

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 22, 2010

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Ronald Clay
Shana Cohen Kathy Hebert
Chi Lee Donald Morris
Sister Marygrace Carmen Quinones

Board Members

Excused: Patricia Albeño Mike Kuller
Hilda Mariscal Claudia Sladen
Anne Struthers Steve Whitgob

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria Mara Bearse
Carol Bohnsack Jim Burton
Francine Davis Susan Driggs
Terri Jones Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Lisa Kleinbub Nancy Kubota
Pam Thomas

Guests Present: Gina Jennings Cleo Manspeaker
Sandi Soliday

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 the February 22, 2010 meeting as presented. (Lee/Puchac) Unanimous.

M/SC "The Board moves to approve minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting as presented." (Battles/Hebert) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker shared that she has been very upset about a recent IHSS review that had been conducted at her apartment. She wanted people to know that it is very intrusive to have people coming into your home to evaluate your needs. Ms. Manspeaker said she knows these reviews are important. She also said she wished people really understood how stressful it is to have her needs reviewed by a series of strangers while she worries that each decision could change the services that are necessary to allow her to stay in her apartment. She told the group that she has lost her dental coverage and her eyeglass coverage and worries that more budget cuts might cause her to lose her supported living services and her apartment.

Mr. Griffin thanked Ms. Manspeaker for sharing her concerns and assured her that RCEB will continue to be here to support consumers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Giffin announced that the March meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in the Concord office on March 22nd. This is the first day we will be in our new office space in San Leandro and Executive Committee members agreed it would be appropriate to move the meeting to Concord to allow staff to settle into the new space. The Board meeting will be held in San Leandro in April.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chi Lee for Mike Kuller

Dr. Lee distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for January 2010. Dr. Lee reported that overall POS expenditures for the current year have decreased more than anticipated and this is due to the impact of the trailer bill language implementation. Dr. Lee reminded members that it had been reported last month that we expected to receive the A-2 and A-3 contract amendments very shortly but the budget amendments have not yet been received. It is important that we have these amendments to confirm the amount of our base deficiency allocation, our Community Placement Plan (CPP) allocation and our allocation for the Prevention Program. RCEB's Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) confirmed a base deficiency of \$14.5 million and an additional \$12.9 million deficit in CPP continuation funding. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has advised regional centers there will not be adequate funding to cover all regional center base deficiencies. DDS typically has funded our base insufficiency but it is highly likely that we will receive only a portion of the base deficiency allocation for this fiscal year. Staff will continue to carefully monitor the POS budget. Dr. Lee reported that RCEB currently anticipates a balanced Operations budget at year end. It was noted that it is very difficult to manage the

Prevention Program budget without having these funds allocated this late in the fiscal year.

Dr. Lee informed the Board that RCEB is maintaining a stable cash flow at this time. In the event that the California budget situation results in a delay in receipt of our state warrants, Union Bank of California has confirmed that they will reactivate our line of credit. Members were reminded this line of credit was approved last May for this fiscal year. While we do not anticipate having to activate this line of credit, it is reassuring to know that it is in place to ensure payments continue to our providers if a problem develops. Staff will keep the Board updated on the status of the agency's cash flow.

M/S/C "The Board moves to accept the Budget and Finance Committee Report as presented." (Lee/Hebert) Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Mike Kuller has completed three years of service on the Board of Directors and is eligible to serve a second three-year term. Mr. Kuller has indicated he is willing to serve another term. Following a ballot election, Mr. Griffin reported that Mr. Kuller had been elected to a second three-year term of service to the Board.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Francine Davis for Claudia Sladen

Ms. Davis reported that it had been announced at the last PVAC meeting that Supports and Services Committee members would be visiting day programs and PVAC members were very receptive to the process.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that the focus of the last PVAC meeting had been on transportation in an effort to assist RCEB in looking at the contracts for transportation services. Programs shared a collection of their experiences with transportation to provide a greater understanding of how these services are working. Sister Marygrace also shared that Francine Davis had presented a survey that will be used to gather input from consumers, families and programs to assist RCEB in finding ways to improve transportation services.

Sister Marygrace shared that one of the other values of PVAC membership is to have current and accurate information. Each PVAC meeting provides a panorama of up to date information from RCEB, Area Board 5 and the Developmental Disabilities Councils. This atmosphere of sharing fosters a true partnership in this community.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Donald Morris

Mr. Morris reported that Jim Burton had provided the group with an overview of the Governor's budget proposal. CAC members shared their concerns about the combined impact of the many cuts to the different systems that provide supports to so many consumers. The group discussed ways to advocate and communicate the serious effect of these cuts to legislators. Mr. Morris also shared that the annual People First Conference will be in Sacramento from June 11th – 13th and that he has been selected as a speaker at this year's conference. Mr. Morris shared that his group was pleased about RCEB's move to a new location in San Leandro and the ease of accessibility by BART and AC Transit at the new location.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that DDS Director, Terri Delgadillo, announced that a proposed plan for the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona would be presented to the legislature by April 1, 2010. The population at Lanterman Developmental Center has dropped to fewer than 400 people. Mr. Burton cautioned that as with the Agnews closure, it will be important to focus on individual consumer needs when moving people from Lanterman Developmental Center.

Mr. Burton stated that there has been much budget activity on the state level but not much progress to date. The \$20 billion deficit projection may be coming down since we are seeing slight improvements in the economy. California brought in higher than anticipated state tax revenues in January and February and some progress has been made in obtaining additional federal funds. Senator Steinberg indicated the deficit could come down to \$7-9 billion and it is important that this budget not be rushed through. It appears the legislature and governor will agree on about \$5 billion in cuts now and wait until the May revision to the budget or later to deal with the balance of the deficit. For our system, the Senate reluctantly agreed to the continuation of the 3% cut to service providers and regional centers for the next fiscal year. Massive proposed cuts to IHSS and SSI appear to have significant opposition in the legislature. Mr. Burton noted that hearings are being scheduled regularly and this community is always well represented at these hearings.

Mr. Burton reported that regional center budgets are still not balanced in the current fiscal year. The deficit is declining across the board for regional centers as a result of the implementation of budget reductions. These reductions appear to be decreasing expenditures to a greater degree than regional centers initially projected. The current year budget also assumes regional centers will receive \$50 million from First 5 (Proposition 10) but this transfer of funds has not yet been confirmed. Mr. Burton noted that this administration has been very good at covering these funds if the expected transfers do not occur and we are hopeful

that this will continue. Mr. Burton also reported that we are still awaiting the allocation of funds for the new Prevention Program that was put into effect on October 1, 2009. This program has been operating with a smaller number of participants than originally projected by DDS. We are still awaiting the allocation of funds for the Prevention Program and significant other POS funding. With only four months of the current fiscal year remaining, we are finding it very difficult to plan and put programs in place without this piece of the budget being allocated.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that some months ago at the request of the Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review, the Bureau of State Audits was tasked with reviewing the Department of Developmental Services and regional centers' functioning. On February 16th letters were sent to a sampling of service providers across the state for their opinions. There is a short time line for response with the internet based survey being completed by service providers at the end of this week. The Bureau of State Audits is expected to audit five or six regional centers but at this time we do not know which regional centers will be subject to the audit process.

Mr. Burton announced that RCEB's Alameda County office will be moved to San Leandro on March 19th and will be fully operational at the new site on Monday, March 22nd. RCEB is proud of the fact that we will have an office that is fully accessible to everyone we serve and we will have a very good and economical long term home. Mr. Burton thanked Nancy Kubota for her outstanding work on this massive undertaking.

Mr. Burton announced there are several meetings this week of the East Bay Regional Task Force which has been developed as a result of the work of the Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders. Senator DeSaulnier is chairing the group as they look at early intervention, health insurance, training and employment and housing issues. A tremendous amount of work is being done by our community and others to address these critical issues.

Mr. Burton reported there has been a change in leadership at the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. They are recruiting for a new Executive Director and expect to have the selection process completed by May or June. Rocio Smith has been called upon to assist with some of the responsibilities in Sacramento until the position has been filled.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that ARCA sponsors the annual Grass Roots Day each spring and this year's event is scheduled for March 17th. This full day event includes visits with local legislators and staffers and board members are a critical part of making this important process work each year. Board members will be surveyed this week to determine their availability to participate in scheduled appointments.

Mr. Burton shared that school districts are struggling just as regional centers struggle and many local districts are looking at eliminating adult education and special education services. Mt. Diablo Unified School District is the latest to be considering reductions to these important programs. Members were reminded that this service is a generic resource to many of our consumers and it will be a challenging issue for us to find a way to fill this key need.

Mr. Burton shared that the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council had provided an uplifting presentation on employment and Project Search. This group has had great success in finding new jobs for consumers with real pay and real benefits. In spite of the challenges of these difficult economic times, this community continues to show boundless energy that never seems to diminish as challenges are faced and overcome again and again.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that the ARCA staff is working to provide good information and support to its members and to DDS and they are doing an outstanding job. The next ARCA meeting will be held in southern California in mid-March.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss personnel issues, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors