

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 26, 2010

Presiding: Ralph Griffin

Board Members

Present:	Patricia Albeño	Nyron Battles
	Ronald Clay	Shana Cohen
	Kathy Hebert	Mike Kuller
	Chi Lee	Hilda Mariscal
	Donald Morris	Sister Marygrace
	Carmen Quinones	Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused:	Claudia Sladen	Anne Struthers
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Staff Present:

Bill Barbaria	Mara Bearse
Carol Bohnsack	Jim Burton
Francine Davis	Susan Driggs
Terri Jones	Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Lisa Kleinbub	Nancy Kubota
Pam Thomas	

Guests Present:

Sharon Hagerty	Gina Jennings
Cleo Manspeaker	Sandi Soliday

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled business meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay was called to order at 7:10 pm by President, Ralph Griffin. Self-introductions were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the agenda for April 26, 2010 and the minutes of March 22, 2010 as presented." (Kuller/Hebert) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker announced that the annual CAHR fashion show would be held on Saturday, May 1st and she would again be participating in the event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin, on behalf of the members of the Executive Committee, thanked RCEB staff for the outstanding work done in relocating the agency from Oakland to San Leandro. Mr. Griffin personally thanked Nancy Kubota for her dedicated leadership in coordinating the move.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for March 2010. Mr. Kuller reported that overall caseload growth is declining and this will have a significant impact to the Operations and POS budgets for the coming year. Mr. Kuller noted that this trend is occurring throughout the state and will be discussed later this evening in Mr. Burton's report. Mr. Kuller reminded members that it was reported last month that RCEB had received their A-2 and A-3 contract amendments from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) but DDS has now revised the A-3 contract amendment. Although RCEB received a base deficiency allocation of \$5.2 million, this amount is significantly lower than our estimated insufficiency of approximately \$14.5 million as reported to DDS in our Sufficiency of Allocation Report. RCEB still anticipates receiving the Community Placement Plan and Unified Plan continuation funding of approximately \$12.9 million. Mr. Kuller noted that we are continuing to see expenditures decline as a result of the trailer bill language but we will continue to closely monitor expenditures and projections until year end. Mr. Kuller reported that the First Five Commission agreed last week to transfer \$50 million to the Department of Developmental Services. This transfer of funds makes it likely DDS will be able to address base deficiencies for the current fiscal year. Mr. Kuller also reported that RCEB currently projects a balanced Operations budget but staff will continue to monitor the budget closely and keep the Board apprised of any changes in projections for the year.

Mr. Kuller reported that RCEB's cash flow is stable at this time but the agency may face difficulties as we approach the end of the fiscal year. Cash flow problems will result from DDS delays in issuing contract amendments for the regional centers. Union Bank has approved a line of credit for RCEB which will only be activated if that becomes necessary due to delays in receiving state warrants. Mr. Kuller reminded members that use of the line of credit generates interest fees that are not funded through our contract with DDS.

Mr. Kuller shared that DDS auditors are now on site at RCEB for their biennial fiscal and compliance audit. They have just started their third week of a five week audit and we are expecting a positive report when their review is completed.

M/S/C “The Board moves to accept the monthly Financial Status Report and Finance Committee Report as presented.” (Whitgob/Battles) Unanimous.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Ralph Griffin

Mr. Griffin distributed and reviewed the Board Composition Summary Report for April 2010. Members were asked to be mindful of the need to increase representation from Alameda County as we continue our recruitment efforts. Mr. Griffin requested that members review the report carefully and contact him with any questions or recruitment suggestions.

M/S/C “The Board moves to accept the Board Composition Summary Report as presented.” (Kuller/Whitgob) Unanimous.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE:

There was no report this evening.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Sister Marygrace

Sister Marygrace reported that her group met on April 9th and one of the highlights of the meeting was the announcement of a vendorized dental service. Members spent some time looking at future topics and identified the need for shared information on staff training, new COBRA laws, some new innovative services and healthcare reform and all its intricacies. Sister Marygrace shared that her members expressed real delight in the new space and environment at RCEB.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Carmen Quinones

Ms. Quinones reported that CAC Chair, Nyron Battles, had helped check the wheelchair accessibility of RCEB's new building. One of the primary benefits of the new location is the convenience of BART and major bus lines. Many CAC members will now be able to use public transportation to attend CAC meetings.

Ms. Quinones also reported that applications are now closed for those who wish to attend the People First Conference in June. Members discussed participation at this year's Disability Capitol Action Day on May 26th. The rally will feature groups from all over the state with information booths and guest speakers supporting the developmental disabilities community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton welcomed everyone to the new Alameda County Offices. RCEB staff have been in their new space for one month and are fairly well settled in now. Overall, the move went very well and was completed on time and under budget. Mr. Burton noted that phones and data lines were the most challenging part of the move

and apologized if anyone had any difficulty communicating with us immediately after the move. Mr. Burton thanked Nancy Kubota for her coordination of the move. He also expressed his appreciation for the professional manner in which staff dealt with the move while completing all their usual assignments. Mr. Burton offered special thanks to Nyron Battles for working with us to ensure the facility was completely accessible.

Mr. Burton reported there has not been much progress with the state budget situation since our last meeting. There has been a slight improvement in revenues over the last few months but the state continues to face significant fiscal challenges. The Controller is expected to issue a revenue update on May 7th and the May Revision to the Governor's budget should be released the following week. Mr. Burton cautioned that we can expect it to be very difficult to put this budget together.

Mr. Burton reported that the Director of the Department of Developmental Services, Terri Delgadillo, has identified what she sees as the issues going forward. The most significant issues include the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center, case load growth and federal funds and California's ability to capture additional federal funds.

Mr. Burton shared charts of case load growth within the entire regional center system and case load growth at RCEB. Growth for the state has been flat since September and RCEB growth mirrors what is happening in the state. This lack of growth is unusual for California and is the result of tightened eligibility criteria and the decline in birth rate in the state. This change in growth rate will have significant implications for Purchase of Service and Operations going forward because budgets have typically increased based on the case load growth. We have never encountered this phenomenon before but we can expect it will have a significant impact on how services are provided going forward in the coming fiscal year if the trend continues.

Mr. Burton reminded members that the Governor proposed a \$25 million reduction in addition to the \$334 million cut from the Community Services budget last fiscal year. He has also suggested that the Budget Advisory Group (BAG) should come up with the ideas to address the additional \$25 million cut. Mr. Burton announced that Ms. Delgadillo has just indicated she would be recommending to the BAG an additional 1.25% across the board reduction for service providers and regional centers. This cut would be put in place on top of the 3% cut currently in place for a total 4.25% decrease. Members were cautioned that 4.25% is a substantial cut and it is hard to imagine how service providers and regional centers could manage this reduction without adversely impacting services to people with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Burton noted that some very positive activities have come out of the BAG efforts and Ms. Delgadillo has agreed to establish two work groups to look at current Trailer Bill Language implementation and issues that have been identified as a result of that implementation. The first group will look at the cuts to Early Start and the impact of those cuts. The second group will look at respite and respite issues. Respite providers statewide have indicated that the cuts have had far more impact on them than was anticipated.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that the 4.25% reduction has not been approved and is only a proposal at this point. The proposal includes wording to provide locally determined administrative relief for service providers but it is not clear what this means. It does appear to offer some recognition that you cannot continue to do the same thing with less money.

Mr. Burton reported there is good news on the current year budget front and much credit should go to the DDS Director for her very significant efforts to secure \$50 million from the First Five Commission. This money was very important in allowing us to balance our POS budgets for this fiscal year. The trend of expenditures is coming very close to the budget and it looks as though we may have a balanced budget state-wide at year end.

Mr. Burton announced there are a number of hearings coming up. The first hearing will be the final report on the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. The final report has been issued by DDS. This is a very positive report that addresses the successes of the process and lessons learned and may be used as an example of how to close a developmental center the right way. The Assembly budget hearing will be held on April 29th and the agenda will include the closure plan for Lanterman Developmental Center.

Mr. Burton reported that KQED recently aired a piece on Health Dialogues on developmental disabilities. A number of RCEB staff were interviewed and participated in the research for the presentation. The report spent a great deal of time on the Lanterman closure plan and Early Start changes and their impact on families. The presentation included very positive comments about the Agnews closure setting an example of the right way to close a developmental center. Mr. Burton noted that this community should be very proud of their participation in the Agnews closure effort.

Mr. Burton informed the group that the Senate Select Committee on Autism recently held a hearing on its regional task force work. Senator Steinberg chaired the hearing with a reminder that even though the state is facing very difficult fiscal times, these challenges won't last forever and we will need to be ready to address the issues of people with autism. Task force members made preliminary recommendations on housing, employment, health insurance and early identification.

Mr. Burton reminded the group that our community struggled to implement the changes required in last summer's trailer bill language. We have had great collaboration but services are not the same and it is concerning to everyone. Mr. Burton also noted that it speaks volumes to the perseverance of this community and everyone in it that so little has been closed as a result of the repeated budget cuts because people find ways of making things work in spite of the obstacles.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker shared that she is concerned about health care reform and the uncertainty of its impact on her. Mr. Burton acknowledged that health care reform is

complicated for all of us but assured Ms. Manspeaker that RCEB is working to put together information to show how the changes will impact persons with developmental disabilities.

Donald Morris thanked RCEB for their support of his presentation at this year's People First Conference. Mr. Morris will be presenting on "My Beautiful Life" and his success and challenges in living independently.

Gina Jennings and Sandi Soliday reminded everyone that the annual DD Councils' Dinner will be held on May 4th at Scott's in Oakland.

ARCA REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton reported that Terri Delgadillo spent the day with the ARCA members so they all received solid information in terms of what is occurring in Sacramento. The group also had an extensive presentation from National Core Indicators (NCI) on the new monitoring system that will take the place of Life Quality Assessments (LQA). Mr. Burton shared that there are concerns about the new process and how it will work effectively as it replaces LQA. One of the major concerns about the new process is that visitors may no longer be seeing consumers in their living situations and this face to face interview has been a valuable part of the monitoring process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors