

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 26, 2025

Board and Liaison Members Present: Alicia Jackson, Caroline Ortiz, Christine Rottger, Christy Lam-Julian, Estela Nunez, Karen Lingenfelter, Katherine Kreft, Laura Corbett, Nickole Bouslog, Pam Perls, Ramsay Mashy, Ria Mercado, Seth Hendricks/Co-Chair, Troy Russell, Will Sanford/Chair

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Everyone was present

Guests: Rebecca Corbett Futures Explored; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Jacqueline Lopez-Padilla EHSD Comprehensive Services Bureau; Anna Cleese, District Representative, Supervisor Burgis D3 (East County); Alejandra Sanchez, District Representative for Supervisor Ken Carlson; Rosa Valledor, Parent; Denise Underwood, Fair Hearings Specialist RCEB; Ronke Sodipo, Director of Client Services at RCEB; Victoria Lacuesta, Home Host Coordinator from AbleLight; Alisa and Leo Rosillo, community members; Mateo Ibarra, Nora Lewis, Tyler Bohon, Kevin Costte, Jeremy Dunbar, Lisa Ribitch, Nicola Ifill Fraser, Nicole Strobel, all with Full Circle of Choices; Rebecca Nanyonjo, RCEB; Suzanne Anthony, parent; Daniel Fournoy, VistAbility; Matthew Ferrer, CSS Antioch; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Gabriela Solval, SCDD; and Caroline Francois, Congressman DeSaulnier's Office

Welcome, Establish Quorum, and Introductions:

Seth welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:02 a.m. Today's meeting was hybrid, with Council members and guests attending either in-person at Las Trampas in Lafayette or on Zoom. Abigail, the Spanish interpreter, gave instructions on how to choose between Spanish and English interpretation. Guests introduced themselves and those on Zoom were asked to enter their names and affiliations in Chat for attendance purposes. Vi took a roll call of board members and established a quorum.

There was one correction to the meeting minutes for February 26, 2025 - Ramsay should have been noted as present. The correction was noted and the minutes approved (M/Nickole, S/Laura). There were no changes to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB - Rebecca Nanyonjo

Becky reported that she attended the ARCA trade association meeting that represents all 21 Regional Centers. California's budget season is approaching, and there's a lot of uncertainty.

The top priority is protecting the Lanterman Act. It's unclear what might happen if Medicaid funding is reduced, as Medi-Cal supports many services.

At the state level:

- Mike and the EBLC are encouraging people to write to their local congressional offices. Sharing personal stories can help influence decision-makers. The financial outlook isn't promising, but Becky advised us not to worry until we have more details.
- The rate reform implementation is almost complete. Providers are to sign and submit rate acknowledgment letters by March 30th. Reach out to RCEB if you have any questions about the information in your letter.
- A new directive on Health and Safety Waivers will include rate adjustments for transportation providers. The number of people served continues to grow!

The RCEB Board of Directors meets every third Monday of the month. Becky encourages anyone interested to attend.

Finally, Becky recently visited the Adaptive Living Center where she was able to meet Board Member Troy Russell. She enjoyed learning more about this provider and their clients.

SCDD Bay Area Office – Gabriela Solval

Those who are interested can subscribe to the SCDD Annual and Trainings calendars.

- [Upcoming statewide trainings](#)
- [SCDD Statewide Trainings for 2025 Flyer \[acrobat.adobe.com\]](#)
- [Entrenamientos Estatales de SCDD de 2025 Folleto \[acrobat.adobe.com\]](#)
- [upcoming SCDD Council and Committee Meetings](#)
- [Self-Determination Statewide Orientations](#) (*this month offered in English Hmong, Korean, and Spanish*):

A reminder, you can [share your story](#), for a chance to be featured in SCDD's Storytellers Blog and now you can [sign up](#) to get the latest posts of SCDD's Storytellers Blog Page straight to your email inbox.

To celebrate Developmental Disability Awareness Month 2025, the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is hosting a special webinar, The Choices We Make Together: Understanding Limited Conservatorships and Less Restrictive Alternatives

Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM–5:00 PM (PDT)

[Register here](#)

Council Chairperson – Will Sanford

As an informational point, Seth is thinking about running for Chair in the next term to help build leadership over time. Any Board Members interested in joining the executive team can contact Will, Seth or Vi to discuss.

Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra: No report.

Membership – Troy Russell

The board is looking for new members. There are currently five open seats. Two members, Caroline and Pam, will finish their terms this summer, and Karen Lingenfelter has one year left.

Board terms last three years, with the option to serve a second term for a total of six years. After a one-year break, former members can (and do!) return. To join, you need to attend three board meetings and the meetings don't have to be consecutive. Zoom meetings count! If you are interested, contact Troy or Vi.

Community Liaison Reports:

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

Will introduced Alisa Rosillo who, along with Nickole and Will, helped pass legislation in California to install adult changing tables in public facilities to improve community access. (AB 8622 requires all large public facilities to put in adult changing rooms and made it a part of building code.)

Alisa attended the President's speech to Congress with Congressman DeSaulnier. She shared her experience from the DC trip, calling it an incredible honor to represent the community. She connected with Nancy Pelosi and her guest, Elena Hung, founder of Little Lobbyists. During Trump's first term, Elena brought together about 30 people with complex needs to humanize proposed budget cuts. Alisa stressed the need to share your stories to highlight the impact of potential cuts. Congressman DeSaulnier is fully committed and used his platform to speak on national television, emphasizing that cuts must be avoided.

California's budget season starts today. The next EBLC meeting is on April 2. They'll review potential local and federal bills, focusing heavily on federal budget reconciliation. If both houses agree on a budget it becomes law. The House proposed over \$800 billion in reductions over 10 years. Personal stories about how funding supports essential services (like IHSS, Denti-Cal, CalFresh, and SSI) are critical, especially for people with significant needs.

Everyone is encouraged to share their stories and urge any friends in Central and Southern California to share the impact of potential cuts with their elected representatives. Last month, 17 states challenged Section 504. With DEI efforts fading, there are concerns about competition between special education and developmental services. Vi shared that Congressman DeSaulnier's office organized a recent roundtable with community representatives. Kashau King, a parent, and Sascha Bittner, a disabilities rights advocate, shared powerful stories about how cuts would affect them and their families. Vi thanked the Congressmans's office for connecting with the DD Council, and VistAbility for hosting and providing a tour.

Comments and Questions:

A comment was made that the administration's rapid pace makes it hard to focus. One suggestion was to discuss the Department of Education at the EBLC meeting, on how to support

parents fighting for their children's education. Executive orders often require Congressional action - early and strong advocacy leads to better outcomes. Another comment noted that caregivers may feel overwhelmed by information. We need better ways to talk about disability issues.

Emergency Planning Engagement – Aimee Vitug-Hom

For those wanting to learn more on emergency and disaster preparedness, all are welcome to Concord's Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair. It will be held on September 4th at Todos Santos Park. Come for information, music, and the farmer's market!

Transition Task Force

Vi reported on the Transition Conference held at DVC on March 15th. The event saw 300 registered attendees, featured 68 vendors at the resource fair, and included 16 presentations throughout the day. Spanish translations were provided for accessibility.

Thank you to the planning partners and presenters for their valuable contributions and support in making the conference a success!

Health Equity Work Group – Ria Mercado

Ria shared [these slides](#) for her update from the Health Equity Work Group.

A request for dental resources was made at the last Council meeting. Ria's presentation slides includes resources such as university-based resources and specialists like University of the Pacific and UCSF. Also, she suggested checking with RCEB for services provided through community providers in residential facilities.

The workgroup will be meeting to determine next steps given what we're hearing about at the Federal level, and will continue to make sure healthcare access stays at the forefront.

~~~~ A brief break was taken at 10:54 a.m. for networking and refreshments ~~~~

**\*\*\*\*\* Presentation \*\*\*\*\***

#### **New Person Centered IPP Form**

#### **Shawna Atkins, Regional Center of the East Bay**

Shawna introduced the new standardized statewide Individual Program Plan (IPP) and Person-Centered Planning (PCP) principles. Here is her [PowerPoint presentation](#) and some additional notes:

Some Key Components of the New IPP

- IPP Template: Easy, fillable template that can be done online or printed. It covers 12 life areas (previously 8).

- Agreement and Signature Page: Documents agreed-upon services and includes a new survey to capture the individual's or family's experience during the IPP process.
- Person-Centered Planning (PCP) incorporates tools to identify what's important to and for the person.
- Acknowledgements: Case managers will provide through email or hard copies on:
  - Self-direction
  - Participant-directed services
  - Whistleblower policy
  - Complaint filing
  - Voting rights
  - Transportation access plan

The IPP puts an emphasis on inclusivity and offers flexibility to use first-person or third-person language. Completing the IPP may take longer for individuals without strong support circles, and who might rely more on case managers or providers. It can be shared in advance with individuals and their support circles. Shawna will confirm if they are available on the RCEB website.

Links to the resources in Shawna's presentation:

- Child's Plan: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Your\\_Childs\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Your_Childs_Plan.pdf)
- Youth's Plan: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Your\\_Youths\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Your_Youths_Plan.pdf)
- Adult Plan: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Your\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Your_Plan.pdf)
- DDS Individual Program Plan Information: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/ipp/>

Questions and Comments

- A question was asked about language availability: IPP documents are available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and other languages upon request. Ronke added that post-meeting translations can be arranged and in any language.
- Another question was asked about case manager training: Training began in November 2024. Some attendees noted that not all case managers are fully aware of the new IPP. Shawna offers quarterly training sessions.
- A comment was made that at least one life area must be identified to justify RCEB-funded services, based on a needs-based assessment according to the individual's and team's vision of the future.
- A comment was made about individual responsibility and that process should include discussions on the individual's role in achieving desired outcomes.

Public Comment and Announcements: None.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

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| The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2025 |
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Respectfully submitted by,  
*Aimee Vitug-Hom*  
 VistAbility