

**Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting
Crescent City, March 16, 2019
Executive Directors Report**

In Appreciation

At our March meeting, we will be saying farewell and thank you to our retiring Director of Administration, Patrick Okey. Patrick has faithfully and skillfully served Redwood Coast Regional Center for the past 19 years, first as Director of Clinical Services, and for the past 8 years, as Director of Administration. Patrick will be missed because of his professional abilities and achievements, but perhaps as importantly, for his integrity, humility, respect for all, sense of humor, and incredible work ethic. Patrick has truly lived the vision of Redwood Coast Regional Center, and served as a model for us all. I have never believed that everyone is replaceable. So I quote the words that Shakespeare wrote, “we will not see his like again”.

Human Resources

I am very pleased to announce that we have selected our new Director of Administration, Amy Medina, who assumes her duties on March 1. Amy has been with RCRC for the past 8 years, serving as Senior Fiscal Clerk and Senior Fiscal/Senior Systems Operator. Amy possesses a Masters degree in Business Administration. She is well liked and respected, not just by the staff of the Fiscal Department, but across the Agency. The Board of Directors and the public will have the opportunity to welcome her at our March meeting.

I am also pleased to announce that we have hired Sheli Wright as our new Client Services Manager for Lake County. Prior to coming to RCRC, Sheli served as Staff Services Manager for the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She has had additional experience as the Area Director for California Mentor, with responsibility for Adult Family Home Agencies and for Supported Living Services. A native of Lake County, Sheli has worked in our service system for many years, and brings with her invaluable knowledge and skills.

I would like to acknowledge the diligent efforts of our Human Resources Manager, Nichole Haydon, in conducting a much needed revision of our RCRC Personnel Policies. She will present an overview of the revisions at our upcoming meeting

Community Safety

The staff of RCRC continues our disaster preparedness efforts. In February, Sheli Wright attended the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services, Mass Care and Shelter meeting, at the Lake County Emergency Operations Center. In March, myself and several RCRC staff will participate in a day long disaster preparedness training sponsored by Mendocino County OES. RCRC staff will participate in similar meetings with our community partners in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties.

In April, Tamara Rodriguez, of the Department of Developmental Services, will be providing an overview training of the Everbridge disaster response system for all members of the RCRC management team, and a “hands on” training for several members of Kim Nash’s team who have been identified as “users” of the system. Having designated and trained staff as users across all 4 counties, will enable us to communicate rapidly with clients and families, service providers and RCRC staff, in the event of a disaster affecting our communities. On

March 18th, Dr. Kim Smalley will be providing a training on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to members of the Arcata Police Department.

Affordable Housing

Kim Nash and her team continue to work with Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation (RCHDC) and DDS to move the first phase of the Orr Creek housing development along. As you know, this will result in 10 dedicated affordable housing units for RCRC clients in Ukiah. We have been working with Lake County Behavioral Health and RCHDC to potentially develop another 10 units in Lake County. These units would be available to RCRC clients from any of our 4 counties.

Self Determination

Under the leadership of Mary Block, the expansion of the Self Determination Program (SDP) in our region continues to progress. In response to her advocacy with the Department of Developmental Services, RCRC will be sponsoring a DDS training for Regional Center staff in our Ukiah office on March 15th. We are grateful to the Department for their willingness to travel to our area to provide this training. Staff from North Bay Regional Center have registered to participate in the training.

Parent Empowerment

I have asked Dr. Lucy Esralew to coordinate our parent support/empowerment group efforts across all four counties. We currently have three active parent groups in Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. We plan to have at least one group sponsored and/or supported by RCRC in each county.

DDS Rate Study

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) held their first briefing to share the draft results of the Vendor Rate Study with the Developmental Services (DS) Task Force, invited guests, and the public. Pam Jensen and I attended the two day briefing, representing RCRC. This Rate Study is an attempt to establish rates paid to service providers that are more reflective of the actual costs of providing services. I am optimistic that the outcome of this study, and our recommendations to improve it, will result in a system that is strong and sustainable.

I look forward to seeing you all in Crescent City.

Rick