



REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES

Monday, November 24, 2014 6:50p.m.

500 Davis Street, CA

Approved
1/26/15

RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Anne Struthers, President

Kathy Hebert, Vice-President

Cecilia Corral, Diversity & Equity Committee Chair

Steve Whitgob, Treasurer

Rose Coleman, Secretary

Nyron Battles, CAC Chair

Morena Grimaldi

Evangeline Iyemura

Chi Lee

Donald Morris

Gwen Nash-Butler

Sister Marygrace Puchac, PVAC Chair

Carmen Quinones

Darcy Ting

ABSENT:

Mike Treppa, Budget & Finance Committee Chair [excused]

STAFF PRESENT:

Jim Burton, Executive Director

Terri Jones, Director of Human Resources

Lisa Kleinbub, Director of Health & Behavioral Services

Nancy Kubota, Director of Finance & Administration

Pam Thomas, Director of Consumer Services

Ronke Sodipo, Director of Community Services

Elvia Osorio Rodriguez, Associate Director of Children's Services/Bilingual

Elizabeth Jiminez-Winslow, Case Manager

Sandra Regan, Case Manager and SEIU representative

Meredith Rosenberg, Case Manager

Michi Toy, Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Bill Barbaria

Cleo Manspeaker

Marie Parra

John Rodriguez, CCDDC

Gabe Rogin, Area Board V

Sandi Soliday, ACDDC

Emlyn Struthers

Todd Struthers

Josh Sullivan, CCCDDC

CALL TO ORDER

President, Anne Struthers called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:00 p.m. following the Diversity & Equity meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made and a quorum was present.

CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of October 27, 2014 as presented [Whitgob/Battles] Unanimous

M/S/C “The Board moves to amend the November 24, 2014 agenda with the addition of two items:”
 · Grass Roots Day under the ARCA report
 · Executive Session- Personnel Issue
 [Whitgob/Battles] Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker spoke about her fondness for her SLS provider and the services that she receives.

Gabe Rogan informed the board that at the November 14th Carlos Quintong Self Advocacy Celebration event, there were eight recipients who were awarded the prestigious self-advocacy award. RCEB board member Gwen Nash-Butler was one of the recipients but she could not attend the event that night. She graciously accepted the plaque presented by Ronke Sodipo at this board meeting. Ms. Nash-Butler expressed her appreciation and her fondness for helping both the disabled and senior citizen communities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

Dental Benefits Contract Approvals

Mr. Burton reviewed the renewal of the Health Care Employees Dental and Medical Trust (Delta Dental) contract. The total of the contract is a little over \$250K which included a 2.7% increase from our previous annual premium. Mr. Burton stated that RCEB seeks bids yearly from a number of providers, and that Delta Dental was the least expensive.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the 2015 contract with Health Care Employees Dental and Medical Trust [Delta Dental] as presented.” (Battles/Whitgob) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Mr. Whitgob distributed RCEB's Financial Status Report dated October, 2014.

Independent Audit Report for Fiscal Year 13-14

The Independent Audit Report for Fiscal Year 13-14 was presented at the last board meeting in October. As reported last month, the audit report is a clean report with **no** management comments. It is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee to approve the Fiscal Year 13-14 Independent Audit Report.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Independent Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2013-14" [Battles/Lee] Unanimous

Operations Budget

We are working quickly to add new staff, the majority of them being new positions in case management, to better serve our consumers and their families and to address high caseloads and workloads.

We continue to project a balanced budget in operations. Staff will continue to monitor our operations funds closely and to report any unanticipated impact to our budget.

Purchase of Service Budget

Regional Centers received instructions from the Department on the preliminary Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) which is the basis of the annual Purchase of Services projections. The SOAR informs the Department of Regional Centers' projected expenditures for the current fiscal year and reports any funding insufficiencies in Purchase of Services.

Although the report is typically due in mid-November, we have been advised by DDS that the Fiscal year 14-15 SOAR report is due on December 10th. Therefore, we do not yet have a detailed projection and summary for our Purchase of Service budget at this time. Since there is no board meeting in December, Staff will email the completed SOAR report to board members with an overview. We will have detailed and complete POS projections for our January board meeting. In the meantime, our financial report shows actual POS expenditures to date through October 2014. Please note the year-to-date totals do not take into account any late bills.

Staff will report back on the SOAR report and our POS projections at the next Budget and Finance committee in January.

Cash Flow and Line of Credit

Staff reports that the Agency is currently maintaining a stable cash flow at this time.

The Agency's line of credit was approved by the board last month so we have a of \$46.6M line of credit currently in place. DDS has not indicated any issue with their cash flow at this time but they cannot guarantee that State claims will be paid in full through the end of the fiscal year.

We will remain attentive about our cash flow, particularly later in the fiscal year and staff will keep the board apprised of our cash flow status.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reminded the board that candidate Marie Parra, was nominated by the Membership Development Committee at the September board meeting, but was not available to attend the October meeting for the board to vote. Ms. Parra introduced herself to the Board at this meeting as Ms. Struthers distributed the election ballot to the board members to cast their votes. Upon tallying the results, Marie Parra was unanimously elected to begin her first 3 year term on RCEB's Board of Directors.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace Puchac

Sister Marygrace spoke of the November 14th meeting where the introductory subject was on "How to take care of yourself in the midst of the intense service that we provide". Many shared advice on what works for them. The group also viewed a training DVD by Dewitt Jones, a photographer with National Geographic, titled "Celebrate! Change your lens, change your life" focusing on the positive.

→ DDS training in April, 2015 on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act [HIPAA] privacy rule regulations.

→ The next PVAC meeting will be on December 12, 2014.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Donald Morris

Mr. Morris informed the board that there was a new slate of officers election at the November 10th meeting, where Shawn Costello was voted as the new Chair of the CAC and Nyron Battles as the new Vice-Chair.

→ The next CAC meeting will be on January 12, 2015

DIVERSITY and EQUITY COMMITTEE: Cecilia Corral

Ms. Corral stated that there was a Diversity & Equity meeting that met prior to this board meeting, with a large attendance of around 20 people. During the meeting, each sub-committee presented the status of where they are with their sub-committees evidencing that we are moving along with our goals. A survey was conducted among the members to get their feedback on how often they want the committee to meet in order to achieve its goals. The general consensus was that the committee needed to meet more often. Therefore, starting in 2015 we will be meeting every month. A schedule will be forthcoming.

Ms. Corral shared that two months ago, the committee had asked our Executive Committee to support the growing Farsi speaking population. We are pleased to announce that as of January 2015, there will be a newly created Farsi support group, which will be run similarly to the Diversity & Equity Committee. RCEB currently has two Farsi speaking staff looking at and addressing the needs of the Farsi Community.

→ The next Diversity & Equity Committee meeting will be on November 24th, 2014

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton announced that it is great to have a full 16 member board in attendance right before a holiday, which is a testament to our member's dedication and commitment to create what the families who started our service system envisioned 50 years ago. Mr. Burton also announced that Senator Mark DeSaulnier, who is a tremendous advocate for those with developmental disabilities and their families, is now the Congressman for California's 11th Congressional District. Mr. Burton introduced former Aide to Senator Desaulnier, Emlyn Struthers, who attended our board meeting today.

State Budget

The only announcement at this time has come from the legislative analyst's office regarding the budget situation. The report is positive with better economic news in California in terms of recovery and with \$2B more in revenues than expected in the current fiscal year and \$4.2B more revenues than expected in the following fiscal year. Due to the passage of the *Proposition 2, Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund Act*, and the focus of the Administration, the funds would be used to pay-down debt and to set aside money for a rainy day reserve if we hit a recession. However, this is quite a turnaround from prior years when the discussion was over huge deficits.

As we move forward and advocate in the coming fiscal year, it will be an uphill battle in getting a portion of that money to improve and preserve services for people with developmental disabilities. Therefore, grassroots efforts will be essential in order to get legislators and the Governor to understand the situation that we face. We will get a good sense of where the Governor stands when he releases his budget proposal in early January.

Mr. Burton distributed copies of a letter written by Senator Jim Beall and Senator Carol Liu to the Governor which lays out the challenges [e.g., service provider and regional center funding] that we have been facing, as discussed at the recent Lanterman Act hearing in Southern California. This straightforward letter has garnered additional support from many other legislators. Mr. Burton believes that this year offers the greatest opportunity for rate and funding relief in decades. The Lanterman Coalition is seeking a 10% rate, which although deserving, will be difficult to achieve. Mr. Burton states that there needs to be something substantive to give people hope again. RCEB will be involved in the efforts of Association of Regional Centers Agencies [ARCA] as well as local grassroots efforts starting next year. The Oakland Legislative Town Hall Meeting is in February, perfectly timed where we will unify our position as a community on these straightforward issues.

Contracts

Negotiations have been completed on the second contract amendment [A-2] to our regional center contract with DDS. These negotiations began in April and tentative agreement was

reached in October. Mr. Burton will share the contract changes with the Board after the agreement has been signed, which should be by the January board meeting.

Self Determination

Mr. Burton stated that the Statewide Task Force, including a group of dedicated family members that got the Self Determination program into law, is working to make that law a service system reality. The focus is to provide greater choice for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The Task Force met in mid-November and resolved all the issues that needed to be resolved, so that the State can now submit the Federal approval request for California's Self Determination Program. This is expected to be forwarded to the federal government by the end of this year, the statutory deadline. After it has been submitted to the Federal government, they will analyze it and identify what they believe needs to be modified and adjusted in the model. The time frame for this to occur is unknown, but once it is approved regional centers can begin to move forward. As a part of that process, each regional center area will be establishing a local committee focused on self determination, which will be very important as members will be participating not only locally, but on a statewide basis. These committees will consist of 50% regional center appointees and 50% State Council local area board appointees. Also discussed during the meetings was how best to inform all the 277,000 consumers and their families in the regional center system, so that everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the program. The selection process to be conducted by the regional centers and the Department will first be based first on interest, and finally the Department will identify a list of randomly selected names based upon characteristics, qualifications, and interest.

Mr. Burton stated that initially, self determination will be available to 153 RCEB consumers and their families [2,500 Statewide] over a 3 year period of time, on a voluntary basis. Mr. Burton answered questions from the board, including an inquiry about how this program will affect regional center finances, from which Mr. Burton answered that it should not affect finances at all since overall funding levels shouldn't change. It is done using an independent broker of services which could be a case manager, and the payments for services are handled via a financial management service. It is important to note, however, that those costs have to come out of the budget, thereby reducing the amount available for the services. Gabe Rogan, Area Board V also added that ideally, the regional centers should get an additional allocation for staff costs due to the intensive nature of the program. The positive thing is that we will be starting out with a defined number of people [2,500 Statewide], and we can demonstrate the need to hopefully lower the case load ratios in order to implement this program properly. It is unclear at this point when the program will be up and running, but it is hoped that we will achieve federal approval soon.

[<http://www.dds.ca.gov/SDP/SDPUpdates.cfm>]

Announcements

Mr. Burton read the announcement made by Suzanne Anthony, Contra Costa Developmental Disability Council's [CCCDDC] Board Chairperson, regarding the new Executive Assistant

appointment to the CCCDDC, Josh Sullivan. Mr. Burton extended his congratulations to Josh and stated his strong support for Josh as he assumes this important new role.

Holiday Events

Friends of Children with Special Needs [FCSN] had their annual fundraising gala on November 8th at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Mr. Burton spoke of how this event and organization has grown and expanded over the years.

RCEB yearly participates in several events to help others during the holiday season. Mr. Burton recognized case manager, Sandra Regan for her efforts in facilitating two of those events to provide gifts to those who otherwise would go without. Ms. Regan outlined the efforts she facilitated.

- St. Joachim School in Hayward is the yearly gift donator in the “Special Gifts for Special Kids” holiday toy drive, now in its third year. The first year, there were 20 client families receiving gifts, 40 the following year, and this year it is up to 80 families receiving gifts from generous donations from parents at the school.
- RCEB Holiday Gift Tag program is where employees volunteer to purchase items on the 3-Item Wish Lists of around 75 clients.

Mr. Burton expressed his best wishes to everyone to have a wonderful Thanksgiving and holiday season, and thanked the board members for their dedication

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gabe Rogan, Area Board V

December 3, 2014: Topics at this next ABV meeting will include a community conversation on employment, and the Informal Day Program Capacity survey. This will be an important meeting since the passage of AB1595 (Chesbro) which will change the structure from Area Boards to State Council Regional Offices at the beginning of the year. Also discussed will be the council’s roll in the Self-Determination Advisory Committee as they partner with RCEB.

Mr. Rogan also added that the State Council is advocating for better access for people with developmental disabilities to dental services throughout California. Mr. Rogan requested to those who have had difficulty accessing dental services, to contact him with their stories.

Sandi Soliday, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council

Ms. Soliday started by thanking John Rodriguez from the Contra Costa DDC for all his years serving on that council and in welcoming Josh Sullivan to CCCDDC who is also the co-chair of the East Bay Legislative Committee [EBLC]. She then announced the following:

December 9, 2014: Tentative Legislative Breakfast. EBLC are getting sign-ons from legislators from a supplemental letter from Senator Jim Bealle.

December 10, 2014: At this last meeting of the year, there will be a presentation by Melanie Fowler and staffers from the District Attorney's office who will speak on "Persons with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System: Accessing Services."

February 27, 2015: EBLC Town Hall Meeting

March 14, 2015: Alameda County Transition Faire

Josh Sullivan, Contra Costa County Developmental Disabilities Council

Mr. Sullivan thanked the Board and attendees for their warm welcome, and started with commenting on the success of the Going to College with a Disability Conference at the Ed Roberts campus in November. He then announced the following:

January 15, 2015: The Council is also trying to get a Transition Task Force re-started again and are looking to populate it with concerned parents, school representatives. This will be the first meeting, and then continue to meet on the third Thursday of every month.

January 28, 2015: Next Council meeting

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Jan 15&16 2015: The next ARCA meeting will be at the Alta Regional Center in Sacramento.

April 8th or 15th 2015: The Grassroots event in Sacramento will be either on the 8th or the 15th of April. The date will be voted on by all the participating regional centers. Mr. Burton reiterated that it is really important to be involved in the grassroots event especially this year on behalf of all our programs. A vote was taken on the date preference, which was April 8th.

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Issue

The board members met briefly to discuss a personnel issue.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The board meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on January 26, 2015
The Diversity & Equity meeting will precede the board meeting in San Leandro