

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

June 23, 2008

Presiding: Lauri Parks

Board Members

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

Board Members

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| Excused: | Ralph Griffin | Chi Lee |
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| Staff Present: | Bill Barbaria | Mary Brett |
| | Jim Burton | Francine Davis |
| | Susan Driggs | Terri Jones |
| | Rhonda Kimble-Kelly | Lisa Kleinbub |
| | Nancy Kubota | Marc Sugars |

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| Guests Present: | Barbara Garcia | Gina Jennings |
| | Rocio Smith | Anne Struthers |
| | Todd Struthers | |

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Agenda for June 23, 2008 as presented." (Sladen/Kuller) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2008 meeting as presented." (Kuller/Sanford) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Lauri Parks for Ralph Griffin

Ms. Parks reported that Board members had participated in a training retreat at the end of last month. The day was very graciously hosted by Sister Marygrace and was an informative and productive day for participants.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed RCEB's Financial Status Report for May which reflects eleven months of expenditures through May 31, 2008. RCEB continues to project balanced POS and OPS budgets for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008.

Mr. Kuller reported that we have a \$42 million line of credit in place with Union Bank of California. The line of credit will be accessed only on an as needed basis. RCEB should have sufficient cash to carry us through mid-September before it will be necessary to use the established line of credit.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Lauri Parks for Ralph Griffin

There was no meeting of the committee this month.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Mrs. Sladen referred members to their packets for review of the letter received from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) in response to our submission of the Family Training Services POS policy. Mrs. Sladen reported that her committee had met to review the DDS comments and have revised the policy based on their comments. The revised policy will be forwarded to Board members for their consideration of approval of the changes at their July meeting.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported that his group had met and discussed the ongoing budget crisis in California. The group spent some time sharing ways of enhancing services and supporting staff in these incredibly challenging times.

Mr. Sanford also noted that he found the Board training retreat to be very informative and he very much appreciated the information provided on the origins of the Lanterman Act.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that his group had not met this month so members would be able to attend the annual People First Conference in Sacramento. Three members of RCEB's Consumer Advisory Committee were presenters at the conference this year and it was another great event.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported there has been no significant movement toward completing the State budget. One of the more significant events in recent budget activities was the approval of a 10% reduction in Supported Employment rates by the legislature. The Senate has approved a 10% cut to the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy and this budget reduction item will now be reviewed by the Conference Committee since it was not approved by the Assembly. The \$192 million unallocated reduction has been restored to the DDS budget as there was clear indication these funds were necessary to fund the entitlement. The Agnews Closure Plan has again been reviewed and all are in agreement that it will have a rolling closure date to ensure that placements continue to be done very carefully and thoughtfully.

Mr. Burton reported that the Conference Committee has met but have not completed their work. There continue to be competing ideas on how to resolve the State's budget deficit and difficult decisions will need to be made. It is now projected that California will run out of cash in mid-August. We have advised providers to secure lines of credit if at all possible. ICF providers and many Medi-Cal providers will not receive payment for the last two weeks of June but are expected to catch up with their payments in July.

Mr. Burton reminded everyone that this year will be one of significant challenges for our community. The freeze on negotiated rates and the new requirement that we use the median rate for this area or the median rate for the state, whichever is lower, will have a major impact in high cost areas of the state. People with developmental disabilities with the most significant physical, medical and behavioral needs are those who will be at the greatest risk of health and safety crises. Those people needing the most significant services will be unable to access appropriate services unless we are able to secure health and safety exemptions for them. This budget reduction item will have extremely serious implications for those we serve.

Mr. Burton also said the reductions to Medi-Cal rates will create serious problems for the consumers and families we serve. Members were reminded that a 10%

reduction to Medi-Cal rates was approved in February. An effort has been made to reverse 5% of the approved reduction but the rates will remain at the 10% reduction until a budget has been approved. This cut has many providers refusing to accept Medi-Cal and will have a very serious impact on those we serve. RCEB will need to be constantly vigilant to see that consumers are able to access necessary medical care.

Mr. Burton referred members to their packets to review DDS's ranking of RCEB's Early Start Program. Mr. Burton noted that we are very proud of the scores noted in this report and we continue to make major progress in responding to intakes within all required timelines.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that the California Autism Foundation is struggling financially and organizationally. This program serves over 300 people with developmental disabilities. Mr. Burton reported that he is meeting with their new leadership tomorrow and we will do our best to help them but the ways in which we are able to provide assistance are very limited.

Mr. Burton noted that we continue to make progress in filling vacant case management positions. We currently have seven vacant case management positions, a tremendous improvement from the point where we had twenty-two vacancies. We continue to struggle to recruit nurses and have had one nursing position open for two years. Mr. Burton asked members to review the letter in their packets from DDS acknowledging that we are not meeting our required caseload standards. We have made significant progress and will continue recruitment efforts as we strive to meet mandatory caseload requirements.

Mr. Burton reported that the federal economic stimulus payments are being received by many of our consumers. He thanked Ms. Kubota, Ms. Brett and the case management staff for their efforts to assist consumers in accessing these payments. This payments mean a great deal to the people we serve.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Jennings reminded the group that the Contra Costa DD Council will meet here on Wednesday morning and Rocio Smith reported that Area Board 5 will be meeting in San Francisco in two days.

Mr. Burton also encouraged the group to participate in Congreso Familiar on August 16th. This is a great annual event for Spanish speaking families and all in attendance were encouraged to come and enjoy the day.

Todd Struthers reported that he will be leaving for Taft College on August 1st. Mr. Burton congratulated Todd and thanked him for joining us for this evening's meeting.

Rocio Smith announced that Alameda County will be hosting a retirement party for Barbara Garcia on September 12th. Invitations will be out shortly.

ARCA REPORT: Jim Burton for Ralph Griffin

Mr. Burton informed members that the next ARCA meeting will be held in mid-July.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors