

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 27, 2009

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Patricia Albeno	Nyron Battles
	Ronald Clay	Shana Cohen
	Kathy Hebert	Mike Kuller
	Chi Lee	Donald Morris
	Carmen Quinones	Will Sanford
	Claudia Sladen	Anne Struthers

Board Members

Excused:	Hilda Mariscal	Lauri Parks
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Staff Present:	Carol Bohnsack	Jim Burton
	Terri Jones	Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
	Lisa Kleinbub	Nancy Kubota
	Pam Thomas	

Guests Present:	Gina Jennings	Sandi Soliday
	Rocio Smith	Todd Struthers

CALL TO ORDER

President, Ralph Griffin 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 agenda for July 27, 2009 and the minutes of the June 22, 2009 meeting as presented."
(Sladen/Struthers) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rocio Smith reminded the group that Congreso Familiar is scheduled for Saturday, August 22nd at Chabot College. Everyone present was invited to attend and participate in this very special annual event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin requested that the Board authorize the Executive Committee to convene and act on behalf of the Board if necessary relative to any emergency action required by the State budget.

M/S/C “The Board moves to authorize the Executive Committee to work with staff and act on behalf of the Board in the event there is a need for a decision relative to the budget.” (Kuller/Sanford) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for June showing 12 months of expenditures. Members were asked to note that staff is still in the process of year-end closing and some expenditures may not be fully reflected in these figures. Following receipt of the E-5 contract amendment, RCEB expects to end the fiscal year with a balanced POS budget. The Operations budget for 2008/2009 will be balanced at fiscal year end.

RCEB has received the first of three cash advances for the 2009/2010 fiscal year thanks to the significant efforts of the Department of Developmental Services to get funds to regional centers as quickly as possible. We expect to receive the second cash advance in early August. RCEB should have sufficient cash to cover expenditures through late September. RCEB has established a line of credit with our bank but due to the imminent approval of the 2009/2010 State Budget, we do not expect to have to access the line of credit.

Mr. Burton shared that our bank has taken the position of accepting warrants from regional centers before the State budget is passed. The CEO of the bank made the decision to support services for persons with developmental disabilities in California. We are very, very pleased to have this support.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Carmen Quinones and Claudia Sladen have each completed six years of service on the Board of Directors and are eligible to serve one more year. Ms. Quinones and Mrs. Sladen have indicated that they would be willing to serve another year. Following a ballot election, Mr. Griffin reported

that Ms. Quinones and Mrs. Sladen had been elected to a seventh year of service.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group had a presentation by John Rumsey of Marin Ventures representing the Compassionate Care Coalition. Information has been put together to assist consumers in dealing with their own end of life issues and the end of life issues of their parents and others. Mr. Sanford noted that the remainder of their meeting was focused on the proposed budget reductions for the developmental disabilities service system.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Ms. Sladen noted that this committee has not met but will meet in September.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton provided a thorough report on the state budget situation and members discussed how the proposed cuts would impact consumers. CAC members also had a presentation from the California Telephone Access Program and learned about resources available through that organization.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that late last week the Senate and Assembly approved modifications to the budget approved in February. The budget and approved trailer bills have been presented to the Governor and it is expected that he will sign this week. The Governor has made it clear that he intends to exercise his constitutional right to use his "blue pencil" to delete items from the budget and he is expected to delete about \$1 billion in spending. Mr. Burton cautioned it is highly likely there will be additional cuts that may impact our service system. All of the cuts that have been discussed and put into trailer bill language will be coming our way for implementation. Mr. Burton noted that economic activity in California continues to be off from projections and the current effort to balance the budget may not be sufficient.

Members were reminded that our service system is facing a total of \$334 million in cuts in addition to the 3% rate cut put in place in February. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has summarized all of the cuts and these are posted on our website. We are also expecting DDS to provide information and explain implementation issues. Mr. Burton distributed the DDS summary and noted the statement that "these proposals do not change the IFSP/IPP processes, nor do they change existing appeal rights and processes." This clarification is very important for those families who have saved their respite all

year to utilize camps in August. This language will guide us as we move forward and requires that consumers and families be provided 30 days notice prior to the elimination of service. Consumers scheduled to attend camp in August will be able to do so this year.

Mr. Burton told Board members that we have been very careful not to implement anything at this point and are still following our existing policies and practices until the law changes. Members were informed that when the Governor signs the budget, the law becomes effective immediately. We will move forward with implementation at that time. Mr. Burton shared that staff have been working for weeks planning implementation to see that it is done carefully, responsibly and reasonably and in accordance with the law. We are facing broad, sweeping cuts that will impact us for years to come but will continue to work to minimize the impact on the consumers and families we serve. Mr. Burton continues to attend community meetings to provide updated information and answer as many questions as possible. Mr. Burton thanked both DD Councils for hosting special meetings to help get information to their communities.

Members were reminded that the budget cuts impacted every human service system in the state and we are waiting for details to see how these will affect consumers and families. IHSS remained a huge part of the budget discussions and we are waiting for specifics. Our expectation is that there will be less service available for our consumers who qualify and require this vital service. We are also waiting to hear about further changes to MediCal. Regional Centers have stepped in to provide the optional benefits that have already been reduced. We are working to put these services in place but are not fully prepared to replace all these services. We are also waiting to hear if there will be further cuts to SSI/SSP or if regional centers will be required to provide some restoration funding for the cuts that have already been approved.

Mr. Burton reported that our cash flow situation has been very difficult since February and payments from the state have not been made in a timely manner. We are now very confident that our cash flow situation is under control through September.

Mr. Griffin thanked Mr. Burton and his staff for the time and energy they have put into ensuring that RCEB is positioned to support consumers and families through these challenging changes.

Mr. Burton referred members to their packets to review a letter from the US Department of Justice to the Governor regarding the Agnews Closure Plan. The letter was very positive and acknowledged that consumers were carefully moved into integrated settings in the community. Mr. Burton noted that it is important to remember some of the very fine accomplishments of this community during these difficult economic times.

Mr. Burton also shared an article that appeared in mid-July that was based on a tremendous amount of misinformation. The article mentions RCEB and our upcoming office move but was based on information provided by someone who wanted us to lease their space. The article lost sight of the fact that we are moving to be accessible to the people we serve, that the new space is modest and within budget. Mr. Burton noted that the response to this article has been one of disbelief and support for RCEB. This type of journalism is upsetting when we work so hard as a regional center to be frugal and cost effective and focused on serving people well. It is unfortunate that after providing factual information to the reporters none of what we actually do comes through in that article. Mr. Burton also noted that we have been invited by the Metropolitan Transit Authority to sit on a panel to advise others on transit planning to accommodate people with disabilities since we have done such a fine job with the selection of our new office site.

Mr. Burton encouraged everyone to attend Congreso Familiar on August 22nd. This is always a fabulous event organized by a dedicated group of parents and is one of the most important conferences we have.

Mr. Burton reported that staff member, Iris Scizak, has lost her long battle with cancer. Iris leaves behind her husband and fifteen year old daughter. Iris was an important addition to the Children's Division in Concord and will be missed. Mr. Burton asked for a moment of silence to remember Iris.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandi Soliday invited everyone to the two special meetings being hosted by the Alameda County DD Council to provide an update on the state budget situation.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

There was no ARCA report this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors