



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 23, 2007

Presiding: Richard Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Tom Florin
Mike Kuller Becca Loya
Carmen Quinones Will Sanford
Anne Struthers Emily Whitgob
Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Rose Coleman Bill Dycus
Ralph Griffin Chi Lee
Lauri Parks Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:

Jim Burton Bill Barbaria
Mary Brett Francine Davis
Susan Driggs Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia Gina Jennings
Cleo Manspeaker Rocio Smith
Todd Struthers Sharon White

CALL TO ORDER:

President Richard 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 as presented"
(Struthers/Whitgob). Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Manspeaker shared a video on Supported Employment, and informed the Board of her hope to join a job enclave soon. Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Manspeaker for sharing the video and will discuss Supported Employment Services further with the Executive Committee in September.

Ms. White shared with the Board her concerns of the lack of adult programs for persons with autism. Ms. White has used RCEB services since her son was 12 years old. She informed the Board of a program called the College Internship Program in Berkeley, www.berkshirecenter.org. Ms. White expressed concerns regarding the length of time it takes to get new services vendored and wondered if appropriate services will be available when her son needs it next year. She has been working with her case manager and community services staff. Mr. Burton will look into this and assured Ms. White that the agency will do its best to keep things moving along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Richard Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee discussed membership and recruitment needs. Other Executive Committee discussion topics will be covered in the Executive Director's report. Mr. Long introduced Francine Davis to report on unmet service needs. Ms. Davis reported that one of the challenges and priorities this year was to address the needs of individuals with autism. A new committee was formed at RCEB called "Autism Resource Development Group" whose focus is to look at new and better ways to serve persons with autism in our community. Ms. Davis noted that it does take time to get new resources developed due to the current rate freeze and start up funding to develop new resources. Start up funding has been frozen for over 5 years and it is very difficult to find resources to provide the services that Regional Center consumers need. RCEB staff will continue to communicate with our community, work with our service providers, and carefully look at other service models. Ms. Davis noted staff is also looking at services to serve our aging population. In August, there will be Transportation Community Forums for service providers and transportation companies to help develop solutions to better serve our consumers and improve transportation services. Mr. Burton noted that in spite of barriers, such as the freeze on start up funding and rates, RCEB has managed to put together some new outstanding services.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Mr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the financial status report for June 2007. It was noted that staff is still in the process of year-end closing for accounting purposes, therefore some operations expenses are not fully reflected in the status report. RCEB currently projects a Purchase of Service best-case projection of (\$2,752,107) and a worst-case projection of (\$3,977,757). The Governor recently signed the deficiency appropriation bill, and DDS will be processing the additional allocations to cover Regional Center expenditures. RCEB should be receiving a contract amendment shortly, and the anticipated allocation should fully cover our estimated expenditures for Fiscal Year 06-07 that will result in the agency ending with a balanced POS budget at year-end. Mr. Whitgob noted that our projected Purchase of Services expenditures were

within the range that we expected we would be at year end. The operations budget will end with a balanced budget at year end.

Mr. Whitgob reported the California State Budget for Fiscal Year 07-08 has not been signed as of this date therefore Regional Centers still have not received their 07-08 Contract allocation. Due to great effort by ARCA and DDS, Regional Centers recently received a one time interim cash payment based on July 2007 claims to help Regional Centers with their cash flow. RCEB has sufficient cash to cover expenses through August 31, 2007 without accessing our line of credit. If the State budget is signed prior to August 31, 2007, there will be no need for RCEB to use the line of credit that was approved by the Board in May. Mr. Burton will provide a detailed update on the status of the State budget in his report.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

No report

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported the group discussed the status of the unsigned 07-08 State budget. Also, the PVAC group had a speaker on how to attract and motivate staff recruitment and retention. Discussion on this topic followed the speaker. Mr. Sanford announced the upcoming Congresso Familiar family conference will be held on 9/22/07 at Chabot College. Mr. Burton conveyed his appreciation to the PVAC group and the two Developmental Disabilities Councils on their collaboration on transportation issues and working with the transportation companies.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles for Rose Coleman

Mr. Battles reported that a 2nd letter to the radio station has been sent to advise them that a continued lack of response from the station will generate a complaint to the FCC. The radio station still continues to use an offensive word to persons with developmental disabilities and the group has repeatedly requested the radio station stop using the word. The Consumer Advisory Committee will have their annual team building event at an A's game on 8/27/07. Mr. Battles reported Mr. Burton gave a report to the group on the current budget situation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported the California State Budget is still not signed. The Assembly passed a budget last Friday and it was expected that the Senate would do the same by this weekend. The next scheduled hearing on the Senate floor is this Wednesday, July 25, 2007. An important issue in the Assembly version of the Budget for persons with developmental disabilities was the compromise agreement to postpone the Cost of Living adjustment for SSI recipients scheduled for January 2008, to May 2008. The Assembly also agreed to the Administration's proposal to use \$1.3 billion Public Transit funds for other purposes including funding regional center transportation costs. No other budget cuts were included for our system.

Mr. Burton also reported the prior year Purchase of Services budget deficiency has been resolved. SB100 was passed by the legislators and signed by the Governor. It provides for a \$62.8M deficiency appropriation, \$28M of which is from State General Funds. A substantial portion of this deficiency is the result of insufficient budgeting for the Minimum Wage pass through increase, and rate increases for service providers. The contract amendments are being processed, as we speak, so that regional centers can claim reimbursement for expenditures.

Mr. Burton reported the cash flow impact of these State Budget delays has been minimal so far because the Department of Developmental Services successfully acquired \$200M of the \$2 billion Medi-Cal fund to cover estimated July 2007 expenses. RCEB has already received our share of these funds, \$15.8M. This combined with quick processing of our contract amendment and claim for prior year expenses should provide sufficient funds for us through August 2007 without having to use our line of credit. However, the \$2 billion Medi-Cal fund is now exhausted leaving no other cash flow alternatives but the passage of the State Budget. The cash flow impact on ICF Facilities and State Developmental Center is not known at this point.

Mr. Burton announced the Department of Developmental Services has 2 new staff, Mark Hutchinson, Chief Deputy Director, and Mareva Brown, Deputy Director of Communications. Mr. Burton reported he had an opportunity to meet with both of them last week at the ARCA meeting and they were welcomed to our service system. Both are committed to making a difference to persons with developmental disabilities. Ms. Terri Delgadillo, Director of DDS, indicated she is relieved to have additional help in running a large and complex state department.

Emergency Preparedness continues to be a high priority issue for the Department. Regional Centers were each issued a satellite phone for emergencies. Additionally, the Department has purchased and intends to distribute 7,500 emergency go kits to consumers who live independently or have a Supported Living arrangement.

Mr. Burton reported the autism continues to grow at an extraordinary rate. Over 60% of the net growth in consumers for Regional Centers have a diagnosis of autism. There have been 961 new cases of autism diagnosed statewide from April to June, 2007. Regional Centers serve more individuals with a diagnosis of autism than with Cerebral Palsy. The Blue Ribbon Commission is working hard and has been conducting many hearings throughout the state to address this issue in public policy. Formal recommendations by the Commission are expected by 9/30/07.

Mr. Burton reported that the Unified Plan is proceeding well, and all of RCEB's 15 total Unified Plan homes have now been purchased. Service Providers are hiring and training staff. RCEB is working with DDS and the Alameda Alliance for Health to secure Health Care plans for Agnews consumers who will be placed in our community.

AB1427 is in suspense in the Senate and could make it to the Governor. The bill continues to be very controversial. There is no formal position from the Administration on this bill.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

There is a new President of the ARCA board: Tressa Oliveri from Orange County Regional Center. 2 upcoming conferences are being sponsored by ARCA: Mental Health conference in August 2007, and Compassionate Care-End of Life Conference in October 2007. ARCA had their annual Dinner, in which Diane Van Maren and Peggy Collins were honored with awards for their lifelong contributions to our service system,

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment at this time

ADJOURNMENT: Richard Long

Mr. Long announced this will be the last meeting for board members, Emily Whitgob and Becca Loya. Both are planning to relocate to the East Coast to attend school. Mr. Long thanked both Ms. Whitgob and Ms. Loya for their time, energy and contributions to the Board. They will be missed by all. Ms. Davis also thanked both Ms. Whitgob and Ms. Loya for their hard work and coordination of the successful ESCAPE training.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors