

**Redwood Coast Developmental Services Corporation
Board of Directors Meeting, September 9, 2020**

Executive Directors Report

COVID19 and Regional Center Operations

RCRC continues to exercise caution and follow Public Health guidelines. We are open to the public by appointment only. I provided in your packet a recent snap shot of the state of the regional center system with regards to COVID. As you can see from the first set of graphs thanks to everyone's hard work and dedication while we have had additional staff and client exposure, our incidents remain low.

We continue to receive and distribute PPE throughout our four-County catchment to clients, families and vendors. Our Cultural Diversity Specialist, Jennifer Garcia is working with our bi-lingual and bi-cultural service coordination staff to reach out specifically to our culturally and linguistically diverse populations. They are planning and manning drop off and pick up spots (i.e. gas station) for families in Klamath, Hoopa etc., who may not have current access to services and/or lack transportation to conveniently pick up needed PPE. Plans are being worked on for other remote areas that may need their PPE replenished.

Statewide, regional center Executive Directors, DDS and ARCA meetings continue weekly. State of Emergency based directives allowing regional center's more flexibility have been again extended. A "re-envisioning" of adult, non-residential services is on going at this time. DDS is working with providers, regional centers, Executive Directors, and other stakeholders to change implementation and billing practices to ensure person centered services in the face of COVID. We continue to try to expand participant directed services where desired.

Project Updates

Housing: I included some pictures of the progress on the ORR creek housing complex.

https://redwoodcoastrc.org/sites/default/files/2020_Orr_Creek_Project.1.pdf

RCRC clients will have 10 of these units, located in a good location with walking to shopping and downtown. We are involved in a similar RCHDC project in Lake County, collaboration between RCRC and Lake Co Behavioral Health, where RCRC will have another 10 dedicated units.

MHSA: RCRC was awarded a three year Mental Health Services' Act (MHSA) grant (Families and Supports Together - F.A.S.T.) from DDS. This is the second E.I. grant we have received thanks to the hard work of former RCRC Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Lucy Esralew and RCRC Service Coordinator, Deb Jones. This grant supports and teaches families in their natural context and routines to promote resiliency and social, emotional skills; coordinates, disseminates, implements, replicates Mental Health best practices in our youngest clients. It targets the expansion of Early Start Services; including communication/AAC, and even some additional developmentally appropriate behavior skills acquisition. The project begins in Lake County followed by expansion to Mendocino, ideally replicating in the North by the end of the grant cycle.

Emergency Preparedness

Fire season is upon us. We have experienced several small (quickly contained) fires in both North and South. PPE for smoke are also available and have been provided to families in need.

Staffing Updates

We recently conducted interviews for a Cultural Specialist in the Southern Counties to work in conjunction with Jennifer Garcia and continue to interview to fill all our current open Service Coordination positions.

DDS Committees

RCRC staff participates in multiple DDS committees: Cynthia Claus-John, Acting Director of Community Services is representing RCRC on the DS Task Force and DDS Community Resource Workgroup Committee; Nichole Haydon, HR Director is representing RCRC on the Safety Net Committee; Mary Block, Director of Client Services was appointed as representative to the DS Task Force Oversight and Accountability and Transparency Workgroup and represents RCRC on the DS Task Force System and Fiscal Reform Workgroup; Kimberly Smalley represents RCRC in Workgroups related to Alternative Service Delivery Taskforce and the Acuity Scales Steering Committee.

Thank you,

Dr. Kimberly Smalley
Interim Executive Director