

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 23, 2009

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Patricia Albeño	Nyron Battles
	Shana Cohen	Kathy Hebert
	Mike Kuller	Chi Lee
	Hilda Mariscal	Donald Morris
	Will Sanford	Anne Struthers
	Steve Whitgob	

Board Members

Excused:	Ronald Clay	Carmen Quinones
	Claudia Sladen	

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria	Mara Bearse
Carol Bohnsack	Jim Burton
Francine Davis	Susan Driggs
Terri Jones	Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota	Mark Neiman
Pam Thomas	

Guests Present:

Rosena Amos	Roger Bulosan
Gina Jennings	Hanna Loyola
Michael McIntosh	Sandi Soliday
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 7:03 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for the November 23, 2009 meeting and the minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting as presented." (Hebert/Battles) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reminded members that they had reviewed and approved the Local Public Policy Outcomes for RCEB's 2010 Performance Plan at the October meeting of the Board. Staff neglected to include the Public Policy Performance Measures in October and members were asked to review these now and consider approval. Mr. Griffin explained that these outcome measures were developed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and members were being asked to approve the activities RCEB will employ to achieve the outcomes.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the 2010 Public Policy Performance Measures as presented." (Struthers/Kuller) Unanimous.

Mr. Griffin reported that his committee had looked at the possibility of holding more meetings in Contra Costa County. At this time, it was decided that we should not make an immediate change because some board members cannot readily access the Contra Costa meetings. The majority of the meetings will continue to be held in our main office in Oakland.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller reported that Lautze and Lautze, our independent audit firm, has completed their draft audit report for Fiscal Year 2008/2009. Mr. Kuller introduced Hanna Loyola and Roger Bulosan of Lautze and Lautze. This report is unqualified and contains no management comments. A copy of the draft report was distributed to members and Mr. Bulosan reviewed his firm's findings with the Board. Members were asked to review the report and come prepared to consider approval at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) and the Financial Status Report for October. Mr. Kuller reported that RCEB's Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) for 2009/2010 has been jointly reviewed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). Mr. Kuller noted that this year's SOAR process had faced some delays while we determined the most accurate way to report projected savings from Trailer Bill Language reductions. RCEB is projecting a preliminary insufficiency of \$20.5 million to \$23.6 million. Mr. Kuller reminded members that DDS has typically funded our base insufficiency but it is currently unknown how this will be funded this fiscal year. Mr. Kuller noted that staff is continuing to assess Operations obligations and contracts for the current year but we continue to project a balanced Operations budget for the year.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reviewed the proposed slate of officers for 2010. Following a ballot vote, Mr. Griffin announced that the following officers had been elected to serve for calendar year 2010.

President – Ralph Griffin
Vice President – Anne Struthers
Secretary – Nyron Battles
Treasurer – Mike Kuller

Mr. Griffin also reported that Dr. Lee has completed six years of service and has indicated his willingness extend his term for one year. Following a ballot election, Dr. Lee was elected to a final year of service on the Board.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Francine Davis for Claudia Sladen

Ms. Davis reported that this group plans to begin visiting programs after the holidays.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group continues to monitor the State budget status and share ideas on how to provide quality services in these challenging times. Mr. Sanford also reported that the election of PVAC officers for next year will take place at the December meeting of the Committee.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton updated the group on the current budget situation for the state and answered members' questions. Mr. Battles shared that many members of his group are upset and extremely concerned about the impact of budget cuts on their lives and the lives of their friends. Nyron Battles was re-

elected as Chairperson of the group for 2010 and Rose Coleman was elected as Vice-Chair. The next CAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton thanked everyone for coming out during Thanksgiving week and apologized for the grim news that continues to come from Sacramento. Mr. Burton reminded the group that barely 4 months ago the budget was approved and California is now facing a \$21 billion deficit. \$6.3 billion of this deficit is in the current year and \$14.4 billion is in next fiscal year. The deficit has continued to grow when MediCal and the Department of Corrections were unable to achieve the necessary savings/reductions. The courts have also prevented some cuts from being put into place and California's economy has not recovered. The state is still in a deep recession and revenues have been less than projected. Mr. Burton noted that after 10 years of chronic underfunding of our service system, the coming budget year may present some of the most serious challenges ever faced. The promise of the Lanterman Act is truly at risk and an incredible advocacy effort by everyone will be required to turn this around. Members were reminded the Governor should announce his budget plan in mid-January and information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

Mr. Burton shared that Trailer Bill Language implementation is complicating things because we do not know the fiscal impact of these cuts. It will be a few months before we know the full fiscal impact and we are concerned about whether or not, system-wide, it will be sufficient. In spite of the many painful cuts implemented since the July 28th budget passage there have been many cuts in other systems that shifted fiscal responsibility to regional centers. These include MediCal optional benefits, IHSS, Adult Education funding and SSI. If the Trailer Bill Language cuts do not achieve the full \$334 million in savings anticipated in the budget, it will make this coming spring very difficult.

Mr. Burton reported to the Board that implementation of most every Trailer Bill Language reduction has been implemented at RCEB. We have had a total of 115 appeals with services cuts to thousands of RCEB consumers and families. Many of these appeals were resolved before or during the informal appeals meeting. The Office of Administrative Hearings is scheduling 4 to 5 hearings each day and about 60% of our hearings have been completed at this time. The decisions rendered have closely followed the new language of the law. Mr. Burton shared that other regional centers have reported having many more appeals than RCEB. It is clear that the work we did to discuss service reductions with each family and the reasonableness of our families had a very positive impact on this process.

Members were informed that Senator Mark DeSaulnier is heading the Senate Select Committee on Autism. The group will be co-chaired by Mr. Burton and Rocio Smith and they will be looking at housing, early intervention, insurance and transition services.

Mr. Burton recently participated in the Select Committee on Workplace and Workforce Development in our field. Assemblymember Ammiano is leading this group as they examine how poorly paid direct care staff are and how little training and workforce development is occurring. Right now there are no real answers to a problem that was decades in the making but Assemblymember Ammiano is very interested in seeing what can be done.

Mr. Burton announced that RCEB will hold its annual Winterfest celebration on December 8th in San Leandro. Board members were encouraged to attend if their schedules allowed.

Mr. Burton wished everyone a very happy holiday season and thanked board members for their remarkable efforts on behalf of this community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rocio Smith announced that Area Board 5 will hold their next meeting on December 2nd at 1000 Broadway in downtown Oakland.

Rosena Amos and Michael McIntosh of Golden Touch introduced themselves. Ms. Amos and Mr. McIntosh are new vendors in the RCEB area.

ARCA REPORT

Mr. Griffin reported that the next ARCA meeting will take place at the end of January in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief closed session to discuss labor contract negotiations, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors