

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 25, 2024

Board and Liaison Members Present: Caroline Ortiz; Christy Lam-Julian; Estela Nunez; Karen Lingenfelter; Katherine Kreft; Laura Corbett; Nickole Bouslog; Pam Perls; Ramsay Mashy; Ria Mercado; Seth Hendricks; Troy Russell; Will Sanford, Chairperson

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Christine Rottger

Guests: Alicia Jackson, Parent; Charon Smith; Nicola Ifill-Fraser, Mateo Ibarra, Nora Lewis, Kevin Costte, Tyler Bohon, Jeremy Dunbar and Lisa Ribitch: all from Full Circle of Choices; Angela Large, WorkAbility MDUSD; Janessa Oriol, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier's Office; Daniel Volta, CSS Antioch; Daniel Flournoy, CSS Antioch; Sonia Ledo, Parent; Erik Estrada, MDUSD Adult Ed; Craig Rose, VistAbility; Isaac Barber, VistAbility; Suzanne Anthony, Parent; Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB; Leslie Visbal, Visbal Strategic Consulting; Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Hannah Michaelsen, Care Parent Network; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Gabriela Solval, SCDD Bay Area; Rosa Valledor, Parent; Jennifer Noah, Parent

Welcome, Establish Quorum, and Introductions:

Will welcomed everyone in at 10:03 a.m. Today's meeting was a hybrid format, with Council members and guests attending in-person at 1025 Escobar Street in Martinez and on Zoom. Will reviewed the Group Norms. Guests introduced themselves and Zoom guests were asked to put 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 May 22nd and August 28th, 2024 were approved with one abstention (Will, who was not present at either meeting) and without correction (M/Ramsay, S/Troy). There were no additions to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB – Lisa Kleinbub

Lisa announced that the Board of Directors posted the RCEB Executive Director job opening. The announcement is being shared broadly in the community working in conjunction with Lawrence Advisory Group. Lisa working closely with the committee as they move through the process.

Due to many community efforts, the Rate Implementation is going to happen in January 2025 with the final increase for services that were in Burns study. Providers must meet some quality standards for the last 10% of the rate. For the first year and a half, through 2026, the quality standards will be based on whether service providers have updated their information in the

statewide provider directory. Providers will be able to earn the incentive if they complete the information, which will go through a validation process.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has not given direction on some service codes such as 055. RCEB will work with service providers once more information is provided. It will be a process and it will not affect the rate adjustments in January 1, 2025. Conversions of these codes may take through next year.

In addition, Nancy Bargmann who was the DDS director for 8 years recently retired. The interim director, Pete Cervinka, worked at the Department of Social Services (DSS) for many years and has been at DDS for 4 years where he has been involved in strategic planning, and the fair hearing and appeals process.

Lastly, the universal IPP also starts in January 2025. RCEB will provide training to case managers in November-December and hold community meetings on it.

Questions and comments:

- A comment was made about the provider portal, which is to give more transparency to families and participants. It should be a major advantage, with more information added over time.

SCDD Bay Area Office – Gabriela Solval

Gabriela shared information about upcoming statewide trainings and events. Click on the live links for more information.

- [Upcoming statewide trainings](#): An Employer Engagement Webinar series on Building Meaningful Relationships with Employers, Enhancing discovery through employer relationships and development, and more. The trainings are mainly employer focused but everyone is welcome.
- Bay Area RAC Meeting on 09/25 from 5:30-8 p.m., with an option to join on Zoom. Join In-Person: 1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Oakland City Hall, or [Join by Zoom](#).
- [SCDD Council and Committee Meetings](#).
- State Council's Year-round [Sponsorship Opportunity](#). You may be able to receive up to \$2500 in sponsorships!
- [There Should Be a Law Contest!](#) Will run from September 1 – 30, 2024.
- SCDD's 2nd Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Community of Practice (CoP 2.0). [Wednesdays in October](#) from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM.

Questions and comments:

- A question was asked about employment webinars being recorded? Gabriela will find out and get back to us.

Membership – Troy Russell

Troy announced a new member nomination. Alicia Jackson introduced herself as a parent of three adult children, a firm believer in education and in taking care of those that have a

disadvantage. One of her children has autism, and they have been working on his Self-Determination Plan. Alicia wants to be a part of the board to network and gain more resources to help others. A nomination was made to bring Alicia onto the board (M/Troy, 2nd/Seth). It carried unanimously and Alicia was welcomed to the board!

Council Chairperson – Will Sanford

Will reported on discussions from the August planning meeting on how to move forward as a board. From the discussion that also considered previous input from community members, a compilation of ideas bubbled up to the surface and six potential focus areas were identified. There was exploration on establishing work groups and how the board should take action. The six topics are:

1. Transportation
2. Health Equity
3. Master Plan for Developmental Services – this one is a little different from the other 5 topics. The Master Plan needs to be completed by February 2025 as compared to the other topics that may be worked on for a few years.
4. Early Childhood Inclusion/Education
5. Development of Informational Resources
6. WCCUSD

Comments:

- There were comments made about other committees are already doing the work, and that it might be the best use of the Council's time.
- Other comments were made about not just being a voice for the community but the Council doing work to integrate priorities into strategic planning, and harnessing the power of the Board to hold others accountable.
- There was mention that Contra Costa is one of 2 of the 58 counties in California that has a Developmental Disabilities Council.

Following further discussion, a survey of the board members was taken on topics that should be delved into. The top two topics were transportation and health equity. Additionally, everyone agreed the Master Plan is a short-term issue.

After the break, Will summarized that transportation and health equity are determined to be the two focuses for this year. The other topics can always be agendized as needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around to capture the names of anyone interested in being part of the workgroups.

Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra

Vi shared that RCEB has retained Lawrence Advisory in recruiting for Lisa's replacement. They reached out to Vi to provide input on the job description on behalf of the DDC. Will, Seth, and their counterpart with Alameda DDC also participated.

Community Liaison Reports:

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford:

Will reviewed the [EBLC update](#). We really want the legislators to know who we are. In election years, the EBLC holds candidate forums to engage people. This year they are holding two reverse town hall meetings where they will have a panel of experts, providers, self-advocates answering questions from the legislative candidates. Both town hall meetings will be held virtually.

The EBLC is also holding two candidate forums, in-person, at the RCEB offices. It will be a forum to understand each of the candidates' perspectives, and the EBLC will ask 10 questions relevant to the IDD community.

Emergency Planning Engagement – Aimee Vitug-Hom:

Aimee reviewed the [Emergency Planning Engagement update](#). A question was asked about County employees who are Disaster Service Workers (or DSWS) and if training will be provided. Vi responded it is a good opportunity to determine if training exists or if training needs to be created.

HireAble/Local Partnership Agreement – Donna Feingold:

Donna reviewed the [HireAble update](#). Before HireAble was created, it was known as the East Bay Employment Task Force. They met once a month to talk about employment issues. In 2019 through a Longs Grant, HireAble was established.

Paratransit Coordinating Council – Vi Ibarra:

Vi suggested deferring this report to the October meeting due to time constraints.

Transition Task Force – Liaison is to be determined:

Report deferred to October.

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Donna shared future LPA meeting dates: 2/11, 5/13, 8/12, 11/12, from 1:30-2:30pm. If anyone needs the DOR contact, email Donna.
- Also from Donna - Family HCBS trainings will be held on October 10, 2024 at 6pm, October 22, 2024 at 3pm, November 4, 2024 at 4pm, and December 10, 2024 at 12pm. Use [this link to register](#). If you have any questions, reach out to Donna Feingold at donna@findinggoldensolutions.com or Carolanne Forge at cforge@toolworks.org.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 23, 2024 at Las Trampas in Lafayette
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Respectfully submitted by,
Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility