

**North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services, Inc.
Board of Directors' Regular Business Meeting
Wednesday February 2, 2011, 5:00 p.m.
North Bay Regional Center
25 Executive Court, Napa, CA 94558**

MINUTES

NBRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Statti, ARCA CAC Chair (Sara Walter, PA)
Molly Dillon, Vice President
Matt Bloom

Carol Urban, Secretary
Martha Cornejo, President
Margi Stern
Harry Matthews, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Washington (Excused)

Frankie Smithle (Excused)
Lyn Isbell (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT:

Kathy Newman, Exec. Assistant
Thomas Maseda, Director, Administration
Michi Gates, Director, Adult Services
January Crane, CPC
Pamela Madden Krall, Training Manager
Anna Hiser, CPC
Laura Cepoi,
Barbara Sylvester, Intake Sup.

Bob Hamilton, Executive Director
Alfonso Carmona, Director, Client Services
David Katayama, Director, Children's Services
Ellen McBride, CMS
Tanya Baretto, CPC
Kelly Weber, CRC
Fiona Robertson, CMS
Linda Jarvis, CSA

GUESTS PRESENT:

Marilyn Mills, ARC Solano
Edie Thomas, Connections for Life
Donna Feingold, Moving Forward
Elizabeth Clary, OADS
Ellen Parada, PACE-Georgia
Laura Sadet, Parent

Ron Hamilton, UCPNB
Robert Phillips, AIVB
Markley Sutton, Psychologist
Mary Eble, North Bay Housing Coalition
Cami Weaver, BI
Kathleen Miller, Parent

CALL TO ORDER – Martha Cornejo, President, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board and audience introduced themselves.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

M/S/C (Dillon/Bloom) Move that the minutes of January 5, 2011 regular business meeting be approved as submitted. UNANIMOUS

TREASURER'S REPORT

M/S/C (Bloom/Urban) Move that the Treasurer's Report for the period of December 1-31, 2010 be approved as submitted. UNANIMOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Collaboration with North Bay Housing Coalition – Mary Eble, Executive Director

North Bay Housing Coalition Mission Statement: Enhance the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities in Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties through creating affordable housing in the communities of their choice with maximum independence.

History:

- 1990-91: Doug Cleveland, Bill Allen, John Shea, Elvis Bozarth, Cleo Manspeaker, and other volunteers created the Human Conservancy and Housing Foundation.
- 1991-2001: For approximately ten years the Coalition functioned through volunteers. During that time the non-profit was created with an independent Board of Directors. Funding came from Regional Centers, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Area IV Board. During the early 90's Supported Living was a new concept so there was consulting with consumers and families. With the leadership of Doug Cleveland, there were four "set-aside" apartments that were created.
- 2001 to present: The focus is on affordable housing, pathfinding, and Golden State Pooled Trust.
Affordable Housing: Set-aside units are apartments for people with developmental disabilities in a larger development. There is a development of 25 units in Napa County that has four set-asides specifically for

people with developmental disabilities. A renter does not require a Section 8 voucher in order for rent to be affordable. There are currently 14 existing "set-aside" units and NBHC is in the process of developing relationships with developers for more units.

Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers – This is a federal program through Housing Urban Development (HUD) administered at a local level through a local Public Housing Authority (PHA). North Bay Housing Coalition networks with nine in the three county area. Once a person receives a Section 8 housing voucher, they may go anywhere within the County and rent a unit, as long as the landlord is willing to accept the voucher. The renter pays approximately 30-40% of their income toward rent. The rest is subsidized through the voucher. The Section 8 voucher is not a program specifically for people with disabilities. One has to qualify through income. With all the cuts at the federal level, it is very difficult to obtain a voucher. The goal is to access generic resources; Section 8 is one of them. NBHC advocates with individual Housing Authorities and has been successful in bringing in 30 mainstream housing vouchers (specifically for people with physical, mental, or developmental disabilities) and 100 housing choice vouchers in Napa County.

Single-family homes: NBHC is working on purchasing three homes through Community Placement Plan (CPP) funds by April 30, 2011. CPP funding is specific to people moving out of the Developmental Center. NBHC has "beat the bushes" to locate additional funding resources to maximize the CPP monies.

- NBHC is in partnership with Suisun City (Redevelopment Funds). Mayor Pete Sanchez has been instrumental in assuring that NBHC is able to use 25% of the purchase price out of the CPP funds toward the home. The City of Suisun is also matching the 25% for two additional homes. NBHC then has to obtain a loan for the remaining 50% of the purchase.
- NBHC is in partnership with the City of Santa Rosa Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). NBHC has applied for a loan to obtain a four bedroom, two bath home in Santa Rosa.
- Currently NBHC owns four homes; one in Napa, Fairfield, Rohnert Park, and Santa Rosa. They are deed restricted in that they are owned by NBHC. They are leased directly to the tenants, not a service provider.
 - The Napa house is located on Marjorie Drive. It is a three bedroom, two bath single family home. The home was donated with two tenants served by supported living services residing in the home. The donation was contingent upon one of the tenants residing there indefinitely. Each tenant has a Section 8 voucher.
 - Legacy Home is a program that NBHC is in the process of launching and to evaluate the debt service, the condition of the home. Outreach to families to help identify the potential of donating a house to NBHC.
 - The Fairfield house is located on Raintree. It is a two bedroom, one bath condo which was purchased by CPP funds. NBHC applied for City of Fairfield Community Developmental Block Grant and Columbian Foundation (interest free loan for seven years) which is pending. One tenant moved from Sonoma Developmental Center and receives supported living services.
 - The Rohnert Park house is located on Lombard Way. It is a three bedroom, two bath single family home. It was purchased with CPP and Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds. NSP is a program established under the direction of President Bush and continues under President Obama. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of stabilizing communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. NSP makes it very affordable to purchase a home. One tenant moved from Sonoma Developmental Center and receives supported living services.
 - The Santa Rosa house is located on Quimby. It is a three bedroom, two bath single family home. It was purchased with CPP and NSP funds. Two tenants will move from Sonoma Developmental Center April 2011 and receive supported living services. Discussion followed.

Advocacy

- North Bay Autism Regional Taskforce (NBART)
- Public Housing Authorities submits an annual administrative plan to HUD on how the "waitlist" is being managed, making sure people with disabilities are a priority, setting payment standards, etc.
- Housing Elements is where each City is required to address affordable housing needs in their community. SB812 mandates City's to identify specifics for people with developmental disabilities.
- Reasonable Accommodations
- Fair Housing
- Permanent funding source for housing development. NBHC is working with the Non-Profit Housing to create a permanent source of funding for housing development. There are approximately 16 non-profit housing coalitions that are part of the Regional Center system. The Coalitions work collaboratively in exchanging ideas and implementing what works. NBHC is working with Union Bank to develop a product to assist funding housing loans. Discussion followed.
- Partnerships

Pathfinding

- Consultations and workshops
- Individual Housing Assistance Plan (new program) – work with pre-SLS families.
- Creating a Website which will provide a “Housing Search Center” where people will be able to post/search for potential housing availability. The website will also post available benefits and services i.e., supported living services/independent living services. “The Kitchen Table” will be an open forum where individuals/families can discuss family issues.

Golden State Pooled Trust – The Coalition was approached by Stephen Dale, an attorney in Estate Planning. The Golden State Pooled Trust is a program that sets North Bay apart from other Housing Coalitions in the State. It is a special needs trust program in collaboration with Stephen Dale, Trustee. Currently NBHC is self-settling and requires the assets of the individual with disability either through a personal injury or inheritance. Since its inception in 2004 NBHC has served over 150 beneficiaries with over \$8M under management. The Trustee duties are contracted out to Stephen Dale. Mr. Dale became an Estate Planning attorney because he witnessed abuse in the system. The money is invested and managed by Wells Fargo. In 2011, NBHC will launch the third party estate planning account. The Coalition is in the process of surveying local communities to identify specific housing needs and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities. Discussion followed.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Fiona Robertson introduced herself to the Board of Directors as the new SEIU President and noted that she looks forward to working with Bob and his Team in making North Bay Regional Center even stronger.
- Cami Weaver, Chief Executive Officer, Becoming Independent – “If Not You Then Who” is something that drives Cami every day. Cami noted that BI and many of her colleagues are focused on those receiving services and their families and loved ones due to the current proposed cuts to the Regional Center system. Cami also noted that BI receives a \$1M check from NBRC each month which funds thousands of purchases of service. Cami noted that the responsibility weighs heavily on her. She and her colleagues continue to mobilize people with developmental disabilities and their families to take a stand regarding how devastating the proposed budget cuts will be. The Regional Center is part of the team and Cami would like to see more people from the Regional Center by her side. There are over 5,000 families associated with North Bay Regional Center. Mobilize parents and people with disabilities because it is up to them to act. If Not You Then Who?
- Elizabeth Clary, Executive Director – OADS. Elizabeth reiterated Cami’s statements. Her mantra is “If It Is To Be It Is Up To Me”. Elizabeth noted the magnitude of the proposed state budget cuts that are facing this system and that the majority of the funding cuts will come out of direct services. Approximately 240,000 people in the State of California receiving services will be affected by these cuts. The system currently does not know what the plan is. The total budget for State Developmental Centers for 2001/12 is \$618 million dollar in comparison to the \$523 million dollar operations budget the Regional Center System receives. We are facing a proposed \$750 million dollar cut to our system. Our community services will not be able to absorb the proposed cuts. Elizabeth encouraged everyone to inform family and community members. Consider traveling to Sacramento to testify and graph the enormity of these cuts to the Legislature.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Director’s & Officer’s Liability Insurance – It was decided that each January, NBRC will provide the Board with the renewal of the Director’s & Officers Liability Insurance.

Martha encouraged the Board to consider donating \$1,000 (to be taken from the Board funds) to Marty Omoto in support of his e-newsletter. This is a periodic personal commentary by Marty Omoto, director/organizer of the California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN). Marty is a very strong advocate for people with developmental disabilities and reaches over 55,000 people in California. Marty keeps recipients of his Action Alert apprised of critical issues, legislation, committee hearings, etc. Marty supports the newsletter by donations alone. His website is www.cdan.us. An email will be distributed amongst board members for support/non-support of this request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met January 19, 2011. The following issues were discussed:
- Public Comment: When there is an “Action” item on the Board agenda, the Board will discuss the item amongst themselves. They will then allow two-minute per person comments from the audience, or as otherwise directed. The Board may ask questions for clarification. The item will then be voted upon and further discussion amongst the board if warranted.

- Budget Update: Discussed how Regional Center Operations will be affected with the proposed budgetary cuts. The Board stated that consumers, families, and staff are a priority.
- Board Feature Presentations
- Staff recruitment for the position of Chief Financial Officer.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee – Linda Washington VAC Rep – Donna Feingold gave the following report:

The VAC met on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. Please review the minutes of that meeting for information on areas of discussion. Donna acknowledged that Linda Washington's mother passed away in late January.

- The Napa/Solano Vendor Group discussed the NBRC December Craft Fair. Due to over crowding it was suggested that the Community Resource Room be an option for expansion.
- The Quarterly Employment Taskforce met. There was a long discussion regarding the purpose of the group. There was consensus that the agenda continue to include day program work, community based day program work, workshop work, supported employment individual placement work, and supported employment group work.
- California Disability Services Association (CDSA) announced that there will be a hearing April 1st challenging the legality of a retroactive rate cut. CDSA is also warning providers that the State Labor Department is performing random audits. CDSA's Business Advisory Team is working on a new structure of what types of organizations CSA intends to provide support to.
- There was discussion regarding the new budget proposal that Governor Brown presented, with \$750 million reduction to the DDS budget. There are too many concerns to list them all.
- DDS has stated that they will conduct more vendor audits. NBRC is expecting to be audited by DDS in February, lasting approximately six weeks. This audit will also address an analysis of the implementation of the trailer bill language.
- The Statewide Stakeholder Advisory Group has not met. All agencies are encouraged to participate in newly formed "focused work groups" if invited.
- For the first time the VAC is hosting quarterly presentations for service providers in an attempt to assist them in running their business. A lawyer, who specializes in employment law, presented on wage an hour. This was a free service to the providers. Thanked Liz Sutton for coordinating the presentation.
- The new Vendor Advisory website is www.vac-nbrc.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bob Hamilton, Executive Directors Report – Bob referred to the agenda for Subcommittee Budget Hearing on proposed budget cuts scheduled for February 3rd. Approximately \$200 million out of the \$750 million has been accounted for. There is a survey on the DDS website requesting input on Purchase of Service standards for eight categories of services, i.e., behavioral services, day programs, supported employment, work activity program services, early start services, health care and therapeutic services, independent living and supported living services, residential services, respite and other family supports, and transportation services. The Department will use this information and then form eight subject matter expert workgroups equally weighted among families, consumers, providers, and regional centers, to develop solutions for service standards. The Department will assemble Budget language and assign monetary value in terms of what the Department expects to achieve in savings.

The \$750 million number was arrived at after the Department built our budget from the current year spending. If the 4.25 per cent reduction had been eliminated in POS, provider rates, and Operations, and allowed for growth, our budget would have been \$750 million more. Our budget will probably be approximately \$329 million less than it is this year. This may impact federal revenue by approximately \$500-550 million. The system cannot sustain this cut and survive.

The Regional Center is collaborating with ARCA and legislative consultants to educate them on how devastating this will be for our service system. This will materially affect the Lanterman Legislation as we know it. The Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst's Office are proposing fee-for-service or co-payments for almost every service provided. The proposed budget limits Regional Center Operating administration to 15% of their Ops budget. If a person is not involved in the direct care of a consumer, then they can not be counted. If they are counted the total must equal 85% of our Operations budget. There are Issues surrounding audits for regional centers and vendors but DDS has not established a threshold yet. DDS will, however, require a CPA audit for a certain dollar threshold. The budget will require regional centers to change CPA auditors very five years. We feel these proposed cuts will push us right over the edge.

It is expected that over 1000 consumers, family, providers, etc., will attend the budget hearing tomorrow. The Senate budget hearing is scheduled for February 10. It is necessary to meet with local legislators to affect change in the outcome.

Bob and Pamela Madden-Krall met with staff of Assemblymembers Noreen Evans and Michael Allen, February 1. The message from the legislative staff is that we need to put a face on this for those on the "other side of the aisle"; i.e., how would they deal with these devastating numbers if they had a family member or loved-one with a developmental disability? NBRC will continue to keep staff and Board apprised of changes. Bob and Board members will continue to meet with local legislators.

NBRC has not received the B2 budget amendment for the current year. NBRC expects a \$3-4 million allocation in POS and a \$200K allocation in Operations. NBRC will be forced to take evasive action soon if we do not hear from the Department regarding the B2.

Management and SEIU leadership will meet tomorrow to discuss the proposed budget cuts.

NBRC is a high performer in obtaining enrollments for Community Based Waivers. NBRC had the most accelerated waivers increase in the State at 104.9% adding 282 to the waiver for eligibility. This increases our collection to our Federal funding. Bob thanked all staff, particularly January Crane, who coordinates this effort.

The Board packet statistical report now identifies independent living services, supported living services, and foster care. These have previously been listed under "other". Bob is currently working with the programmer to identify longitudinal progression as to what changes have occurred over a number of years.

Financial Report – Bob noted that unless there were questions, he referred those in attendance to his written financial report in the Board packet.

Alfonso Carmona, Director, Client Services shared the following:

- Kudos to Randy Kitch for facilitating the Regional Self Advocacy meeting at North Bay Regional Center last week. Alfonso thanked Cindy Ruder from Area IV Board for assisting Randy and service providers for transporting consumers. NBRC has a history of self advocacy.
- Kudos to Michi Gates and Deanna Heibel for meeting with Sonoma County Mental Health to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding with NBRC. The MOU is similar to that of Napa County Mental Health. It was noted that once the MOU is signed, it becomes a public document.
- Alfonso met with Beth Majchrzak from Vallejo Unified School District regarding a collaborative effort between school districts and North Bay Regional Center. Further discussion will be held at a meeting late February or early March.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Client Services Only):

- Cami Weaver requested clarification regarding NBRC's message to local legislative staff. Bob noted that the message is the Regional Center system has already taken substantial cuts and the system will be "rocked to its foundation" if we have to endure further cuts. NBRC is requesting legislators for their assistance in ameliorating the devastation of the proposed budgetary cuts to the Regional Center system. NBRC staff can lobby on their own time but should focus on the DDS/State Budget rather than North Bay Regional Center. Families need to participate.
- Linda Jarvis requested clarification regarding the proposed parental co-pay and how some parents can easily afford participation.
- Molly encouraged providers and vendors to get the word out regarding hearings and the need to vocalize their needs.

LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Association of Regional Center Agencies – Martha Cornejo (10 minutes): Martha noted the following:
- ARCA met on January 20-21, 2011 in Sacramento.
 - ARCA Position Statement on the Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11. Martha noted that this document represents ARCA's positions regarding the proposals included in the Governor's budget proposed for FY 2010-2011. The position statement has been sent to the Governor and new legislators. The document will be placed on the NBRC website (www.nbrc.net).

- ARCA delegates are requesting individual Boards and staff to mobilize families and parents to contact local legislators to vocalize how the proposed budgetary cuts will affect their lives. ARCA realizes how important it is to get families to the hearings to testify. ARCA recommends writing letters or emailing legislators if unable to attend the scheduled hearings. DDS has provided a survey link on their website for input regarding POS standards (in Spanish as well as English) www.dds.ca.gov/survey/spanish.cfm.
 - AB 171 (Beall) – This bill is sponsored by the Alliance of California and will end health care discrimination against children with autism by requiring coverage of diagnosis and treatment. The legislation will require private health insurance companies to cover the screening, diagnosis, testing, and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The bill includes coverage of behavioral health treatments, such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), an evidence-based, medically-necessary autism therapy. The bill contains no caps on age, number of visits to a service provider, or annual dollar maximum. ARCA supports this bill.
 - California Legacy Homes (CLH) is a way to benefit a loved one and others with developmental disabilities into the future. With a carefully planned donation a family member can guarantee their child or family member with a disability remain in a family home; have an experienced organization/trustee that the family member with a disability will have access to services if needed; have a professional own and maintain the property; ensure that the family member can live with housemates of their choice; give families the peace of mind that their loved one will live in a home for the rest of their lives. ARCA is in support of a bill to introduce this program. NBRC was used as a model in support of this bill.
 - Proposed standardization of Purchase of Service throughout the State of California. Committees will be formed but the method of selecting individuals to serve on the committees has not been formally discussed. Bob noted that the Executive Director's have discussed this issue but have come to no resolution. They have, however, discussed two concepts regarding Regional Center representation, i.e., including the most expert people in any given area and developing a platform for them to work from. Bob reiterated the Purchase of Service standards for eight categories of services: behavioral services, day programs, supported employment, work activity program services, early start services, health care and therapeutic services, independent living and supported living services, residential services, respite and other family supports, and transportation services. The Board Delegates and Directors will meet on February 15th and expect to have more input. If anyone wishes to submit input, please contact Bob or Martha.
 - Eileen Richey provided an update on WE Include which was started by Maria Shriver, former First Lady of California, in 2008. Maria Shriver is no longer a part of the Capitol so WE Include doesn't exist. Lisa Jackson of ARCA continues to work on raising funds for the employment initiative and the program. ARCA has identified "California Includes" as the new name of the program which will allow continuation of working with corporations and for use on the ARCA website.
 - The ARCA Treasurer position is vacant. There will be a mid-term slate of officers elected.
 - ARCA Delegates and Directors are currently participating in bi-monthly conference calls due to the amount of information needing to be communicated.
 - Michael Statti noted the Consumer Advisory Committee members are considering eliminating the word "consumer" and replacing it with "people". Consumer Advisory Committee will then become People Advisory Committee. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Feb 25th in Sacramento.
- B. Area IV Board – Bob Phillips (10 minutes) – Bob noted the following:
- Proposed budget cuts for people with developmental disabilities is too severe and must be moderated.
 - Mark Polit presented documentation at a recent Town Hall meeting on the rate of growth and rate increases compared to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is significantly higher. He showed the rate increases for different programs over a ten year period. He also provided documentation attributed to growth in the developmental disability service system. Bob noted this is an argument that must be made to the Department.
 - Meeting with local legislators is essential to vocalize how devastating the cuts will be to individuals receiving services. The old tried and true way of getting the word out is through Town Hall meetings. Bob asked for input regarding AIVB's interest in holding such meetings. He was encouraged by the community in attendance to continue both.
 - "Service standards" is the primary cost savings measure for DDS-funded services. DDS is hopeful that implementation of service standards will save over \$500 million. Statewide service standards will set clear requirements for regional centers to adhere to in the purchase and delivery of services, while achieving necessary budget savings. The service standards will cover eight topics which have already been identified. All ideas and comments will be received through completing a survey found on the DDS website www.dds.ca.gov or sending an email to survey@dds.ca.gov. All responses must be received by February 15, 2011.

- AIVB has a booklet entitled “Practice Democracy” that lists the contact information for state legislators serving the North Bay. It is posted on the State Council’s website at www.scdd.ca.gov and available from the Area Board office at ab4@scdd.ca.gov or (707) 648-4073.
- AB 171 (Beall) – Autism Insurance Reform bill would require private health insurance companies to cover the screening, diagnosis, testing, and treatment of individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- Next meeting for AIVB is Wednesday February 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Petaluma Community Center. Bob extended a personal invitation to the NBRC Board to attend an AIVB meeting. The agenda includes:
 - IHSS by Michael Humphrey, Manager, Sonoma County IHSS. Affective February 1, there will be a 3.6% cut. Affective July 1 the proposed budget will require an additional 8.4% cut. IHSS domestic services will be cut i.e., laundry, dishes, etc, as opposed to personal attendant.
 - Governor’s proposed budget by Bob Phillips
 - Plans for a residential facility for 16 persons with ASD in the Town of Sonoma by representatives with a Marin county-based organization called Sweetwater Spectrum.
- SSI benefits proposed cut from \$845 - \$830. People are affected by cuts from multiple agencies i.e., MediCal and health services.
- Time is short and March 1 is the date that the Governor wants an approved budget. Discussion followed.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kathleen Miller requested a copy of the MOU between NBRC and Sonoma County Mental Health prior to approval. Once the document is finalized it will then become a public document.

Elizabeth Clary inquired as to Best Practices of other Regional Centers in delivery of information regarding the proposed Budget cuts. Martha indicated there is not a Best Practice per se, but feels it is an important issue to bring to the attention of ARCA. The ARCA website and individual Regional Center websites are a resource for information as well. Margi Stern noted the importance of the Capitol hearings where everyone is entitled to have a voice. Discussion followed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT – The next Board meeting is a business meeting scheduled for March 2, 2011 at North Bay Regional Center, Napa office at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT – M/S/C (Statti/Urban) – Martha Cornejo adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

UNANIMOUS