

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 28, 2005

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Rose Coleman
Bill Dycus Chi Lee
Sister Marygrace Carmen Quinones
Claudia Sladen Anne Struthers
Steve Whitgob Theresa Woo

Board Members

Excused: Tom Florin Mike Treppa

Staff Present:

Jim Burton Francine Davis
Susan Driggs Nancy Kubota
Gabriel Rogin Jennifer Theal

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia Diana Jorgensen
Cleo Manspeaker Rocio Smith
Todd Struthers

CALL TO ORDER

President, Dick Long, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:10 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for March 28, 2005 as presented." (Whitgob/Woo) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2005 meeting as presented.” (Battles/Lee) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker reported that she has now been in her new apartment for six months and has been employed at her new job for one month. She noted that she has received regional center services for twenty-three years and thanked the Board and Mr. Burton for all the assistance she has received from RCEB.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reminded members that it is time for the annual review of the by-laws. Members were asked to carefully review the by-laws and let Mr. Long know of any suggested changes that may be needed prior to the April meeting of Board. Mr. Long reminded the Board that it is important to regularly review the by-laws and to clearly understand what is expected of members of the Board.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, April 19th.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for February 2005. He reported that there is no significant change in the Operations Budget and we continue to project a balanced budget. The Purchase of Service Budget is showing a slight increase in the projected surplus amount with a mid-range projection of \$2.2 million. Dr. Whitgob cautioned that with the continued freeze on start-up funding and rates, we may continue to see this number increase.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Theresa Woo for Mike Treppa

Ms. Woo reported that we have had several inquiries about Board membership and we hope to conduct candidate interviews next month.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that her group had met on March 11th and noted that Mr. Burton's presence at these meetings continues to add to the clarity and stability of the group. PVAC members very much appreciate his willingness to share his time with them. The March meeting included a presentation of valuable information on developing successful transition strategies. The presenter shared

his experiences in successfully transitioning his program to a new provider without compromising the integrity of the program. The Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee will not meet in April to allow full participation in the local legislative breakfast that will be held on April 8th.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that her group had continued their work to improve their self-advocacy skills by watching a film that demonstrated ways to effectively communicate needs to others. Following the film, the group participated in exercises that allowed them to practice and review their public speaking skills. Members of the Consumer Advisory Committee will travel to Sacramento to testify at the Senate Budget Hearings on April 11th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton recognized Carmen Quinones for receiving the Carlos Quintong Self Advocacy Award from Area Board V. He also acknowledged that this is an important award that involved a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work and no one deserves it more than Ms. Quinones.

Mr. Burton informed the group that budget hearings are beginning in Sacramento with the Senate hearing on April 11th and the Assembly hearing scheduled for April 25th. It will be important for our system to provide testimony at these hearings to enhance the awareness of legislators about the challenges faced by our consumers and families. Service providers are fighting to survive as a result of the continued rate freeze and we struggle to be innovative in developing new services for families without the availability of start-up funding. We need to be present to support efforts to partially restore OPS funds. As our caseloads continue to grow, additional funding would help us to lower caseload ratios as we work to meet the mandates imposed to allow us to keep the federal funding we are so dependent upon. It is critical that we continue our efforts to educate our legislators.

Mr. Burton reported that the three regional centers participating in the Unified Plan have recently submitted the draft Bay Area Housing Proposal for DDS review. This plan will provide long-term housing options for the consumers leaving Agnews Developmental Center. We are also pleased that Senator Chesbro has introduced legislation (SB 962) that would add a new model of service to our system, Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs. This legislation will provide living options for persons with developmental disabilities who are transitioning into the community from Agnews who have enduring medical needs.

Mr. Burton also reported that RCEB staff are continuing efforts to support the family members of consumers who will be transitioning from Agnews. We will be

hosting an afternoon meeting for this group on April 13th and will spend time answering their questions and addressing their concerns. Mr. Burton encouraged Board members to attend this event to support our efforts to work with these very apprehensive families.

Mr. Burton announced that the East Bay Legislative Coalition will host a breakfast meeting for our local legislators on April 8th. Members were reminded that term limits necessitate our continued efforts to educate our representatives and all were encouraged to attend.

Mr. Burton cautioned that there are a number of issues important to our service system that we must continue to monitor. At this time it appears that the Administration's proposal to reduce IHSS rates has strong opposition in the legislature but it is still very important to present testimony at the upcoming budget hearings. Mr. Burton noted that he was less optimistic about the proposal to freeze SSI rates and it will require our continued efforts to successfully address this issue.

Members were also informed that they will be hearing a lot about Medicare Part D, the federal initiative to change prescription options. We will have a tremendous responsibility to help our consumers and families understand their choices and will need good information to provide the necessary support. It is imperative that we ensure consumers receive the medications they need. Mr. Burton also reported that Contra Costa County may be participating in a new managed care model known as long term care integration. Detailed information is not currently available but it is expected that this change will have a major impact in Contra Costa County.

The group was informed that the transition of services from the Miller Centers to CCARC is on target. CCARC is actively working to employ additional staff and we anticipate the transfer of adult services in May or June. Events are being planned for the Miller Center consumers, families and staff and we look forward to the Board of Supervisors endorsement of the completed transfer proposal.

Mr. Burton reported that Department of Health Services staff will be arriving tomorrow to conduct a review of our Special Incident Reporting process. Board members will be informed of the results of this review.

Mr. Burton stated that RCEB now has more than 1900 families who have returned their parent vouchered respite forms. We still have 500-600 families we have not heard from and we are contacting these families to try to determine why they have not responded and to ensure that they are receiving needed services. Mr. Burton noted that all regional centers are reporting a similar impact as a result of this change. Our staff is also working to carefully and fairly implement the Family Cost Participation Program at this regional center. Implementation is proceeding very well and we have had no requests for Fair Hearings at this point.

Mr. Burton announced that the joint DD Councils' annual dinner has been scheduled for June 1st and Julie Jackson will be the featured presenter this year. Mr. Burton noted that this is a tremendously enjoyable annual event and encouraged members to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the recent ARCA meeting had covered a notable agenda. Time was spent looking at ways to address the problems inherent in term limits. The meeting included discussion of the Caseload Ratio Survey. This report indicated that caseload ratios are insufficient at sixteen regional centers. This finding appears to be a clear indicator that the system has been significantly stressed by the accumulation of budget reductions.

The meeting also included a report on the pilot programs for self-directed services. Regional centers participating in the pilot reported that it is going well. There are now plans to expand this pilot to other regional centers.

Ms. Struthers reported that time had been devoted to an extensive presentation on pending legislation. ARCA Grassroots Day is scheduled for April 12th and the ARCA office will host a legislative reception at 5:30 on that day. Members were reminded that RCEB will not be participating in Grassroots Day this year since it is scheduled only a few days after our local legislative breakfast.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors