

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 23, 2006

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members  
Present:

Nyron Battles  
Ralph Griffin  
Rebecca Loya  
Claudia Sladen  
Emily Whitgob

Bill Dycus  
Chi Lee  
Carmen Quinones  
Anne Struthers  
Steve Whitgob

Board Members  
Excused:

Rose Coleman  
Theresa Woo

Tom Florin

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack  
Francine Davis  
Eric Glentzer  
Nancy Kubota  
Mark Neiman

Jim Burton  
Susan Driggs  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Sheryl Kuhn  
Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Roger Bulosan  
Sharon Hagerty  
Cleo Manspeaker  
Laurie Parks  
Todd Struthers

Barbara Garcia  
Gina Jennings  
Sandra Martinez  
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 7:05 PM. Self-introductions were made.

## CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.”  
(Struthers/Griffin) Unanimous.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Manspeaker announced that she will be installed as Vice Chair of Area Board 5 on Developmental Disabilities at their upcoming annual dinner meeting. She also reported that on that same evening she would be presenting the Carlos Quintong Self Advocacy Award to this year's recipient. She encouraged everyone present to attend.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Long announced that the agenda would be modified to allow the Budget and Finance Committee report to be the first committee report of the evening.

### BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed the draft audit report and the Finance Committee report for the year ended 6/30/05. Dr. Whitgob reported that his meeting had included the presentation of the draft audit report for fiscal year 2004/2005 by representatives of our audit firm. Dr. Whitgob introduced Roger Bulosan and Sandra Martinez of Lautze and Lautze. Mr. Bulosan provided a brief overview of the purpose and process of the audit and noted that it was an unqualified audit report with no management comments. Mr. Bulosan noted that it had been a pleasure working with Ms. Kubota and Mr. Neiman and informed the Board that these two individuals were doing an outstanding job representing RCEB. Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Kubota and the Accounting staff for their significant efforts in providing quality stewardship of public funds.

Dr. Whitgob asked Board members to review the draft report carefully and contact Ms. Kubota with any questions. The review and approval of the draft audit report will be an action item for the next meeting of the Board.

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for December 2005. He reported that RCEB received the B-2 budget amendment in mid-December and our POS allocation was increased by \$9 million. This amount included the \$8.6 million base adjustment that was anticipated in our Fiscal Year 2005/06 Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) projection. The remainder of the funds included in the B-2 amendment were Community Placement Plan funds and a small amount for case transfers. Dr. Whitgob also reported that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) announced a statewide growth funding insufficiency of \$10.4 million as their growth projections exceeded what regional centers were reporting. All regional centers will receive a prorated reduction in their growth allocation and the impact for RCEB will be \$686,787. DDS believes there will be sufficient funds remaining at the end of the year to cover deficits in the regional centers allocation. RCEB is currently projecting a year-end POS budget balance of

(\$1,149,915) to \$617,554 but expect that the POS budget will reflect a balanced budget at year-end. RCEB continues to project a balanced Operations budget for the year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long referred members to their packets for review of the 2006 Master Calendar and Work Plan for the Board of Directors.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the Master Calendar for 2006 as presented.” (Griffin/Whitgob) Unanimous.

M/S/C            “The Board moved to approve the Board of Directors’ Work Plan for 2006 as presented.” (Lee/Griffin) Unanimous.

Mr. Long reviewed committee assignments and meeting schedules for the year. Members wishing to make changes their committee assignments were asked to contact Mr. Long.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the committee assignments for 2006 as presented.” (Struthers/Sladen) Unanimous.

Mr. Long commented that last Saturday’s training retreat had included an open discussion about the future of our system that was informative and very educational. The afternoon had also included excellent presentations by RCEB’s senior staff. Mr. Long thanked Mr. Burton and his staff for providing this valuable board training.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Laurie Parks had been interviewed for Board membership. Mrs. Parks comes highly recommended to the Board having just completed service as the parent representative on the George Miller Center Task Force for the last year. It is the recommendation of the Membership Development Committee that Laurie Parks be nominated for Board membership. The election will take place at the February meeting of the Board of Directors.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the last PVAC meeting included discussion of critical rate issues and the difficulties encountered while trying to provide quality programs for consumers in these challenging times.

Mr. Burton reported that Sister Marygrace has now termed out and PVAC will be appointing a new representative to the RCEB Board of Directors.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Ms. Kubota had attended the last CAC meeting and provided an updated budget report. Members also discussed the problems that

have been encountered as they begin to use the Medicare Part D prescription coverage that became available on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Battles also reported that the group began discussions about how to choose attendees for this year's People First conference. These discussions will continue until a selection process has been agreed upon.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton welcomed Gina Jennings as the new Executive Director of the Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council and acknowledged that we are pleased to have her take on this challenging position. Mr. Burton reminded everyone that the Councils continue to play a vital role in our community and we are extremely fortunate to be served by such active Councils.

Mr. Burton reported that the Governor's budget Proposal was released earlier this month and reminded members that the release of the administration's initial proposals is the first step in the annual budget process for our state. Mr. Burton reviewed the highlights of the budget proposal and noted that this is relatively positive budget news for our service system given these challenging fiscal times. One of the most significant features of this budget is the proposed 3% COLA for certain service providers. This increase would impact about 70% of RCEB's providers. Mr. Burton noted that while this proposal will not solve the problem, it is an important start with beginning to recognize the seriousness of the rate inadequacy problem.

The Governor's budget also proposes an increase of \$2.5 million to fund resources in regional centers to perform new activities to meet the immediate and future programmatic and fiscal challenges in serving consumers with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Mr. Burton also reported that the Governor's budget proposes fully funding the closure of Agnews Developmental Center.

Mr. Burton informed the group that some items in the budget proposal were concerning and would need to be watched as the budget process progresses. Of particular concern is the proposal to negotiate regional center contract language to control purchase of service expenditures. This proposal looks very similar to the POS standards we have seen the last several years and we expect this may be one of the more controversial proposals in the budget. Additionally, the Governor's budget proposes to continue the freeze on start-up funding for new programs and rates which continues to take a heavy toll on the availability and quality of services to people with developmental disabilities. The budget also proposes returning \$42.7 million in projected unspent POS funds in the current year while our service system continues to struggle with unmet service needs. The budget also proposes reducing rates paid to Medi-Cal providers by 5% in January 2006. Our consumers and families already struggle to find providers of medical services willing to accept current rates and any reduction will make access more difficult. Also included in the budget is the proposal of a 15-month delay in the implementation of the 2007 federal SSI/SSP COLA. The Senate has already rejected this proposal since most people with disabilities who live on their own rely solely on their SSI funds for the most basic

necessities of life. The Governor's proposal includes the implementation of Self Directed Services later in the year. This program is expected to provide cost savings and has been linked to the CADDIS system. The CADDIS project is still under review at this time.

Mr. Burton reminded the Board that Lisa Kleinbub, RCEB's Director of Health and Behavioral Services, has taken the lead in getting information out about the Medicare Part D prescription coverage plan. Ms. Kleinbub continues to follow the situation closely but reports that it may be a little while before we have the full picture of what is happening in our community. RCEB has now made eleven purchases for consumers who were unable to secure necessary medications and our case management staff are working daily to find and coordinate solutions to these problems.

Mr. Burton reported that the housing plan associated with the Agnews Developmental Center closure has received approval of up to \$120 million in low interest bond funds from CalHFA. Requests for Proposals were issued for new service providers to serve the consumers leaving Agnews and we are now in the process of reviewing 38 responses.

Mr. Burton informed the group that our DDS audit has just been completed. DDS staff were on site for 5 weeks and completed an extremely thorough audit. It was noted that the informal exit interview indicated that the results of the audit were outstanding and Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Kubota and her staff for their fine work. Mr. Long also asked Ms. Kubota to thank her staff on behalf of the entire Board of Directors.

M/S/C            "The Board moves to have the Executive Director place letters of commendation in the personnel files of the RCEB Accounting staff."  
(Griffin/Struthers) Unanimous.

Mr. Burton announced that Cliff Allenby is now serving in a dual capacity as the Director of both DSS and DDS. We expect that a new DDS Director will be appointed by March. He also reported that the Executive Director of Alta California Regional Center has resigned that position and will return to Kansas. Their Board has begun the recruitment process to fill the position. Supported Living Service regulations are being amended. Revisions are currently under administrative review and are expected to be released shortly. Locally, our Habilitation service providers have been working to address their serious rate issues in an effort to find ways to positively impact the problem.

Mr. Burton thanked the Board for giving so generously of their time on Saturday to allow for the in-depth discussions that took place at the retreat.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the ARCA group had met in San Francisco in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Golden Gate Regional Center. Discussion topics at the meeting included housing trusts and how they can be used to create a permanent

stock of housing. Julia Mullen updated the group on the status of the Agnews closure plan, the CADDIS project and Self Directed Services (SDS). Discussions also included a look at caseload ratios statewide and the difficulties regional centers are having maintaining compliance. Family Cost Participation data is being reviewed and the accuracy as well as the cost savings are now in question. A valuable disaster preparedness presentation was included in the agenda. Alan Kerzin, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities reviewed for the group the major issues currently being addressed by the Council

Ms. Struthers also reported that the Delegates Luncheon included a presentation on the Adoption Assistance litigation. The presentation was informative and included a lively discussion of adoption assistance and rates for special needs children. These incentive rates are funded by counties but regional centers are asked to determine the rates but are reluctant to do so since the process is time consuming and they have no authority in the matter.

Ms. Struthers noted that the ARCA group had reviewed and approved the annual goals and objectives. Everyone present was reminded that Grass Roots Day will be held in late April this year. All were urged to participate in this important annual event.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session meeting to discuss real estate negotiations and pending litigation, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Struthers  
Vice President  
RCEB Board of Directors