



Area 4 Developmental Disabilities Board

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Minutes (approved) for

Area 4 Board Public Meeting
Thursday, December 15, 2011
Solano county Office of Education
5100 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:02 p.m. by Laura Mefford, Chairperson.

Members: Laura Mefford, Vallerie Birdsell, Jeana Eriksen, Martin Weil, Virginia Barraza, Tina McLean, Laureen McAndrew, Andy Lunceford, Kimberly Payne and Max Duley

Members Absent: Paul Von Gottfried, Maryann Cantone

Staff: Robert Phillips, Robin Tigh

Facilitators: Richard Ruge, Linda Bailey, Francis Arcadi

Public: Margie Stern, NBRC, Michael Jereb, Early Start Unit Supervisor
Bob Hamilton, NBRC

Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2011: M/S/C - V. Birdsell/M. Duley -- unanimous

Public Comment: Richard Ruge wanted to acknowledge the self advocacy newsletter that went out. The newsletter was great!

NBRC REPORT:

Action Items:

- (1) Election of Officers:
The Chairperson -- Laura Mefford
The Vice-Chairperson – Martin Weil
The Secretary – Tina McLean
- (2) Meeting Schedule: No comment
- (3) Legislative & Public Policy Committee: Motion to re-establish the Legislative & Public Policy Committee. M/S/C - M. Weil/V. Birdsell -- unanimous
- (4) State Budget: Good News no cuts to DDS until June, 2012.

What about the next fiscal year? DDS head said there will be a reduction of the budget in the FY 12-13. A new attachment was handed out at the Board Meeting. IHHS hours are being temporarily pulled back and no cuts at this time will occur. It will be presented in a law suit next month.

January Crane at the NBRC is doing a fabulous job at the regional center, actively seeking help to get people on the waiver.

How would a client know if they are on the waiver? Each year a yellow form is given to clients. A goal has been set to have 75 percent of clients will be on the waiver. 725 clients total, 300 waivers, and have added 75 more to the Medicaid waiver. NBRC has another month to get more clients added to the waiver. Goal is to hit the last Friday of the month with additional names placed on the waiver. This will help to bring in more federal funding for waiver services.

The Area Board needs to stay informed and monitor the exemptions with a goal of making sure notices of action are not send out. How is this going to happen? In re-establishing the legislative platform, the staff will be able to write supportive letters. Currently the Chairperson can write letters on behalf of the Area Board. It was recommended to write a letter now.

Motion to have Laura Mefford write a letter in the opposition in the strongest terms. Motion to authorize a letter M/S/C: J. Eriksen/V. Birdsell -- unanimous

Bob send out DRC IHHS appeal.

(5) Transition Services:

AB 104 covers transition services (page 10/11)

Motion to make recommendations on policy for NBRC. Schools need to develop programs for transition services. Wanting to develop memo of understanding to help there be good outcomes for transition programs.

Added to the Agenda: The bill is being amended to include the posed employment first policy. AB254 by Jim Bill. This bill will be heard by January 10, 2012. Letters of support would be great, recommend putting out letters now.

Motioned to support by letters of supported. Motion: M/S/C -- M. Weil/M. Duley -- unanimous

Presentation: Early Start Program

Michael Jereb, Early Start Manager for NBRC for Napa and Solano Counties. Did an overall of the changes of the early start program for children under the age of 5.

Reports:

(a) State Council: Max Duley

(b) Staff: Bob –had a meeting Self Advocacy Regional meeting with officers and Carol Risley came from Sacramento to attend. Area Board 4's Regional Self

Advocacy Group is being seen as a model for the self advocacy meetings with state level helping with a unified voice across the state.

Acknowledgment went to Virginia Barraza for hosting a down syndrome Christmas party.

- (c) Board Members: Jeana Eriksen's Report. See attachment
- (d) North Bay Regional Center: Bob Hamilton, Executive Director
Talked about the current cuts, NBRC is allowed to use accrued savings and expected savings, which has spared cuts for the moment. At this point there will be no fiscal cuts for the remainder fiscal year. Although it was mentioned the Governor wants to cut \$200,000 next fiscal year, still chance \$69 million dollars in cost due to the services being picked up by the medical insurance. Providers are considering closures due to the projected future cuts. It is really hard because the Caseloads continue to grow while NBRC does not receive any more funding. Friends of North Bay Regional Center, a non-profit organization has been formed, it is not to compete with local agencies but to focus on grant funding.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.