

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 25, 2008

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present: Nyrón Battles Shana Cohen
Rose Coleman Tom Florin
Chi Lee Dick Long
Carmen Quinones Will Sanford
Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Bill Dycus Mike Kuller
Lauri Parks Claudia Sladen
Anne Struthers

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria Carol Bohnsack
Mary Brett Jim Burton
Francine Davis Susan Driggs
Terri Jones Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Lisa Kleinbub Nancy Kubota
John Rodriguez Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Patricia Albeño Sean Buran
Tara Buran Ronald Clay
Barbara Garcia Gina Jennings
Cleo Manspeaker Rocio Smith

CALL TO ORDER

President, Ralph Griffin, 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 agenda for February 25, 2008 as presented.” (Whitgob/Long) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of November 26, 2007 and January 28, 2007 as presented.” (Long/Lee) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker thanked RCEB and Futures Explored for making it possible for her to have an apartment and a job.

Ronald Clay announced that he is a mentor who supports people living on their own and asked everyone present to refer any consumers who might benefit from his support.

Tara Buran, the parent of a 7 year old daughter with autism, stated that she would like to join the Board in order to help others access appropriate services for their children. Mr. Griffin thanked her for her interest and let her know that staff would provide her with an application.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin and Mr. Burton reminded members that they had approved the Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees Retirement System and RCEB at the January meeting of the Board. In order to implement the improvement to RCEB's CalPERS retirement benefit, final approval of the Board would be necessary.

M/S/C “The Board moves to provide the final approval of the Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees' Retirement System and the Board of Directors of the Regional Center of the East Bay.” (Battles/Whitgob) Unanimous.

Mr. Burton referred members to their packets for information on the proposed program implementation of Self-Directed Services. This program has been piloted in five regional center areas and is now in law to be implemented in California. Members were informed that this has been brought forward as a cost containment proposal and it is very close to time to move forward with Self Directed Services. This project can provide a tremendous opportunity for

consumer choice but must be implemented appropriately. One concern is that consumers moving into the SDS program will require a higher degree of involvement by the regional center case manager and no provisions have been made to lower caseloads to allow for the successful implementation of the project. Mr. Griffin reported there would be a full discussion of the proposed SDS program at the April ARCA meeting. Members were asked to carefully review the information in their packets and check the Department of Developmental Services website for detailed information on the SDS project. The subject will be discussed further at the March meeting of the RCEB Board and members will be asked to provide Mr. Griffin and Mr. Burton direction for the ARCA meeting discussions.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob for Mike Kuller

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for January 2008. Dr. Whitgob reported that RCEB is now projecting that POS expenditures will fall within a range of \$1,318,849 surplus to a deficit of <\$350,779> following the D-2 contract funding. RCEB staff will continue to carefully monitor our POS projections. RCEB continues to project a balanced Operations budget. Members were informed that a Department of Developmental Services audit team will begin their review of RCEB records on March 3rd and are expected to be on site for four to five weeks.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reminded members that his committee had interviewed Hilda Mariscal and Patricia Albeño and placed both names into nomination at the January meeting of the Board. Following a ballot election, Mr. Griffin announced that both had been elected.

Mr. Griffin also reported that his committee had interviewed Ronald Clay and his name was placed into nomination for election at the March meeting of the Board of Directors.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group's meeting included a presentation by RCEB staff on special incident reporting and we are looking at a simpler and more streamlined reporting system.

Mr. Sanford reviewed newly introduced legislation that should be watched, including AB 2424 (Beall), SB 1317 (Steinberg) and SB 1687 (Negrete-McLeod).

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton had attended the last meeting of his group and reviewed and discussed the latest state budget proposals.

Mr. Battles also reported that his group has spent much time discussing how participants would be chosen for this year's annual People First Conference. The group has agreed that this year there will be a simple lottery so all applicants will have an equal chance to be chosen.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that significant budget actions have taken place with the Legislature approving and the Governor signing bills implementing many of the proposals made by the Governor in January. The only significant cut proposed for our system and not yet acted upon by the Legislature was the 10% cut to Supported Employment rates. The Legislature has agreed to make permanent all the temporary cost containment measures from previous years. These include rate freezes, start-up freezes, case management caseload ratios of 1:66 and intake and assessment timelines of 120 days. The Family Cost Participation Program has been expanded to include children from birth to 3 years of age. The fee schedule for FCPP has been set to a higher income range and the sunset provision has been removed. There is also agreement to expand the rate freeze to cover all service providers. These cuts are very significant and virtually all in place at this time but the state continues to face a substantial deficit.

Mr. Burton also reported that other services for persons with developmental disabilities were cut very seriously. A 10% cut in Medi-Cal provider rates has been approved. This cut does not include ICF rates nor did the legislature approve the Governor's proposal to eliminate "optional" benefits such as adult dental services. No action has been taken on the Governor's proposed cuts to IHSS. The SSI COLA has been suspended for 5 months and not eliminated as was proposed by the Governor.

Following all of these actions the Legislative Analyst's Office issued a report indicating the state may have a larger deficit, \$16 billion, than projected by the Administration. It is clear that a very significant deficit remains to be addressed and we are all facing a long and difficult spring with no easy answers at hand. Mr. Burton encouraged everyone who could to attend budget hearings and let legislators know what cuts will mean to people with developmental disabilities. No dates have been set for hearings but we will keep this community informed as information becomes available.

Mr. Burton reminded everyone that ARCA is sponsoring Grass Roots Day on March 5th with a reception at the end of the day for Senator Steinberg. Mr.

Burton emphasized the importance of our participation and being there to interact with legislators and their staff.

Mr. Burton reported that we are watching important pending legislation. SB 1175 (Steinberg) would extend the BAHP concept to allow the purchase of homes for the permanent use of persons with developmental disabilities. SB 1563 (Perata/Steinberg) would provide health coverage for persons with a diagnosis of autism.

Mr. Burton reported that the Agnews closure plan continues to move forward and we have now completed construction on 8 of our 15 homes. Consumers and family members continue to be extremely pleased with the new homes. Mr. Burton thanked Carol Bohnsack and her staff for their continued efforts on behalf of consumers and families and noted that we can expect to see some of the finest services in our system when the project has been completed.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that we continue to make progress in filling vacant case management positions but the progress has been slow and we continue to struggle with inadequate staffing. RCEB had 15 vacancies at the beginning of the year and added 7 new positions for growth giving us a total of 22 vacant case management positions. Today we have 10 vacant positions but that leaves 660 consumers and families that are not being appropriately served by our agency. We will continue our efforts to find ways to fill these positions with qualified staff. Mr. Burton also reported that our annual caseload report is due to DDS and the Legislature and RCEB will not meet the caseload ratios required in law, as is the case with many regional centers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Buran stated that she saw a need for a parent like herself on this Board and would love to help advocate for services in Sacramento.

Barbara Garcia distributed registration forms for the Alameda County Transition Information Faire to be held on March 15th and thanked RCEB for their support of this important event. Ms. Garcia also provided Mr. Battles with a letter of support from the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council for the CAC's efforts with the radio station issue.

Rocio Smith announced that the Area Board 5 meeting would be held in Concord this week.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin invited all present to participate in ARCA's annual Grass Roots Day event. Final planning information will be available later this week. The next ARCA meeting will be held in mid-April in southern California. Mr. Griffin urged

members to come to the next meeting prepared to discuss this agency's position on Self Determination Services.

Mr. Griffin noted that this evening we would say good-bye to several members of our Board and thanked them for their many hours of hard work and contributions to this community. Bill Dycus, Tom Florin, Anne Struthers and Steve Whitgob have each served on this Board for 7 years. A plaque was presented to each in honor of their significant contributions.

Mr. Griffin also thanked Dick Long for his outstanding performance as president of this Board and thanked him for 7 years of remarkably dedicated service. Mr. Burton acknowledged that Mr. Long has lead this Board with incredible integrity and it has been an honor to work with him. Mr. Long was presented with a crystal gavel in honor of his extraordinary leadership and many contributions to the RCEB community.

Mr. Long thanked the Board and stated that being on this Board and seeing the group work and grow together has been a fantastic experience. As a parent of someone served by this regional center, Mr. Long said he has continued to be impressed by RCEB's remarkable staff and will miss his work with the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors