

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 24, 2006

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

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

Board Members

Excused: Bill Dycus  
Chi Lee  
Will Sanford  
Tom Florin  
Becca Loya

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack  
Susan Driggs  
Nancy Kubota  
Maggie Raintree  
Francine Davis  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Sheryl Kuhn  
Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Sharon Hagerty  
Emily Struthers  
Cleo Manspeaker  
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 7:00 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for April 24, 2006 as presented." (Griffin/Sladen) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of March 27, 2006 as presented." (Griffin/Sladen) Unanimous.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Manspeaker reported that she recently participated in the annual CAHR fashion show. This fun event was videotaped and copies can be obtained by contacting the CAHR office. Ms. Manspeaker also announced that the Area Board 5 meeting will take place on Wednesday evening and she will chair the meeting for the evening. She invited everyone present to attend.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee had not met this month and there was no report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for March 2006. There has been a slight change in the POS budget and we are now showing a mid-range projection of \$545,690 but anticipate balanced POS and OPS budgets at year end. Dr. Whitgob reminded members that the POS figures are primarily the result of the freezes on start-up funding and rates and we cannot forget that without the ability to develop new programs, we have consumers who are not receiving needed services.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the Budget and Finance report as presented.” (Griffin/Struthers) Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the current summary of Board composition. Mr. Griffin noted that the Membership Development Committee will direct their recruitment efforts to balance the membership in those areas not in full compliance at this time and will be looking for new members in Alameda County. Members were encouraged to submit names of anyone interested in serving on the Board.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve Membership Development report as presented.” (Griffin/Whitgob) Unanimous.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Mrs. Sladen reported that she had met recently with RCEB staff to examine the work of this committee. This group will now begin meeting to address issues proactively and will start by looking at adult day services.

## PROVIDER VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

## CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that Jim Burton had joined the group and reviewed information from the latest legislative hearings. Members also discussed participation in Grass Roots Day and the Upcoming People First Conference. Ms. Coleman also reported that her group had continued their discussions of the use of the "R" word and the negative impact it has on our community and consumers. The group also agreed to request additional advocacy training through the workshops offered by Protection and Advocacy.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Sheryl Kuhn for Jim Burton

Ms. Kuhn expressed Mr. Burton's apologies for not attending this evening's meeting. Both Mr. Burton and Mr. Sanford were in Sacramento to attend the Assembly Budget Hearing today. Ms. Kuhn reported that the Senate hearing on the Governor's budget for 2006-07 for developmental disabilities issues was held on April 3, 2006. She noted that a summary of the actions taken by the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee had been included in the Board packet and reviewed highlights with the group.

Ms. Kuhn reminded everyone that Grass Roots Day will take place this Wednesday. This will be an excellent opportunity to make our voices heard and to inform legislators and their Sacramento staff of our issues.

Ms. Kuhn reported that the most recent data confirms we now have over 30,000 consumers statewide with a diagnosis of autism. This number is a dramatic contrast to the 2,800 consumers with this diagnosis in 1987. Statewide, 65% of newly diagnosed consumers had a diagnosis of autism the first quarter of this year.

Ms. Kuhn informed the Board that service providers and advocates from the Bay Area continue to make headway in pressing for sufficient rates to meet the employment needs of our consumers. She noted that we appreciated the significant efforts of Tom Heinz of East Bay Innovations in addressing this important issue.

The Agnews closure plan is actively underway. Offers are being made on permanent housing and arrangements are being finalized for the provision of services. A resource fair will be held at Agnews on Friday and Saturday for providers, families and Agnews staff. The projected closure date is now June 2008.

Ms. Kuhn reminded the group that the Board had adopted a plan last month to address the caseload ratio issues at RCEB. Ms. Kuhn reported that the Department of Developmental Services has accepted the plan as submitted. RCEB currently has six case management vacancies giving us an overall caseload ratio of 67.6:1.

Ms. Kuhn reminded everyone that Ms. Manspeaker had made several important suggestions at the previous meeting. She had requested that case managers receive specific training on how to work with persons with a dual diagnosis. Ms. Kuhn reported that a training will be held on this topic at UCLA very soon. Ms. Manspeaker had also requested that crisis workers be required to carry photo identification. Ms. Kuhn was happy to report that she has met with our service provider and this suggestion will be implemented immediately.

Finally, Ms. Kuhn reported that the community forum on disaster preparedness will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the State building in downtown Oakland. This should be a very informative evening and everyone present was encouraged to attend.

#### ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that no ARCA meeting had been scheduled this month. ARCA will be hosting a reception for Senator Chesbro in the Capitol following the Grass Roots Day activities on Wednesday.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief closed session to discuss personnel issues, the meeting was closed in memory of long-time residential care provider, Ken Wheeler. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman  
Secretary  
RCEB Board of Directors