

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 27, 2006

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Rose Coleman
Bill Dycus Ralph Griffin
Becca Loya Lauri Parks
Carmen Quinones Will Sanford
Claudia Sladen Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Tom Florin Chi Lee
Anne Struthers Emily Whitgob
Theresa Woo

Staff Present:

Jolyn Aaker Jim Burton
Francine Davis Susan Driggs
Eric Glentzer Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota Sheryl Kuhn
Maggie Raintree Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia Cleo Manspeaker
Sister Marygrace 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. Mr. Long welcomed Ms. Parks and Mr. Sanford to the group.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for March 27, 2006 as presented." (Griffin/Whitgob) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of February 27, 2006 as presented.” (Griffin/Battles) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Manspeaker reminded the group that last week’s earthquake was a reminder that we need to be prepared for disasters in this area. She also acknowledged that she was pleased we are planning a disaster preparedness forum and thinks it will be helpful to our consumers and families. Ms. Manspeaker also urged RCEB to provide training to case managers on the challenges of working with consumers who have a dual diagnosis. She reminded the Board that she had suggested last month that professionals working with consumers and families be required to carry photo identification. Finally, Ms. Manspeaker announced that CAHR would be holding their annual fashion show at the Raddison Hotel in Dublin and she urged everyone to attend.

Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Manspeaker for her suggestion about the photo ID and noted that her suggestion for training was also excellent. We are constantly reviewing our training plans for staff and will keep her suggestions in mind.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long noted that we have a very special guest with us this evening and welcomed Sister Marygrace to the meeting. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Long presented a gift and thanked Sister Marygrace for her remarkable guidance and leadership and her constant reminders to approach challenging issues thoughtfully. Mr. Burton acknowledged that it was difficult to find words to thank someone who has given so much of her time, talent and expertise to help lead this Board through difficult times. He thanked her for all that she has done for RCEB and the consumers and families we serve and noted that her caring approach to all challenges and her high level of commitment are inspirational.

Sister Marygrace noted that it had been a privilege to serve on the RCEB Board of Directors. She also stated that this regional center is in fine hands under the dedicated leadership of this Board and Mr. Burton’s caring guidance and commitment to this community.

Mr. Long reported that RCEB has failed for the second consecutive reporting period to meet one of the measures of caseload ratios required by the Lanterman Act and that we would now be required to submit a Plan to the Department of Developmental Services. Mr. Burton distributed and reviewed the draft plan to meet required caseload ratios. RCEB maintains quality case management

services as its highest priority but continues to struggle filling these positions while our salaries remain well below the standard of living in the bay area.

M/S/C “The Board moves to accept the plan as presented in response to our inability to meet required caseload ratios.” (Griffin/Battles)
Unanimous.

Mr. Long reminded members that the Board reviews their by-laws each year to see if any changes are necessary. No changes were recommended at this time.

Mr. Burton distributed and reviewed a Board Resolution being required by the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA). This resolution will require the joint signatures of both Mr. Burton and Ms. Kubota to purchase homes through the Bay Area Housing Plan.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the Board Resolution as presented.”
(Griffin/Sladen) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for February 2006. RCEB continues to project a balanced budget in POS and OPS at year-end. Mr. Burton cautioned that this balanced POS budget is the result of the freeze on start-up funding and rates and continues to deprive our consumers of needed services.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Ralph Griffin

There was no report this evening.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that the East Bay Legislative Coalition’s annual legislative breakfast will take place on April 7th. Assemblymember Lonnie Hancock will be the keynote speaker this year and the event will be held at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. Mr. Sanford also reported that PVAC members have been working with Ms. Kubota on the Disaster Preparedness Forum and this event has now been scheduled for May 3rd at the State Building in Oakland. Finally, Mr. Sanford reported that a group of Supported Employment providers have been working to convince the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Rehabilitation to support Supported Employment through adequate funding. This effort will continue until a positive resolution can be reached.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that Protection and Advocacy's new Consumer Advocate, Maria Marquez, had joined the last meeting of the CAC and explained her role in our community. Members also discussed the upcoming People First Convention. RCEB will again fund attendance for 30 consumers and it was agreed that priority would be given to those who have not participated in this event in the past. The group ended their meeting with a continued discussion about the use of the term "retarded".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that two major budget hearings are scheduled in April. The Senate hearing will take place on April 3rd and they will review all issues related the DD services in the Administration's budget proposals. The Assembly hearing is scheduled for April 24th.

Mr. Burton encouraged everyone to attend the legislative breakfast on April 7th. This important annual event provides a unique opportunity to keep our local officials informed of the challenges faced by our consumers and families. Mr. Burton also encouraged everyone to participate in the ARCA Grass Roots Day event on April 26th. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with the legislative staff at the Capitol and keep them informed and educated on our issues.

Mr. Burton reported that we are moving as expeditiously as possible to implement the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. Tremendous effort has gone into finalizing the Bay Area Housing Plan and it is very near completion.

Mr. Burton recommended that everyone try to attend the Disaster Preparedness Town Hall Meeting on May 3rd. This event will be focused on families and consumers in Alameda County. A similar event will be held in Contra Costa County at a later date.

Mr. Burton announced that we have reached agreement with La Clinica to provide respite services for families by serving as the employer of record. This agreement will provide much needed respite to our families.

Mr. Burton reported that Sylvia Cabrera has been recognized in the Assembly as Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Torrico for her outstanding work with our consumers and families. Ms. Cabrera is a case manager at La Familia Counseling Services and is very deserving of this special recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sladen announced that a resource fair would be held on April 28th and 29th at Agnews Developmental Center. This is the second of these events and the first resource fair was very successful in connecting families and service providers.

This group is looking for small raffle prizes for the event and members were asked to contact Ms. Sladen with any suggestions.

ARCA REPORT: Jim Burton for Anne Struthers

Mr. Burton reported that the ARCA meeting had been held in Los Angeles in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to spend time with Terri Delgadillo, Acting Director of the Department of Developmental Services. Ms. Delgadillo comes to DDS from the Department of Health and Human Services and brings a wealth of experience to her new position. She informed the group that the CADDIS project is still being evaluated. She also noted that she is pleased with the progress of the Bay Area Plan for the closure of Agnews Developmental Center.

Mr. Burton reported that DDS staff are getting very positive feedback about regional center work on the Medicare Part D prescription transition. This process continues to be an issue for us and RCEB will continue to monitor the situation and provide the necessary safety net that some consumers may require.

Draft regulations for Self Directed Services are being completed. Mr. Burton reminded members of his commitment to provide a presentation to this Board that will provide them with a clear picture of what this service will look like and how it will be implemented. Draft regulations for Supported Living Services will also be issued soon. Members were cautioned that they will need to watch this process very carefully and take advantage of the opportunity for public comment.

Finally, Mr. Burton reported that the ARCA meeting had included an excellent presentation on the College of Direct Support by ARC California. This is a tremendously positive effort to find ways to provide and maintain quality care.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss personnel issues, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors