

Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Ft Bragg , May 4, 2019
Executive Directors Report

The rains have finally ceased and we welcome what will be a beautiful Spring in this wonderful place that we call home. Myself, and my team have many exciting issues and initiatives to share with you. I will summarize some of these in this report, and expand upon them at our upcoming meeting.

Operations

As Amy Medina will share in her Administrators Report, we anticipate another tight year in our Operations budget. We have instituted a hiring freeze, and other measures to ensure we have adequate resources for the remainder of this fiscal year. This situation is unacceptable. The hiring freeze means that vacant positions cannot be filled and our capacity to provide quality, person centered services is diminished. I am grateful to and proud of our staff who, once again, have stepped up to fill in during these vacancies. However this is a lot to ask of our people, year after year.

Myself and our Directors team, will work with our new Director of Administration to strategically develop departmental budgets that reflect the cost of achieving the outcomes of our performance plan. This will enable us to better predict and manage our resources, and to advocate for the Operations funding we require.

On April 19, the top management of the Department of Developmental Services generously agreed to meet with me prior to the ARCA Directors meeting. I requested the meeting to advocate for reimbursement of certain extraordinary Operations expenses we incurred this fiscal year, and to request additional funding to reduce our caseload ratios. Our funding for service coordination is based on a per capita formula (number of persons served), that does not reflect the real demands upon service coordination and delivery in our rural four counties. I appreciated their time and attention, and I believe they will do whatever they can to ensure we have needed resources.

Human Resources

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Lucy Esralew to the position of Director of Clinical Services, beginning May 1. In 2012, the Departments of Clinical and Community Services were merged as a way to save Operations funding. Kim Nash assumed responsibility for the management of two Departments, and we are grateful for her extraordinary work. However, since that time we have grown, in the number of individuals and families we serve, the complexity of the challenges we face, and the outcomes we are responsible for in our performance contract with the Department of Developmental Services. We are returning to the organizational structure we had prior to 2012, and that is typical of other Regional Centers. This organizational change will increase our capacity and will have no impact on our Operations budget. At our May meeting, Dr. Esralew will present her impressive

qualifications to the Board as well as her vision for the Department of Clinical Services.

Community Safety

In April, Tamara Rodriguez, of the Department of Developmental Services, provided an overview training of the Everbridge Mass Notification System for all members of the RCRC management team. She conducted a “hands on” training for several members of the Community Services Department, who have been identified as “users” of the system. Management team members continue to participate in county and statewide meetings concerning disaster preparedness.

Redwood Coast Regional Center, in collaboration with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, is planning to host trainings for law enforcement (train the trainer), clients and family members on the STARR curriculum. The primary goal of Safety Training and Risk Reduction (STARR) curriculum is to provide information and strategies that will change mindsets on behalf of law enforcement, community agencies and persons with I/DD when they encounter each other, thereby directly reducing negative outcomes. Law enforcement officers are trained on how to better recognize, engage and respond to persons with disabilities. The dates and locations of these trainings are being determined and these events will be well advertised.

Autism Awareness Month

Once again our community sponsored a variety of events celebrating neurodiversity during Autism Awareness Month. They were very well attended. The schedule of events was posted on our website and FB page. Thanks to all that contributed and participated.

CalAble

Information about CalAble is posted on our website, and informational meetings are scheduled to educate the community about this exciting new program that is available to eligible individuals with disabilities in California. A CalAble account is an investment and savings account that enables individuals to save and invest money without losing eligibility for essential programs like Medicaid and Social Security Income.

Eureka Town Hall Meeting

Assemblymember Jim Wood is inviting members of our community to a Town Hall meeting with the Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities. The meeting will take place on Saturday May 11 at the Eureka City Council Chambers from 10:00 am – 1:00pm. The flyer and an accompanying survey are posted on our website and FB page.

I look forward to seeing you all in Ft Bragg,

Rick