

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 28, 2008

Presiding: Lauri Parks

Board Members  
Present:

Nyron Battles  
Rose Coleman  
Mike Kuller  
Carmen Quinones  
Anne Struthers

Shana Cohen  
Bill Dycus  
Chi Lee  
Will Sanford  
Steve Whitgob

Board Members  
Excused:

Tom Florin  
Dick Long

Ralph Griffin  
Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria  
Jim Burton  
Susan Driggs  
Rhonda Kimble-Kelly  
Nancy Kubota

Mary Brett  
Francine Davis  
Terri Jones  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Marc Sugars

Guests Present:

Patricia Albeño  
Sharon Hagerty  
Cleo Manspeaker  
Rocio Smith

Barbara Garcia  
Gina Jennings  
Hilda Mariscal

CALL TO ORDER

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Carmen Quinones told the group that her People First chapter is raising money by selling some very attractive and useful tote bags. The tote bags are selling for \$10 each and anyone interested in purchasing a bag can contact Carmen.

Cleo Manspeaker reported to everyone that she has been employed at her current job for almost six months and has been in her apartment for almost a year. She reported that she is very happy with her job and her apartment and thanked RCEB staff and board members for their support.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Lauri Parks for Ralph Griffin

Ms. Parks referred members to their packets for review and approval of the Master Calendar and Board Work Plan for 2008.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the 2008 Work Plan as a guide for their activities for the year.” (Struthers/Sanford) Unanimous.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the Master Calendar for 2008 as presented.” (Sanford/Battles) Unanimous.

Mr. Burton reminded members that an improvement to RCEB’s CalPERS retirement benefit had been agreed to through labor contract negotiations in December. Mr. Burton also reminded the group that Board members had been polled and approved the negotiated change last month and it was now necessary to take formal steps to approve this change. Members were referred to their packets to review the specific information on this change and the “Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Board of Directors Regional Center of the East Bay.” This will be a two-step approval process with the final approval to initiate the change to the contract being taken at the February meeting of the Board of Directors.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the “Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration California Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Board of Directors Regional Center of the East Bay.” (Sanford/Battles) Unanimous.

## BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Steve Whitgob

Mr. Kuller reviewed the financial status report for December 2007. RCEB has received the D-2 contract amendment in mid-January and our POS allocation was increased by approximately \$11.5 million, including \$9.9 million in a base deficit adjustment for the agency. Mr. Kuller noted that we received \$9.9M of the anticipated \$10.1M base deficit allocation. Nineteen regional centers are still projecting deficits in POS after the D-2 allocation. RCEB is not one of these centers.

Mr. Kuller reported that RCEB is currently projecting that POS expenditures will fall within a range of \$640,461 surplus to a deficit of <\$1,039,566>. RCEB staff will continue to carefully monitor our POS projections. RCEB continues to project a balanced Operations budget.

Mr. Kuller cautioned that the State of California budget deficit has created a cash flow concern for the end of the fiscal year and the beginning of next fiscal year. RCEB, due to our comparatively balanced POS budget projection, does not anticipate a problem with cash flow at year-end unless there is a protracted budget approval process.

Mr. Kuller reminded members that Lautze and Lautze, our independent audit firm, presented their report for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 at the last board meeting. This report is unqualified and contains no management comments. Members were asked to consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Independent Audit Report.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the Fiscal Year 2006-2007  
Independent Audit Report as presented.” (Whitgob/Battles)  
Unanimous.

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Lauri Parks for Ralph Griffin

Ms. Parks reminded members that Nyron Battles has completed his first term of service and is eligible to serve a second three-year term and Rose Coleman has completed six years of service and is eligible for one additional year of service on the Board. Both candidates have indicated they would be available to serve if elected. Following a ballot vote, Ms. Parks announced that Mr. Battles has been elected to serve a second three-year term and Ms. Coleman was elected to serve one additional year on the Board of Directors.

Ms. Parks reported that her committee had interviewed two candidates and the Membership Development Committee is recommending both for Board membership. Ms. Parks nominated Patricia Albeño and Hilda Mariscal and the election will take place at the February meeting of the Board.

#### PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that much of the January Provider Vendor Advisory Committee meeting was devoted to review and discussion of the Governor's budget proposal for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. The group also started to look at meeting and training topics for the coming year.

#### CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton had attended their last meeting and reviewed some of the key points of the Governor's budget proposal. The group has asked that Mr. Burton attend their next meeting and give them more information on what reductions are being proposed and what impact these service reductions would have on RCEB consumers and families.

Mr. Battles also reported that CAC members had watched a DVD that was prepared by members of the Department of Developmental Services CAC and explained the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

The annual People First conference will be held in June and CAC members are beginning their discussion of the criteria for selecting participants whose attendance will be funded by RCEB. Mr. Sanford asked if our CAC thought people living near the conference should be able to stay at the hotel or be required to go home each night since many of the social activities related to the conference take place in the evening. Mr. Battles noted that it has always been the position of our CAC members that participants should fund any portion of the event they can afford so as many people as possible can attend.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the Administration's 2008-2009 budget proposal was released earlier this month but reminded members that this is the beginning of the process and the budget will look different when finalized at the end of the fiscal year. The state is facing a total deficit of \$14.5 billion with \$3 billion in this fiscal year. The budget proposal is based on 10% reductions across all departments. Mr. Burton acknowledged DDS Director, Terri Delgadillo for her tremendous efforts to protect the entitlement and services to consumers and families. To address the deficit in the current fiscal year, the Administration has proposed reducing Community Placement Plan (CPP) Operations by 10% and reducing Regional Center Operations for HIPAA implementation by 10%. Mr. Burton reviewed highlights of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008/2009 and noted that previous temporary cost containment measures put in place in 2003 will continue. There is also a proposal to remove the sunset provision on these items and make them permanent. This action would cover the bulk of the 10% reductions for our system. 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. In addition to reductions already in place the budget proposes the following strategies:

- ▶ freezing negotiated rates not currently frozen and establishing limits on rates for new providers
- ▶ increase savings by expanding the Family Cost Participation Program to include parents of Early Start consumers
- ▶ reduce rates for supported employment services by 10%
- ▶ rollback the Devereux maintenance contract
- ▶ reduce Clients' Rights Advocacy agreements by 10%
- ▶ reduce CPP operations by 10% and reduce regional center operations for HIPAA implementation by 10%.

Reductions are being proposed for all other systems serving our consumers. These include a \$4 billion cut to education, a categorical cut of 18% of domestic services for the IHSS system, the elimination of the State SSP COLA and substantial cuts to Medi-Cal. Mr. Burton cautioned that regional centers will become responsible for necessary services as other systems lose funding and this shift will have a substantial impact on our budget. Many legislators continue to be concerned about the rate at which our system is growing and it will continue to be important for us to educate them. The increase in the number of persons with autism being served by this system continues to grow at a record breaking pace. Twenty years ago this system served 2,778 persons with autism and by the end of 2007 there were 36,952 persons being served. 85% of the autism population in the developmental services system is under the age of 21 and will look to their regional centers for services as they exit the educational system.

Mr. Burton reported that DDS continues to prepare for Self Directed Services (SDS) and conceptually there is broad agreement that SDS should be implemented in California. There is also serious concern that regional centers are not adequately staffed to successfully put this program in place. ARCA has asked each regional center to review and discuss this issue with their boards prior to the ARCA meeting in March. Mr. Burton will provide information on SDS for discussion at this Board's February meeting.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that there is no longer a backlog in intake in our Early Start unit. We have revised the intake system so families will not have to wait for services. Mr. Burton thanked Mary Brett and her staff and administrative support staff for their significant efforts through the holidays. There are currently six vacant case management positions in Early Start and the number of calls coming in continues to increase.

Mr. Burton noted that we have made significant progress in filling case management positions throughout the agency. However, we currently have fifteen vacancies which include seven new positions to address caseload growth. Board members were informed that we will probably not meet our caseload ratio

requirements for our next reporting period. We continue to work on recruitment and retention but are having trouble attracting applicants. Mr. Burton thanked Terri Jones and the case management supervisors for their hiring efforts.

Mr. Burton reported that our second open house for the Bay Area Housing Project has been scheduled. Six more homes should be ready by the end of February. Board members were encouraged to attend the open houses to see the quality of the homes serving former Agnews residents. These homes are everything we hoped for when the project was started.

Mr. Burton announced that the annual Grass Roots Day event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Legislative visits are being coordinated through the ARCA office this year. Please let us know if you wish to participate.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rocio Smith invited everyone to the Area Board dinner on February 6<sup>th</sup>. This year's dinner is being held at the Double Tree Hotel in Berkeley.

Gina Jennings thanked RCEB's Concord staff for their efforts in making this year's Transition Conference a success. She thanked RCEB staff, Janice Newsome and Elizabeth Hales, for their outstanding support of the conference.

### ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Mrs. Struthers encouraged board members to participate in Grass Roots Day on March 5<sup>th</sup> and to take this opportunity to meet and share information with legislators and their staff.

### ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss pending legal issues, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman  
Secretary  
RCEB Board of Director