

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 24, 2008

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present: Patricia Albeño Ronald Clay
Shana Cohen Rose Coleman
Mike Kuller Sister Marygrace
Claudia Sladen

Board Members

Excused: Nyron Battles Chi Lee
Hilda Mariscal Lauri Parks
Carmen Quinones

Staff Present: Bill Barbaria Carol Bohnsack
Jim Burton Francine Davis
Susan Driggs Lisa Kleinbub
Nancy Kubota Marc Sugars

Guests Present: Roger Bulosan Patrick Chow
Gina Jennings Hanna Loyola
Cleo Manspeaker Sandi Soliday
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

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for the November 24, 2008 meeting and the minutes of the October 27, 2008 meeting as presented." (Kuller/Cohen) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker thanked RCEB for helping her to continue to live in her own apartment and maintain her independence. Ms. Manspeaker also announced that Stepping Stones will be hosting an art auction on December 5th and invited everyone to attend.

Rocio Smith reminded the group that the East Bay Legislative Coalition is hosting a town hall meeting on December 5th in downtown Oakland. Everyone was encouraged to attend this important event and use the opportunity to share with local legislators their concerns about the impact of budget reductions and cost containment measures.

Ms. Smith also announced that invitations to the annual Area Board 5 dinner will be arriving shortly. This year's event will take place on January 29th in Berkeley.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

There was no Executive Committee report this evening.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller reported that Lautze and Lautze, our independent audit firm, has completed their draft audit report for Fiscal Year 2007/2008. Mr. Kuller introduced Hanna Loyola and Roger Bulosan of Lautze and Lautze . This report is unqualified and contains no management comments. A copy of the draft report was distributed to members and Mr. Bulosan reviewed his firm's findings with the Board. Members were asked to review the report and come prepared to consider approval at the next meeting of the Board.

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for October. Mr. Kuller reported that RCEB's Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR) for 2008/2009 has been jointly reviewed by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA). Following the review, DDS has accepted RCEB's SOAR projections and confirmed our projected base insufficiency of \$11.9 million. In the event that RCEB receives all of our base insufficiency allocation, we will continue to have a POS insufficiency between \$1.8 million and \$4.9 million as a result of unfunded caseload growth. DDS should be issuing confirmation of our E-2 contract amendment and additional POS funds to cover base insufficiencies by January 15th but statewide insufficiencies have not

been clarified and there is no final confirmation that there is adequate statewide funding to cover all base deficits.

Mr. Kuller noted that staff is continuing to assess Operations obligations and contracts for the current year but we continue to project a balanced Operations budget at this time. Members were cautioned that because of the State Budget situation there may well be reductions pending that will impact our current year budget.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reviewed the proposed slate of officers for 2009. Following a ballot vote, Mr. Griffin reported that the following officers had been elected to serve for calendar year 2009.

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

Mr. Griffin reported that his group had interviewed Patrick Chow for Board membership and were placing his name into nomination. Election will take place at the January meeting of the Board. Mr. Chow was in attendance and was introduced to the Board and shared information on his background.

Mr. Griffin announced that this evening would be Ms. Coleman's last meeting as a member of the Board. Ms. Coleman was presented with a plaque in appreciation for her outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of the community we serve. Ms. Coleman has served on the Board of Directors for seven years and will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE: Claudia Sladen

Ms. Sladen reported that we have received DDS approval of our revised Family Training Services policy and the policy will now be implemented in compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Ms. Sladen shared that her group will review their expectations and work plan for the coming year and focus on policies that require a proactive review especially as they relate to persons with autism.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace for Will Sanford

Sister Marygrace reported that her group had met on November 14th with excellent attendance. The intent of the meetings is to look at the needs of the people we serve and to support each other and challenge each other to excellence. She noted that Mr. Burton's report is key to the success of the group in understanding

where the system stands and what we need to do together to succeed. The last meeting included the presentation of an inspirational DVD highlighting how to do things because you really love to do them. PVAC meetings will continue to be used to share information and resources. Sister Marygrace, on behalf of the service providers, thanked the Board for their diligence and the great care of their governance in protecting the good of the people we serve.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Rose Coleman for Nyron Battles

Ms. Coleman reported that Mr. Burton updated her group on the current budget situation for the state and answered members' questions. Nyron Battles was re-elected as Chairperson of the group for 2009 and Ms. Coleman was elected as Vice-Chair. Ms. Coleman also reported that the group had worked through a training exercise on how to conduct meaningful and positive IPP meetings. The group also reviewed information regarding the rights of disabled citizens to register to vote and participate in elections. The next CAC meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported there has been a fair amount of budget activity in Sacramento. The Governor called a special session of the legislature after the election. At that point the budget deficit for California was believed to be \$11 billion and the Legislative Analyst's office now predicts a \$28 billion deficit over the next two years. A combination of cuts and revenues has been proposed to address the deficit and the proposed cuts are far reaching and serious. It is important to remember that these are only proposals but, if implemented, they would have a huge impact on the people we serve. Gridlock continues to prevail in Sacramento and the delays in addressing the budget problems of the state have compounded the problem. Mr. Burton cautioned that we have significant challenges ahead and must be prepared to advocate through the winter and spring.

Mr. Burton advised the group that the Agnews closure plan is nearing completion. RCEB has 20 consumers remaining at Agnews and placements are occurring regularly. The people remaining at Agnews have significant physical and medical needs and the health and well-being of each resident continues to be our primary consideration when transitioning these residents to the community.

Mr. Burton reported that a number of people have been working hard to achieve a settlement in the Capitol People First v. DDS et al. This class action lawsuit has been pending for more than six years but there has been much activity in the last six months. Mr. Burton informed the Board that the court has issued a 30-day "stay" in the litigation and we are very hopeful that a settlement will be reached in the next few weeks.

Mr. Burton announced that a number of events are coming up and Board members were encouraged to participate as their schedules allow. Area Board 5 will host a community outreach meeting on December 3rd. RCEB staff will hold their annual Winterfest celebration on December 4th in Concord. The East Bay Legislative Coalition will host an important Town Hall Meeting on December 5th that will provide an opportunity to brief local legislators on the impact of budget cuts and cost containment measures on persons with developmental disabilities and their families. ARCA will hold a special meeting on December 12th to discuss the state budget. Developmental Disabilities Board Area 5 has scheduled their annual dinner meeting for January 29th in Berkeley. The ARCA sponsored New Day 2009 conference will be held February 5th and 6th in San Francisco.

Mr. Burton acknowledged that we are pleased to have received DDS approval of our Family Training Services policy and will begin implementation immediately.

Mr. Burton shared that he recently had the opportunity to attend the annual fundraising event of the Friends of Children with Special Needs. This is always an inspirational event and this year it was attended by 900 people.

Mr. Burton wished everyone a very happy holiday season and thanked board members for their remarkable efforts on behalf of this community.

ARCA REPORT

Mr. Griffin reported that ARCA will hold a special meeting on December 12th to update the group on where things stand with the State budget. Mr. Griffin will keep members informed as information becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a brief closed session to discuss pending litigation and real estate negotiations, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Coleman
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors