

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 24, 2005

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members
Present:

Rose Coleman
Chi Lee
Carmen Quinones
Anne Struthers
Steve Whitgob

Bill Dycus
Sister Marygrace
Claudia Sladen
Mike Treppa
Theresa Woo

Board Members
Excused:

Tom Florin

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack
Francine Davis
Cindy Hill
Gabriel Rogin

Jim Burton
Susan Driggs
Nancy Kubota

Guests Present:

Nyron Battles
Roger Bulosan
Ali Farsheed
Cleo Manspeaker
Bob Perrotti
Rocio Smith

Aldo Bernasconi
Steve Dale
Barbara Garcia
Sandra Martinez
Cliff Silva
Todd Struthers

CALL TO ORDER

President, Dick Long, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:02 PM. Self introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for January 24, 2005 as presented." (Woo/Coleman) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2004 meeting as presented." (Coleman/Sladen) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker informed the group that she will appear on the website for her supported living agency. She also noted that she is attending an art program and is enjoying the opportunity to explore her creativity. Ms. Manspeaker thanked the Board for providing the supports and services that have allowed her to have so many new opportunities this year.

Aldo Bernasconi thanked the Board and staff for their efforts in supporting the Independent Way's Union City worksite.

Bob Perrotti, on behalf of the parents and families of the consumers attending the Independent Way's Union City program, thanked Jim Burton and Francine Davis for their significant efforts to keep this program open. The news of the approved rate adjustment was a great gift to all involved. Mr. Burton thanked Mr. Perrotti for his efforts to secure a rate increase for the Union City program and noted that his program would not have survived without the efforts of Mr. Perrotti and the families that worked so diligently to keep this program going.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long referred members to their packets for review of the 2005 Master Calendar and Work Plan for the Board of Directors. Mr. Long noted that Goal #3 of the Work Plan calls for the Board to develop the skills of their membership and the Executive Committee has been looking at ways to provide ongoing training for members. Regular training sessions will begin next month and will be conducted prior to each Board meeting. Each session will begin at 6:30 and committee meetings will be shortened to accommodate the new training schedule. Mr. Long encouraged members to revisit their Board manuals for a review of the history and structure of our service system.

Mr. Long reviewed committee assignments and meeting schedules for the year. Members wishing to change their committee assignments were asked to contact Mr. Long.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob reported that his meeting had included the presentation of the audit report for fiscal year 2003/2004 by representatives of our audit firm. Dr. Whitgob introduced Roger Bulosan and Sandra Martinez of Lautze and Lautze. Mr. Bulosan provided a brief overview of the audit report and reported that all findings were clean opinions. Mr. Bulosan noted that his firm has recommended some best practices for agency consideration but these are not required by law. Mr. Long thanked Nancy Kubota and her staff for this excellent report. Mr. Burton thanked Mr. Bulosan and his firm for their partnership with us and for their valuable guidance in helping us get systems in place that have resulted in reports of this quality.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2004 as presented.” (Whitgob/Woo) Unanimous.

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for December 2004. The Operations budget continues to be balanced as a result of the significant cuts made earlier this year. RCEB currently projects a balanced POS budget and we will continue to closely monitor these expenditures.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Mike Treppa

Mr. Treppa reported that we still have several vacancies on the Board and his committee is working to recruit candidates that meet our Board composition requirements. Members were reminded that Rose Coleman has been nominated to serve a second term and Nyron Battles has been nominated to serve his first term beginning in February. Following a ballot vote, Mr. Treppa announced that Ms. Coleman and Mr. Battles had both been unanimously elected to serve our community as members of the Board.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace announced that Steve Zolno has been selected to Chair the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee this year and she has agreed to continue to serve as their liaison to the Board of Directors. She also reported that the PVAC Steering Committee announced the need for representation from transportation, residential and children's services.

Sister Marygrace reported that members had shared their hopes for the coming year at the January PVAC meeting and had continued their efforts to look at ways to improve the quality of services and ways to address the ongoing needs

of the people we serve. Members shared their concerns that one of the transportation providers had altered routes with appropriate notice. Sister Marygrace thanked regional center staff for their speedy intervention to address the situation. RCEB Director of Health and Behavioral Services, Lisa Kleinbub, attended the meeting and provided clarification on informed consent issues. Her presentation also included a valuable discussion on end of life issues and suggestions for ways to work with families at this difficult time.

Sister Marygrace further reported that plans are underway for a legislative breakfast in the spring. It is important to keep local legislators informed and aware of the key issues being faced each day by the developmental disabilities service system. Board members will be kept informed as plans are finalized for this event.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that her group had recognized Carmen Quinones for her outstanding service as their Chairperson last year. She received many kind words from the group and a certificate honoring her contributions to the work of the committee. Members of the CAC have expressed a desire for ongoing development of public speaking skills and they will be looking at the most appropriate ways to provide additional training to the group. Ms. Coleman also reported that People First will hold its 10th annual statewide convention in June and CAC members have begun discussing the fairest possible way to select attendees. These discussions will continue when more information is available on what level of support RCEB will provide.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the Governor's budget Proposal was released on January 10th and reminded members that the release of the administration's initial proposals is the first step in the annual budget process for our state. Mr. Burton reviewed the highlights of the budget proposal and noted that this is relatively positive budget news for our service system given these challenging fiscal times. However, this proposal does include the continuation of cost containment strategies implemented this year including parental fees, freezing rates and start-up funding, extended intake/assessment timeframes, unallocated reductions, etc. New proposals that should be watched carefully include long-term common sense cost containment strategies. The Administration has proposed using the least costly service provider, clarifying parental responsibility for POS, using group services in place of 1:1 services, informing families annually of service costs, an administrative review of all services purchased and establishing a maximum expenditure level for supported living services. Of critical concern to our consumers is the Governor's proposal to reduce the IHSS rate to minimum wage and the potential changes to MediCal. Members were

asked to closely follow the budget process as it evolves in the next few months. Mr. Burton encouraged people to stay involved with their legislators and to continue efforts to help them understand what it takes to properly provide support for the developmentally disabled citizens of California. Everyone present was also reminded that Department of Developmental Services Director, Cliff Allenby, would be speaking here tomorrow evening and all were encouraged to attend and bring their budget questions.

Mr. Burton distributed DDS's executive summary of the plan for the closure of Agnews Developmental Center for Board member review. Members were cautioned to expect increased media attention now that the plan has been released. The community process used to develop this plan has been a very thorough effort and we are encouraged to see that the Governor's budget proposal fully funds the plan in the first year.

Mr. Burton updated members on a number of current issues. Board members were informed that we have received \$2.3 million in start-up funding to assist in the transfer of the Miller Center programs from Contra Costa County to CCARC. CCARC staff have been working closely with the County to negotiate additional needed support and we expect these meetings to end on a very positive note. DDS staff are in the process of conducting our Medicaid Waiver audit and we have received generally positive statements so far. The audit team will begin visiting community programs this week. RCEB has also begun implementation of the Family Cost Participation Program. RCEB has also implemented the required changes to the vouchered respite process to allow California to capture federal funding for this service. Families have been extremely responsive to our initial requests for additional information. Mr. Burton reminded the group that all of these mandates have imposed a significant workload increase for our staff and they have struggled to implement the necessary changes without additional resources.

Finally, Mr. Burton informed the Board that one of our contracted buses had been involved in an accident in December. The accident resulted in some minor injuries and some injuries that were more serious. A careful investigation was begun at the time of the accident and is expected to be completed in the very near future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Dale reported that special needs trusts have now been accessed at seven regional centers. He urged this Board to be watchful in their efforts to protect the rights of the consumers we serve.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the recent ARCA meeting included an informal evening meeting that was well attended and provided an excellent networking opportunity. The board members group was provided a presentation on the roles and responsibilities of board members. Ms. Struthers will share the handouts from this informative presentation with our Board. The ARCA meeting included further review of CADDIS and a discussion of the forward movement of the project. ARCA members also discussed this year's anticipated federal audits and the California Performance Review report. Ms. Struthers reminded members that new budget hearings will begin in February or early March and we can expect to see many system changes proposed. It will be important for each of us to be watchful throughout this process.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss labor contract negotiations, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors