

# The Council's Corner

2/7/2020

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# February

## Upcoming Events



- **Feb 26:** Developmental Disabilities Council **Board of Directors meeting.** We will enjoy a presentation on the **2020 Census**, and engage in a stakeholder input process to inform the creation of an **Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan.** Meeting will be from 10am to noon at RCEB Concord.
- **Feb 29:** [Tri-Valley SELPA Resource & Transition Fair](#) includes workshops, panel discussions, and vendors offering a variety of services and support for all ages. Free admission, at Dublin High School. [Registration](#) is required.
- **Mar 14:** **Alameda County Transition Information Faire**, at the College of Alameda. This is an opportunity for students and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family, service providers and school district staff to learn about adult services. Complete breakout session listings and event details are available in [English](#), and [Spanish](#). [Registration](#) is required, and you are encouraged to register early as space in each breakout session is limited.
- **Mar 15-17:** Registration is now open for [Family Voices of California 2020 Health Summit and Legislative Day](#). The Summit offers a Youth Track with topics including Voting Rights & Self-Advocacy, Mental Health & Self Care, Post-Transition: Medical, Educational & Professional, and Money Management .
- **Mar 28:** **Autism Star Conference and Resource Fair**, the only parent centered conference in the East Bay dedicated to families of children with autism age zero to 21. At Contra Costa College from 8am to 3 pm. [Registration](#) is now open, with flyers available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- **Apr 1-2:** NorCal Gathering [Beyond Training: Making Quality a Habit](#). This [two-day gathering](#) will be an opportunity to learn and share experiences and information about creating and supporting person-centered systems, organizations and services through the implementation of person-centered practices.
- **Apr 25:** [West County Transition and Special Education Resource Fair](#), 10 am to 12:30 pm in Richmond. Attend this free event to visit the vendors, hear from guest speakers, and enjoy music and other entertainment.

## Self-Determination



- [Independent Facilitator Training](#)- Build skills and resources you need to be an effective Independent Facilitator for those in California's Self-Determination Program, including the philosophy and practice of self-determination, person-centered thinking, roles of the facilitator, and more. Space still remains in the final scheduled training on **March 7** in Fremont. Training is free, and registration is required.
- Regional Center of the East Bay, in coordination with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, is [recruiting for volunteer Advisory Committee members](#). The Advisory Committee provides oversight of the implementation of Self-Determination in Alameda & Contra Costa Counties, helps share and distribute best-practices & training materials, reviews the development & ongoing progress of California's Self-Determination Program, and makes recommendations for improvement of the Self-Determination program. For more information or to receive a Self-Determination Advisory Committee application, please contact either [valerie.buell@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:valerie.buell@scdd.ca.gov), or [mtoy@rceb.org](mailto:mtoy@rceb.org).
- **\* corrected date\*** **Feb 19: Self-Determination and Person-Centered Plans webinar**, offered by Family Voices of California. Call in to find out how choosing to opt-in to Self-Determination changes the way you or your loved one is supported in living. Presenter details and registration can be found [here](#).

## Opportunities and Announcements



- **Earn It! Keep It! Save It!** is a coalition of Bay Area organizations that provide free tax preparation to households earning less than \$56,000 a year. United Way Bay Area partners with the Internal Revenue Service, churches, nonprofits, AARP, and other organizations to scale the free tax preparation effort across the region. Search a detailed list of locations [in each Bay Area County](#) to find a site near you.
- Speaking of taxes, The **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** is for "people who work and earn low to modest incomes." They are eligible to receive, in the words of the IRS, "the federal government's largest benefit for workers." What's "low to modest" for the 2019 tax year? Check out this recent [article in the East Bay Times](#) for details.
- [Arc University](#), a training series designed for direct support personnel, sponsored by Contra Costa Arc, will begin in March. The session has a total of 13 classes, earning attendees 6 hours or 6 ARM credits per class, with a fee of \$45 per class.
- You may be interested to read in The Hollywood Reporter "[How Disability Doc 'Crip Camp' Won Over Netflix, the Obamas and Sundance](#)".
- Looking for an inexpensive outing? The **East Bay Jewish Film Festival** is offering [three free screenings](#) at the Century 16 Downtown Pleasant Hill on March 7.

## News and Action Alerts



- Housing issues seem to regularly be in the news. An [East Bay Times article](#) reports on the lack of adherence with Senate Bill 329, which went in to effect January 1, making it illegal for landlords to turn tenants away just because they use Section 8 vouchers to subsidize rent. If housing is an issue you are interested in, consider attending the Feb 19 Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council [board meeting](#) with a presentation on **Housing: Tenant Rights and Resources**. These meetings are open to all.
- The Department of Developmental Services has released [budget highlights](#) from the Governor's Budget. Health and Human Services Subcommittee hearings for each house will be an opportunity for our community to provide input on budget proposals leading in to the May revise. Public testimony will be heard, but even for those who do not wish to speak, **attendance at the hearing shows strong community engagement**. Mark your calendars and consider attending either or both of the hearings. Further meeting details will be shared once they are available.  
March 4, Assembly Subcommittee 1 hearing, likely to be held in the afternoon  
March 19, Senate Subcommittee 3 hearing, likely to be held in the morning
- The **Department of Developmental Services** is partnering with Support Development Associates and Public Consulting Group to develop a **framework for the implementation of person-centered thinking and practices** for stakeholders involved in the regional center service delivery system. They are compiling information from California stakeholders, including regional centers, provider agencies, individuals receiving services, and family members to inform understanding of the current state of person-centered practices in California. Access the survey to share your input, available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#) and [Chinese](#).
- The **State Council for Developmental Disabilities** has compiled useful information regarding the recent change to the [Public Charge](#) rules. It includes information about the change, links to further resources, a directory of assistance, and a resource library.

Please forward any news, opportunities, events, or alerts [here](#) for distribution to the council!

For more information on the Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council and its mission, please visit us on the web at <http://cchealth.org/groups/ddc> or contact:

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