

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 22, 2009

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present: Patricia Albeño  
Ronald Clay  
Mike Kuller  
Hilda Mariscal  
Carmen Quinones  
Anne Struthers

Nyron Battles  
Kathy Hebert  
Chi Lee  
Donald Morris  
Will Sanford

Board Members

Excused: Shana Cohen  
Claudia Sladen

Lauri Parks

Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria  
Jim Burton  
Susan Driggs  
Rhonda Kimble-Kelly  
Nancy Kubota  
Marc Sugars

Carol Bohnsack  
Francine Davis  
Terri Jones  
Lisa Kleinbub  
Ella Liggins  
Pam Thomas

Guests Present: Gina Jennings  
Sandi Soliday

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay was called to order at 7:02 pm by President, Ralph Griffin. Self-introductions made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for the June 22, 2009 meeting and the minutes of the May 18, 2009 meeting as presented." (Kuller/Hebert) Unanimous.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There was not public comment at this time.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that his committee spent much of their meeting in an extensive review of our financial situation and the State budget status. Details of those discussions will be included in Jim's report later in this meeting.

### BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for May reflecting eleven months of expenditures. The Purchase of Service (POS) budget is showing a slight change with a projection of a mid-range insufficiency of \$3.8 million, a slight decrease from last month. Mr. Kuller reported that all 21 regional centers continue to project insufficiencies in their POS budgets. RCEB will continue to monitor the budget carefully and keep the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) updated on our budget status. RCEB's Operations budget remains the same and we continue to expect it to be balanced at year end.

Mr. Kuller reported that staff continues to monitor the agency's cash flow status and we have sufficient cash through July if we receive the funds anticipated. Union Bank has advised us that they will proceed with our line of credit once the total amount of the DDS cash advances are known.

Mr. Kuller shared that the Finance Committee held a pre-planning audit meeting this evening with representatives from Lautze and Lautze, our independent audit firm, in closed session to discuss any concerns members may have prior to beginning the 2008/2009 audit work. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and share changes to key audit approaches during the year.

M/S/C            "The Board moves to accept the Finance Committee report as presented." (Struthers/Hebert) Unanimous.

### MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

### SERVICES AND SUPPORTS COMMITTEE

There was no report this evening.

#### PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Will Sanford

Mr. Sanford reported the main topic of his group's meeting had been discussion around the second round of proposed reductions. One of the most critical proposals for the group is the implementation of a new uniform holiday schedule with the most immediate concern being the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and whether it would be celebrated on the Friday before the holiday or the Monday following the holiday. On the recommendation of a number of the stakeholders and others, Mr. Sanford reported it is his understanding it has now been agreed this proposal will not be implemented until August 1 and we will avoid the immediate problem for this year.

#### CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Griffin informed the Board that Nyron Battles had been honored at the recent ARCA annual dinner and was the recipient of the Sam Yi Self-Advocacy Award. Mr. Battles stated that he enjoys his work as an advocate and it was very nice to be recognized for his work. Mr. Burton added that Nyron was being his usual modest self and shared that Nyron had been nominated for this award by his peers from all over the state. Mr. Burton also noted that Nyron has established himself as one of the very best self-advocates in the state and this very special award is not given lightly. Nyron's impressive work reflects very positively on this Board and RCEB. Mr. Burton congratulated Nyron on his significant accomplishments.

Mr. Battles reported that the Consumer Advisory Committee had not met this month in order to allow members to attend the Statewide People First Conference.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reminded members that activity on the State budget deficit has been happening at a frenetic pace for months and there is still no resolution. Changes are occurring rapidly and members were encouraged to watch for new information. The deficit is projected at \$24 to \$25 billion on top of the \$42 billion deficit addressed in February. California continues to struggle with the jobless rate up and revenues down by over 30%. There are some encouraging signs nationally but California is a long way from being through the recession.

Mr. Burton was pleased to report that the current year deficiency for the regional center system which had been reported to be a little over \$100 million has been resolved. Funds have been identified to cover all regional center deficits for the current year. More than half of the deficit will be covered with new federal funds brought in through regional center efforts to expand Medicaid Waiver participation. DDS Director, Terri Delgado, has worked hard to find the

remaining \$46 million for our system and this should be sufficient to fund all remaining regional center deficits. We expect to receive this money very shortly and Ms. Delgadillo should be acknowledged for this significant accomplishment.

The Administration has put forth a proposal to fully fund the \$265 million hole in regional center budget left by the failure of Proposition 1D. The Administration has also proposed backfilling in regional center budgets for cuts in SSI, cuts in Medical optional benefits and cuts to IHSS. We hope the funding will be adequate but details are not available at this point. Mr. Burton noted it is important to remember that this proposal indicates the Administration realizes that these cuts have a significant impact on persons with developmental disabilities. The Administration has also fully increased their estimate for caseload growth next year before proposing cuts. The costs of growth have now been built into the proposed base budget for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that the \$100 million in cuts put forth in February are in place and in law. Stakeholder meetings have been held and the stakeholder group has discussed and put together 15 proposals to address the \$100 million reduction. Members were asked to remember this was a difficult process and the final proposals are not fully supported by all members of the stakeholders group but all of their input was valuable in developing the proposals. These proposals have been approved by the Conference Committee and budget implementation language will be finalized when they have been approved by the Legislature and Governor. Mr. Burton quickly reviewed the proposals and reminded everyone that these proposals are all on RCEB's website. RCEB is looking at and working on implementation challenges and we will do this very carefully and in accordance with law and regulations. RCEB will work to minimize the impact on our consumers and families. Members were also reminded that while we are planning for implementation, we will not begin implementation until the changes are in law.

Mr. Burton reported that the next round of cuts came with the Governor's May Revision and included a \$234 million cut for the regional center system. This was in addition to the \$100 million cut in February. There is no easy way to reduce services by \$234 million in our system. The Conference Committee approved the \$234 million cut unanimously and Mr. Burton noted that this is a pretty clear and ominous sign that this cut will be part of the coming budget. Mr. Burton summarized and reviewed the new draft proposals to address the \$234 million reduction and acknowledged that these cuts are far more serious than the \$100 million cuts. The proposed cuts are on RCEB's website and members were encouraged to check the site regularly for updated information. Mr. Burton assured the Board that RCEB will work to find a reasonable way to implement changes required by law. Mr. Burton also stated that the stakeholder group participation clearly improved the proposals we are looking at tonight. Everyone present was encouraged to work together to get to the other side of these

challenging times so we will be able to preserve as much of the system as possible and begin to rebuild when the economy turns around.

Mr. Burton asked members to review the Early Start rankings and performance scores for RCEB included in this evening's packet. These scores indicate a fine performance by RCEB's Early Start staff with only two rankings showing less than 100%. Mr. Burton stated that he was particularly proud that this quality of work occurred in such a difficult year. Mr. Burton thanked Wanda Davis, Evelyn Hoskins and the entire Early Start staff for their fine performance.

Mr. Burton shared that he had recently attended the graduation for the leadership training that has been provided by Congreso Familiar. This wonderful event honored young leaders from throughout the state who have dedicated every Saturday for six months to completing this unique and important training. Board members Hilda Mariscal and Patricia Albeño participated in the trainings and were honored at the graduation. Mr. Burton thanked Ms. Mariscal and Ms. Albeño for their dedicated advocacy on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Jennings reminded everyone that the Annual Developmental Disabilities Councils' dinner will be held tomorrow evening in Walnut Creek. This very special annual event offers our community the opportunity to recognize those who have performed in an exceptional manner.

#### ARCA REPORT: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin reported that Mr. Battles award was one of the highlights of the Association's annual meeting. Officers have been elected for the coming year. Mr. Griffin also reported that ARCA will apply for 501(c)3 non-profit status in order to advance the cause of our community.

Mr. Griffin shared that Terri Delgadillo has done an outstanding job of supporting persons with developmental disabilities and is to be commended for her remarkable efforts in these very challenging times. He also noted that we, as a regional center, owe much appreciation to the ARCA staff for their tireless efforts to support us and keep us informed as rapid changes occur in Sacramento.

The next ARCA meeting will be held in San Jose in mid-August.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Burton stated that it doesn't get much harder than this for all systems and families in the state. He urged everyone present to remember that we are not done and should not give up. We cannot let the challenges we face stop us from

doing what we do. We must remember that we make an extraordinary difference in the lives of the people we serve and we must press forward. Together we will find our way through this crisis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles  
Secretary  
RCEB Board of Directors