

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 28, 2005

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles
Ralph Griffin
Carmen Quinones
Anne Struthers
Steve Whitgob
Rose Coleman
Sister Marygrace
Claudia Sladen
Emily Whitgob
Theresa Woo

Board Members

Excused: Bill Dycus
Chi Lee
Tom Florin
Rebecca Loya

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack
Francine Davis
Lisa Kleinbub
Sheryl Kuhn
Marc Sugars
Jim Burton
Susan Driggs
Nancy Kubota
John Rodriguez
Kristin Thurmond

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia
Todd Struthers
Rocio Smith

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 November 28, 2005 as presented." (Struthers/Woo) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of October 24, 2005 as presented." (S. Whitgob/E. Whitgob) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Department of Developmental Services has accepted RCEB's Performance Contract for 2006 as submitted. Mr. Long also reported that members of the Executive Committee have continued their discussions of the need for a Board training retreat. Saturday, January 21, 2006 has been tentatively set for the session. Notice will be sent to members as soon as the details have been finalized.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for October 2005. The POS budget continues to show a mid-range base insufficiency of up to \$8.5 million. We anticipate that DDS will provide an adjustment to our base allocation to fund this amount consistent with the current allocation methodology if sufficient funds are available in the system.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long announced that Mr. Griffin has agreed to take over the Chairmanship of The Membership Development Committee for the next year.

Mr. Long reminded members that the 2006 Slate of Officers had been presented at the last meeting and included:

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

Following a ballot vote it was reported that all had been elected to their positions for 2006.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that their November meeting had been devoted to a presentation from Collaborative Agencies Responding to Disaster (CARD). She also noted that it had been an extremely helpful discussion that included much valuable information.

Mr. Burton stated that we will work with our provider community to expand on this presentation over the next six months to ensure we have a comprehensive disaster plan for our community.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that her group had elected Ronald Clay to lead the group for the coming year. Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Coleman for her very wonderful leadership of the Consumer Advisory Committee this year.

Ms. Coleman also reported that Lisa Kleinbub had attended their meeting to explain how Medicare Part D would impact members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported the Cliff Allenby will be leaving the Department of Developmental Services for a new position at the Department of Social Services. Mr. Burton acknowledged that Mr. Allenby has worked hard to support our service system and his strong leadership will be missed.

Mr. Burton informed the group that the Legislative Analyst's Office has just reported that California is in better shape than had been anticipated. While this is good news, it is important to remember that it assumes all cuts in place now will remain in place. The Governor's budget should be released on January 10th and we will see what is planned for the coming year at that time.

Mr. Burton reported the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1, lead by Assemblyman De La Torre had recently held a hearing to get a sense of how the reductions that have been implemented have impacted the populations served. Mr. Burton attended and testified at this hearing and his testimony is included in this evening's packet. Mr. Burton noted that it was an excellent hearing with good, consistent testimony from consumers, families and providers on what impact budget cuts have had on the quality of service. Our hope is that attention will stay focused on the most troubling issues, rate freezes and the start-up funding freeze. It is critically important to keep attention focused on the rate issue. If we are not able to do something about direct care wages we will be dealing with more program closures and continued erosion in quality of care. It is important to remember that the people with the most significant needs are facing the least amount of available service and this situation continues to grow worse each day.

Mr. Burton reported that the Miller Center transition to CCARC was completed on November 1st. CCARC recently held their annual dinner event and put forth significant effort to recognize the important work of the Miller Center staff. The successful transition of these services is a major accomplishment for this community.

Mr. Burton announced that start-up funding has been approved for La Clinica de la Raza to support respite services for monolingual, Spanish speaking families. This is very good news that will allow us to provide critical support to these families.

Mr. Burton also informed the Board that Sandy Kleffman of the Contra Costa Times had recently published a very factual and balanced article about the Agnews Developmental Center closure. The Oakland Tribune is also working on a story and we hope their article will also be fair and balanced.

Mr. Burton reported that DDS began their regular fiscal audit of RCEB today. This audit is part of their regular review of all regional centers and we do not anticipate any problems. DDS audit staff will be onsite for five weeks.

Mr. Burton announced that RCEB's Winterfest luncheon will be held on December 14th. Board members were encouraged to attend this fun event and to get to know their staff.

Mr. Burton thanked the Board for the investment they have made in this regional center by giving so generously of their time and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Mrs. Struthers reported that the next ARCA meeting will be held in January in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration of Golden Gate Regional Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss labor contract negotiations and real estate, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors