

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 22, 2006

Presiding: Anne Struthers

Board Members

Present:

Nyron Battles
Ralph Griffin
Becca Loya
Will Sanford
Emily Whitgob
Theresa Woo

Rose Coleman
Chi Lee
Lauri Parks
Claudia Sladen
Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused:

Tom Florin
Carmen Quinones

Dick Long

Board Members

Absent:

Bill Dycus

Staff Present:

Jim Burton
Lisa Kleinbub
Sheryl Kuhn
Marc Sugars

Susan Driggs
Nancy Kubota
Maggie Raintree

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia
Mike Kuller
Rocio Smith

Gina Jennings
Cleo Manspeaker

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President, Anne Struthers, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:00 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for May 22, 2006 as presented." (Battles/Woo) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of April 24, 2006 as presented." (Griffin/E. Whitgob) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Manspeaker thanked the Board and Mr. Burton for the support she has received from RCEB in the twenty-four years she has been served by the regional center system. She also shared that she had recently won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Special Olympics competition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the Executive Committee had not met this month and would not have a report this evening.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for April 2006. There has been no significant change in the projections and RCEB continues to anticipate balanced POS and OPS budgets at year end.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin indicated that his committee had not met and there would be no report this evening.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Ms. Sladen reported that she had met with staff last week and committee members earlier this evening. The group has agreed to begin their process by visiting existing adult day programs. Ms. Sladen acknowledged that her committee is very excited about their work and she will have more to report to the Board in the next few months.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group had assisted with the recent Disaster Preparedness Forum in Alameda County. The evening provided an excellent presentation and valuable suggestions but was not very well attended. A similar

presentation will be provided at the June meeting of the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee and another presentation will be held in Contra Costa County during the summer.

Mr. Sanford reported that significant efforts have gone into educating legislators about the critical need to address the inadequate rates for supported employment services. The group leading this effort is pleased with the progress made in the Assembly and the Senate and are hopeful that the Conference Committee review will also be positive.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that Maria Marquez of Protection and Advocacy has agreed to provide a series of advocacy training workshops to the Consumer Advisory Committee. Her first session has been scheduled for the June meeting of the committee. Ms. Coleman also reported that selections have been made for attendees who will be supported by RCEB at the June self-advocacy conference in Sacramento. Committee members agreed this year to send people who have not previously had the opportunity to participate and RCEB will be supporting 40 attendees.

Finally, Ms. Coleman reported that a local radio station has a particular DJ who frequently uses the "R" word during his broadcasts. CAC members have decided to write to the DJ and the station explaining that the use of this language is insensitive and offensive. Board members were very supportive of the CAC action and asked that Ms. Coleman keep them informed of the outcome of their efforts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that so far we are seeing the friendliest May Revision process in years. Following the release of the Administration's revised budget, the Senate and Assembly began their process of budget hearings. The governor's proposed "May Revise" budget includes a decrease of \$2.5 million in Operations as a result of the decline in caseload growth. Members were reminded that the caseload growth for regional centers had leveled off due to the changes in eligibility criteria. The budget proposal also includes an increase of \$82 million in Purchase of Service based on updated utilization and expenditure data. Also included is a provider rate increase for a number of programs, modest funding to allow regional centers to continue to provide assistance to consumers with Medicare Part D, funding to purchase prescription medications not covered by either Medicare Part D or Medi-Cal and an increase in funding to improve attendance data collection efforts.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that items not approved in the budget hearings will move forward to the Conference Committee. The Conference Committee will

review the rate increase for supported employment. This movement was led by Bay Area supported employment providers in an effort to secure adequate funding for their programs. Mr. Burton recognized Tom Heinz for his leadership role in addressing this important issue.

Mr. Burton also reported that the State Senate has started to look at the critical issue of start-up funding. Acknowledging this problem is an important first step and we are grateful to our elected representatives and their staff for their continued efforts to have our issues addressed.

CADDIS was the most controversial item in the proposed budget with the main point of contention centering around whether this system should move forward and significant additional funding should be invested to complete the project. Members were informed that there are no good alternatives at this point.

Mr. Burton reminded everyone present that the Developmental Disabilities Councils' joint annual dinner was scheduled for May 31st. This is always a special evening and allows both counties to come together to celebrate their many successes.

ARCA will be sponsoring a follow-up conference to their very successful New Day Conference. The second event has been scheduled for February 5-6, 2007. This is an important avenue for sharing ideas and we need to remember that we have new people to serve and must be continually looking at new and better ways to provide services.

Mr. Burton was pleased to report that the Agnews closure plan has been approved and all necessary legislation is in place. The closure plan is moving forward and we are now actively purchasing homes.

Members were alerted that we are facing a crisis in crisis services. The infrastructure to serve persons with dual diagnoses is failing. Our residential crisis facilities are closed or closing while we have the largest number of difficult to serve consumers that we have ever had in this system. The corrections system is failing and the mental health crisis service system is failing and we do not have the necessary services to support these consumers. Mr. Burton reported that we are looking at what we can do together with Alameda County. He has also met with an administrator from Contra Costa County who shares our desire to see what we can do together. We will need to work together as a community to find good solutions to these difficult challenges and it will take everyone's best thinking and guidance to adequately address the problem.

Mr. Burton announced that the Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee had recently received a "Gold Award" for Special Projects from the State Information Officers Council. This award was one of twelve Gold Awards given earlier this month. Mr. Burton thanked Nyron Battles

for his outstanding representation of our regional center during his many years of participation on this committee.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that the next ARCA meeting will be held on June 15th and 16th in Sacramento. She urged everyone who is able to attend and observe this very informative process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors