

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker reminded everyone that we have an important need to be prepared for earthquakes in the bay area. The recent earthquake was another reminder that we need to continue to focus on disaster preparedness.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long reported that he had the opportunity to attend the joint annual Developmental Disabilities Councils' dinner and it was a very special evening. Mr. Long noted that throughout the evening many positive comments were made about Regional Center of the East Bay and it was a privilege to be associated with this remarkable organization. Jim Burton received special recognition from the Contra Costa DD Council. Sheryl Kuhn was very appropriately recognized with a lifetime achievement award. Will Sanford received the "Golden Yes" award.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for May 2006. RCEB remains on target for the year and continues to anticipate balanced OPS and POS budgets at year-end.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Financial Status Report for May 2006 as presented." (Griffin/Woo) Unanimous.

Dr. Whitgob reminded members that we have an annual need to establish a line of credit to be used if the State budget is not approved on time. Members of the Budget and Finance Committee recommend that the Board approve a line of credit with Union Bank that will be used on an as-needed basis in the event the State budget is not approved on time. Dr. Whitgob reminded everyone that use of the line of credit will create an interest expense on the loan that will not be reimbursed by the State.

M/S/C "The Board moves to authorize Regional Center of the East Bay to establish a line of credit with Union Bank of California for \$34,266,000 to be used in the event the State budget is not passed on time." (S. Whitgob/E. Whitgob) Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Carmen Quinones and Claudia Sladen were completing their first term of service on the RCEB Board of Directors. Both names were

placed into nomination for a second term. The election will be held at the July meeting.

Mr. Griffin reminded members that it is important to continue recruitment efforts for qualified candidates so we will be prepared as board vacancies occur.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE: Francine Davis for Claudia Sladen

Ms. Davis reported that this group continues to organize and plan their work effort. They will begin visits to day programs shortly and will look at what is currently being provided and talk to providers about what they would like to see available to consumers. Ms. Davis reminded members that ARCA will be sponsoring their second New Day Conference in February and urged members to attend this exciting event to assist them in leading the development of new services for our consumers.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Dick Long for Will Sanford

Mr. Long reported that the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee has hosted a very successful Emergency Preparedness meeting this month. This was the second in the series of presentations focused on supporting our community's need to be ready for a natural disaster. The event offered a great deal of valuable information and was very well attended.

PVAC members are also awaiting the completion of the State budget process. It is anticipated that the final budget will include a 3% rate increase for many service providers and a significant increase in supported employment rates.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that Mr. Burton had attended the meeting and provided a budget update to the group. Ms. Coleman referred members to their packets for a review of the letter her group sent to a local radio station DJ explaining that his continued use of the "R" word was insensitive and offensive. They have also asked the DJ and station to support their efforts to educate people by substituting other words and phrases. Ms. Coleman noted that her group is committed to following through on this issue with a positive approach and she will keep the Board informed of their progress.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton informed the group that a State budget agreement had been announced this afternoon and approval was expected before July 1st. He thanked the Board for putting the line of credit in place but acknowledged he is hopeful it will not be necessary to use it.

Mr. Burton reviewed key provisions of the proposed budget. The 3% increase for some service providers is the first increase in a number of years and is critically needed. We are hopeful that this 3% increase is the beginning of recognition that rate increases are necessary to improve direct care staff wages. Also included is \$2.6 million for the expansion of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder initiative and funding to continue the provision of assistance to consumers with enrollment issues with the Medicare Part D prescription coverage. \$3.2 million is provided for additional regional center staff to address CMS's concerns about staffing ratios. Mr. Burton cautioned members that this piece of the budget does not address the underlying problem of low salaries for regional center staff and current salaries continue to make it challenging to fill positions. If approved, this budget will also provide \$3 million in start-up funding primarily for programs that promote community integration. The proposed budget also includes increases for the Best Buddies Program, a small amount of additional POS funding for dental work for consumers who exceed their annual deductible and \$2.1 million to support data collection for certain contracted services. Mr. Burton also reported that the proposed budget includes significant funding for a rate increase for supported employment providers. Much of the credit for this phenomenal accomplishment goes to a group of bay area providers lead by Tom Heinz and this success is the result of their tireless efforts. Mr. Burton asked members to continue to watch the budget process and to look carefully at what the Governor signs and the final trailer bill language.

Mr. Burton announced that Phil Bonnet, current executive director at Redwood Coast Regional Center, has accepted the position of executive director at Alta California Regional Center. Mr. Burton acknowledged that Mr. Bonnet is a fine man with a strong commitment to persons with developmental disabilities and the Alta community is fortunate to have secured his services.

Members were referred to their packets for information about ongoing problems with our local psychiatric emergency services. It is difficult to watch vital local services erode. While we have lost our crisis facilities, we have made arrangements for increased mobile crisis services. We are working with two providers to develop crisis facilities by late fall but the situation remains critical. We have minimal services available to very high profile consumers. Mr. Burton reported that he has met with Dave Kears of Alameda County and they will work together to find ways to appropriately serve this community. Mr. Kears has worked tirelessly to maintain necessary services and we are hopeful that positive answers will result from this collaboration.

Mr. Burton reported that we held an all staff meeting last week and had an excellent meeting. The highlight of the meeting came with the opportunity to honor RCEB's first 30-year employee, Anne Maselli.

Mr. Burton thanked Gina Jennings and Barbara Garcia for the outstanding evening provided by the Councils and noted that the awards and recognition

were overwhelming. He noted that Sheryl Kuhn's recognition for lifetime achievement was appropriately timed because Sheryl has now announced she will be retiring.

Mr. Burton announced that Sheryl Kuhn will celebrate her 5th anniversary at RCEB in October and will retire at the end of that month. It has been a remarkable five years and RCEB has achieved a great deal under Sheryl's caring leadership and guidance. Mr. Burton noted that it has been an honor to serve beside her on RCEB's management team.

Mr. Long, on behalf of the Board, expressed thanks to Sheryl for her commitment to our consumers and families.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that ARCA met in Sacramento on June 16th and the major issue for discussion was the State budget. CADDIS continues to be an issue with no obvious solutions. The Department of Developmental Services is also working on disaster preparedness and is looking at the best ways to get information to consumers. Work is continuing on the self-directed services draft regulations and more information should be provided to ARCA shortly. The next ARCA meeting will be held in Sacramento in August.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief closed session to discuss real estate negotiations, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors