

Final
Approved 5/21/07



Board of Directors' Meeting

April 23, 2007

Presiding: Anne Struthers

Board Members

Present:

Nyron Battles
Tom Florin
Mike Kuller
Becca Loya
Carmen Quinones
Claudia Sladen

Bill Dycus
Ralph Griffin
Chi Lee
Lauri Parks
Will Sanford
Emily Whitgob

Board Members

Excused:

Rose Coleman
Steve Whitgob

Dick Long

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria
Mary Brett
Susan Driggs
Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Marc Sugars

Carol Bohnsack
Francine Davis
Terri Jones
Lisa Kleinbub

Guests Present:

Jenine Bishop
Sharon Hagerty
Aria Ligi
Rocio Smith

Barbara Garcia
Gina Jennings
Cleo Manspeaker
Todd Struthers

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 Consent Agenda as presented.”
(Griffin/Sladen) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rocio Smith reported that the East Bay Legislative Coalition’s annual legislative breakfast was held last Friday and was a very successful event. Ms. Smith shared a chart prepared for the breakfast meeting that shows the number of Regional Center of the East Bay Consumers in each legislative district.

Cleo Manspeaker announced that she will be modeling in the CARH fashion show on Friday and noted that this is the third year she has participated in this event.

Aria Ligi informed the group that a petition has been posted online to support a reduction in caseload size and an increase in case management salaries. Ms. Ligi reported that she has taken this action in an effort to support the extraordinary services and support provided to families by RCEB staff. The petition can be viewed at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/amendtheact>.

Barbara Garcia announced that the annual DD Councils’ awards dinner for this year will be held on June 6th at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

The Executive Committee did not meet this month.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chi Lee

Dr. Lee distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for March and noted that there is only a slight change to our POS projections from last month. RCEB is currently forecasting a mid-range deficit projection of < \$2,384,661 >, a slight decrease from last month’s projected insufficiency. The Operations budget continues to reflect a balanced budget for the year.

At this time, 19 regional centers, including RCEB, are still reporting deficiencies in their POS budgets. We continue to anticipate deficiency funding for regional centers at fiscal year-end.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the current Board Composition Report and directed the Board's attention to the need for increased representation from Alameda County. Recruitment efforts will be directed at balancing the geographical representation of the Board. Mr. Griffin encouraged everyone present to refer qualified candidates to the Membership Development Committee.

Mr. Griffin told the group that the Consumer Advisory Committee has requested the Board's approval to increase their membership total by two members. Following discussion, it was agreed that the suggestion would be made to the CAC that the Board consider approving a range of membership to provide the committee with some flexibility in accepting new members.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Mrs. Sladen reported that she is working with Ms. Davis to finalize the work plan for the group and will have a report for the next meeting of the Board.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that last week's legislative breakfast provided an opportunity to discuss health care issues and access to necessary medical services. The event was well attended and very informative.

Mr. Sanford informed the group that the SB 1270 work group has hosted their final stakeholder meeting and their recommendations should be available in early May. Mr. Sanford also thanked Mr. Battles and Ms. Coleman for their participation at the recent budget hearings and noted that it was good to see such active participation from our community.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that CAC members have offered to visit Agnews residents as they move into the community to support them in accessing the great opportunities that are available to them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Francine Davis for Jim Burton

Ms. Davis stated that Mr. Burton sends his apologies for not being able to attend the Board meeting but he was in Sacramento this evening to attend the Easter Seals California Annual Legislative Awards Dinner.

Ms. Davis reported that the Senate met on April 9th and the Assembly met on April 11th for budget hearings and both hearings were dominated by discussion and testimony on the closure of Agnews State Developmental Center. The Assembly addressed only the Agnews closure and will hold another hearing on all other issues on May 9th. Approximately 25 family members with relatives placed at Agnews spoke in opposition to the closure and an equal number of people spoke in support of the closure efforts. Key issues discussed were health care, including dental and behavioral services, neighborhood reactions to the new homes being developed and use of the Agnews land. Both the Senate and Assembly approved Trailer Bill Language to ensure that high quality health services are available to people transitioning from Agnews. Ms. Davis noted that the continuation of cost containment strategies from prior years, a proposal to bundle ICF rates with day program rates to increase federal funding and most other issues related to the budgets for regional centers were held open until the Administration releases the May revision to the budget proposal. The group was cautioned that May Revision budget hearings and actions should be carefully watched and reviewed.

Ms. Davis reminded the Board that both the Department of Developmental Services and regional centers are continuing to project a statewide deficiency in the current fiscal year. An omnibus deficiency appropriation bill will be introduced after the May revision to the budget is released.

Ms. Davis announced that the Senate Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism has prepared the draft recommendations of their three subcommittees and will be scheduling a number of community meetings to review the recommendations. A hearing was held in Oakland last week and it is evident that a tremendous amount of work has been done by the group with an effort to move from problem identification to problem resolution. Meanwhile, in the first quarter of this year, 886 of the 1,570 newly diagnosed consumers at regional centers had a diagnosis of autism.

Ms. Davis reported that vacant positions continue to be problematic for RCEB but we are making some progress. There are currently fifteen case management vacancies and a nursing position that has remained open for two years. Ms. Davis thanked Ms. Ligi for the support of the California Chapter of the National Autism Association and their petition efforts to improve regional center staffing and salaries.

Ms. Davis noted that Grass Roots Day was held last Wednesday and we had board members, consumers, family members and staff meeting with most of our legislators. It was a very busy day at the Capitol, followed by a reception to honor Kim Belshé, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency and Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services. Our community was again very well represented at this important event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no further public comment at this time.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that ARCA members reviewed their budget and an increase in dues will be requested for the coming year. Members were reminded of the critical function of the ARCA office and the valuable support they provide to regional centers.

Mr. Griffin also reported that ARCA members reviewed and discussed their vision statement. The next ARCA meeting will be important as it includes the election of officers for the coming year and review and discussion of the May Revise.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Struthers
Vice President
RCEB Board of Directors