

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 26, 2007

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present:

Nyron Battles	Rose Coleman
Bill Dycus	Tom Florin
Ralph Griffin	Mike Kuller
Chi Lee	Becca Loya
Lauri Parks	Carmen Quinones
Will Sanford	Anne Struthers
Emily Whitgob	Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria	Mara Bearse
Carol Bohnsack	Mary Brett
Jim Burton	Susan Driggs
Lisa Kleinbub	Nancy Kubota
Marc Sugars	

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia	Gina Jennings
Aria Ligi	Cleo Manspeaker
Rocio Smith	Sondra Stokes
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 Consent Agenda as presented.”
(S. Whitgob/Lee) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker thanked RCEB and the Housing Consortium of the East Bay for their support. Ms. Manspeaker reported that she has found disturbing differences in the services provided by different supported living service agencies. Mr. Burton thanked her for bringing this issue to the attention of the Board and offered to talk to her about her experience with these agencies after the meeting.

Rocio Smith informed the Board that at the last People First meeting it became very clear that many consumers were concerned about the high turnover in case managers. Consumers report that they are not getting the services they need when they don't have a case manager or have a new case manager who is not familiar with them. Ms. Smith noted that it was clear from the Department of Developmental Services report included in this evening's packet that bay area regional centers are having difficulty maintaining staff and it is reasonable to conclude that the high cost of living in this area makes it difficult to recruit staff for the salaries regional centers are able to offer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee had met earlier this month and discussed the caseload ratio and performance contract reports. Mr. Burton has also updated the group on the Agnews closure process.

Mr. Long reminded members that the Board reviews their by-laws at this time each year and members had been asked to review the by-laws and present any suggested changes for discussion this evening. No changes were suggested at this time.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the by-laws as presented.”
(Griffin/Florin) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for February and noted that there is no significant change to the agency's Purchase of Service projection through June 30, 2007. Current expenditures indicate a mid-range projected insufficiency of (\$2,430,471), which is a slight decrease from the mid-range insufficiency projection reported last month. The Operations budget continues to reflect a balanced budget through June 30, 2007.

Dr. Whitgob reminded members that regional centers received only a portion of their base deficit allocations and 19 of the 21 regional centers, including RCEB, are still projecting POS deficiencies. It is important for our community to know that the Administration acknowledges our system as an entitlement program and as such, this is being addressed by the Administration by seeking additional funds from the Legislature. Although it appears the current overall statewide deficiency totals for POS are decreasing, the Administration has an omnibus deficiency bill pending that is believed to be adequate to fund the POS insufficiencies.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin welcomed Mr. Kuller to the Board and introduced him to the group. Mr. Griffin reminded members that the Board will lose seven members in the coming year and we will need to be prepared to fill those positions. Anyone who knows of potential candidates for membership is asked to contact Mr. Griffin. Ms. Garcia offered to inform the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council of our need.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Mary Brett for Claudia Sladen

Ms. Brett reported that the Supports and Services Committee will be reviewing the draft policy on Parent Education. Committee members will also be assisting staff in the review of the RFP for new services that will increase and enhance opportunities for consumers in integrated supported work, new or expanded employment, and increase participation in integrated social, civic, volunteer or recreational activities. The group is finalizing the criteria for visiting and reviewing day program services to ensure there is continuity in looking at the quality of services currently being provided.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group's last meeting included a discussion of the SB 1270 process. Recommendations developed through the community process are available for review on the State Developmental Disabilities Council website. Concern has been expressed that many families have not had an opportunity to see the report and it may have significant impact for them.

Mr. Sanford reminded everyone that the annual legislative breakfast will be on April 20th at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. The focus of this year's event will be health care issues.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that the CAC has now filled their vacant position. She also reported that registration forms for the People First statewide convention have now been distributed. Priority will be given to those who have never attended the convention and those who are active in People First meetings in our area.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that RCEB is struggling to fill nursing and case management positions and currently has 19.5 vacant case management positions. We continue to recruit anywhere and everywhere we can but need to find better sources of referral and are open to any ideas or suggestions. Regional centers have not been funded for a cost of living adjustment for staff salaries since 1990. With fewer people choosing careers in social service, we will need to keep pressing to find a way to address this issue if we are to maintain the quality and consistency of our services.

Mr. Burton distributed the corrected Performance Contract Report from DDS and encouraged members to review the report to see how RCEB compares with other regional centers in the state. The statistics outlined in this report are impressive in terms of the goals met through the work of our staff in spite of our depleted ranks. The full report is available for review on the RCEB website.

Mr. Burton reported that the Alameda County Transition Fair had been a very successful event this year. Both the attendance and spirit of the event were impressive and a small army of volunteers provided and an informative and fun day.

Mr. Burton stated that the Agnews closure project continues to move forward. We are now purchasing our eleventh home and should purchase the remaining four homes by the end of June. Mr. Burton noted that we very much appreciate the efforts of the Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) to find good homes in good neighborhoods. Efforts are also underway to put together good health care plans for the consumers leaving Agnews. We will continue to work closely with families, some of whom have been opposed to the closure, so we can address their concerns and achieve partnerships.

Members were reminded that a number of important legislative events will be held in April. The Senate budget hearing on DDS issues will be held on April 9th and the Assembly hearing will be held on April 11th. There are a number of new legislators this year so it will be interesting to observe the process. ARCA's annual Grass Roots Day will be held on April 18th and Board members were encouraged to participate. This is an important opportunity to remind legislators that the quality and quantity of our services continue to suffer from the cost containment items that remain in place.

Mr. Burton also reminded members that we will need to carefully watch the May Revision process this year. Some legislators are calling for more cuts, more “cost containment”. It will be important to be prepared to generate support when the Deficiency Appropriation Bill comes out.

Mr. Burton announced that our crisis facility for adolescents will open in April. We continue to look for a location for the adult crisis facility. Part of the problem in finding a spot for the adult facility is the increase in NIMBYism. This is happening more and more frequently and is blatant discrimination against persons with developmental disabilities. Mr. Burton reported that we have been working with Alameda County and they have been great partners in dealing with the range of services we provide. Alameda County works consistently to see that persons with dual diagnoses receive treatment. These same people have needed supportive aftercare and some people have needed secure treatment facilities. We are currently working to develop a secure treatment facility for people in severe crisis in the bay area. We have work to do but will have that resource available to us and people will receive the treatment they need.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that she attended an ARCA training that was extremely informative. The next ARCA meeting is scheduled for April 19th and 20th in Sacramento.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors