

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 28, 2008

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Patricia Albeño	Nyron Battles
	Ronald Clay	Shana Cohen
	Rose Coleman	Mike Kuller
	Chi Lee	Hilda Mariscal
	Lauri Parks	Carmen Quinones
	Will Sanford	Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:	Bill Barbaria	Mara Bearse
	Carol Bohnsack	Mary Brett
	Jim Burton	Jim Chau
	Francine Davis	Susan Driggs
	Terri Jones	Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
	Lisa Kleinbub	Nancy Kubota

Guests Present:	Barbara Garcia	Sharon Hagerty
	Cleo Manspeaker	Sarah Sladen
	Rocio Smith	

CALL TO ORDER

President, Ralph Griffin, 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

Mr. Kuller requested, on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, that the agenda be amended to include action to establish a line of credit under agenda item V.B.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approved the agenda for 4/28/08 as amended and the minutes of 3/24/08 as presented.” (Sanford/Kuller)
Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker announced that she will begin a new day program on Tuesday and thanked RCEB for supporting her as she makes difficult life choices.

Rocio Smith and Barbara Garcia, as members of the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council, distributed copies of the Planning Council’s Inclusive Child Care Statement. They asked that RCEB review and endorse the statement. It was agreed that endorsement of the Inclusive Child Care Statement would be considered for board approval at the May meeting.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Burton shared a video that was completed as a companion piece to the San Francisco Chronicle article included in this evening’s packets. The audio slideshow sensitively follows a consumer through her last days at Agnews Developmental Center and her move to her new home in the community.

Mr. Burton noted that due to the length of this evening’s meeting, discussion of RCEB’s caseload survey report would be deferred to a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reminded members that the by-laws had been referred to the Executive Committee to ensure they clearly reflect members’ responsibility in terms of meeting processes. Mr. Griffin reported that that the proposed amendments state that this board will follow the law and remove language that restates the Lanterman Act. All proposed changes were reviewed with the group.

M/S/C “The Board moves to accept the by-law changes as presented.”
(Kuller/Lee) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for March 2008. This report reflects nine months of expenditures and shows no significant changes since last month. RCEB continues to project balanced OPS and POS budgets for the year with POS expenditures expected to fall within a range of a deficit of <\$83,842> to a surplus of \$1,716,034.

Mr. Kuller reported that his committee had discussed the agency's need to establish a line of credit in the event the State budget is delayed. Members were reminded that if approved, the line of credit is activated only on an as needed basis.

M/S/C "The Board moves to authorize RCEB to establish a line of credit with Union Bank for \$40 million at 5.25% interest, to be used in the event the State budget is not approved on time." (Kuller/Sladen)
Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the current Board Composition Report and directed the members' 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.

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Mrs. Sladen thanked members for their support during her absence and acknowledged that it is gratifying to be able to return to her position on the board and to join the efforts to support the developmental disabilities community during the challenging times ahead.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford shared that Francine Davis had provided his committee with a presentation on addressing the challenges of developing necessary new services without the availability of start-up funding. Mr. Sanford also reported that this year's legislative breakfast was well attended and very informative. Mr. Sanford thanked Mr. Burton for his testimony at the recent budget hearing in opposition to the proposed supported employment rate reduction.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton had attended their meeting and updated the group on the State budget. Ms. Kubota also attended the CAC meeting and discussed how to qualify for the President's economic stimulus package. Mr. Burton thanked Mr. Battles, the CAC membership and RCEB staff for getting information to consumers who will be eligible to receive the economic stimulus funds.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that most of this Administration's cuts have already been signed into law and budget hearings were recently held by the Senate and Assembly to review the remaining items. Both hearings included updates on the closure of Agnews Developmental Center and the head of the Agnews parents' group indicated they are now optimistic about the closure process. Mr. Burton acknowledged that this has been a difficult transition for families and consumers who have known Agnews as their home for many years, but as placements have been made into the community, trust and confidence in the closure plan has continued to increase. Budget hearings also reviewed the proposed 10% cut to Supported Employment services. Many people were present to testify against this proposal and the decision was made to defer action on this item. The Senate hearing also reviewed the \$192 million unallocated reduction removed from the POS budget by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). During the hearing the DDS Director confirmed that this is an entitlement system and the money will be included in the budget if necessary to fund the entitlement. Action on this item was also deferred.

Mr. Burton noted that the State budget situation continues to worsen and is likely to be the most difficult budget deficit we have faced. We continue to have a deficit after cuts have been made and the deficit estimate continues to rise. The May revision to the Governor's budget should be released on May 14th but there has not been a lot of movement on resolving this deficiency. Members were cautioned that the problem continues to grow while the list of solutions does not.

Rocio Smith shared her concerns about the 2008-09 California Budget and distributed information on the California and Regional Center budgets. Ms. Smith shared with the group the California is one of only three states that require a 2/3 majority to pass a budget and to increase taxes. California also is the only state that requires a 2/3 majority to pass a budget and gives the governor line item veto authority. Finally, she noted that in California it only takes 50% of the vote to pass a tax cut but a 2/3's majority vote to reinstate it. She recommended that everyone look at the California Budget Project website for additional information.

Mr. Burton reported that two reports have been issued by DDS on controlling regional center costs. The DDS Cost Containment report is a history of ideas that have failed to work in the past and does not attempt to address the real impact to consumers and families. This report is very concerning in the state's present fiscal environment. The second report by Acumen outlines trends in DDS expenditures and is very well done. This report indicates that this is not a system out of control

Mr. Burton informed the Board that RCEB has made significant progress in reducing the number of case management vacancies. At one point this year we had 22 vacant positions and today we have five vacant positions. This year we

have had 500 new consumers to serve so it is essential that we continue our recruitment efforts.

Mr. Burton distributed a summary of important legislation and noted a number of bills have been the result of the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. Of special note is SB 1175 (Steinberg) which would replicate what we have done in the Bay Area Housing Plan and allow regional centers to develop a permanent housing stock for people with developmental disabilities. This bill would ensure that a resident will always have a place to live even if the person working in their home as a care provider changes.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that we have a number of new Board members and the Executive Committee has been working to put together a Board training. It was agreed that the training would be held on Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 in the morning until 2:00 PM.

Members were also reminded that the regularly scheduled RCEB Board meeting will fall on a holiday in May and needs to be rescheduled. It was agreed that the May meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, May 19th.

Mr. Burton reported that Alta California Regional Center has struggled for several years and he was pleased to announce they have been removed from probationary status. Congratulations to the Board, staff and community at Alta for their extraordinary effort to improve their operations and move forward.

Mr. Burton announced that he had the honor of attending the 50th anniversary celebration of Las Trampas. Las Trampas has had active parent involvement throughout their history and the support these parents have provided has been an inspiration to our community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Garcia reminded everyone that the DD Councils' joint annual dinner will be held on May 29th in Dublin.

Mr. Burton announced that Barbara has decided it is time to retire and while this is great news for Barbara, it will be terrible for the East Bay to lose one of our great leaders.

Mr. Griffin thanked Barbara for all her labors and all the good things she has done for persons with developmental disabilities.

ARCA REPORT

Mr. Griffin reported that Francine Davis had attended her first ARCA meeting and called on her to give her impression of the organization and the meeting process.

Ms. Davis said it was clear to her that ARCA represents the multiplicity of ideas originating in regional centers throughout the state. She found the meeting encompassed a process that welcomed diverse perspectives and provided people the opportunity to work together to resolve issues and make good decisions. She also noted it was a privilege to watch Mr. Griffin provide leadership to the group through his tremendous historical perspective. It was obvious from her attendance that ARCA has a clear commitment to consumers and families.

Mr. Griffin reported that much of the ARCA meeting was devoted to the cost containment document mentioned earlier by Mr. Burton and to the Lanterman Regional Center white paper on entitlement. Mr. Griffin noted that it was good to be back at the table to observe the ARCA staff provide valuable advice and counsel on developmental disabilities issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss labor contract negotiations and real estate negotiations, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors