

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 24, 2005

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Bill Dycus
Chi Lee Rebecca Loya
Carmen Quinones Claudia Sladen
Anne Struthers Emily Whitgob
Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Rose Coleman Tom Florin
Sister Marygrace Theresa Woo

Staff Present: Jim Burton Francine Davis
Susan Driggs Eric Glentzer
Lisa Kleinbub Nancy Kubota
John Rodriguez

Guests Present: Barbara Garcia Sharon Hagerty
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 7:40 pm. Self-introductions were made. Mr. Long welcomed Ms. Loya and Ms. Whitgob to the Board. Mr. Long also thanked Lisa Kleinbub for providing the Board with this evening's training on the new Medicare Part D prescription coverage.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for October 24, 2005 as presented." (Struthers/S. Whitgob) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of September 26, 2005 as presented.” (Battles/Lee) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Manspeaker informed the group that she had recently attended the Supported Life Conference in Sacramento. She reported that the conference had been very informative and provided a lot of useful information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee had met on October 11th and reviewed the most recent budget information. This meeting also included a discussion of our continuing need for board member education. We are planning to schedule a board training retreat for early next year and are looking at the possibility of a shared training with other local regional centers.

Mr. Long asked the board to consider approval of the 2006 Performance Contract that was presented prior to the board meeting this evening. No comments or requests for changes were presented following review of the draft plan.

M/S/C “The Board moves to adopt the Performance Contract for 2006 as presented.” (S. Whitgob/Sladen) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for September. Members were reminded that the Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) was submitted to DDS last month and it has now been reviewed by DDS and ARCA. RCEB’s SOAR was approved with one minor adjustment. The revised SOAR projects a mid range base insufficiency of \$8.5 million and we anticipate that DDS will provide an adjustment to our base allocation of approximately \$8.5 million consistent with the current allocation methodology if sufficient funds are available.

Rocio Smith, Executive Director of Area Board 5 encouraged RCEB to develop an employer of record agency so families will not need to continue to go without needed respite services. Mr. Burton responded to her request by reporting that we have a request pending at DDS to secure start-up funding for an agency to assume this role and anticipate a positive outcome.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reminded members that Ralph Griffin had been nominated for Board membership at the previous meeting. Mr. Long reported that Mr. Griffin had

served on the Board from 1989 to 1995 and again from 1997 to 2003. Mr. Griffin will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience back to the Board if elected.

Following a ballot election, Mr. Long reported that Mr. Griffin had been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a three year term from November 2005 through October 2008. Mr. Long announced the Mr. Griffin will be asked to chair the Membership Development Committee next year.

Mr. Long also reported that we have finalized the slate of officers for 2006 and elections will take place at the November meeting. Nominations are:

President – Dick Long
Vice President – Anne Struthers
Treasurer – Steve Whitgob
Secretary – Rose Coleman

Mr. Long distributed and reviewed the Board Composition Compliance Report and noted that the Board is currently at its minimum capacity of fifteen members. Members were reminded that we must continue efforts to increase our representation from Alameda County.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Jim Burton for Sister Marygrace

Mr. Burton reported that the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee had discussed disaster preparedness and budget issues at their last meeting. Much of the meeting was devoted to a sobering discussion of deteriorating conditions at programs with no adequate wage available to line staff. Mr. Burton noted that this discussion will be continued at the upcoming legislative breakfast.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles for Rose Coleman

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton had provided a budget update and background information on the new Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage policy. Mr. Battles also reported that he had presented the Statewide Consumer Advisory Committee handbook entitled "Making My Own Choices". This book has been developed by members of the Statewide CAC and will help consumers identify things that are important in their lives and plan the steps necessary to make sure their wishes and needs are met. Finally, Mr. Battles reported that nominations had been made for next year's CAC Chairperson and the election will take place at the November meeting of the committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the last Miller Center programs are scheduled to transfer to CCARC one week from today. Everyone present was reminded that the transfer of these programs was a tremendous accomplishment for this community

and the effort was lead by an extraordinary group of parents. Mr. Burton also reported that parents he has spoken to have reported that this process has been a nearly seamless transition for consumers and families.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that the Governor has now signed into law some of the bills that will be critical to the success of the Agnews Developmental Center closure plan. SB 962 establishes a pilot project creating a new type of licensed residential care facility to provide community-based services to 120 current residents transitioning from Agnews. AB 1378 will allow DDS to use Agnews' staff to work in the community to provide clinical and other support services to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents transitioning from Agnews into community-based settings. Following final approval of the Bay Area Housing Plan, regional centers will be able to purchase homes to serve the Agnews residents to ensure a stable home environment in the community. Mr. Burton acknowledged that this significant project is now moving from the planning stages to implementation and we are very pleased at the support we have received.

Mr. Burton noted that disaster preparedness remains a critical concern for all of us. Congresswoman Barbara Lee recently hosted a meeting to discuss emergency response needs of vulnerable populations. This meeting highlighted the importance of being prepared and able to collaborate with emergency responders so they know where we are and what we need in an emergency situation. RCEB will continue to update its disaster preparedness plan and will collaborate with local governments to enhance our plan.

Mr. Burton reported that the Medicare Part D prescription plan coverage continues to be cause for great concern to the 2300 RCEB consumers who have both MediCal and Medicare coverage. These will be difficult choices for our consumers but we have some time to provide assistance to people in finding and enrolling in appropriate plans. This process continues to be very confusing and very concerning.

Mr. Burton reported that the independent review of the CADDIS project has been completed and the final report recommends that the project be continued. Mr. Burton acknowledged that there have been significant improvements to the software but there continue to be concerns. Pilots are reporting a 2 to 4 month delay in implementation and that will impact regional center training schedules. It continues to be critically important that the pilot programs are functional before we move forward.

Mr. Burton also reported that vendor audits are now getting underway at DDS and we are experiencing a rocky beginning with the new audit staff. The first audit in our area is in progress and we will continue to discuss with DDS the challenges we have encountered.

Mr. Burton announced that Julie Jackson will be retiring from DDS at the end of the week and her position will be filled by Dale Sorbello. Julie Jackson has made many very important contributions to our community service system during her career. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of Dale's considerable experience take over this important role.

Mr. Burton noted that we have a number of important local events coming up. The East Bay Legislative Coalition's annual legislative breakfast will take place on October 28th. A retirement party for long-time service provider, Judy Levin, will be held in Oakland on October 28th. The CCARC annual dinner and celebration will be held in Walnut Creek on the October 28th. This special event will be honoring the Miller Center staff for their many years of dedicated service to our consumers. The annual Harambe parent education event will be held in Oakland on Saturday, October 29th.

Mr. Burton reminded Board members that a new organization, Alegria, has been formed to provide services to people leaving Agnews Developmental Center. A tremendous collaborative effort has gone into establishing this organization and they have just hired their new director. We typically fund services in arrears and reimburse for start-up costs. Since this is a brand new corporation that has no funding, we are asking the Board to consider allowing us to advance a portion of their start-up contract to allow the organization to begin operations.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve an advance of no more than \$100,000 or 25% of the start-up contract to Alegria."
(Whitgob/Struthers) Unanimous.

It was agreed that the Board would be kept informed of the status of the advance through its' inclusion on our financial statement.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that ARCA had met last week and their meeting included a DDS presentation on the budget. There is a clear acknowledgement that cost containment is causing problems throughout our service system. Julia Mullen led a discussion of Self Determination Services and noted that the regulations will require additional work and will not be issued as emergency regulations.

ARCA was updated on the CADDIS project and Ms. Struthers noted that there are still many concerns about the project but progress is being made.

Ms. Struthers also reported that ARCA's Education and Outreach Committee has the New Day website up and running. They plan to repeat this valuable conference every two years and Board members were encouraged to visit the website to learn more about the conference.

Ms. Struthers informed members that the California Affordable Housing Institute will be offering summits and information relative to affordable housing. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Ms. Struthers also reported that there will be a hearing by Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 to review cost containment issues on November 16th. Members were encouraged to attend this important hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss labor contract negotiations and real estate issues, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Struthers
Vice President
RCEB Board of Directors