

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 19, 2008

Presiding: Mike Kuller

Board Members

Present: Patricia Albeño
Ronald Clay
Rose Coleman
Hilda Mariscal
Will Sanford

Nyron Battles
Shana Cohen
Chi Lee
Carmen Quinones

Board Members

Excused: Ralph Griffin
Claudia Sladen

Lauri Parks

Staff Present: Bill Barbaria
Mary Brett
Susan Driggs
Lisa Kleinbub

Carol Bohnsack
Jim Burton
Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Nancy Kubota

Guests Present: Cleo Manspeaker

CALL TO ORDER

Treasurer, Mike Kuller, called to order the regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:20 PM. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Agenda for May 19, 2008 as presented." (Battles/Lee) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting as presented." (Battles/Lee) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Quinones distributed and reviewed information on ways to make healthy eating choices when eating at fast food restaurants. This information was made available through Alameda County's Adaptive Diabetes Management and Nutritional Education Program for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Cleo Manspeaker reported that on May 18th, she had been served by the regional center system for 26 years and very much appreciates the support she has received. Ms. Manspeaker also shared that the New Directions travel group had included her thank you letter in their latest newsletter.

Ms. Manspeaker read a plaque she had created and presented to Mr. Burton at the recent Housing Consortium of the East Bay anniversary celebration. Ms. Manspeaker presented this very special gift to honor Mr. Burton's work with the people served by RCEB.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller for Ralph Griffin

Mr. Kuller reminded members that at last month's meeting, Rocio Smith and Barbara Garcia had requested the Board's endorsement of Alameda County's Child Care Planning Council's inclusive childcare statement. Board members were referred to their packets for final review of the statement.

M/S/C "The Board moves to endorse, as presented, the Inclusive Child Care Statement of the Alameda County Child Care Planning Council." (Sanford/Lee) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for April and noted this report reflects ten months of expenditures and RCEB continues to project balanced POS and OPS budgets for the year. Mr. Kuller noted that RCEB is one of only two regional centers that are not predicting budget insufficiencies for the current fiscal year.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford noted that much of his committee's meeting had been spent in discussion of the State budget and that information would be covered later this evening in Mr. Burton's report.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton had attended the CAC meeting and reported on the State budget. CAC members expressed concern about how the budget will impact the lives of consumers. Mr. Battles thanked Mr. Burton for supporting his group and helping them to understand the impact of budget decisions.

Mr. Battles also reported that three members of his committee, Greg Stoper, Shawn Costello and Herb Hastings, will be presenters at the upcoming People First Convention in Sacramento.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the May Revision to the Governor's Budget was released last week and California is now projecting a deficit of \$17.2 billion. This is a very substantial deficit and the administration's overall plan to cover the deficit is to borrow against future lottery receipts. If voters are not willing to approve the lottery plan, revenues may be raised by a 1% increase in the sales tax. Neither party seems pleased with the new budget proposal.

The good news in the budget proposal is that no further cuts to our service system have been recommended because of the severity of cuts already implemented in February. The \$192 million unallocated reduction has been restored to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) budget to fully fund the entitlement as was promised by DDS Director, Terri Delgadillo. Mr. Burton noted that we need to recognize Ms. Delgadillo for protecting the entitlement during these difficult times in Sacramento.

Budget hearings will begin on Wednesday to discuss our issues. An Agnews Closure Plan update will be provided to the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees. Both committees will also be looking at the proposed 10% reduction in the Supported Employment rates. A 10% reduction to the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy was previously approved by the Senate but will need to be revisited by the Assembly.

Massive cuts have been proposed to other Health and Human Services programs. Cuts to IHSS, SSI/SSP and MediCal services will seriously impact the consumers we serve. Members were reminded that when these other systems are cut and services are no longer available, it becomes the responsibility of the regional center to fund those services and the costs could be enormous.

Mr. Burton reported the budget was opposed as soon as it was released and we can expect an extended budget process this summer. Members were reminded that the State is running out of cash and funds will probably be exhausted in mid to late August and regional centers could be in trouble by September. RCEB has taken action to borrow funds if necessary but we can expect a very difficult struggle in Sacramento to see this budget completed.

Mr. Burton reminded members that it is also important to watch significant legislation as it moves through the approval process. Assembly Bill 1824 (Beall) relates to regional center employee liability. Assembly Bill 1825 (Beall) would establish procedures for dispute resolution between a regional center and any publicly funded agency over provision of or payment for services contained in an IPP or IFSP. Assembly Bill 2424 (Beall) focuses on directing work age adults toward integrated employment and makes changes to how IPPs and IEPs are conducted for children transitioning from public school to adult services. Senate Bill 1175 would allow DDS to approve proposals from regional centers to provide for, secure and ensure payment of leases on housing for persons with developmental disabilities. This important bill was just passed in the Senate on a 35/0 vote.

Mr. Burton told the group that he had attended the 10th anniversary celebration of the Housing Consortium of the East Bay (HCEB) where RCEB was recognized as a partner. He thanked Ms. Manspeaker for her presentation and noted that she had also appeared in the HCEB anniversary video explaining the importance of affordable housing. HCEB continues to do great things in this community.

Everyone present was reminded that the annual joint Developmental Disabilities Councils' dinner would be held on May 29th in Dublin. This is always a great event and not to be missed.

Board members were reminded that a board training has been scheduled for Saturday, May 31st in Concord. Information will be mailed this week.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose Coleman reported that she attended the recent Disability Action Day in Sacramento. While there, she asked about IHSS cuts and what impact cuts would have on consumers. It was disappointing to find that legislative staff had no answer to this very important question.

Patricia Albeño distributed information on the Walk Now for Autism event being held on Saturday, June 7th in Pleasanton.

ARCA REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that the next ARCA meeting would be held in July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors