arrange for services and RCEB reimburses them. The new structure requires an employer of record or financial management service – not family member – to pay the respite workers and pay the payroll taxes, etc, making the services more expensive. The State of California will lose millions of dollars of federal matching funds until this system is fully in place.
- In addition, the 4.25% payment reduction in minimum wage vouchered services violates labor laws - and this has not been resolved.
- RCEB is putting together an information sheet for families and training staff to handle the changes. Sending out letters to families with the most significant federal reimbursement first. All information will be posted on the website.
- Jim announced that ARC California and UCP have filed a lawsuit against the State today, to prevent the trigger from being enacted, back-cuts areas dealing with the ADA, asserting that the State did not follow federal Medical rules in implementing the payment reductions to vendors. We will be keeping an eye on this.



- RCEB is receiving \$18 million less this year to serve 200-300 more people. He noted that “it will be an extremely difficult year”.

Announcements

- The overview of SB 946 (Steinberg) was provided and all are encouraged to read this, as it mandates that health insurance providers cover behavioral health treatment for people with Autism.
- The Transition Committee will not be hosting a conference in January. Monthly meetings will continue on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 3:15pm at RCEB, with guest speakers. Next meeting is October 20th.
- 2011 Transition Resource Fair is scheduled for October 28th from 9am-noon at the Willow Creek Center in Concord.
- The Paratransport Council has 3 positions open in Central County for consumers who use paratransport services.
- Contra Costa ARC’s Lynn Center has relocated from Pittsburg to the Almond Grove Elementary School in Oakley.
- KQED has designated October as Disability Awareness month, highlights the stories of individuals. Claudia Lam suggested we submit nominations for next year. Visit KQED.org for details.
- Pamela Newacheck has retired as secretary. Kimberly Robinson will fill in as acting secretary.
- Will Sanford announced that a presentation of the movies made at Joey Travolta’s Film Camp at St. Mary’s College (by people with Autism) will be held October 23rd at 4:00 p.m. The theme this year was “The Bizarre Zone”.
- RCEB is hosting the Living Options presentation on October 19th @ 6:00 p.m. in the RCEB conference room. Families can tour the various living options the following day.
- Topics for speakers for the 2011-2012 year were discussed and voted on. Final results are being tallied by Gina Jennings.
- The October meeting will be held in East County, with location to be determined (possibly the Prewitt Family Community Center on Lone Tree Way in Antioch). Rocio Smith is tentatively scheduled to speak.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th at the 9:45 a.m.

Results of the Planing Brainstorming Session

Gina will begin to schedule presentations in the next months.

Topic	Votes
Mindful School presentation	12
Advocacy by CAC	10
Keeping the Lanterman Promise	10
Crisis services in Contra Costa County	10
Navigating system to get equipment repairs in a timely manner	8
Legislative outreach (Kim Williams)	5
Employment First and employment services	5
Emergency Preparedness	5



Prevention program update	4
Conservatorships (Stephen Dale, Rep from court)	4
Walnut Creek Foundation Center –Grant Writing	3
JFK Intern	3
Ethnographic training (Ian Bremner)	3
Resiliency	3
Status of generic services with Contra Costa County	3
MI Services in CCC	2
Las Positas (starts winter) Dick Stein/Rocio	2
Train new workers for our field	2
Department of Rehab update (Will and Penny)	2
One Stop Employment Services, Workforce Development Group	1

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Kimberly Robinson

Kimberly Robinson
Acting Secretary

