

**Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**October 25, 2023**

**Board and Liaison Members Present:** Caroline Ortiz; Craig Rose; Karen Lingenfelter; **Leslie Werosh Visbal, Vice Chairperson;** Marianne Iversen; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Ramsay Mashy; Ria Mercado; **Rosa Valledor, Chairperson;** Seth Hendricks; Suzanne Anthony; Troy Russell

**Staff:** Vi Ibarra

**Board and Liaison Members Excused:** Christine Rottger and Stephen Dale

**Guests:** Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Janessa Oriol, Deputy District Director of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, CA-10; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; John Lee, RCEB; Christy Lam-Julian, Parent; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Fabiola Calderon, California Children's Services; Christa Guinto, California Children's Services; Eddie Esquivel, Manos Home Care; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla - EHSD-Community Services Bureau; Hannah Michaelson, Care Parent Network; Jason Parks, Las Trampas

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Leslie Visbal-Werosh welcomed everyone in at 10:02 a.m. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with members attending in-person and some guests via Zoom. Spanish interpretation was provided.

Vi took a roll call of board members and a quorum was established. Guests attending by Zoom were asked to enter their names and affiliations in the Chat for attendance purposes.

The meeting minutes for September 27, 2023 were approved unanimously as submitted and without correction (M/Troy Russell, S/ Craig Rose). There were no additions to today's agenda.

**UPDATES:**

**RCEB – Lisa Kleinbub**

Lisa reported they are waiting on DDS to provide updates on the final rate implementation coming in July 2024. Service providers will have some changes to service codes, and one proposal is for most day programs to move to hourly rates. Lisa

anticipates that the hourly rate change will not happen immediately in July for all providers, rather DDS will likely try to move services into categories such as behavioral, medical, or standard day programs and possibly roll out in phases. Also, it is not clear if remote service will end this December. Lisa is anticipating an extension. There are still many situations where transportation has been inadequate.

RCEB and its Board are working on a strategic planning process. An announcement inviting folks to complete a survey will be sent to the community around the first week of November. The survey will ask what areas RCEB should focus on for the next three years -- for example, housing, more services, more case managers, or community events that should be developed. The Board will then look at the survey results and prioritize and develop a 3-year plan. The survey will be available in multiple languages and in a variety of formats. Postcards will be mailed out, surveys will be emailed with a QR code, and there will be a link on the RCEB website.

#### **SCDD Bay Area Office – Gabriela Solval**

The LA office is having trainings on Public Benefits for the rest of October. In November, the trainings will be on Group Development and Dynamics.

- [SCDD LA Statewide trainings](#) on Employment & Benefits and Group Development & Dynamics are coming up in October and November. All of these Statewide trainings use the following Zoom: Meeting ID: 829-8230-7774, Password: 123456
- [Register here](#) for the 2023 SSAN National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Webinar on Monday, October 30th from 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- Check out the [Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting schedule](#) for upcoming meetings. The next RAC meeting is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup> and will be a hybrid meeting.

#### **Council Chairperson – Rosa Valledor**

Nothing to report.

#### **Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra**

Contra Costa and Alameda DD Councils have started talking about the annual awards event in June of next year. The venue is to be determined. Let Vi know if you are interested in joining the planning group.

Historically, there has been a conference called Vision for the Future for post-secondary opportunities. An event was planned for this year but canceled because of low ticket sales. Ticket price and outreach could have been factors, as well as planning partners having challenges with bandwidth. A decision was made to combine planning efforts

with the Alameda County transition fair for next year. This is a very large resource fair which has recently been held at the College of Alameda, and will be expanded to be a bi-county conference. While we are unsure what this means for Vision for the Future, spring 2024 will bring an even better transition fair!

#### Comments:

A comment was made about the location of Alameda and accessibility to people who live in Contra Costa. Public transportation is an option – but if going by BART people will also have to take a bus. Ideas are being discussed about coordinating help with transportation to increase accessibility.

