

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**9/27/17**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Caroline Ortiz, Chair; Vi Ibarra; Maria Marquez; Douglas Quinn; Donna Feingold; Heidi Spaulding; Paula Senigar; Nina Vincent; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez; Ria Mercado; Krista Loomis; Bill Trinh; Ken Talken; Marcelle Indelicato; Suzanne Anthony.

No staff present.

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Will Sanford; Heather Hackett.

**Guests:** Carol Anne McCrary, Contra Costa ARC; Craig Rose, Community Integrated Work Program; Brandon Bratcher, Office of Congressmen Mark DeSaulnier; Mamie Raymond, Parent/ASNLS Parent Support Group Mediator; Tracy Butler, Commercial Support Services-Antioch; Murri Banis, Commercial Support Services-Richmond; Alex Mountford, Manos Home Care; Jackie Johnston, California Children's Services; Catherine Godlewski, Contra Costa ARC; Beth DeWitt, Regional Center of the East Bay; Hilary Shen, Mt. Diablo Unified School District; Lisa Kleinbub, Executive Director, Regional Center of the East Bay; Pam Perls, RAC/SCSS, East Bay Legislative Committee; Dave Monahan, Consumer of Regional Center of the East Bay; Jennalie Wilson, Regional Center of the East Bay; Sandy Keach, Contra Costa County; Nickole Bouslog, ALIVE-Antioch; Audrua Sysuin, ALIVE-Antioch; Shakendra Burks, ALIVE-Antioch.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

The meeting was called to order by Caroline Ortiz, Chair, at 10:02 a.m. and everyone was welcomed. Introductions were made.

- o A special welcome was made to Lisa Kleinbub, the new Executive Director of Regional Center of the East Bay.
- o The meeting minutes of 5/24/17 were approved as submitted (M/Maria Marquez; S/Marcelle Indelicato).
- o There was one addition to the agenda: Electing a Vice-Chair to the Council.
- o Nominations for Vice-Chair were opened to the members present. Caroline Ortiz nominated Heidi Spaulding to serve as Vice-Chair. No other nominations were presented. Heidi was elected as Vice-Chair (M/Caroline Ortiz; S/Maria Marquez).

**RCEB Update by Lisa Kleinbub**

Lisa started her new position as Executive Director in July 2017 and stated that she had been with the Regional Center of the East Bay for 23 years. She had some other good news for us:

- o ABX2-1 (wage pass-through funds) surveys are due Sunday, October 1, 2017. Regional Center has determined that they have received about 85% of them. This is a requirement in order for a vendor to keep the new rates.
- o The Governor has signed a bill lifting the 90 hours per quarter cap on in-home and out-of-home respite services and eliminating the exception criteria. This will become effective 1-1-18. However, services for camperships and social recreation services were not restored.
- o DDS has "disparity" grants available to reduce the disparities in the purchasing of services by the Regional Centers for various ethnic groups.

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office:**

Maria Marquez reported that the Executive Director took letters denouncing cuts to Medicaid to Washington D.C. and hand-delivered them to legislators. He also made visits to various

employment services on the East Coast. Awards were presented to Sheraden Nicholau (Advocacy) and to the San Bernardino Regional Center.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Executive Committee: Caroline is involved in the search for a new Executive Assistant to the DD Council. Interviews will begin in mid-to-late October. There are less than 10 people to interview. With the new person on board, the Executive Committee will begin meeting/planning for the year.

Caroline is also working on the "Bridge to Success" program and other outreach to hire more people with I/DD into Contra Costa County jobs.

- Strategic Planning Committee: no report.
- Legislative Committee: Brandon Bratcher of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's office reported that the Graham-Cassidy bill that would have given States' block grants for Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal) services was pulled, with not enough support. In addition, a spending bill is currently being discussed to provide more support to those impacted by the recent hurricanes, including Puerto Rico.

Please mark your calendar to attend a Town Hall meeting with Congressman DeSaulnier on either October 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>---Brandon will send us the info as soon as the date is confirmed.

Pam Perls reported that the East Bay Legislative Committee has been making visits to our legislators' offices and attending Town Hall meetings. Of concern is Katherine Baker's (R) attempts to suppress affordable housing bills. There are several housing bills on the Governor's desk right now that may pass.

- Paratransit Coordinating Council: Bill Trinh attended their recent meeting with several of his friends. They testified about personal stories of extreme waiting times and scheduling inefficiencies (multiple buses to the same location and destination). The PCC will host a private meeting on the topic, not open to the public.

There was a discussion about the costs of single-rider trips, scheduling inefficiencies, and ridiculous waiting times. Heidi shared her experience of the LINK driver passing her home 3 times and not letting her off. Questions were raised about documenting personal stories (Bill stated he had 2 years of documentation), inviting LINK to a DD Council meeting, and contacting others in the transportation arena, such as the Contra Costa Transit Authority Board. A comment was made about "infiltrating" the private meeting to make change happen.

Paula Senigar reminded everyone to comment on LINK's social media pages----their facebook page, twitter account, etc., to reach a greater audience and get their attention.

The next PCC meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017 at 2999 Oak Road, Walnut Creek (near Pleasant Hill BART station). Everyone is welcome to attend.

- Nominating Committee: A new Vice-Chair was elected earlier in the meeting.
- Transition Committee: Ken Talken announced that instead of a labor-intensive transition conference, the taskforce will be having an evening speaker's series. Details to come.

This Transition Task Force meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of RCEB-Concord. Everyone is welcome.

- Health and Emergency Services Engagement Committee: no report
- Subcommittee on Employment: Elvia Osario-Rodriguez and Dave Monahan reported that 2 successful employment fairs were held for Case Managers in recent weeks at the Regional Center. The fairs were well attended by both vendors and case managers.

This committee is meeting tomorrow at RCEB-San Leandro (Public Health office) at 10:00 a.m. and everyone is welcome to attend.

**A short break for networking was taken.**

**Presentation: Self Determination: The State of the State:** Training and current updates on the path to rollout Self Determination in Contra Costa County and throughout the State.

Speaker: Vi Ibarra, Family Support Specialist, Care Parent Network, and Chairperson of the Local Advisory Committee on Self Determination.

Vi introduced herself and noted that Krista Loomis and Maria Marquez are on the Advisory Committee with her. The history of self-determination included:

- A pilot project was implemented in 1998 with 5 regional centers in California;
- Maria was part of the 100-person pilot project when she lived in Southern California;
- The results indicated that the pilot participants were more satisfied with their services than before; there were no "due process" complaints filed; and there were some cost savings. Unless they moved out of the area, most of the original 100 people in the pilot project continue in self-determination.
- 4 years ago it became law in California, but it has not been implemented yet.

Principles of self-determination revolve around your choices and include:

- Freedom to plan your own life and make your own decisions;
- Authority to determine how your annual budget is spent;
- Choosing your own paid and unpaid services and supports;
- Taking responsibility for the decisions you make;
- Making decisions and designing the services that you rely on.

The annual budget is based on the cost of regional center services over the last 12 months, with an opportunity to change it, as needs change.

The service starts with a "person-centered plan" to determine personal goals. A person can hire an "independent facilitator" to assist with this (optional). A low-cost "financial management service" must be purchased to monitor the budget and pay the expenditures. This service also makes sure service providers are qualified. If a service provider is assisting with personal care, he/she must have cleared a criminal record background check.

Prior to starting this program, California needs Federal approval. That is pending. When approved, 155 people will be randomly selected to receive the service in Alameda or Contra Costa County. In order to be considered as a candidate, a person must attend an Informational Meeting and request to be added to the list. After 3 years, this option will be available to everyone. But, at the moment, it is unknown when the service will start in California.

You can watch an informational video on youtube at: <https://youtube/E5nsK9je-nA>

For more information, you can go to the DDS website: [www.dds.ca.gov/sdp/](http://www.dds.ca.gov/sdp/)

Or email: [sdp@dds.ca.gov](mailto:sdp@dds.ca.gov)

Or contact Vi Ibarra at Care Parent Network: 925-313-0999

Vi was thanked for her excellent presentation!

**Announcements:**

- o A flyer was distributed for a free art show and sale in conjunction with the CDSA conference at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek tomorrow. This show features more than 30 Bay Area artists with I/DD.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

October 25, 2017 @ RCEB-Concord, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

November 29, 2017 @ RCEB-Concord, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

No December 2017 meeting

Our next meeting is October 25, 2017.

10:00 a. m.,

RCEB-Concord

1320 Willow Pass Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Concord, CA 94520

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Carol Anne McCrary*

Contra Costa ARC