



NBRC VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAKING IDEAS TANGIBLE THROUGH FOCUS AND EFFORT

**North Bay Regional Center
January 24, 2006**

VAC Members Present: Beth Atton, David Mauger, Nary Callison, Carin Lawrence, Lance Parker, Stan Higgins, Don Morgan, Mick Woodson

Guests: Rizza Santos, Belinda White, Terri Rowland, Donna Feingold, Laura Cepoi, Liz Sutton, Louis Chiofalo, Sean Southworth, Bob Phillips, Jami Davis, Kathy Sharp

Introductions and approval of minutes and agenda

Lance announced that Nicky Boyette will be leaving VAC. Carin Lawrence agreed to take Nick's place as the VAC liaison with the Best Practices Training Consortium.

Discussion regarding the upcoming conference on Autism presented by Best Practices to be held on Friday, March 3.

Brief discussion about the success of the holiday party organized by Solano County vendors, primarily RSPs. Over three hundred consumers attended.

Sonoma Vendors announced their legislative breakfast to be held on February 24 to familiarize legislators with their services and needs, especially budgetary problems. They hope to make this an annual event.

CRA members discussed their recent conference and the announcement of a new interim director, Sean Hutchinson, who will be meeting with a task force to develop goals for the coming year.

Discussion about the new College of Direct Support which will be providing online training for direct care staff and a certificate for successful completion.

Nancy's ARCA report included:

- Governors initial budget proposal which includes a 3% COLA for programs.
- ARCA's opposition to language in Regional Center contracts placing limits on POS.
- Plans to provide funding for two Autism Specialists in each Regional Center although she felt the funding level was too low to attract people with the credentials needed for the positions.
- Progress on Agnews closure and CADDIS development.
- Legislative up date on bills currently in process in the legislature.
- NBRC's higher than average rate of unplanned hospitalizations. It is not clear at this time why this is so but Laura plans to investigate when time permits.

Lance gave a PowerPoint presentation he developed entitled "Cultivating an Effective Model for Collaboration - Growing the Future Together". The presentation included how VAC could set and meet goals to become more effective both for vendors and NBRC. Lance offered to present to the NBRC Board of Directors and Nancy agreed.

Stan noted problems Oaks of Hebron has had in having health care plans accepted by NBRC nursing staff. Discussion followed and other agencies agreed to bring in their formats in an attempt of developing a general plan that everyone can use that would meet the regional center requirements.

Bob Phillips of Area IV Board gave a brief presentation (including several handouts) on the State Council and the upcoming development of the five year plan 2007 - 2011. He requested to be placed on the agenda at the VAC meeting in February to receive feedback and input into the draft plan.

Laura Cepoi announced that RFP's for new programs will be mailed out within the next few months which will include a behavior program in Sonoma County and a program for medically fragile participants in Napa/Solano County.