



Area 4 Developmental Disabilities Board

236 Georgia Street, Suite 201, Vallejo, CA 94590
(707) 648-4073 (707) 648-4100 fax ab4@scdd.ca.gov

Meeting Notice/Agenda

Posted at www.scdd.ca.gov

Area 4 Board Public Meeting

6:00 pm

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Napa County/City Public Library

580 Coombs Street

Napa, CA 94559-3396

(707) 253-4241

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Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. A. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM
- 6:02 B. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2011 MINUTES
- 6:04 C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This time is for members of the public to speak to the Board on matters not on the agenda. Public comment on items on the agenda is taken as the item is discussed.
- 6:10 D. ACTION ITEMS
(1) Community Program Development Fund Grants. The PDF Grant Committee will present its recommendations on allocating PDF grants.
(2) State Council's Draft Employment First Report. A power point presentation on the State Council's draft Employment First Report will be shown followed by discussion and possible action.
- 7:20 E. INFORMATION ITEMS
- Amendment of Area 4 Board's By-Laws. Proposed amendments to the Board's by-laws will be presented. Action to approve amendments will be deferred to the next board meeting.
- 7:35 F. REPORTS
(1) North Bay Regional Center
(2) Area Board Members
(3) Area Board Staff. Staff will provide an update to the Board on the situation with the state budget.
- 8:00 p.m. G. ADJOURN

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Minutes (unapproved) for

Area 4 Board Public Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2011
Solano County Office of Education
100 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:04 p.m. by Laura Mefford, Chairperson.

Members: Laura Mefford, Vallerie Birdsell, Jeana Eriksen, Martin Weil, Maryann Cantone, Robert Horon, Jasmine Marks, and Virginia Barraza

Members Absent: Paul Von Gottfried, Max Duley

Staff: Robert Phillips, Robin Tigh,

Facilitators: Linda Bailey and Richard Ruge

Public: Andy Lunceford, Jan Janek, Alisha Gutierrez, Kim Payne, Colleen White, Alfonso Carmona (NBRC), and Francine Arcadi

Approval of Minutes of 3-16-11: M/S/C - M. Weil/M. Cantone

Public Comment: No public comment.

Presentation: Dental Services for individuals with developmental disabilities – Alisha Gutierrez, NBRC, Dental coordinator, gave an overview of the current dental issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities. The strongest issue right now is the lack of funds for clients to get proper dental care. Most clients have to wait for care and as time passes by and they have not received dental care their needs increase.

Another major problem is finding dentist who will take such a low amount of pay for the work the dentist is expected to do. Usually it is about 15 percent of what their customary rate is. This has created huge problems because the dentist doesn't want to work with such a low pay. The bottom line is most dentists don't want to deal with Dental Cal due to the large amount of documentation required. Third, there is also a problem with having the dentist available who has not been appropriately trained to work with this population. Currently, there are 4 dentist who are properly trained in the local area.

M/S/C M. Weil/V. Barraza to raise the issues and problems of lack of access to dental care to the State Council.

Note: Robert Phillips to work with Alisha Gutierrez on follow-up on this issue.

Action Items:

- (1) State Budget: impact on budget -- a discussion took place on different elements of how the budget will affect individuals with developmental disabilities.
- (2) Legislative bills
 - Assembly Bill 254 – did not discuss at this time
 - Assembly Bill 1375 --did not discuss at this time
 - Assembly Bill 1244--did not discuss at this time --
 - Senate Bill 472 -- did not discuss at this time
 - Senate Bill 166—M/S/C – R. Horon/V. Birdsell: Motion to support with this bill with a letter from this Board all in favor, no nays
- (3) Amendments to A4B Strategic Plan:
 - M/S/C –M. Cantone/J. Eriksen: Emergency preparedness -- Motioned to add this goal and objective all in favor, no nays

Reports:

- (a) North Bay Regional Center: Bob Hamilton, NBRC -- Not present. Alfonso—publically thanked Alisha for all her dental work for NBRC NBRC is deeply concerned about the budget cuts. NBRC is working outside the box and trying to come up with new ways to continue services in different ways, getting the community to help, and working on minimizing what case managers can do. Plan – globally want to partner up with other people, schools, and sharing the cost across the board without having legal battles of who is responsible for paying the cost.
- (b) State Council: Max Duley – not present..
 - a. Staff: Autism Community Team is putting on an Autism Symposium event on May 17th with key note speakers Barbara Firestone and Lou Vismara.
 - b. The conflict of interest waiver for an NBRC Board member that had been approved by Area 4 Board was rejected by the State Council.
- (c) Board Members:
 - Bob Horon – we have had success with getting the after-school program re-started at Snow Elementary School in Napa.
 - Laura Mefford shared that Angel Goss has resigned from the board due to accepting a new job.
 - Announcement of a new board member, Jasmine Marks has joined us representing Sonoma County. Jasmine is looking forward to learning from the board and sharing it at work with her coworkers.

Jeana Eriksen—is currently trying to get a contract in Petaluma for transportation. Working on proposal to add transit system to Sonoma with late services to the community and would like to see them improve their system.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Agenda Item D1: Community Program Development Grants

Background: The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) through its local area board offices, administers program development fund grants to community-based organizations to fund new and innovative program development projects. All projects are intended to implement the California State Strategic Plan on Developmental Disabilities and improve and enhance services for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.

SCDD has allocated \$35,000 per area board for local funding in Cycle 34. SCDD posted Area 4 Board's notice of request for proposals along with application instructions on its website approximately 6 weeks prior to the deadline date for receipt of applications. Area 4 Board sent the notice alone to its e-mail list, included the notice in its e-news of April 13, 2011, and distributed hard copies at meetings that staff attended.

The Board established a PDF Grant Committee at its March 16, 2011 meeting. The Chairperson, Laura Mefford, appointed board members Virginia Barraza, Robert Horon, Paul von Gottfried, and herself to the committee. The PDF Grant Committee met on May 18, 2011 and reviewed the 14 grant applications and determined its recommendation for the Board.

Recommendation: The PDF Grant Committee recommends \$35,000 in PDF Grant funds be allotted as listed below. (The list is in rank order first to fifth while the "#" is simply an identification number assigned to each of the fourteen proposals.)

1. #11 "iPads for Interactive Learning", Travis Unified School District – Foxboro Elementary School, \$6,900

The goal of this project is to develop a pilot project using 'state of the art' technology tools and instruction to help students with disabilities served by special education teachers at Foxboro Elementary to better access their core curriculum, accelerate progress toward student IEP goals, and lead them toward meeting grade level standards...the project would serve as a model for expansion to other district sites and grade levels in the future....For this project, we would like to utilize iPads to assist students with special needs in accessing additional modes of learning and expressing their knowledge. We are requesting

funding for 10 iPads for the use of students who are supported by the special day classes (SDC) at Foxboro Elementary.”

2. #7 “Project Step Up”, Benicia Unified School District – Community Based Instruction Program, \$3,478

“Project Step-Up will establish relationships and MOU’s with local non-profits so our students can receive up to 10-15 hours a week of volunteer experience prior to entering programs such as Project Search and workability. Once these MOU’s are established, our own staff will provide job coaching at these sites. A Step Up Handbook will be developed so these MOU’s can be established in future with other local non-profits. We are requesting \$3,478 for a coordinator and some supplies and mileage.”

3. #10 “Celebrating Community-Building Capacity”, Easter Seals Northern California, \$8,000

“Through partnership with Becoming Independent, we will coordinate fun, weekly outreach playgroups for children (as inclusive respite care) while at the same time facilitating capacity building and systemic change model stewardship for parents, caregivers, and fellow community members (parent to parent mentorship support, development of an intern corps, advocacy trainings, public policy education.) Funds requested would fund professional development of high level interns...as well as supplies for the respite care rooms and educational resource literature.”

4. #2 “The Alchemia Theater for Life Touring Company”, Alchemia, \$8,311

“The Alchemia Theater for Life Ensemble creates original, relevant public performances by and for audiences with special needs. This project will create an Alchemia touring company that has the capacity to take these inspirational and educational experiences to a much broader audience of consumers and families. The road company’s debut performance will be “The Adventures of PIN PIN”, a theatrical production that shares the story of living with different abilities.....The production...will bring greater visibility and public attention to the critical issue of bullying that so threatens our community....These grant funds will enable us to put the needed infrastructure and tools in place for the touring company.”

5. #9 “CATS Community Outreach Strategy & Action Plan”, Collaborative Autism Training and Support (CATS) Program/California Parenting Institute, \$8,311

“Building on the thousands of volunteer hours contributed annually to sustain CATS, the proposed capacity-building project will result in a

community outreach strategic and action plan that will develop (a) an infrastructure and capacity-building agenda, (b) specific community collaboration and outreach income generating projects, and (c) a long-term systemic donor-driven outreach and fund-raising campaign. The Plan goal is to increase and diversify revenue streams, critical resources and partnerships in order to meet the growing demand for family support services to children with autism and their families.”

Agenda Item D2: SCDD's Draft Employment First Report

Background: Assembly Bill 287 was signed into law in 2009. It declared that, "... *people with developmental disabilities are among the most unemployed and underemployed members of society.*" A fuller description of what this bill, which is now law, declared about employment for people with developmental disabilities is in the material following this item sheet.

The law required the State Council to form a standing Employment First Committee and by July 1, 2011 provide a report with its recommendations on increasing employment for individuals with developmental disabilities, including an Employment First policy, to the Legislature and Governor.

The Council's Employment First Committee presented its draft report to the Council at its meeting on May 25, 2011. The Council decided to defer approval until its July meeting.

Recommendation: Staff supports strongly the intent that all individuals Work, and will have specific comments to follow.

NOTE: The material following this page is from the State Council's meeting packet.

AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

ISSUE: Draft Employment First Report

BACKGROUND: Chapter 231, Statutes of 2009 (Assembly Bill 287) was signed into law on October 11, 2009 with the following legislative findings and declarations:

- "Working age people with disabilities are among the most unemployed and underemployed members of society;
- People with developmental disabilities are an important and largely untapped employment resource;
- Research demonstrates that wages and hours worked increase dramatically as individuals move from facility-based to integrated employment, and suggests that other benefits include expanded social relationships, heightened self-determination, and more typical job acquisition and job roles;
- Recent data indicate that, with 13 percent of working age individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in competitive or supported employment, California ranks 41st when compared with other states;
- Because the likelihood of individuals with developmental disabilities obtaining employment is greater if they move directly from school to work, education programs should prepare transition age students for employment in community settings;
- Increasing integrated and gainful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities requires collaboration and cooperation by state and local agencies, including, but not limited to, the State Department of Developmental Services and regional centers, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Rehabilitation, the State Department of Education and local school districts, and the Employment Development Department;
- The Legislature places a high priority on providing supported employment and other integrated employment opportunities for working-age adults with developmental disabilities; and
- In developing the individual program plan pursuant to Section 4646.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, planning teams are encouraged to discuss school-to-work opportunities during individual program plan meetings beginning when a consumer reaches 14 years of age, and regional center representatives are encouraged to inform the consumer, parent, legal guardian, or conservator that the

regional center is available, upon request, to participate in the consumer's individualized education plan meetings to discuss transition planning”.

Chapter 231 mandates the Council to:

- Form a standing Employment First Committee;
- Identify the respective roles and responsibilities of state and local agencies in enhancing integrated and gainful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities;
- Identify strategies, best practices, and incentives for increasing integrated employment and gainful employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities, including, but not limited to, ways to improve the transition planning process for students 14 years of age or older, and to develop partnerships with, and increase participation by, public and private employers and job developers;
- Identify existing sources of employment data and recommending goals for, and approaches to measuring progress in, increasing integrated employment and gainful employment of people with developmental disabilities;
- Recommend legislative, regulatory, and policy changes for increasing the number of individuals with developmental disabilities in integrated employment, self-employment, and microenterprises, and who earn wages at or above minimum wage, including, but not limited to, recommendations for improving transition planning and services for students with developmental disabilities who are 14 years of age or older;
- Develop an Employment First Policy; and
- By July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, provide a report to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature and to the Governor describing its work and recommendations. The report due by July 1, 2011, shall include the proposed Employment First Policy

In response to this mandate, the Council appointed an Employment First Committee (EFC), as outlined in the statute, as well as a number of providers and others to serve in a consultative role with the EFC. The EFC and consultants formed five subcommittees to address barriers to employment, public benefits and employment, employer issues, innovative strategies, and transition from high school to adult life. The subcommittees were balanced to ensure each had representation of at least one EFC member, one individual with developmental disabilities, one provider of services, one family member, and staff from relevant state departments. Individuals with developmental disabilities were offered and provided facilitation to ensure their full and equal participation. Each subcommittee gathered information and developed proposed

strategies designed to enhance employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Those strategies form much of the draft report.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION: It is important to understand, that with the passage of this legislation comes a long-term commitment for Council activities focused on employment issues, maintenance of a standing EFC, and annual reports.

This initial report contains an Employment First policy that asserts the right of individuals with developmental disabilities to work on an equal basis with others in integrated competitive employment. The policy states that integrated competitive employment will be valued as a priority for individuals with developmental disabilities as opposed to the current approach which offers little assistance or encouragement to individuals to approach this future.

The report is designed to:

- Describe the status of integrated competitive employment of individuals with developmental disabilities or lack thereof;
- Identify successful approaches to increase employment from throughout the nation;
- Identify a myriad of strategies that could be pursued to address barriers to and furthering employment opportunities and options;
- Establish a point from which to start collaborations with other agencies and organizations toward seeking priority attention to these issues; and
- Assert preferred forms of services, supports and opportunities for youth with developmental disabilities as they transition from school that are preferred to the current prevailing practice of transitioning from school to sheltered environments.

This proposed policy and report is not designed to address the existing system of services and supports, but more so to raise the expectations of the system to match the changing desires and choices of the individuals supported by the system. Equally important is that the proposed strategies are not contaminated by the current poor prospects for employment and reduced public funding in California. They are designed to be visionary, offering a direction that may well have to be chipped away at over time. It did not seem prudent for the Council to issue a report that only recognized what might be able to be done today within the existing system when the intent of the legislation is clearly to move California to a preferred future as envisioned by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. And further, the report is not designed to dictate a preferred future for anyone nor assume everyone would move in this direction, but does recognize that employment is an equal opportunity choice and the system needs to assure its focus is on ensuring such choice is available. Finally, as the system of services and supports faces more and more diminishing resources, the ability for individuals served to become more self sustaining (taxpayers) will reduce the strain of such reductions.

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE: Promote the full inclusion in all chosen aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTIVITY: The Council was the sponsor of Assembly Bill 287 and formed and supported the EFC.

RECOMMENDATION(S): Review/modify and approve the draft Employment First Report. As the report will not be in final form, this action is focused on the proposed policy and strategies; other information will be finalized and the entire report will be presented to the Executive Committee in June 2011 for final approval and submittal to the Governor and Legislature.

ATTACHMENT(S): Draft Employment First Report (appendix to agenda packet)

PREPARED: Report- Chris Arroyo, May 12, 2011
Detail Sheet- Carol J. Risley, May 11, 2011