

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

October 27, 2008

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Nyron Battles	Ronald Clay
	Shana Cohen	Rose Coleman
	Chi Lee	Hilda Mariscal
	Carmen Quinones	Will Sanford

Board Members

Excused:	Patricia Albeño	Mike Kuller
	Lauri Parks	Claudia Sladen

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria	Carol Bohnsack
Jim Burton	Francine Davis
Susan Driggs	Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Lisa Kleinbub	Nancy Kubota
Ella Liggins	Pam Thomas

Guests Present:

Sharon Hagerty	Gina Jennings
Sandi Soliday	

CALL TO ORDER

President, Ralph Griffin, 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 agenda for the October 27, 2008 meeting and the minutes of the September 22, 2008 meeting as presented." (Sanford/Coleman) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Executive Committee members had reviewed the draft Performance Objectives for 2009. Pam Thomas, Interim Director of Consumer Services, reviewed the draft plan with the group and responded to questions. Mr. Griffin asked the Board to consider approval of the 2009 Performance Contract.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the 2009 Performance Contract Objectives as presented.” (Lee/Battles) Unanimous.

Mr. Griffin introduced Francine Davis, RCEB Director of Community Services. Ms. Davis distributed and reviewed RCEB’s Unmet Service Needs Report. Members were updated on RCEB’s method for identifying unmet service needs and how the data collected is used to determine how we proceed with new program development. Ms. Davis reminded the group that we continue to have many consumers receiving less than they were promised by the Lanterman Act. The freeze on rates and start-up funding over the last several years has taken a toll on our ability to grow to meet the needs of consumers. We are seeing program closures as a result of these freezes. RCEB is looking carefully at health and safety concerns and requesting rate assistance from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) when appropriate. Regrettably, we are not receiving timely or positive responses from DDS at this time. The implementation of the median rate structure requirements further discourages vendors from starting new programs in our area. It is always difficult to recognize that we are unable to provide consumers with needed services but we continue in our efforts to work with our community to find innovative ways to provide quality services.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chi Lee for Mike Kuller

Dr. Lee distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for September. The Operations figures are preliminary due to an underfunding by DDS of caseload growth. DDS has acknowledged that caseload was underestimated but restoration will be contingent on the Administration’s budget proposal for the coming year. The caseload deficiency has impacted both the OPS and POS budgets for the year.

Dr. Lee reported that the Budget and Finance Committee had reviewed the draft Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR). The SOAR will be submitted to DDS this week and will be jointly reviewed by the regional centers, DDS and ARCA. Ms. Kubota distributed copies of the report and reviewed the report with Board

members and the audience. Members were reminded that funds are held back by the Department of Developmental Services at the beginning of each year and if we receive the anticipated base allocation adjustment we will have a projected POS insufficiency range of <\$1,742,727> to <\$4,910,680>. Mr. Burton noted that the total growth for the system was significantly underestimated by DDS because of unusually rapid caseload growth occurring late in last fiscal year. Because this is an entitlement system, DDS is required to request additional funds from the legislature when a deficit is identified. The legislature has broad discretion in addressing any deficiencies.

M/S/C “The Board moves to accept the Budget and Finance Committee report as presented.” (Sanford/Battles) Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the Board Composition Report and noted that his group will continue their recruitment efforts. 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 reminded members that the slate of officers for 2009 had been presented at the September meeting of the Board and the election will take place at the November meeting. Mr. Griffin requested additional nominations from the floor and with none offered the nominations were closed and the following slate of officers for 2009 was presented:

President – Ralph Griffin
Vice President – Lauri Parks
Treasurer – Mike Kuller
Secretary – Nyron Battles

Mr. Griffin reported that his first term of service was expiring and he has agreed to serve a second three-year term. Following a ballot election, Mr. Griffin was unanimously elected to a second term of service.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford said his group had an interesting presentation on the use of a rescue chair designed to help wheelchair users exit multi-story buildings in emergency situations. This presentation was followed by the budget presentation and extensive discussion of the challenges ahead.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reminded members that the CAC traditionally decides the criteria for RCEB funding of applicants' attendance at the annual People First Conference. The group has decided that they will use the random lottery selection again for 2009. Mr. Battles reported that Mr. Burton provided members with updated budget information and following Mr. Burton's report, presentations were deferred to allow CAC members time to discuss and understand the budget issues. CAC members remain very concerned about California's budget crisis and its impact on services and the meeting agenda was changed to allow time for all members to discuss their concerns.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton recognized Pam Thomas for the fine work she has done filling in as Interim Director of Consumer Services. Mr. Burton also introduced Ella Liggins and thanked her for her outstanding work as Interim Associate Director of Consumer Services for Contra Costa County. He thanked both for their willingness to take on their new responsibilities and support a smooth transition for consumers, families and staff.

Mr. Burton reported that the state budget situation keeps rolling along and is estimated to be \$3-5 billion short. This number is expected to increase because there was an assumption there would be an economic recovery beginning October 1. The Governor has said that he wants to call a special session of the legislature but it is unclear whether the session will be called in November with existing legislators in place or in December when new legislators take office. Everyone in Sacramento agrees the budget problem is serious but there has been no agreement on how to resolve the situation. As a result of this gridlock, the specter of mid-year budget cuts is very possible. We have no idea what those cuts will be but we should start hearing the plans shortly after the election. Mr. Burton informed the Board that we are especially concerned this year because we are going into this budget knowing that our growth has been underestimated. This is a difficult time to fill the holes that have been created by the miscalculation of the growth we are experiencing and to try to avoid additional cuts. If there is no agreement on how to address the deficit through the special legislative session, the Governor does have mid-year ability to propose cuts. There is no doubt this will be a year of extraordinary challenges and we will need to be ready as advocates and to educate newly elected legislators.

Mr. Burton reported that First Lady, Maria Shriver, is sponsoring a new employment effort and is actively involved in finding jobs for Californians with developmental disabilities. Regional centers have been working closely with her

office to support this important endeavor to expand employment opportunities for consumers.

The Board was informed that all fifteen homes for the Bay Area Housing Plan have now been delivered. Staff are being employed for all homes and Mr. Burton noted that they are a very impressive and caring group of people. The former residents of Agnews Developmental Center are enjoying their new homes and communities. RCEB now has just over 20 consumers left at Agnews and the Agnews closure project is nearing completion.

Mr. Burton shared that he recently had the opportunity to tour an exciting new program being run by East Bay Services for the Developmentally Disabled. The Center for Well Being is an incredible new program focused on the health and well-being of the people we serve. This program should be a source of great pride for this community and Mr. Burton recognized Sister Marygrace for her extraordinary vision and determination to make this program a reality for our consumers.

Mr. Burton reported that the very successful Congreso Familiar program has expanded to include families from the eastern Contra Costa County area. A miniature version of the annual parent education conference was recently held in Pittsburg and included excellent presentations and a full day of valuable information.

Last Saturday, Mr. Burton had the opportunity to attend an interesting presentation by the Autism Blue Ribbon Commission on accessing healthcare. We are seeing a steady stream of advocacy from parents who are successfully appealing decisions by health care plans relative to autism and the medical necessity of treatments. The presentation clearly illustrated that we have a health care problem with great complexities.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that we have been notified by our primary health insurance provider, Kaiser, that their rates will increase 18% this year. It continues to be an incredible challenge to provide healthcare benefits with these unanticipated increases and we continue to look for ways to meet the challenge when these increases are not reflected in our allocation from the State.

Mr. Burton referred members to their packets for information on upcoming ARCA sponsored conferences. "Final Journey II: Quality End-of-Life Decisions" will be held November 17-18 in San Diego and "A New Day 2009" will be held February 5-6 in San Francisco.

Mr. Burton reported that RCEB has recently celebrated two retirements and it is nice to know that people are able to retire with our current retirement plan. Anne Maselli, one of RCEB's first employees has retired after 32 years of service and Filomena Pinto has retired from the accounting department after 10 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Will Sanford announced that the East Bay Legislative Committee will be hosting a townhall meeting on December 5th at 1515 Clay Street. This will be an important opportunity to educate our legislators to the daily challenges faced by consumers and families and the impact of cost containment measures on the developmental disabilities service system and those being served. Everyone present was urged to encourage as many people as possible to attend this important meeting.

ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that regional centers are coming together to work to meet the challenges of these difficult times. The group decided at their recent meeting to schedule an additional meeting in December to help keep members fully informed and updated on critical issues. Mr. Griffin also reported that the group had approved ARCA's Guiding Principles and Goals and Objectives for 2008/2009. Members were reminded that they had been provided a copy of a white paper done by Lanterman Regional Center with recommendations to the legislature for changes to the Lanterman Act. Mr. Griffin noted that as the representative of this Board he clearly carried the message that this regional center will not consider these adjustments to the Lanterman Act.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a closed session to discuss real estate negotiations and personnel issues, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors