

Board of Directors' Meeting

September 25, 2006

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members  
Present:

Nyron Battles  
Ralph Griffin  
Will Sanford  
Anne Struthers  
Steve Whitgob

Rose Coleman  
Lauri Parks  
Claudia Sladen  
Emily Whitgob

Board Members  
Excused:

Bill Dycus  
Chi Lee  
Carmen Quinones

Tom Florin  
Rebecca Loya  
Theresa Woo

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack  
Susan Driggs  
Nancy Kubota

Jim Burton  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia  
Gabrielle Kastner  
Cleo Manspeaker  
Todd Struthers

Jerry Grace  
Laura Long and attendant  
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 for September 25, 2006 as presented.” (Coleman/Battles) Unanimous.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker presented a piece of her artwork to Mr. Burton as a belated birthday gift.

Rocio Smith presented a plaque to the Board and RCEB staff for their ongoing support of Congreso Familiar. She noted that participants and organizers of the annual event are incredibly grateful for the support provided by RCEB.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that on August 24<sup>th</sup> the Board had hosted a dinner to honor Jim Burton for five years of service to the RCEB community. This very special celebration was shared with Jim’s family, senior staff, current and past board members and close friends and provided a wonderful evening for all in attendance.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for August, 2006. Dr. Whitgob reminded members that the POS projections reflected in the report were based on the C-1 allocation of \$182 million. Preliminary POS projections for the year will be completed following DDS review of the Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) due to DDS in early October. Detailed Operations projections will be completed shortly.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Claudia Sladen and Carmen Quinones have completed their first terms of service and both have indicated a willingness to serve a second term on the board of directors. Following a ballot vote, Mr. Griffin announced that Mrs. Sladen and Ms. Quinones had both been elected to a second three-year term of service.

Mr. Griffin informed members that the Governor had just signed SB 1283 which will allow board members to serve seven years in any eight year period. This

change will go into effect on January 1, 2007 and our by-laws will need to be revised to reflect the change. Current members who are completing their sixth year of service will be contacted to determine if they are willing to serve for a seventh year. The slate of officers for 2007 will be presented at the October meeting of the board.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford thanked Ms. Kubota and her staff for implementing the recent 3% rate increases so quickly. The vendor community is very appreciative of the efforts of the accounting staff in completing this significant project.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that CAC members had a very down to earth presentation on rights by Maria Marquez, the local peer self-advocate for Protection and Advocacy. Members also reviewed the rules of the committee in preparation for the election of new officers next month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that Terri Delgadillo was appointed as the Director of the Department of Developmental Services in early September. We look forward to working with this caring and skilled leader.

Mr. Burton thanked Rocio Smith for her leadership role in the Congreso Familiar event. This conference offers many educational opportunities for Spanish speaking families throughout the day and continues to be one of the most important events of the year.

Mr. Burton acknowledged Mrs. Struthers for her excellent testimony before Senator Perata's Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. Parent testimony was very powerful and the Commission was very clear on the need to take action.

Mr. Burton thanked the accounting staff for the speedy processing of the provider rate increases. He also noted that he appreciated Mr. Sanford's kind words on behalf of local service providers.

Mr. Burton invited all present to join us on October 21<sup>st</sup> for Sheryl Kuhn's retirement event. The evening will be spent in celebration of Sheryl's remarkable career.

Mr. Burton reported that we continue to struggle with case management vacancies and had fourteen open positions at the end of last week. Members were reminded that each vacancy represents sixty families and consumers who

are not receiving appropriate case management services. Our current wages are not enough to support a family in the bay area and it has been sixteen years since our last salary increase through our contract with the State. It is important to remember that providers struggle with the same issue. The 3% provider rate increase was a great start at addressing this critical issue but, at best, is only a beginning.

The Agnews closure plan continues to move forward. Mr. Burton reported that we are now in the process of purchasing our ninth home and contracts have been signed with service providers.

Mr. Burton informed the board that the CADDIS project is still under review and the delays find us facing new challenges. Some regional centers are in need of immediate replacements for their current computer systems. RCEB will receive new equipment in October. Mr. Burton cautioned that it will be important that we not move forward with CADDIS until we are certain the system is working and can meet the needs of regional centers.

Mr. Burton announced that Kristin Thurmond, RCEB's Human Resources Director, has resigned and will stay home with her two young children. Terri Jones has agreed to continue as Interim Director until the position has been filled. Mr. Burton noted that Ms. Thurmond has done an exceptional job for the agency and we wish her the very best. Mark Neiman, RCEB Controller, has also left us to join Kaiser. We continue to work to find qualified professionals to fill these important positions.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Grace questioned how the budget process works. Dr. Whitgob explained that our money comes from our contract with the State. Mr. Grace also asked Mr. Burton about the last salary adjustment for regional center staff. Mr. Burton confirmed that salaries had not been adjusted since 1990.

## ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the ARCA group had met in Sacramento on August 18<sup>th</sup> for their annual awards dinner. Steve Perez has been elected to continue as ARCA President for the coming year. Ms. Struthers told the group that the ARCA meeting had covered an array of critical topics that included CADDIS, AAP rate litigation, service provider audits, self directed services, difficult to serve populations and pending legislation. Ms. Struthers reminded the group that the New Day Conference will be held in February and encouraged everyone to attend this important and exciting event. The next ARCA meeting is scheduled for October 20<sup>th</sup> in San Diego.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman  
Secretary  
RCEB Board of Directors