

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 24, 2008

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Patricia Albeño	Nyron Battles
	Shana Cohen	Mike Kuller
	Hilda Mariscal	Lauri Parks
	Carmen Quinones	Will Sanford

Board Members

Excused:	Rose Coleman	Chi Lee
	Claudia Sladen	

Staff Present:	Bill Barbaria	Carol Bohnsack
	Mary Brett	Jim Burton
	Francine Davis	Susan Driggs
	Terri Jones	Lisa Kleinbub
	Nancy Kubota	Marc Sugars

Guests Present:	Ronald Clay	Barbara Garcia
	Gina Jennings	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 3/24/08 and the minutes of 2/25/08 as presented." (Kuller/Parks) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker announced that Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year and she will appear in their anniversary video. She invited everyone present to attend the celebration on May 14th but reminded the group there would be a charge for joining the festivities.

PRESENTATION: Self Directed Services

Mary Brett, RCEB Director of Consumer Services, reviewed the history and concept of Self Directed Services as a cost containment measure. She discussed with the board the process for implementing the project and the challenges expected in successfully providing this new service.

Mr. Griffin reminded members that tremendous efforts have been put into making this project work in California but there continue to be a range of issues that must be addressed prior to implementation. This board will continue discussions and review of our capability to effectively provide this service until implementation is imminent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin referred members to their packets for review of the by-laws and asked for suggested changes. Mr. Sanford suggested reviewing the board capacity outlined in the by-laws and asked we review the by-laws to ensure they clearly reflect the board's responsibility in terms of open and closed meetings. Mr. Griffin referred these suggestions to the Executive Committee for further review.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for February 2008. Mr. Kuller reported that there has been no significant change since last month and RCEB is projecting a balanced POS budget with POS expenditures falling within a range of \$1,670,081 surplus to a deficit of <\$331,913>. We continue to project a balanced Operations budget for this fiscal year. RCEB staff will continue to carefully monitor projections for both budgets.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reminded members that Ronald Clay had been interviewed by his committee and his name placed into nomination for board membership at the February meeting. Following a ballot election, Mr. Griffin reported that Mr. Clay was unanimously elected to a three year term of service.

Mr. Griffin reported that we still have several vacancies on the board and encouraged community members to refer candidates.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE: Jim Burton for Claudia Sladen

Mr. Burton reported that this group has not met. Mrs. Sladen has been spending time getting acquainted with her new twin granddaughters and will be returning to her board activities shortly.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group had reviewed training resources and opportunities for staff. This committee continues their efforts to share information and ideas among service providers.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that his group is preparing for this year's People First Conference. This year's participants will be chosen by lottery. CAC members also had a presentation from Maria Marquez from Protection and Advocacy on the various kinds of abuse encountered by persons with developmental disabilities and how to respond and ways to seek help. Mr. Battles also reported that there has still been no response from the radio station but CAC members are very grateful for the support of the Alameda DD Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the State budget situation remains unchanged since our last meeting. Members were reminded that most cuts for our service system have already been agreed to and signed into law. The proposed 10% cut in Supported Employment rates is still a significant outstanding issue. Hearings will begin on April 17th and we can expect a long and difficult spring and summer as the State moves through the budget process.

Mr. Burton thanked the board for their support of Grass Roots Day. This important annual event was held on March 5th and RCEB again had excellent board member participation. RCEB was represented this year by Nyron Battles, Rose Coleman, Anne and Todd Struthers, Lauri Parks and her family and Ralph Griffin. Mr. Burton reported that we were able to visit every RCEB legislator's office this year. The simple but consistent message delivered at each visit was that the regional center system is feeling serious, negative impacts to our service delivery capability due to the ongoing cost containment measures, such as service provider rate freezes, high service coordinator to consumer case load ratios and the extended intake and assessment timeline. The common message to our group from legislators was that taxes and revenues need to be part of the

solution to the budget deficit. This is clearly the most serious deficit California has seen in several decades and it will be important to find good resolutions.

Mr. Burton reported that he returned to the Capitol on March 10th to observe the Woman of the Year event that annually honors women throughout the state. This year honors were awarded to Rocio Smith by Assemblymember Loni Hancock and to Norma Griffin by Assemblymember Mark De Saulnier. This was a remarkable day honoring a very impressive group of women.

Mr. Burton announced the annual East Bay Legislative Breakfast will be held on April 18th. This year's guest speaker will be Peggy Collins and her presentation will focus on the Agnews Closure Plan.

Mr. Burton reported that the Agnews Closure Plan is moving along very well. With 8 of the 15 homes completed, 5 homes are licensed and placements are occurring on a daily basis. All placements are being done carefully and meticulously and are going very well. A San Francisco Chronicle reporter has been following a placement in our Castro Valley home and the article should be very positive. What we are seeing from the tremendous efforts that have gone into the Agnews Closure Plan is that people are getting good homes in our community and consumers and families are pleased. It is expected that there are less than 10 people at Agnews for whom Sonoma Developmental Center placements are being considered and this is clearly a great sign of success.

Mr. Burton encouraged the board to follow pending legislation that will be important to our service system. SB 1175 (Steinberg) will expand the Bay Area Housing Plan model to other regional center consumers statewide. This bill is being heard in the Assembly tomorrow. AB 2424 (Beall) would expand employment and community participation opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities. A summary of this legislation was distributed to board members and guests.

Mr. Burton informed the board that the California Autism Foundation (CAF), one of our largest programs, is struggling financially and programmatically. The founder and director of CAF is on leave and their board has appointed temporary leadership. This program serves over 300 people with developmental disabilities and RCEB staff will be monitoring their situation carefully. Mr. Burton acknowledged that the problems being faced by CAF are a sign of the stresses and strains of extended rate freezes. The board will be kept informed of the status of this program.

Mr. Burton reported that RCEB continues to make progress in addressing the issue of case management vacancies. We currently have 10 vacant positions but have added 9 new positions this year. Board members were informed that again this year, RCEB was unable to meet all of the caseload requirements under the law.

Mr. Burton announced that Congreso Familiar 2008 will be held on August 16th at Chabot College in Hayward. This very special event always provides participants with a rewarding and remarkable day. Information on the event was distributed to the group.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker shared that she was frightened during last week's earthquake centered in Dublin and urged RCEB to stay focused on disaster preparedness.

Rocio Smith announced that a disaster preparedness training will be held in San Francisco and providers will be able to receive continuing education units.

Gina Jennings announced that the annual joint Developmental Disabilities Councils' dinner will be held on May 29th at the Radisson Hotel in Dublin. Dr. Allen Wong of the University of the Pacific dental program will be this year's keynote speaker.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that the next ARCA meeting will be held in mid-April in Southern California.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burton requested a moment of silence in memory of Cliff Silva, a long-time East Bay disability services advocate. The meeting was adjourned in honor of Mr. Silva at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors