

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 23, 2004

Presiding: Anne Struthers

Board Members

Present:	Mario Alvarez	Rose Coleman
	Bill Dycus	Tom Florin
	Chi Keung Lee	Dick Long
	Sister Marygrace	Carmen Quinones
	Claudia Sladen	Steve Whitgob
	Theresa Woo	

Board Members

Excused: Patricia Puncsak Mike Treppa

Staff Present:

Jim Burton	Susan Driggs
Nancy Kubota	Sheryl Kuhn
Sandy Pimperton	Maggie Raintree

Guests Present:

Nyron Battles	Ali Farsheed
Diana Jorgensen	Cleo Manspeaker
Rocio Smith	Todd Struthers

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President, Anne Struthers, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:00 p.m. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for February 23, 2004 as presented." (Whitgob/Alvarez) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of meeting of January 26, 2004 as presented." (Long/Florin) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ali Farsheed requested a one-hour meeting with Mr. Burton and Mr. Treppa to address issues of regional center services for his son. Mr. Burton agreed to present the request to Mr. Treppa and contact Mr. Farsheed following their discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers for Mike Treppa

Ms. Struthers reminded members that each had received a copy of RCEB's year-end report on the 2003 Strategic Plan. Members were encouraged to review the report and contact Jim Burton with any questions.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long distributed the Financial Status Report for January 2004 and noted that there is no change in the Operations budget since the last report. RCEB continues to anticipate a balanced OPS budget for the year. We are now projecting a balanced Purchase of Service budget with a small surplus ranging from \$222,251 to \$1,229,622. These figures are based on projected expenditures and growth through June 30, 2004. The change in POS expenditures is due to frozen rates, the absence of start-up funding and less than anticipated caseload growth for this fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Mario Alvarez

Mr. Alvarez reported that five members were completing their first term of service this evening and all had agreed to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors. Following a ballot election, Bill Dycus, Tom Florin, Dick Long, Anne Struthers and Steve Whitgob were elected to a second term.

Mr. Alvarez also reported that the Membership Development Committee had reviewed their recruitment efforts. The Committee will draft a letter to request that RCEB staff assist with the recruitment of qualified candidates. Committee members will also continue their outreach at local meetings.

The Membership Development Committee will not meet in March unless there are candidates available for interviews. Members will be notified when the next meeting is scheduled.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers for Mike Treppa

Ms. Struthers reminded members that the draft policy "Independent Living Skills Program" had its first reading at the January meeting of the Board and was being considered for approval this evening. Mr. Long requested that the policy be changed to correct a typographical error in paragraph four on page two.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Independent Living Skills Program policy as corrected." (Long/Puchacz) Unanimous.

The draft policy will now be forwarded to the Department of Developmental Services for final approval.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that her group had met on February 13th and Mr. Burton had reported on the latest information from Sacramento. She thanked Mr. Burton for his efforts to keep the community informed and acknowledged that the service providers are very appreciative of his efforts to share his first-hand information on what is happening in Sacramento and around the state.

Sister Marygrace further reported that Kevin Simpson, RCEB Living Options Coordinator, joined the PVAC meeting to discuss residential vacancies. At the time of the meeting there were 333 empty beds in the 409 residential facilities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. These figures continue to be a significant challenge for residential service providers and there is growing concern that providers will be unable to survive with facility vacancies. Mr. Burton noted that RCEB receives calls each day from people wanting to open new homes and the regional center is required to vendorize all applicants who meet the requirements for vendorization. Mr. Florin questioned the breakdown of vacant beds by county and Mr. Burton agreed to provide that information at the next board meeting.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Carmen Quinones

Ms. Quinones reported that her committee had talked about the article they are working on for the upcoming RCEB newsletter. To help provide information for the article, members discussed how they benefit from attending CAC meetings. They also continued their discussion about the Self Advocacy Conference and will decide how to choose who will attend at the next meeting. Committee members are in the process of reviewing designs and ideas for a CAC business card.

Mr. Burton noted that CAC members had also shared and discussed their concerns about the proposed cuts to our service system.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that there has not been a lot of budget action this month but the Legislative Analyst's Office has now provided an analysis of the 2004/05 budget bill proposals. Mr. Burton and the Board reviewed the highlights of the report. Mr. Burton also reviewed Propositions 57 and 58 on the March 2 ballot. Members discussed the two propositions and the impact on California if approved and if rejected.

Mr. Burton notified members that they should expect the first draft of the POS standards to be released in early March but we are not clear on the public process for review. All were reminded that this draft is a proposal by the Administration and there is no legal authority to implement without legislative approval. Mr. Burton cautioned everyone to remember that POS standards are a mechanism that once in

place can be modified at any time. We can also expect to see the recommended system for Parental Co-payment in early March. This system is already in law but the process for collecting the funds has not been identified. Mr. Burton noted we will need to be concerned if the fee structure does not include a geographical differential.

Mr. Burton reported that there has been an enormous amount of activity in preparing the plan for the proposed closure of Agnews Developmental Center and the report to the legislature is due on April 1. We can expect that the plan will be controversial but we need to continue to focus our concern on the residents of Agnews. The three bay area regional centers have made significant contributions to the proposed plan but are not interested in moving forward with a plan this is not adequately funded.

We were informed on February 13th that DDS will not begin CADDIS implementation this fiscal year. RCEB spent time and resources preparing a training site with trainings scheduled to start at the end of this month. These trainings have now been cancelled and no final decisions have been made about moving ahead with the project or the re-scheduling of trainings. RCEB staff has made every effort to prepare adequately for CADDIS implementation but continue to have real concerns about how this project is moving forward. Mr. Burton agreed to keep the board informed of the state's plan.

Mr. Burton reported that RCEB had a visit from Department of Finance representatives. DOF staff were here to field test some of the proposals for our system and we very much appreciated their efforts to include us in this discussion. While here they visited programs, discussed the proposed Agnews closure and reviewed the new responsibilities that regional centers may be asked to assume. Mr. Burton acknowledged that their visit to RCEB was very helpful.

Members were informed that federal reviewers will be coming to RCEB to look at our Targeted Case Management records. We have not been told when they will arrive but expect it will be soon. Staff efforts are continuing in preparation for the Habilitation Services transfer to RCEB. Much work remains to be done and we continue to be concerned that this significant workload is being shifted to our system without additional resources to support the transfer of responsibility.

Mr. Burton reported that a rally has been planned for February 26th to protest the proposed cuts to In-home Support Services. The cuts proposed for the IHSS system are devastating and will ultimately impact our service system if implemented in their current form.

Mr. Burton announced that one of the leaders in our community has resigned from his position as director of the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities (CAIC). Mark Polit has taken another position and will be doing policy analysis for SEIU. Mr. Burton acknowledged that Mr. Polit has done an incredible job of putting information together for this community and his very significant efforts and contributions will be missed.

Mr. Burton reviewed the caseload ratio report just submitted to DDS and noted that we have met the requirements of law and have done an excellent job of reducing

caseloads over the last two years. RCEB is able to provide a better quality of service to consumers and families with lower caseloads and we must work to find ways to keep ratios at these levels. It will be challenging to maintain our current ratios in the difficult fiscal year that we are approaching.

Mr. Burton reminded members that we have been working with The Independent Way as they struggle to keep their program open. This is one of our older programs and they have attempted to serve consumers with an antiquated and inadequate rate. They have kept us informed as they work through their budget issues and are now scheduling a public meeting to discuss what they propose to do at their Union City facility.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker stated that she has been served by the regional center system for twenty-two years and they have been very good to her. Ms. Manspeaker thanked Mr. Burton for all his efforts on behalf of consumers and especially thanked him for her services.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the next ARCA meeting is scheduled for March 19th in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors