



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 24, 2007

Presiding: Richard Long

Board Members

Present:

Rose Coleman
Tom Florin
Mike Kuller
Carmen Quinones
Steve Whitgob

Bill Dycus
Ralph Griffin
Chi Lee
Anne Struthers

Board Members

Excused:

Nyron Battles
Will Sanford

Lauri Parks
Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:

Jim Burton
Mary Brett
Lisa Kleinbub
Marc Sugars

Bill Barbaria
Francine Davis
Nancy Kubota

Guests Present:

Shana Cohen
Sharon Hagerty
Cleo Manspeaker
Todd Struthers

Barbara Garcia
Gina Jennings
Rocio Smith
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"
(Kuller/Whitgob). Unanimous.

Mr. Long noted there are no minutes from the July 23, 2007 meeting due to the absence of Susan Driggs. Susan and her family recently suffered a terrible tragedy. The Board's thoughts and prayers are with Susan. At this time, Mr. Long requested the Board start with the Supports and Service Committee that will present a draft policy on "Family Training Services" for the Board's review. Ms. Francine Davis presented the policy in place of Claudia Sladen. Ms. Davis explained the family training services draft policy was developed to address the growing number of parents and family members requesting educational and training opportunities to enhance their knowledge in their children's disabilities. Currently, all requests for this service must be submitted to the RCEB exception committee; the proposed policy will establish a consistent procedure and guideline for case management staff and a simplified process for approval of family training requests. Comments from the board included: 1) the "per family" language may be too restrictive and is unclear on whether it allows both parents to benefit from training opportunities, 2) there is no funding amount cap on conference/seminar fees. It was explained that Regional Centers cannot establish a dollar amount cap on services.

M/S/C "The Board move to approve the draft policy as presented but recognizing that it will be taken back to the Supports and Services Committee for revisions, and the Committee will apprise the Board of any changes" (Griffin/Whitgob). Motion was not unanimous but carried on a vote of 8 ayes, 1 no, and 0 abstention.

It was announced that Claudia Sladen could not attend this evening's board meeting due to her son's injury due to an auto accident. The Board's thoughts are with her during this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Manspeaker brought flowers for Ms. Driggs. Mr. Burton assured Ms. Manspeaker that her flowers will be given to Susan. Mr. Burton conveyed a message from Ms. Driggs thanking the Board and the community for their love, support and condolences.

Ms. White asked if training and support resources information could be disseminated via posting on the RCEB website or sent to families as a notice. Ms. White stated that families would like to be updated on available resource information. Mr. Burton assured Ms. White that the agency is currently working to update our website, and providing updated information for families is a primary goal for the agency.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Richard Long

Mr. Long reported the Executive Committee did not meet this month.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Mr. Whitgob reported the Budget and Finance Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year 07-08 1st amendment budget allocation. Staff is still working on Fiscal Year 07-08 Purchase of Service projection which is due to DDS in mid October, 2007, therefore the monthly financial status report (for August 2007) was modified for tonight's meeting. Mr. Whitgob reported the Budget and Finance Committee was given a short summary of the current year budget allocation:

The Fiscal Year 07-08 D-1 budget allocation for Non-Community Placement Plan Purchase of Services is approximately \$200M. As a comparison, RCEB received \$182M for the 1st amendment budget allocation for Fiscal Year 06-07.

By October 18, staff will have completed a preliminary Sufficiency of Allocation Report. This report will be the basis of our 07-08 Purchase of Service expenditure and growth projection through June 30, 2008. If RCEB shows a deficiency in our base funding, additional funding may be allocated by DDS to the extent that funds are available. The Sufficiency of Allocation Report will be jointly reviewed by DDS and ARCA starting in November 2007. Community Placement Plans (Unified Plan-Agnews and Regular Community Placement Plan) were funded in accordance to the plans the Center submitted to DDS.

The D-1 budget allocation for Non Community Placement Plan Operations total approximately \$29.2 M (compared to \$28.6M last year). The increase in operations is due to growth in RCEB's consumer caseload; approximately 540 **net** new consumers over the past fiscal year (7/01/06-6/30/07). Additionally, Regional Centers, as a system, received no new or additional 07-08 funding as there were no new initiatives or mandates provided for Regional Center operations. The unallocated reductions which were put into Regional Centers' budgets in years past remain in our allocation.

Mr. Whitgob reported staff has completed preliminary operation projections for F/Y 07-08, and a detailed operations projection will be completed shortly

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported the F/Y 07-08 slate for the Executive Board will be presented at the 10/22/07 Board Meeting. Mr. Griffin noted there are some vacancies on the Board due to the relocation of Ms. Emily Whitgob and Ms. Becca Loya to the East Coast.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Jim Burton for Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford is currently attending a conference. Mr. Burton will cover the items discussed at the PVAC meeting in his Executive Director report.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that Mr. Burton gave his budget report to the group. There are current 3 vacancies on the Consumer Advisory Committee. CAC discussed the delay in the SSI pass through (originally expected in January 2008 but has been postponed until May 2008), and the impact the delay will have on people who are on a limited income.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton welcomed the Board back after the summer break. He regretfully announced that on top of Susan's tragic loss of her son in a home fire, Susan recently broke her wrist and is scheduled for surgery. She expects to return to work in 2-3 weeks. Mr. Burton thanked to the Board and the Community for their extraordinary support to Susan and her family.

Mr. Burton reported the current year budget was signed 2 months late. The delay seriously impacted Intermediate Care Facilities, Skilled Nursing Facilities, and Health Clinics. Although RCEB did not need to borrow, the agency lost 2 months of budget planning time and interest revenue. The agency was days away from borrowing and we were setting up meetings with our bank. The SSI/SSP Cost of Living increase has been delayed 5 months. Budget cuts for Mental Health and Medi-Cal services were made. The current year budget also contains Trailer Bill language requiring DDS to report on costs containment measures. The report is due to State legislators on October 1, 2007. There are ominous signs for next year's budget; the estimated State deficiency is \$6.1 Billion and climbing.

Mr. Burton gave an update on AB1427 which was approved by both the Senate and Assembly. This is a controversial bill and is currently on the Governor's desk. There are indications that there is a 70% chance of the bill getting vetoed, however much lobbying is taking place on both sides. The bill was amended and no longer names specific Regional Centers to participate. It allows DDS to choose 6 regional centers to pilot this project, and any service providers may volunteer to participate. Mr. Burton directed the Board to their packet for the latest version of AB1427.

Mr. Burton reported Assemblyman Jim Beall, Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, and who represents the San Jose area, will hold informational hearings focused on updating and strengthening the Lanterman Act. The hearings are set for October 24, 2007 in Sacramento, and on November 16, 2007 in San Jose. There will be a yet-to-be scheduled hearing in Los Angeles. There is concern with regard to the timing of these hearings, particularly with the sizable projected deficit for next fiscal year.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism met on September 18, 2007. A draft report of recommendations was sent to the Legislature and the Governor, and will be released shortly for comments. This is an important report and there has been much press on its release. The Commission worked very hard to develop good, solid recommendations. Summaries of the recommendations are included in the board packet. Meanwhile, autism continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. There are 12 new diagnoses of autism per day in the State.

Mr. Burton reported there are 2 local events occurring this weekend. 1) Congresso Familiar is an outstanding event organized by parents for monolingual Spanish speaking families and consumers. 800 participants are expected with 70 workshops planned. 2) The Joey Travolta Film Camp for teens with autism will have a "red carpet" film premier on Saturday. Mr. Burton thanked Gina Jennings, Francine Davis and Kara Barber for their efforts in making sure this camping opportunity was made available to our community.

Mr. Burton announced Nancy Gardner, Executive Director, North Bay Regional Center will be leaving NBRC to work as the Executive Director for "Guidedogs for the Blind". Ms. Gardner has been the Executive Director of NBRC for 15 years. Also, Mr. Burton sadly announced the passing of 2 great advocates for people with developmental disabilities: Ms. Vera Hollings, self advocate and a member of Peoples First, and Mr. Dan Collins, a parent and former board chair of Golden Gate Regional Center. Mr. Collins and his wife were featured in the "We're here to speak for Justice" video as one of the parent advocates who pushed for legislation to establish regional centers

RCEB received the final joint Department of Developmental Services' and Department of Health Services' report on our Medicaid Waiver functions. The report was very positive. Medicaid Waiver brings in hundreds of millions of federal funding for services. Mr. Burton stated he is particularly proud of our success in achieving high marks in 3 major State reviews: Medicaid Waiver review, Early Start review and Fiscal Audit, despite our struggles to recruit sufficient case managers. Although RCEB has made extraordinary efforts, the recruitment of Case Managers continues to be a challenge. The agency has 540 net new consumers to serve and this amounts to 9 new Case Management positions to fill. However, there are currently 9 Case Managers vacancies, which will bring our vacancies to 18 Case Managers positions. The agency is looking and exploring innovative ways of recruiting staff.

Mr. Burton asked for the Board's attention and consideration to the published article included in the board packet. The article is called "Multidisciplinary Approach to Optimizing Pharmacological and Behavioral Intervention" for people with developmental disabilities on psychotropic medications. RCEB staff Dr. Weihe Huang and Ms. Lisa Kleinbub co-authored the article.

Mr. Burton distributed DVD copies of Ms. Manspeaker's Supported Employment video to the Board. Mr. Burton announced the Community Meeting for Area Board V will be held on September 26, 2007 at 1000 Broadway, 5th floor, 7:00pm The Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council meeting will be held on September 26, 2007 at the RCEB Concord office at 9:30 am.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ARCA REPORT-Anne Struthers

The next ARCA meeting will be held on October 19, 2007 in San Diego

ADJOURNMENT: Richard Long

Mr. Long asked for a moment of silence for James Driggs, Vera Hollings and Dan Collins, who each in their own way, contributed much to the Developmental Disabilities community. Mr. Long requested Board members stay for a Closed Session of the Board to discuss a Real Estate Issue.

Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors