



NBRC VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAKING IDEAS TANGIBLE THROUGH FOCUS AND EFFORT

**North Bay Regional Center
February 28, 2006**

VAC Members Present: Beth Atton, David Mauger, Carin Lawrence, Lance Parker, Edie Thomas, Don Morgan

Guests: Linda Jones Washington, Darla Brooks, Jami Davis, Laurie Hoilup, Liz Sutton, Rizza Santos, Scott McKelvey, Bob Hamilton, Bob Phillips, Laura Cepoi, Terri Rowland, Karen Lustig, Richard Ruge, Nancy Gardner

Introductions and Acceptance of Minutes - Jami Davis was not in attendance at the last VAC. Beth motioned, Eddie seconded, carried

I. Agenda Changes or Additions - None

II. Group Reports and/or Clarifications

- A) *Best Practices Training Update* - Carin reported that Best Practices discussion focused on the Autism Conference that will occur Friday, March 3, 2006. Registration will be accepted at the door. 120 people are currently registered with the hopes of 200. Discussion followed.
- B) *Sonoma Vendor Group* - Liz reported the Sonoma Vendor Group held the first annual legislative breakfast. Assemblymember Joe Nation, Assemblymember Patty Berg and other Representatives attended. Discussion on what vendors plan for support and what occurred at the breakfast. Liz also discussed the AIVB Legislative Forum.
- C) *Napa-Solano Vendor Group* - No meeting
- D) *Legislative Updates*
 - 1) CRA Group - CRA is restructuring. Discussion around the 3% rate increase allocated in the DDS budget and what measures will be taken to acquire more. Grassroots conference scheduled for March 28th-30th. Visits with Legislative Representatives scheduled for all CRA participants. Next meeting March 21st at 10:00 for the Bay Area Caucus meeting. All meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of the month.
 - 2) ARCA - Nancy Gardner
 - Nancy discussed ARCA updates noting there is a lot going on. Legislative Analyst proposed cost containment on POS via regional center controls. ARCA opposes.
 - Discussed 3% rate increase adjustment and Autism Specialist positions proposed in the Budget.
 - Budget hearings for DDS on April 3rd and 17th. Social Security budget hearing on March 29th. Please send a letter if unable to attend hearings.
 - Nancy directed everyone to read the NBRC Board of Director's packet containing information on legislation.
 - 3) Budget & Bills Update – Nancy G. (see NBRC Board packet).

III. Policies and Procedures Update at NBRC

- Laura discussed Medicare Part D changes. There is a draft procedure due to continuous changes. There are funds in the POS budget for medication coverage, let your CPC know if there is a need for a purchase for medication.

- RFP discussed for employer of record for family respite. Federal dollars are being drawn down and Regional Center's now need to ensure mandates are met. Bob suggested objective #6 be revised to read that the agency would pay \$8.50 not \$6.96 – discussed. Laura noted NBRC is unable to do this as it would constitute a 25% increase. An employer of record may pay more if they choose to do so. Bob will share further information with NBRC.
- Van conversions must be registered in the owner's name.

IV. Presentations

- A) Robert Phillips and Laurie Hoirup: Contributing to the Development of the State Plan
- 1) Bob distributed handouts for the Special Education Credential Program. He also distributed a flier on a Circle of Supported Living Conference and one for an RFP for a Supported Living Program in the Redwood Coast Regional Center's catchment area. Discussed Area Board Operations.
 - 2) Systemic change is mandated and every five years the Council develops a State Plan. 2007-2011 will be completed in 2006 to address funding for community grants etc. Bob requested input on what was distributed. Laurie explained where these focus areas came from e.g., Area Boards, consumer and families. Currently, they will be asking for feedback from more consumers, families and focus groups. The intent is to get as much input from the State as possible. Discussion and questions. Nancy discussed the importance of wage parity between the community and developmental centers and noted that until this issue is addressed questioned how anything proposed can be accomplished.

- V. **New Business** - Discussed programs that are experiencing fiscal difficulties. Agencies are encouraged to reach out and offer support.

VI. Announcements

- Bob Hamilton was introduced as the new CFO of NBRC.
- Doug Cleveland, Director of Client Services, is retiring. He has been with NBRC for over 27 years. A retirement event is in the process of being planned and will be announced. The tentative date is April 21st from 4:00-7:00. Recruitment of Director of Client Services appears on the NBRC website.
- A Napa residential service provider for children experienced a fire; any information on a facility that can assist in relocation would be appreciated.
- Laura Cepoi discussed other tragic needs and regular quarterly meetings. She offered to share her notes on the Reinventing Quality conference.
- Remember to send in your legislative forum registration.
- Protocols and health care plan standardization will be discussed at our next meeting. Carin distributed BI's format for plans.
- VAC strategic plan will be presented at the April NBRC Board meeting. All vendors are encouraged to attend.

- VII. **Vendor Support Time – Vendor's Only 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** - There was no need identified for meeting.