

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 22, 2007

Presiding: Dick Long

Board Members

Present:

Nyron Battles	Rose Coleman
Tom Florin	Ralph Griffin
Chi Lee	Becca Loya
Lauri Parks	Will Sanford
Claudia Sladen	Anne Struthers
Emily Whitgob	Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Bill Dycus Carmen Quinones

Staff Present:

Carol Bohnsack	Mary Brett
Jim Burton	Francine Davis
Susan Driggs	Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota	Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Barbara Garcia	Sharon Hagerty
Gina Jennings	Mike Kuller
Darin Lounds	Cleo Manspeaker
Roswitha Robinson	Rocio Smith
Karen Toto	

CALL TO ORDER

President, Dick Long, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:05 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Consent Agenda as presented."
(S. Whitgob/Battles) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker presented hand-made gifts to Jim Burton, Mary Brett, Clay Harada and Darin Lounds and thanked them for their valued support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dick Long

Mr. Long welcomed and introduced Karen Toto, Director of Alegria and Darin Lounds, Director of the Housing Consortium of the East Bay. Ms. Toto and Mr. Lounds reviewed the histories of their organizations and explained the services they will be providing to the residents leaving Agnews Developmental Center. Their goal is to create and sustain high quality community living services that will ensure stable, secure and lasting community supports for persons with developmental disabilities. Mr. Long thanked them for sharing this exciting information with the board.

Mr. Long referred members to their packets for review and approval of the Master Calendar and Board Work Plan for 2007.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the Master Calendar for 2007 as presented.” (Struthers/Griffin) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the 2007 Work Plan as a guide for their activities for the year.” (Sladen/Struthers) Unanimous.

Mr. Long reported that committee assignments have been made for the year and Chairs for each committee have been assigned with Steve Whitgob heading Budget and Finance, Ralph Griffin leading the Membership Development Group and Claudia Sladen leading the Services and Supports Committee. Anne Struthers will continue as our ARCA representative and Ralph Griffin has agreed to serve as the alternate to that organization. Committee assignments have been made and members were asked to contact Mr. Long if they wish to change their current assignment.

Mr. Long reminded members that the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council has worked to develop a Multicultural Access Resolution that was reviewed by the Board at their November meeting. The statement was included in this evening's packet and Mr. Long noted that following a thorough review of the document, it appears to be a very clear and comprehensive statement that should bring a higher consciousness and promote full access for people with developmental disabilities of all ethnic backgrounds across all levels of society.

M/S/C “The Board moves to support the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council Multicultural Access Resolution as written.”
(Struthers/Sladen) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Dr. Whitgob distributed and reviewed the financial status report for December 2006. RCEB has received the C-2 contract amendment and our POS allocation was increased by \$6.5 million, including \$3.3 million in a base deficit adjustment for the agency. Dr. Whitgob cautioned that we anticipated \$7 million in additional base deficit funding but received only \$3.3 million. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) announced an overall base/growth funding insufficiency statewide and all regional centers received a prorated portion of their base deficit allocation. Nineteen regional centers are still projecting deficits and RCEB is in this group. DDS has acknowledged the projected deficiency and has requested additional funding in the Governor’s budget. Dr. Whitgob noted that it is important to know that DDS has announced no plans to cut services to cover the current deficits. Members were reminded that if the deficit projection continues to year-end, DDS is required by law to request additional funds from the legislature to cover regional center services.

Dr. Whitgob reported that RCEB is currently projecting a mid-range POS insufficiency of <\$1,731,401>. DDS and RCEB staff will continue to carefully monitor our POS projections. RCEB continues to project a balanced Operations budget.

Dr. Whitgob reported that Lautze and Lautze, our independent audit firm, has completed their draft audit report for Fiscal Year 2005/2006. This report is unqualified and contains no management comments. Audit staff will attend the February meeting of the Board to present their findings and answer any questions members may have. A copy of the draft report will be forwarded to members in advance of the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reminded members that Dr. Lee has completed his first term of service and has indicated he would be available to serve a second term if elected. Following a ballot vote, Mr. Griffin announced that Dr. Lee has been elected to serve a second three-year term.

Mr. Griffin reported that his committee has interviewed Mike Kuller and is now placing his name into nomination to serve on the Board of Directors. The election will take place at the February meeting of the Board. Mr. Griffin introduced Mr. Kuller to the group.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford announced that this year's legislative breakfast will be held on April 20th at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. The focus this year will be on healthcare services for people with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Sanford reported that the last PVAC meeting had included discussion of Self Directed Services. This program offers many opportunities and many challenges. Concerns have been raised about the role of the fiscal intermediary and the absence of any monitoring requirements for this position.

Mr. Sanford noted that the application process for the wage enhancement funding was complex and confusing and many providers chose not to apply. The average wage enhancement increase was 3.8% but accurate and comprehensive information on who applied for and received the increase is not yet available.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman

Ms. Coleman reported that her group met on January 8th and reviewed the rules of conduct to be followed during their meetings. Ms. Coleman also reported that Protection and Advocacy (PAI) is in the process of developing a 5-year plan outlining the issues they want to address on behalf of our community. CAC members responded to the PAI survey requesting our input into the process.

Ms. Coleman announced that the People First Statewide Convention will be held June 8-10 this year. RCEB's Consumer Advisory Committee started reviewing criteria and priorities for selecting applicants whose attendance will be funded by RCEB. Discussion of this process will continue at the next CAC meeting on February 12th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the Governor's 2007-2008 Budget was released earlier this month but reminded members that this is the beginning of the process and the budget will look different when finalized on July 1, 2007. Mr. Burton reviewed highlights of the Governor's proposed budget and noted that no new cuts are being proposed but previous temporary cost containment measures are still in place. This freeze on rates and start-up funding will continue to significantly impact the quality and quantity of services available and keep the majority of much needed new program development from happening. The proposed budget includes funding for the minimum wage increase for direct care staff who provide services in community care facilities, day and work activity programs, respite care and supported living arrangements. The budget also assumes the need for funding to cover the current insufficiency in POS as a result of caseload growth and the projected increase in consumers' utilization of services.

Mr. Burton reported that IHSS may face significant challenges this year as the Governor's budget proposes maintaining the state's share of cost at current funding levels as wage rates increase. Significant cuts have been proposed for CalWorks and we need to be concerned about the impact of cuts to this important program. Overall, this budget proposal presents fewer changes than we typically see but it will be necessary to monitor the budget process carefully as it progresses. It will be important to maintain our legislative outreach and continue to focus our efforts on improving rates to improve direct care staff wages.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that Terri Delgadillo's confirmation hearing will be held on Wednesday and a number of people will testify in support of her nomination. Ms. Delgadillo is a very caring and genuine person and we are fortunate to have her providing such extraordinary leadership for our system. Ms. Delgadillo will visit RCEB on February 2nd and she will be the keynote speaker at Area Board 5's annual dinner that evening. We look forward to spending the day with her.

Mr. Burton reported that the CADDIS project has ended. This leaves us with a computer system that is over 20 years old and no clear picture of what will replace CADDIS. Mr. Burton was pleased to report that there is a commitment from DDS to look at the business needs of the system as we explore alternatives.

Members were reminded that the ARCA sponsored New Day California Conference will take place on February 5th and 6th in San Diego. The conference is fully booked with a large number of participants registered. This conference should provide a tremendous opportunity for creative collaboration.

Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Manspeaker for acknowledging our support and noted that her thanks is always very much appreciated.

Mr. Long noted that we need to continue our efforts to educate our board members and asked that members consider what areas they feel might require additional information or training. Please bring your ideas to the next board meeting or contact Dick directly to discuss training needs.

ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers reported that ARCA had met last Friday and spent much of the meeting reviewing the Governor's Budget Proposal. She noted that Terri Delgadillo is a very competent and skilled provider of information. She lead a thorough review of the proposal and responded to questions from ARCA members.

Ms. Struthers was pleased to report that ARCA has now approved funding for the ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee to meet in person. Prior to this, CAC members scheduled one face-to-face meeting annually. The new meeting schedule will better support the work of the group.

ARCA members will attend a retreat in San Diego on March 17th. The next ARCA meeting will be held on April 19th with a legislative reception being held on April 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker announced that the CARH fashion show will be held this year on April 27th in Dublin.

Will Sanford informed the group that the first day program designed for consumers leaving Agnews Developmental Center would open on February 1st. An open house for this program will be held on February 8th and board members were invited to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors