

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 2, 2005

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Rose Colemand
Bill Dycus Chi Lee
Sister Marygrace Carmen Quinones
Claudia Sladen Steve Whitgob
Theresa Woo

Board Members

Excused: Tom Florin Anne Struthers
Mike Treppa

Staff Present:

Jim Burton Francine Davis
Susan Driggs Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota Sheryl Kuhn
Jennifer Theal

Guests Present:

Diana Jorgensen Cleo Manspeaker
Rocio Smith

CALL TO ORDER

President, Dick Long, 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 May 2, 2005, as presented." (Whitgob/Lee) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2005, meeting as presented.” (Woo/Whitgob) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker presented paintings to Jim Burton and Rocio Smith for their continued support. A small quilt project was presented to Jennifer Theal for her exceptional support as Ms. Manspeaker’s casemanager.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that the Executive Committee had met and discussed the by-laws and reviewed items in process for RCEB. Mr. Long asked members for any suggested changes to the current by-laws of the organization and none were presented. It was agreed that the by-laws would remain as written for the year.

Mr. Long also reported that he had participated in a reception for the parents and family members of the Agnews Developmental Center residents. This event was provided in an effort to address the many concerns of these families as the residents are being transitioned into placements in the community.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for March and noted there were no significant changes from last month. RCEB continues to project a balanced OPS budget at year-end. The POS surplus continues to increase slightly each month due to the continued freeze on rates and start-up finding.

Mr. Burton noted that RCEB’s experience with our budget is mirrored state-wide. All centers are reporting a leveling off of POS expenditures and a growing lack of services. The continued freezes are impacting the ability to provide necessary services to consumers and families.

Dr. Whitgob distributed RCEB’s pension plan audit for the years ending 6/30/03 and 6/30/04. Members were informed that this was an unqualified report and asked to review the audit prior to the next meeting of the Board.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Theresa Woo for Mike Treppa

Ms. Woo distributed and reviewed the Board Composition Compliance Report. Ms. Woo noted that the Board needs to increase its membership and reminded members that her committee continues its efforts to recruit qualified candidates.

Members were asked to direct referrals to the Membership Development Committee.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that the April PVAC meeting had been replaced by the legislative breakfast and this very successful event was well attended. This joint effort was sponsored by Area Board 5, the Alameda and Contra Costa DD Councils, our service providers and RCEB. This important event allowed us to frame the issues of the developmental disabilities community and put a face on those issues for our local legislators. Sister Marygrace reminded everyone that it is critically important to continue our efforts to educate our legislators to the realities of our system and the needs of consumers and families.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman stated that she had not attended the last meeting of her group because she was in Sacramento testifying before the legislature and asked that Ms. Quinones report this evening.

Ms. Quinones reported that Ms. Kubota had provided a budget update for her group. Consumer Advisory Committee members had also looked at ways they could assist Agnews' residents by sharing their own experiences while living in the community. Ms. Quinones also reported that plans are underway for the group's annual team-building experience at the A's game in August and for participation in this year's People First Convention.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reminded everyone that spring is legislative time in California and noted that the budget process is now in full swing. Mr. Burton acknowledged that we were very fortunate that the Chairs of budget hearings in both the Senate and Assembly were very sensitive to our issues. Key issues for our system continue to be service provider rate issues, the start-up funding freeze, long term common sense cost containment strategies, IHSS and SSI cuts. Mr. Burton reported there appeared to be pretty unanimous opposition to all of these issues. Many Agnews' family members were in attendance at the budget hearings but the closure plan continues to move forward. There has also been a proposal by the Administration for partial restoration of previous budget cuts to regional centers to improve caseload ratios. This proposal was left open for a conference committee decision. Mr. Burton reported that our board and community were well represented in Sacramento with Mr. Battles, Ms. Coleman and Mr. Long providing testimony.

Mr. Burton stated that we are continuing to watch significant public policy legislation as it is reviewed. SB 962 will create a new model for adult residential

facilities for people with special health care needs and is vital to the consumers transitioning from Agnews. AB 1378 addresses the continued employment of state employees following the closure of Agnews and AB 1379 looks at how the land will be used after the Agnews closure. Mr. Burton asked members to closely watch SB 481. This bill addresses self directed services but also appears in trailer bill language and the budget. Pilots for this program have reported success but reported that successful implementation required intensive person centered planning efforts. This bill is controversial and has been proposed as a cost reduction strategy. It would place limits on entitlement as participants receive a set dollar amount. People have been very supportive of the concept but implementation raises many questions that must be answered.

Mr. Burton reported the Miller Centers plan has still not been presented to the Board of Supervisors. CCARC has done extensive work to complete the lease agreement but the county legal department is moving very slowly through their review.

Mr. Burton also reported that a team from the Department of Health Services had been on site to review our Special Incident Reporting (SIR) process. This review went very well and ended with one of the most positive exit conferences experienced by RCEB. Mr. Burton acknowledged RCEB staff for the incredible job done pulling together information with very little notice.

Senator Perata will be forming a blue ribbon committee on autism and Mr. Burton will attend a meeting with the senator's staff to begin making recommendations for committee representation. Mr. Burton reported that RCEB had a surge in requests for review for eligibility in March due to the increased media attention focused on autism and 57% of our new cases now have a diagnosis of autism. Members were informed that Rick Rollins will join our all staff meeting on June 23rd and were encouraged to attend as their schedules allow. Mr. Rollins is the parent of a child with autism and one of the founders of the UC Davis Mind Institute.

Mr. Burton cautioned that the potential issues for our consumers with both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage are concerning. The new prescription drug benefit will have a tremendous impact on our consumers when implemented this fall. RCEB will work with staff to ensure they are as knowledgeable as possible before implementation begins so they are prepared to assist consumers and families with this process. Mr. Burton stressed that it will be imperative that we ensure consumers receive the medications they need.

Mr. Burton announced that the joint annual awards dinner for the Alameda and Contra Costa County DD Councils will be held on June 1st at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek. Julie Jackson will be the speaker for the evening. Mr. Burton encouraged members to attend this wonderful annual event.

A retirement party for Diana Jorgensen will be held on June 28th. Mr. Burton noted that we are all having a difficult time imagining our system without Diana.

The Respite Inn Fiesta is scheduled for May 15th and will include mariachis and great food. The Ala Costa Centers will be holding their celebration on May 22nd.

ARCA REPORT

There was no ARCA report this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors