



**REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**MINUTES**

Monday, March 21, 2016 7:04 p.m.

500 Davis Street, CA

Approved 4/25/16

**RCEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Anne Struthers, President

Evangeline Iyemura, Vice-President

Mike Treppa, Budget & Finance Committee Chair

Steve Whitgob, Treasurer

Nyron Battles, CAC Vice-Chair

Morena Grimaldi

Marie Parra

Sister Marygrace Puchac, PVAC

Carmen Quinones

**ABSENT:**

Rose Coleman, Secretary [excused]

Chi Lee [excused]

Gwen Nash-Butler, CAC [excused]

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jim Burton, Executive Director

Terri Jones, Director of Human Resources

Lisa Kleinbub, Director of Health & Behavioral Services

Nancy Kubota, Director of Finance & Administration

Ronke Sodipo, Director of Community Services

Pam Thomas, Director of Consumer Services

Steve Robinson, Director of Community Placement & Sonoma Developmental Ctr Closure Plans

Evelyn Hoskins, Associate Director of Federal Programs

Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, Associate Director of Children Services

Priscilla Gomez, Manager of Transportation

Chelsia Durkee, Case Manager

Antonia Heinrich, Accounting

Meredith Rosenberg, Case Manager

Michi Toy, Executive Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Kathy Hebert

Arthur Lipscomb, CRA

Maria Marquez, Vice Chair SD Committee

Robert McCrory

Todd Struthers

Joshua Sullivan, CCCDDC

**CALL TO ORDER**

President, Anne Struthers called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Regional Center of the East Bay at 7:04 p.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Self introductions were made and a quorum was present.

**CONSENT AGENDA / MINUTES**

M/S/C        “The Board moves to approve the Agenda from March 21, 2016 as presented.”  
                  [Battles/Puchac] Unanimous

M/S/C        “The Board moves to approve the Minutes from February 22, 2016 as presented.”  
                  [Battles/Puchac] Unanimous

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments during this period.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers had good news about the March 15<sup>th</sup> Contra Costa Board of Supervisor’s meeting where RCEB was recognized for providing 40 years of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Mr. Burton accepted the resolution plaque on behalf of RCEB at that meeting. Mr. Burton then informed the board of the story told by the CCTV News reporter who was filming at this meeting, of his experience with RCEB in helping a family member navigate the system, and how appreciative his family was of our agency.

Mr. Burton also added that RCEB was recognized by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors back in February and was also presented with a resolution plaque.

**CONTRACT APPROVALS**

The following three contracts were approved by the Executive Committee on March 9, 2016:

**Department of Developmental Services [DDS]**

**B-2 Contract Amendment**

Ms. Struthers distributed the Department of Developmental Service’s B-2 contract amendment approval summary highlighting an increase of \$2,513,890 to RCEB’s POS allocation and \$541,382 to the OPS allocation, for a total allocation of \$3,055,272. Questions were asked and answered accordingly.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to ratify the B-2 contract amendment allocation of \$3,055,272 as presented.” [Battles/Parra] Unanimous

**Community Placement Plan [CPP] Housing**

M. Ingco, Incorporated

Project #15 and Project #16

Ms. Struthers distributed the contracts for the Community Placement Plan [CPP] start-up agreement effective 3/1/16 through 3/31/18 for the contractor to develop a 4-bed Enhanced Behavioral Support Home for consumers who currently reside at the developmental centers [@110 residents at Sonoma Developmental Center [SDC], 1 at Fairview Developmental Center and 2 at the non-secured treatment area of Porterville Developmental Center].

This \$250,000 maximum start-up was granted to M. Ingco, Inc. after a Request for Proposal [RFP] procedure. Questions were asked and answered accordingly.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to ratify the Project #15 contract with M. Ingco Incorporated as presented” [Parra/Battles] Unanimous

M/S/C            “The Board moves to ratify the Project #16 contract with M. Ingco Incorporated as presented” [Battles/Puchac] Unanimous

NEW CONTRACT APPROVALS

**Community Placement Plan [CPP] Housing**

Roslil, Incorporated

The CPP agreement was distributed to the board members. The contract is effective 6/30/14 through 3/31/16 and represents the agreement to operate a 4-bed Specialized Residential Facility [SRF]. When we first entered into this contract, we did not expect it to be over the required amount for board approval, and it still may not be, however, we would like to have the board approve this as a maximum of \$250K. This is an Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Healthcare Needs [ARFPSHN]. It is known as a SB962 home with a nursing and medical support component. Multiple questions were asked and answered accordingly.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the contract with Roslil, Incorporated as presented” [Parra/Battles] Unanimous

**Transportation**

ARC Inroads

The transportation contracts were distributed to the board members. These contracts were also not expected to reach the minimum required amount for board approval. These contracts are a continuation of the existing rates with no changes, but because they will be exceeding the \$250K, we would like the board’s approval. Questions were asked and answered accordingly.

There are two contracts to approve:

Term of Contract: 7/1/14 – 6/30/15 at \$16.95/consumer per day with an annual total of up to \$257,301.

Term of Contract: 7/1/15 – 6/30/16 at \$16.95/consumer per day with an annual total of up to \$257,301.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the two consecutive contracts with ARC Inroads as presented.” [Battles/Parra] Unanimous

#### Community Day Program

These contracts are also for transportation, and just like the ARC Inroads contracts, they were not expected to reach the minimum required amount for board approval.

Term of Contract: 7/1/14 – 6/30/15 at \$17.20/consumer per day with an annual total up to \$270,590.40.

Term of Contract: 7/1/15 – 6/30/16 at \$17.20/consumer per day with an annual total up to \$270,590.40.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to approve the consecutive contracts with Community Day Program as presented.” [Battles/Parra] Unanimous

#### **Work Plan and Master Calendar Change**

Every year, the RCEB Board of Directors review, edit [when needed], and approve of the upcoming year’s Master Calendar and Work Plan. Up to now, this activity has been very routine. This year it has come to our attention that we have been referring to the board’s “Governance Policy” in the explanations of both documents. Upon further research, we find that this policy originated in a 1994 binder titled *RCEB Board of Director’s Orientation Manual*. The Executive Committee discussed this at the last two Executive Committee meetings, and have come to the conclusion that the information is either out-dated or is already incorporated in our Bylaws and in our current New Board Member packet. Since we have not been using this 1994 orientation manual, that we should remove the term “Governance Policy” on both the Master Calendar and the Work Plan documents, as the concepts are already in our current board information packet.

M/S/C            “The Board moves to remove the “Governance Policy” reference which relates to basic board responsibilities that are listed in our Bylaws.” [Battles/Parra] Unanimous

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE- Report from March 21, 2016 - Steve Whitgob**  
Purchase of Service

Regional Centers received the B-2 Contract Amendment on March 4, 2016. In the B-2 amendment, RCEB received approximately \$2.5MM in Purchase of Services fund and \$1.847MM was allocated for the Federal Labor Standard Act. As reported to the Board, these funds were anticipated and expected to be in the B-2 Contract Amendment. The remaining balance of the B-2 funds allocated for our Purchase of Services Budget is Community Placement Funds (or CPP) for the Sonoma closure and for Regular CPP. This amount is approximately \$666K. Including RCEB, 13 out of the 21 Regional Centers are reporting balanced POS projections for 2015-16. We will continue to monitor the status of our current year POS projection carefully.

### Operations

The B-2 Amendment provided an additional \$541K in operations. We had been anticipating these funds and already accounted for these funds in our projected expenditure projections. We continue to report a balanced operations budget for current year.

### Cash Flow Status

The agency is maintaining a stable cash flow at this time. The Department will shortly start to offset our cash advances against our claims so we may start receiving only partial warrants starting with our February claim paid in April. To date, we have approximately \$45M cash on hand and we will be able to pay for March 2016 services paid on April 15<sup>th</sup> in full. However, depending on the amount we receive, or if we receive no additional reimbursement from the State going forward, we may have some cash flow challenges late in the fiscal year.

The agency currently has an active \$49.6M line of credit in place until August 2016. However, we cannot borrow beyond the limits of our state contract and claim receivables. If the Department cannot provide regional centers with full and timely reimbursement, the Board is advised that there is a slim possibility where we may need to access our LOC before the end of the fiscal year. We will keep the Board, as well as the Executive Committee, updated on our cash flow status.

### DDS Auditors

Staff updated the Budget and Finance Committee on the DDS audit currently in progress. The auditors were scheduled to be on site for an estimated 5 weeks for their biennial compliance audit starting February 29, 2016. However, the auditors will be done earlier with their onsite review this week (4 weeks instead of 5).

### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** Anne Struthers

We currently have 12 board members and are seeking an additional Alameda County Latino and Asian member in order to maintain ethnic representation that is consistent with our community.

Ms. Struthers reminded the board that Kathy Hebert will be completing her one year off as of this April 28, 2016 as she had served on the board consecutively for 7 years. Ms. Hebert

expressed interest in becoming a board member again, whereupon her application was submitted to the board for review in their March board packets. Ms. Struthers nominated Kathy Hebert as a board member at this meeting, and an election will be held at the April meeting.

M/S/C            “I nominate Kathy Hebert as a Director on the Board of Directors of RCEB, with an election to take place at the next board meeting.” [Parra/Puchac]  
Unanimous

**PROVIDER/VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE [PVAC]:** Sister Marygrace Puchac

The last PVAC meeting was on March 11th where there was a presentation on Oral Health for Children and Adults with I/DD presented by Doctor Baharak Amenzadeh, DDS, MPH. The doctor is the Dental Health Administrator for the Alameda County Public Health Department’s office of Dental Health. Some of the highlighted topics were periodontal diseases and access to oral care for people with developmental disabilities. Ms. Ronke Sodipo also reported on the MCO tax and DD services bills that were passed by the Assembly and Senate, which includes permanent funding for DD services. There were also four new people who were in attendance.

**CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Nyron Battles

At the March 14<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting, the good news about the MCO tax and the service bills were received well, especially the information on the IHSS restoration. The committee also received a special presentation by Maria Marquez, on the Self-Determination program with explanations on how the process works and the unknown timing of its implementation.

**DIVERSITY and EQUITY COMMITTEE:** Morena Grimaldi

The committee began this evening with a summary of the meetings presented by Lisa Kleinbub on the POS Expenditures. Below are the four meetings that have already occurred prior to this board meeting:

**Reported Meetings:**

**March 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM :** Translation in Spanish  
1125 Harbor Street  
Pittsburgh, CA 94565

**March 16, 2016 at 6:30 PM:** Translation in Spanish  
RCEB Concord Office  
2151 Salvio Street, Suite 365  
Concord, CA 94520

**March 19 at 10:30 AM:** Translation in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese & Mien  
Garfield School

1640 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94606

**March 19 at 2:30 PM:** Translation in Spanish  
LaFamilia Neighborhood Resource Center  
22366 Fuller Ave.  
Hayward, CA 94541

**Pending Meetings:**

**March 22 at 6:30 PM:** Translation in Spanish  
RCEB San Leandro Office  
500 Davis Street, Suite 100  
San Leandro, CA 94577

**March 20<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>**

Virtual Meeting

A Video sharing the information will be available on our web site from March 20 through 31<sup>st</sup>.  
You will be able to provide comments through an online form.

There was also a discussion on the re-introduction of the Deaf Task Force as well as services for the visually impaired. The mini Congreso conference, the Congresito, will be on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at O'Hara Park Middle School in Oakley.

→ The next Diversity & Equity meeting will be on April 25<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in San Leandro

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

Mr. Burton began his report with the status of our fellow board member, Gwen Butler's condition, as she suffered a setback. We will continue to wish her fast healing and will be updating the board on her progress. Mr. Burton also informed the board of our other board member, Rose Coleman who could not make it to this board meeting due to her need to train her new support staff, which is very difficult and a huge challenge in many aspects. Over the years, the low IHSS wages have taken a toll and it is not uncommon that the clients lose 2 or 3 support staff in a short period of time.

**Special Session / Managed Care Organization Tax / Thurmond Bill**

Mr. Burton stated that the passing of the Thurmond bill and the MCO tax could not have come at a better time, and we are working on getting things in place for the workers to see that increase in their paychecks.

The passing of the MCO tax is currently being reviewed by the Federal government. We are optimistic that it will take place, but it is really up to the Administration. Assemblyman Tony Thurmond authored the ABX2 1 bill and it is great news for our service system. The highlight of the MCO funding is listed on the next page:

## FY 2016-2017 Budget Summary

### I. Special Session – MCO Funding

	General Fund (Millions)
Increase for Salaries & Benefits for Service Providers	\$169.5
Increase for Salaries & Benefits for Regional Centers	\$ 29.7
Increase for Regional Center Administrative Costs	\$ 1.4
Increase for Service Provider Costs	\$ 9.9
5% increase for Supported Living & Independent Living	\$ 18.0
5% increase for In- & Out-of-Home Respite	\$ 10.0
5% increase for Transportation	\$ 9.0
Competitive Integrated Employment	\$ 20.0
11% restoration to Supported Employment Rates	\$ 8.5
Address Disparities	\$ 11.0
<b>Total DDS (General Fund)</b>	<b>\$287.0</b>
DHCS – 5% increase for ICF-DDs	\$ 12.0
DOR – 11% Supported Employment Rates	\$ 3.5
<b>Total Other Departments</b>	<b>\$ 15.5</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$302.5</b>

### II. 2016-17 Governor's Proposed Budget

#### POS Proposals

Caseload & Utilization Growth	\$257.6 Million
Minimum Wage	\$ 62.4 Million
FSLA Overtime	\$ 54.2 Million
BHT Shift to Medi-Cal	\$ - 4.5 Million
Resources for DC Closures	\$ 26.6 Million
ARM – 4 or Less	\$ 46.0 Million
CMS Rules Compliance	\$ 15.0 Million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$457.3 Million</b>

#### OPS Proposals

Caseload	\$ 20.70 Million
Regional Center Staffing for DC Closures	\$ 4.10 Million
Improve Service Coordinator Ratios	\$ 17.00 Million
Program Evaluators for CMS Rules	\$ 1.60 Million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 43.40 Million</b>



Mr. Burton expressed that this is the largest increase that has ever been granted to our service system, and that it is a permanent increase. The grassroots efforts were the largest that were ever mounted and he credits everyone who participated and visited their legislators, and sent faxes and emails, as it made a difference. All the legislators now, versus five years ago, know what a developmental disability is and understand the importance of having the necessary funding. The Thurmond bill was supported unanimously in the Senate as well as the Assembly with zero NO votes, which rarely occurs. Mr. Burton stated that we are not done yet and it is not the end, however, it is a significant step in the right direction and at a time that we really needed it. The program closures and loss of direct care staff have really taken their toll on our system. The next steps are to get the budget approvals and all the components need to be put in place in order to get the wages, salaries, and benefits available to our direct service staff.

Mr. Burton outlined a few important issues that we have been consulting and assisting the Department with in terms of putting these components in place:

#### \$169.5M in State General Funds - POS

This applies to salary increases for direct care staff and service providers of the regional centers. This impacts *all* service providers, unless those service providers have rates set outside our system [MediCal rates and usual and custom rates]. Every single program and person providing services will receive some form of increase from both the State General Fund as well as Federal matching dollars.

**Track I** → On March 18<sup>th</sup> a survey was sent out to a random sample of service providers statewide[@2,000 surveys]. Upon receiving those surveys back by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, the State and the Department of Developmental Services will use the information to identify how much of the provider's program costs are related to direct care staff, specifically staff who spend 75+% of their time directly with developmentally disabled clients, whether it is for program preparation or direct contact. Upon review, rates will be established by provider type in broad categories [@15 different categories] such as residential care facilities, independent and supported living, day services, etc. The higher the percentage that goes to direct service staff, the larger the percentage fund increase will be for the program. These are wage pass through dollars [wage, salary, benefits]. By July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department is to have set rates for all of the different program types. For rates set by the regional centers, those rates are being surveyed and will be provided with information from the Department in terms of the percentage increase that we will apply to the programs such as supported living. Although it is an ambitious project to complete in the short time frame, DDS has been working with our regional center and we have our service providers working on the survey. The Department will also be looking at expenditures during the quarter between July through September and will set new rates. Once those rates are set, we will need to change every rate for every service provider in our system in a short period of time. Therefore, we are preparing for that as best that we can in order to make that happen, as it is very important to get the increase in people's hands as quickly as possible.

### \$31.1M in State General Funds – OPS

This is for regional centers and regional center salaries and administrative costs. The process will be slightly different. The Department will be looking at what our current operating expense budget is, and we will get a prorated share of that total amount. Once that amount is determined they will also be providing us with Federal matching dollars under the Targeting Case Management [TCM] program which provides services to Medi-Cal recipients in specific targeted populations. This amount is expected to be allocated by the end of March. Once we have that dollar amount, we will be planning for regional center staff salary increases, which is applicable to all staff except the executive staff, who will not be receiving increases. We will then work on the budgeting process for those regional centers with labor unions and enter into the collective bargaining process. The increases are effective July 1, 2016 and hope to have all the components completed in time for the adjusted salaries. There is a lot of work to be done to get the salaries adjusted for both service staff and the regional center staff, but this is good work and we are looking forward to this project.

Ms. Anne Struthers added that Mr. Burton was one of the architects of this plan, upon which Mr. Burton stated that the credit goes to the extensive grassroots efforts from all and to the many individuals who worked extremely hard on this project.

### 5% Adjustment for Supported and Independent Living Services [SLS and ILS]

This adjustment is not specifically tied to wage, but can be used for any purpose. The five programs, which also includes in-home and out-of-home respite and transportation, will receive a 5% rate adjustment in addition to that, the rate letters issued by the Department will include both pieces, so there will be a total new rate.

### 11.4% Increase for Supported Employment Programs

Supported employment had a 10% rate cut during the recession, and this is the only rate cut that was not restored. Now we can get back to how it was a few years ago.

### \$20M for Competitive Integrated Employment

There are really innovative ideas in this program and the method of distribution is still being worked on.

### \$11M to Address Disparity

This is funding to address the Purchase of Services disparity issues, which is good news since we have been discussing the data for a long time. This is the first time that we see a recognition that there needs to be something done about the disparity of services. We could see this in startup funding for new programs, and it could include bi-lingual differentials, and funding in other areas. We will be watching this closely since we have a number of proposals that we would like to make in this area to increase the availability of services in underserved areas.

**Track II** → There are a few new proposals in the Governor's regular budget process which is underway. Assemblymember Thurmond held a hearing on March 16<sup>th</sup>, and there are some significant proposals coming forward through the regular budget process that the

Administration has proposed. They left everything in that proposal with nothing taken away. The Alternative Residential Model [ARM] residential facilities are being provided with \$46M to allow for a 4-bed vs. 6-bed ARM homes. This is funding for transition to meet Federal CMS requirements and a recognition that individuals cannot be moved from one place to where the Federal governments wants you to be, without the funding to allow that transition to occur.

#### \$15M CMS Rules Compliance

This is funding to allow other programs to transition into CMS compliant models. The dollar amount is small and although not enough to solve the problem, it is important that it has been identified and is the beginning to address CMS rules.

#### \$17M Improve Service Coordinator Ratios

This is to fund salaries, benefits and rent for up to 200 new case managers statewide to assist in lowering caseload ratios. In addition to a salary increase, it is really good news as case load ratios have continued to climb yearly. Mr. Burton stated that he was particularly proud when this issue came up before Assemblyman Thurmond, as Mr. Thurmond used to be an RCEB case manager as well as a direct service worker, and knows what it is like to carry a high caseload. Assemblyman Thurmond's question to the Department was for them to advise what would it take to meet all of the caseload ratio requirements in law and hire 660 new regional center case managers, which is what we would need to meet the requirements.

The largest of the issues that we were facing were resolved in the Special Session, and the balance we are expecting to sail through, and don't foresee any issues except in one area. The Administration has proposed to use the \$42.5M out of the regional center's current year POS budget for audit exceptions that they had incurred in past years in the State developmental centers, specifically for the Agnews campus services post consumer placements in the community. This is a hot issue and we have taken a strong position against this proposal as we feel that it is inappropriate to take those funds out the current year purchase of services budget for that purpose. One of the reasons why there might be that amount remaining in the budget is because people have been going without, new programs have not started, insufficient availability of services, etc. A suggestion would be to use it as start-up funding for new services, unlike what we do for the Community Placement Plan [CPP].

Mr. Burton added that the most significant subject during the hearing will be the developmental center closures. By April 1<sup>st</sup> the Administration will submit a formal plan for the closures of Fairview Developmental Center and the non-secured portion of Porterville Developmental Center. There's considerable activity in the Sonoma Developmental Center closure with lots of oversight, and many people want to become involved. We foresee lots of legislative oversight, similar to the Agnews Closure. Senator Mike McGuire [Sonoma is in his district] chairs the Senate Committee on Human Services, and had a hearing where Mr. Burton gave his testimony recently. We have never closed more than one developmental center at a time, so this will be very challenging for DDS and they will need to add staff, as we do as well. However, Mr. Burton states that we can do this right and expect to do this carefully and thoughtfully.

### Grassroots Day

This year the Association of Regional Center Agencies [ARCA] organized Grassroots event falls on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol. There will also be a “Thank you for Your Vote” rally at noon on the West steps of the Capitol, to recognize those legislators who voted to help our community. Ms. Anne Struthers promoted the uniqueness of this hands-on experience to the board members, and added that it is a great opportunity to meet and talk to the legislators about what is important to each individual. She also added that the legislators are on term limits, so they are only there for a few years, and the new legislators coming on board will not know about our developmental disability community unless we educate them on who we are and how the funding will help.

### Self-Determination

Mr. Burton stated that DDS’ Self Determination Program Workgroup is working hard on trying to find a way to get Federal approval to happen. It is very frustrating, as the Federal government seems to be holding back on approval for California as it seems like they are waiting for more CMS compliance. Mr. Burton also introduced a guest at our board meeting this evening, Maria Marquez, who is the Assistant Chairperson on our local Self-Determination committee who was the first self-directed services participant in the pilot program at Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center.

Mr. Burton stated that our self-determination group is very focused and dedicated, and credits Vi Ibarra who chairs the committee that has met monthly since June 2015.

→ Next meeting is April 4th in Concord at 7:00pm.

### Developmental Services Task Force

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Diana Dooley scheduled the next meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> right after the MCO tax was passed and will be reviewing one of the other pieces of the Thurmond Bill. This piece is a rate study of all the services, which is due by March, 2019 and will be submitted to the legislature. This is very important because whatever rate increases we receive, if it is not adjusted to reflect the real cost of doing business, it is not going to keep our system sustained in the future. Now there is a commitment and it is written in law. We will also begin work on the Core Staffing Formula which is the formula used to allocate regional center staff, to make the adjustments that reflect the real cost and workload.

### Department of Developmental Services – New Director

Mr. Burton announced that the new director of DDS is Nancy Bargmann, formerly the Deputy Director in the Community Services Division at DDS for both Terri Delgadillo and Santi Rogers. Ms. Bargmann held several positions at the Inland Regional Center in community services and in the resource development departments. She was also the Associate Executive Director at the San Gabriel-Pomona Regional Center, and has experience in housing development and as a consultant, and she held several positions at the MENTOR Network. Ms. Bargmann has broad experience and will assume the position on April 4, 2016. She is a very committed person and Mr. Burton states that she is a great collaborator and he looks forward to working with her.

## **Other News**

### Friends of Children with Special Needs [FCSN] Annual Talent Show

FCSN hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Special Needs Talent Showcase on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Mr. Burton was a preliminary judge again this year, and several Directors from RCEB attended the event filled with extraordinarily talented individuals, musicians, and dancers who performed at the finals that evening.

### Concord Office Move

We will be moving our Contra Costa location to another site at 1320 Willow Pass Road in Concord, 2.5 miles from where we are currently located. We will be sending out formal announcements on May 20<sup>th</sup>. As the board was informed months prior, we have outgrown our current location and the new location is more conducive to community meetings.

### RCEB Retirement

Mr. Burton announced that *Pam Thomas*, Director of Consumer Services will be retiring at the end of March 2016. A retirement party celebrating Ms. Thomas' career will be on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Burton also acknowledged Ms. Thomas' superb service at RCEB. Ms. Thomas expressed her gratification on working with the most talented and knowledgeable people who are committed to improving the lives of others and who have given so much of themselves, and that the challenges that they face, are not faced alone in the agency. Ms. Thomas also added that she has been inspired greatly by the people that we serve and their families. Ms. Struthers added her appreciation to Pam's dedication and trainings to the Board as well.

### RCEB Board Retirement

Mr. Burton announced that this board meeting is the final meeting for *Anne Struthers* who has termed out as our board President. She started her first term in February 2009, but also served on the board as far back as in 2001.

### ARCA REPORT: Anne Struthers

Ms. Struthers added that it was also her last meeting as the ARCA President last week, and that it was great to end her year on a high note with the passage of the MCO tax. Ms. Struthers wanted to remind everyone that we are looking at \$11.5B in revenues over what was anticipated in the state this year. Ms. Struthers informed the board of the Senate floor resolution presentation in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lanterman Act, and how nice it was to witness this. Ms. Struthers also spoke about her presentation with Rick Rollens to Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsome's staff on developmental disabilities and what it means. It turns out that the staffer does have a direct relation with a family member with autism. Ms. Struthers commended the Lanterman Coalition and all those who worked on the MCO tax, and that it was admirable that it was bi-partisan with people crossing over to vote for the right thing.

Ms. Struthers stressed her appreciation to Mr. Burton, and of ARCA's recognition of his hard work that he put in on the MCO tax. Ms. Struthers gave thanks to each board member and spoke of each one as she expressed her appreciation. Mr. Burton added that Ms. Struthers has

done a fantastic job as the ARCA President, leading and bringing to consensus the 21 regional centers represented by 42 individuals who make up ARCA. Mr. Burton expressed thanks to Ms. Struthers for all the hard work, collaboration and accomplishments during her leadership and stated that she reminds him of all the great mothers who have been leaders in our service system since the beginning. Her hard work, guidance, leadership and commitment, along with a good sense of humor and attitude were some of her characteristics that made her a pleasure to work with. Board member Mike Treppa also added that we are not only going to miss Anne at our meetings, but also her 31 year-old son, Todd who has been consistently attending all the board meetings and that it was a pleasure seeing him grow into the fine young man that he is today. This segued into the presentation of the parting retirement plaques to both Anne and to Todd for his outstanding support of his mother, so that she could lead this organization.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL ISSUE**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The board meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 25, 2016 in San Leandro  
There is a Diversity & Equity Meeting at 6:00 prior to the board meeting