There was another comment about the College of Alameda having a fairly flat campus making it easier to get around, free and ample parking, and a large gym for the fair itself.

#### **Membership – Troy Russell**

Troy reported he has been giving out fliers at various Specialty Health Ambassador outreach events.

#### **Community Liaison Reports**

##### **East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford**

Vi reviewed the [slide presentation](#) provided by Will for a brief update on the status of specific legislation of interest.

#### Questions/Comments:

Concerns were mentioned about AB1228 and SB525, two bills that impact our community. Fast food and healthcare industries draw from the same labor pool as ours in the I/DD system. We would not be able to compete with the minimum wages set in the two bills! The I/DD workforce is often overlooked and there seems to be a perception that the service system gets all the money it needs.

There was a question about whether EBLC tracks which legislators follow through on our specific asks. Vi will bring the question back to the EBLC.

A comment was made about staff turnover at the legislative offices. The EBLC is still supporting site visit dates, inviting individual programs to host legislative tours at their sites. EBLC would support by joining the visits, facilitating engagement, and providing a playbook for providers.

#### **Emergency Planning Engagement – Aimee Vitug-Hom**

Aimee shared two slides on [Emergency Planning Engagement](#) activities and also emergency preparedness resources. A suggestion was made to share the resource slide with the community such as Specialty Health Ambassador events. Feel free to distribute and share!

### **Paratransit Coordinating Commission – Vi Ibarra**

The Commission meets every other month. Vi wants to share individual stories on transportation, namely public transportation (not RCEB funded transportation) at an upcoming PCC meeting. There are lots of stories in the community about challenges.

Vi invites people to this effort of sharing personal experiences, within the framework of three questions.

1. What have you experienced recently?
2. What would it take to make the experience better?
3. How do challenges with transportation affect your life? Do you miss out on anything with transportation challenges?

Nickole and Troy volunteered to share their stories.

Vi also invited programs to speak to how paratransit affects the participants and their programs. Let Vi know if you are wanting to help. It is important to hear about all the various scenarios from people being affected.

\*\*\*\*\* A brief break was taken at 10:50 a.m. \*\*\*\*\*

### **Presentation: Regional Centers and Emergency Coordination: A Brief History and Introduction with John Kan Lee, RCEB Emergency Coordinator Specialist**

The Regional Center Emergency Coordinator position was established three years ago in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. John provided a comprehensive [RCEB Emergency Coordinator presentation](#) about activities he is working on. His work includes statewide initiatives such as:

- Producing wildfire safety resources with the American Red Cross
- Creating communication tools that show commonly used words in emergency shelters
- Developing provider trainings through the online ARCA Learning Center

Another project he is working on is to include emergency preparedness into the IPP process.

Questions/Comments

A question was asked about the USGS alert on 10/18/23 that sent out notification about an earthquake in the Rio Vista area. They wondered how many seconds the alert came before the shaking started? John said it seemed to be about 10 seconds.

A suggestion was made to share the resource list in the presentation with case managers so they can distribute it during meetings.

A question was asked if more than one contact can be used in the Everbridge notification system, and if it is the most current information. John explained Everbridge pulls information from RCEB's Sandis database and so it is important to update the case manager with any changes or additions.

A parent asked about communication to the community about resources like Everbridge and the emergency go-kits. They had not heard about it. John sends regular internal emails to case managers, with the idea that it is shared with the people on their caseloads. Additionally, resources are listed on the RCEB website. Vi offered both Contra Costa and Alameda DD Councils to help push out information to the community.

**Public Comment and Announcements:**

None

**Adjournment:**

**The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2023 at 10:00 am.**

**Location – Martinez**

**Presentation Schedule for Upcoming Meetings:**

**November 15<sup>th</sup> – Contra Costa Interagency Collaboration: Current Issues  
Affecting Young Children and Their Families**

**January 24, 2024 – Governor's Proposed Budget**

**February 28<sup>th</sup> – State Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Respectfully submitted electronically by,

*Aimee Vitug-Hom*  
VistAbility