

Board of Directors' Meeting

July 25, 2011

Presiding: Anne Struthers

Board Members

Present: Nyron Battles Ronald Clay
Rose Coleman Kathy Hebert
Mike Kuller Hilda Mariscal
Donald Morris Steve Whitgob

Board Members

Excused: Patricia Albeño Shana Cohen
Ralph Griffin Sister Marygrace

Staff Present:

Jim Burton Susan Driggs
Terri Jones Rhonda Kimble-Kelly
Meredith Rosenberg Ronke Sodipo
Pam Thomas

Guests Present:

Gina Jennings Cleo Manspeaker
Darryl Noble Sandi Soliday
Todd Struthers

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President, Anne Struthers, 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 July 25, 2011 as presented." (Battles/Kuller) Unanimous.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2011 meeting as presented." (Battles/Kuller) Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cleo Manspeaker shared her frustration at being unable to secure paid employment. She has been looking for work because she wants to earn her own money and be more independent. Cleo has been trying to follow the budget talks in Washington and is afraid her Social Security payment might be delayed and she won't be able to pay her bills. Cleo reminded everyone that people with developmental disabilities struggle to pay their bills and it is hard to manage everything when your money and your services keep getting cut. She thanked the regional center for all that they do for her but acknowledged that she wished she had her own job and her own money so she didn't always have to worry about what will be cut next.

Mr. Burton and Ms. Struthers reminded Cleo that she is not alone in her search for employment and one in every eight people in California is without a job. Cleo was encouraged to keep trying.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

Mr. Burton reminded members that the Transparency and Access to Public Information Policy being presented was one of the many requirements of SB 74, the trailer bill passed in March of this year. Ms. Struthers reviewed the policy with members and noted it includes everything required in the law.

M/S/C "The Board moves to approve the Transparency and Access to Public Information Policy as presented." (Battles/Kuller) Unanimous.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mike Kuller

Mr. Kuller distributed and reviewed the Financial Status Report for June, 2011, reflecting 12 months of expenditures. Mr. Kuller noted that staff is still in the process of year end closing and some operations expenses are not fully reflected in the expended year to date figures presented but the agency continues to project a balanced Operations budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. We have not received our Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget allocation from the Department of Developmental Services but we plan to continue most of the operational efficiencies put into place last year, including the hiring freeze on nearly all open positions. Mr. Kuller reported there has been very little change in our POS budget projections for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and we will end the fiscal year with a balanced POS budget.

Mr. Kuller acknowledged it was a relief to have the California State Budget passed on June 30 and we have now received our approved contract from DDS for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. RCEB has received the first of three anticipated cash advances so there was no need to access the line of credit approved to fund June services paid in July. We anticipate receipt of the second cash advance early in August and the third cash advance is expected at the beginning of September. Mr. Kuller noted that based on the scheduled releases of the cash advances and the ongoing payment of our claims, we expect to have sufficient cash to meet our obligations. We have had discussions with Union Bank about a line of credit for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 in the event our State

warrants are delayed for any reason. At this time, the bank has made no decision regarding a fiscal year 2011-2012 line of credit for their regional center accounts.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers noted that there was no report this evening but members were encouraged to continue their recruitment efforts.

PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

There was no report this evening.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nyron Battles

Mr. Battles reported that his group is relieved that California has approved a state budget but they are now concerned about the impact of delays in the national budget. Members had many questions about changes in SSI, SSP and Medi-Cal and agreed to invite Lisa Kleinbub to present at their next meeting so they can better understand the impact of the changes that are being implemented. Mr. Battles also reported that the group is looking forward to their annual team building event at an Oakland A's game in August.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jim Burton

Mr. Burton shared that he had recently had a wonderful visit with Ralph and Norma Griffin. Ralph is working hard to get healthy again and continues to improve. Ralph, as always, was concerned about what is happening in our service system. He sends his very best to the board and asks that they keep fighting to maintain quality services to the consumers and families that we serve.

Mr. Burton noted that the state Legislature is on summer recess for the first time in five years. With the passage of the California state budget, RCEB should have no cash flow problems going forward. RCEB ended the last fiscal year with a balanced budget. We have not received our budget for the current fiscal year but expect it by mid-August. Mr. Burton cautioned members to expect very significant cuts to be included in this budget, especially in Operations. Some regional centers are taking action prior to receipt of their new budgets including adding furlough days and reducing regional center hours of operation. RCEB will continue our hiring freeze and determine what additional actions are appropriate after we have had an opportunity to review the budget.

Mr. Burton shared that he is extremely proud of the massive efforts put forth by RCEB staff to comply with the multiple requirements of SB 74 and AB 104. As a result of these efforts RCEB is well on the way to meeting all of the new requirements. Unfortunately, the tremendous amount of work being done will have limited value to those we serve and the requirements of these new laws will divert energy that should be put into better serving consumers and families.

Mr. Burton reported that the Senate Select Committee on Autism met and continue their efforts to see that healthcare providers appropriately serve children with autism. The Department of Managed Healthcare announced a settlement with Blue Cross, Blue Shield and Kaiser to provide ABA services to children with autism. Advocates believe

the agreements to be fatally flawed and they will not result in coverage of ABA services. Mr. Burton noted that Senator Steinberg, Chair of the Committee, is clearly focused on resolving this critical issue.

Mr. Burton also reported Adult Day Health Centers (ADHC), a MediCal optional program that has been in place for many years, will not continue to operate. The ADHCs will be continued on a month to month basis until alternatives are found for participants but most likely cease providing services by December 2011.

Board members were reminded that SB 74 requires regional center boards to review and approve any contract of \$250,000 or more. Copies of all contracts for consideration this evening were available for board review. Board members were provided with a summary of each contract being considered for approval. Mr. Burton noted that he and Ms. Kubota had reviewed each contract that would be presented and both were recommending approval of the contracts being considered this evening. Members discussed the process and how best to present the information to facilitate this extraordinary new requirement. It was agreed that any additional ideas for supporting the Board in their review of these contracts would be communicated to Mr. Burton prior to the next Board of Directors' meeting.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the Operations contracts for delegate case management services as presented.” (Kuller/Battles) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the POS contracts for nursing care and the specialized treatment facility for adults as presented.” (Whitgob/Battles) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the POS contracts related to the closure of Agnews Developmental Center as presented.” (Kuller/Battles) (Abstain: Whitgob).

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the POS contracts for transportation as presented.” (Battles/Kuller) Unanimous.

M/S/C “The Board moves to approve the POS contracts for Supported Living Services with the understanding that the changes will be made to the contracts that reflect the requirements of SB 74.” (Battles/Morris) Unanimous.

Following completion of the review of the 72 contracts presented this evening, Dr. Whitgob suggested tracking the time spent on this process. This information could be critical should the Legislature review some of the cost-saving requirements that have been put into place over the last several years. It was agreed that board members and staff would continue to work to streamline the process to present information in the most concise and useful format.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandi Soliday announced that the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council would not meet in August. She also shared there will be a “Going to College with a

Disability” conference on October 22, 2011. This conference is being sponsored by the Family Resource Network, Area Board 5, Alameda County California Children’s Services, RCEB and the Alameda County DD Council and will provide an opportunity for students with disabilities and their families to learn about the resources and supports available at the college level.

Cleo Manspeaker shared that she will again participate in the CAHR fashion show. This year’s event will be held on September 24th.

Mr. Burton reminded everyone that the annual Congreso Familiar Conference will be held on August 13th at Chabot College. Mr. Burton encouraged everyone to join this extraordinary day of learning and sharing for the hundreds of families who attend.

ARCA REPORT:

Ms. Struthers reported that the next ARCA meeting is scheduled for August 18th and 19th and will be held in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyron Battles
Secretary
RCEB Board of Directors