

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 19, 2025

Board and Liaison Members Present: Alicia Jackson, Christine Rottger, Erik Estrada, Estela Nunez, Jason Parks, Katherine Kreft, Nicola Ifill- Fraser, Laura Corbett, Ria Mercado, Troy Russell, Will Sanford, Ramsay Mashy, Seth Hendricks

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Christy Lam-Julian, Matt Bell, Nickole Bouslog, Karen Lingenfelter

Guests: Chris Scott, Now Bay Area; Sheraden Nicholau with the State Council; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Marianne Iversen, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area; Geneva Carlos-Valentino, Toolworks, family member; Mary Christ Zapata, Woodbridge Health Services; Donna Feingold, Finding Golden Solutions and HireAble; Leslie Visbal, Ability Now Bay Area; Aira Mangaspar, Seira Gavino, Jessica Yahsimoto, Clief del Rosario, and Nancy Penaso from Woodbridge Health Services; Matthew Ferrer, Susan Cakebread, Calvache Hayes, from CSS Antioch; Jennifer Quallick, District 2 Board of Supervisors; Caroline Ortiz, Mateo Ibarra, Kevin Mayo, Nicole Strobel, Rob Norris, Jeffrey Klurfeld, all with Full Circle of Choices; Jaime Barber, Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Pamela R. Perls, ELBC; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Melizza Cortez, Woodbridge Home; Louise McClellan, Ethan Ancheta, Nikolette Clemons, Rajeswari Arumugam, Madison Mercado, James Mercado, all with Open House Center

Welcome, Establish Quorum, and Introductions:

Christine welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:00am. Today's meeting was hybrid, with Council members and guests attending either in-person at 1025 Escobar or on Zoom. Spanish interpretation was offered to those on Zoom. Guests introduced themselves and people 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.

The meeting minutes for October 22, 2025 were approved unanimously and without corrections (M/ Will Sanford, S/Jason Parks). There were no changes to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB – Elvia Osorio Rodriguez

RCEB has been providing listening sessions, notably with the San Ramon Muslim Community. They have developed a frequently asked questions form, which is on the RCEB website. They

are developing more meeting opportunities in the New Year which will focus on more listening sessions in Contra Costa County. If interested checkout the website.

DDS is looking to structure assessments of services, so that all Regional Centers use the same tools. DDS continues to address concerns that this will limit access to services. Deadline for implementation was 1/1/26, however that will not be met therefore more to come on this.

Repeal of Parental Fee Program

Parental Fee program assesses a monthly fee to parents of RC clients under the age of 18 who received out of home respite. The program has been eliminated effective 7/1/25, but some families owed funds from before the program's elimination. Final collection letters for the owed amounts are going out. If there are questions, DDS's contact info will be found on the letter parent's receive.

SCDD Bay Area Office – Sheraden Nicholau

- December 2nd next Self-determination local advisory committee meeting
- December 3rd meeting for [Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee](#) (at Las Trampas)
- December 11th SAND meeting
- SCDD is seeing an increase in community requests for presentations or trainings on updates for rights, ICE, Funding. Their Bay Area Office is happy to host meetings for conversations.
- Medicaid watch portal- [Medicaid / Services Watch Portal](#).
- Slides shared of Systems Change work

Council Chairperson – Seth Hendricks

No December meeting due to the Holiday. Seth, Vi and Chrisine will reach out to members to see if there are questions or comments.

Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra

Reminder: Introduce yourself in chat if you're on Zoom, and sign in on the sign in sheet please if you're attending in person.

Membership – Troy Russell

Troy reported there are currently four open seats on the Council. See Vi or Troy for applications. In order to be eligible you must attend 3 meetings in person or on Zoom, they do not need to be consecutive. You may apply on your second meeting.

Community Liaison Reports:

- East Bay Legislative Coalition- Will Sanford
 - November: Actively working on A Day in the Life Project.

- Federal Government is back in session, we saw impacts to Cal-Fresh benefits. They are now being funded through next September.
- January 30th : HR1 passed, has put restrictions on who is eligible for Cal-Fresh. Please renew as soon as you get any paperwork.
- Emergency Planning Engagement- Aimee Vitug-Hom
 - VistAbility was involved in emergency training to help emergency responders via role play.
 - Office of Emergency Services invites those who would like to help each year
 - Webinar hosted by Association of Bay Area Health Officials 12/4/25
 - Cal OES office of Access and Functional needs: New accessible tools for Social Media [California OES Accessible Social Media Guide](#)
- Transportation work Group- Alicia Jackson
 - They are working on a project to streamline RTC application ability and access
 - Attending various community transit meetings

A short break was taken at 10:38 for networking.

Presentation:

Presentation: Healthy Aging , Dr Kooturu-RCEB-([Dr Kooturu's Power Point Presentation](#))

- Introduced by Ria Mercado

Here a few other notes from the presentation:

- Patients diagnosed with IDD should still follow Cancer Screening Guidelines.
- In his practice, Dr. Kooturu has noted that people diagnosed with I/DD have been experiencing longer lives due to the care they receive.
- Coordinated care is essential to the health and wellness of individuals diagnosed with I/DD
- Barriers: Limited Medicine Specialists, Insufficient transition planning, Lack of integrated care, Inadequate Mental health services, shortage of rehab facilities, limited geriatric expertise, transportation, finances, insurance.
- Biggest needs: expanded specialized medical access, strengthened care coordination, improve mental and behavioral health, enhanced transition planning, expand rehab services, add geriatric expertise, improve community supports to transportation, reduce financial barriers, promote culturally and linguistically competent care.
- Also needed are: Day programs, supported employment, volunteer work, peer groups, adaptive sports and fitness, community recreation centers, Nutrition education opportunities, community gardens, cooking classes.

- Dr. Kooturu shared these resources: [Thinking Ahead](#) and [Down Syndrome Dementia Tool Kit](#)

Public Comment and Announcements:

- No public comments.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:49

<p>The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2026 At Las Trampas, Lafayette</p>
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Respectfully submitted by,

Jaime Barber

VistAbility