



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 21, 2007

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members  
Present:

Nyron Battles  
Tom Florin  
Mike Kuller  
Lauri Parks  
Claudia Sladen  
Steve Whitgob

Rose Coleman  
Ralph Griffin  
Chi Lee  
Carmen Quinones  
Emily Whitgob

Board Members  
Excused:

Becca Loya

Anne Struthers

Board Members  
Absent:

Bill Dycus

Will Sanford

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria  
Mary Brett  
Susan Driggs  
Nancy Kubota

Carol Bohnsack  
Jim Burton  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia

Cleo Manspeaker

### 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.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker reported that on May 18<sup>th</sup>, she had been served by the regional center system for 25 years and very much appreciates the support she has received.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee had met this month and spent much of the meeting speculating on items that might be included in the May Revision to the Budget.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for April and noted that our Purchase of Service projections remain on track. The increased insufficiency showing on the report is the result of the unbudgeted minimum wage rate increase. We continue to anticipate full funding for the reported deficit. Our Operations budget shows no significant change and we continue to project a balanced Operations budget at year-end.

Dr. Whitgob reminded members that each year at this time we consider approval of a line of credit to be used in the event the State budget is delayed. If approved, the line of credit is activated only on an as needed basis. At this time, we remain optimistic that there will be no need to activate the line of credit this year.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to authorize RCEB to establish a line of credit with Union Bank of California for approximately \$36 million in the event that the state budget is not passed on time.”  
(E. Whitgob/Kuller) Unanimous.

Dr. Whitgob also informed the Board that members of the Budget and Finance Committee had met with the auditors earlier this evening for a pre-planning audit meeting in preparation for the 2006/2007 audit. This audit review is scheduled to begin next month.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that RCEB's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) had requested Board approval to increase their membership from 14 to 16 members. The Membership Development Committee has recommended that the Board consider approval of expanding the membership to a range of 14 to 18 members to allow the CAC some flexibility in managing their membership totals.

M/S/C            "The Board moves to approve increasing the Consumer Advisory Committee membership to a total range of 14 to 18 members. (Griffin/S. Whitgob) Unanimous.

#### SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Mrs. Sladen reported that she had met with staff to refine the work plan for this committee and had reviewed the plan with committee members earlier this evening. The draft policy on Parent Education will be reviewed at a community meeting in early June and should be ready for Board consideration by the July meeting of the Board.

Ms. Sladen also reported that staff prepared a checklist for committee members and visits to day programs will begin shortly. Committee members will have an opportunity to review what is currently available in day programs as they begin their effort to pull together information on what we hope to see in day programs in the future.

#### PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Jim Burton for Will Sanford

Mr. Burton reported that in addition to the usual budget discussions, the PVAC meeting included a helpful presentation on innovative ways to provide services to difficult to serve consumers, in particular those with a dual diagnosis. Mr. Burton noted that we should be proud to know that the East Bay is ahead of many other areas of the country in providing quality services to this special population.

#### CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman informed the group that Disability Capitol Action Day will take place on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and is being sponsored by Community Resources for Independent Living. The event is open to anyone with a disability and will include an education forum, march to the Capitol and legislative visits. A good turnout is expected for the important event.

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

Mr. Burton reported that the May revision to the budget had been released on May 14<sup>th</sup> with very few changes for our system. The May Revise contains no additional cuts for us and no relief from previous cuts. The administration has proposed continuing all cost containment reductions in place since 2003.

Members were reminded that continued cost containment reductions will leave consumers without needed services. The May Revise also includes proposals to delay the implementation of self-directed services and potential resolution to the longstanding battle over the adoption assistance program rates.

Mr. Burton noted that two key issues impacting persons with developmental disabilities will need to be resolved in the budget process. The May Revise proposed suspension of the SSI/SSP COLA. This action would have a very serious impact on consumers living independently. We are hopeful that legislators will continue to support this COLA as they have in the past. A freeze on the state portion of IHSS wage rates is back in the latest budget proposal. Budget hearings will be held this week and are expected to move very quickly. Any unresolved issues will go to conference committee after the budget hearings. Mr. Burton acknowledged that we are very fortunate to have Senator Perata as part of the conference committee since he is familiar with our system and the needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Regional centers continue to project a system wide Purchase of Service deficit in the current fiscal year totaling \$37 million. This deficiency was projected early in the year and was recognized as necessary services identified in current IPPs. We expect an omnibus deficiency bill to be introduced in early June.

Mr. Burton reported that there were legislative hearings throughout the month of April and much of the focus was on the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. Unfortunately, this intense scrutiny has taken the focus away from other pressing issues. We will need to work at educating legislators on the needs of all consumers.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that the Agnews closure plan continues to move forward. At this point we have purchased most of the homes and staff is being hired and trained. Efforts continue to finalize a comprehensive healthcare plan to provide quality services to the consumers leaving Agnews.

Members were reminded that we have been struggling with position vacancies but have made some progress. We currently have nine case management openings and continue to work on retention by providing training, mentoring and support to staff.

Mr. Burton distributed and reviewed a chart outlining components contributing to expenditure growth in the developmental disabilities service system over the last seven years. This chart is a valuable tool in understanding the growth in our budget.

Mr. Burton reported that retroactive rate increases from the state have created challenges for our accounting staff. It has been necessary for our staff to put in many additional hours of work in order to make the manual changes needed to

process the rate changes. Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Kubota and her staff for their significant efforts.

Mr. Burton reminded members that our Early Intervention staff just participated in an extensive audit review and evidence of our collaboration in both counties was something we can be very proud of. Wanda Davis and her Early Intervention staff did an outstanding job and deserve tremendous appreciation. Early reports indicate that this was a very positive review.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that AB 1427 (Krekorian) was moving forward and urged members to review the information provided in their packets. Mr. Burton agreed to arrange an educational presentation for members on this controversial bill.

Everyone present was reminded that the joint Developmental Disabilities Councils dinner will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek. Mr. Burton announced that Nancy Kubota will be honored with a lifetime achievement award at the event.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

There was no ARCA report this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman  
Secretary  
RCEB Board of Directors