

**North Bay Developmental Disabilities Services, Inc.  
Board of Directors' Regular Business Meeting  
Wednesday, September 4, 2013, 5:00 p.m.  
North Bay Regional Center  
10 Executive Court, Napa, CA 94558**

**MINUTES**

**NBRC BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Molly Dillon, President (RESIGNED HEREIN)  
Margi Stern, Secretary  
Kelley Hanson, VAC Rep  
Bill Hall, OADS Personal Assistant

Harry Matthews, Vice President/ARCA Rep  
Walter Spicer  
Franklin Phillips  
Joanne Tsai  
Rhonda Foster (SEATED HEREIN)

**NBRC BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Barbara Power (Excused)

Martha Cornejo, (RESIGNED HEREIN)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kathy Newman, Exec. Assistant  
Courtney Singleton, Section Manager  
Deanna Heibel, Section Manager  
January Crane, Medicaid Waiver Sup.  
Laurie Cole, EIS  
Kathy Graves, CPC  
Richard Greenwood, CPC, SEIU  
Ben Kaplan, CPC  
Marcia Parisi, CPC  
Eric Martin, CPC  
Stephanie Arciero, CPC  
Rita Chapa, CPC  
Karly Comfort, CPC  
Tina Mott, CPC  
Mary Winkel, EIS  
Kavina Hall, CPC  
Joanne Giardello, CMS  
Kimberly Dowling, IT  
Pamela Madden Krall, Training/Info Manager

Bob Hamilton, Executive Director  
Dave Johnson, Chief Financial Officer  
Thomas Maseda, Director of Administration  
Michi Gates, Director Client Services  
Laura Cepoi, Community Services Sup.  
Flavia Negrete, CPC  
Diana Tucker, QA  
Vivian Woll, CPC  
Linda Jarvis, CSA  
Mike Ursini, CPC  
Casandra Plummer, EIS  
Hannah Neal, CPC  
Manuel Cordero, CPC  
Magina Azizi-McCants  
JC Andrade, EIS  
Jayme Wise Hutchens, CPC  
Cherie Lanam, CRC  
Barrie Gordon, Accounting Manager  
Anna Hiser, CMS  
Pamela Monterrosa, CPC

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Irene Rosario, SEIU  
Elizabeth Clary, OADS  
Lisa Carbone, Dungarvin  
Yadira Guerrero, Parent  
Fabiola Acosta Lora, Interpreter  
Pedro Hernandez, Parent  
Jenny Huff, Parent  
Lorenzo Sotero, SEIU  
Joe Winkel, Spouse  
Amber Shickels, Enriching Lives FHA  
Pat Walter, Parent (SDC)  
Terri Rowland, Milestones

Bob Phillips, AIVB  
Linda Plourde, Bayberry, Inc.  
Margaret Farman, UCPNB  
Jose Elias, Parent  
Ana Acosta, Parent  
Alberta Onofre, Parent  
Lauren Meiklejohn, BI  
Ana Wangeline, SEIU 1021  
Diane Harris  
Michelle Kersten, Enriching Lives FHA  
Kathy Brian, DDS  
Saanen Kerson, Vine Village

**CALL TO ORDER** – Molly Dillon, President, called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Board and audience introduced themselves.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**M/S/C (Phillips/Hanson)** Move that the minutes of July 10, 2013 regular business meeting be approved as submitted.

**UNANIMOUS**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**M/S/C (Phillips/Spicer)** Move that the Treasurer's Report for the period of June 1 – July 31, 2013 be approved as submitted.

**UNANIMOUS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Pamela Madden Krall noted the following:

- NBRC will present to the Vallejo Community Advisory Committee on September 16th.
- Vallejo Unified School District Transition Faire is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- NBRC will be hosting the Napa Phone meeting. Napa has initiated a Public Health Outreach Network for emergencies and has asked NBRC to participate.
- NBRC continues to look at ways to increase outreach to the Latino community and improve ethnic disparity. NBRC will present to Becoming Independent in Santa Rosa on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and MATRIX Family Services in Fairfield on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- One of NBRC's vendors was featured on KRCB Healthy Communities in Sonoma County. Sonoma County is attempting to be the "healthiest County in the nation". KRCB received a grant and is featuring members of the "healthy" community. The video is posted on KRCB's You Tube channel.

**FEATURE PRESENTATION:** Meeting Caseload Ratios – Bob Hamilton & Thomas Maseda

Bob noted that North Bay Regional Center received a letter from the Department in March identifying non-compliance with caseload ratio. This is the case with most other Regional Centers as well. As part of the process, which is required by the Lanterman Act, NBRC is soliciting public input which will be submitted to DDS.

Bob introduced Thomas Maseda, Director of Administrative Services. Tom will walk us through where NBRC is presently and then staff and community attendees will have the opportunity to provide public comment.

Thomas noted the following:

In March of 2013, NRBC reported the following to DDS regarding our caseload ratios:

- MediCaid Waiver Ratio = 1:70 Required = 1:62 (6 CPC's need to meet requirement)
- Early Start Ratio = 1:76 Required = 1:62 (2 EIS need to meet requirement)
- All Others = 1:79 Requirement = 1:66 (10 CPC's needed to meet suspended requirements)

In order for NBRC to comply with the caseload ratio mandate we would have to hire approximately 15 additional case managers which would cost \$900,000 annually. This is funding we do not have. NBRC has experienced a 25% increase in client growth over the past seven years but funding has not kept pace with this growth.

- Who is counted in caseload average? Thomas noted that DDS has instructed Regional Centers to focus on service coordination when monitoring caseload ratios. All supervisors carrying a caseload are averaged in at a prorated amount. Salary average does not include supervisors. Early Intervention Specialists participate in the Intake process as well as case management. Intake is not counted toward service coordination ratios.
- 1.25% restoration is equivalent to just under \$200,000.
- What is the penalty for not meeting the DDS criteria? Thomas indicated there are no specific penalties. NBRC focuses on what is best for clients.
- Irene Rosario suggested that NBRC Management has created a "sweat-shop environment". How is money allocated and what are the priorities? The priority should be on quality service coordination, not on additional Management.
- How many new hires are growth positions versus attrition? NBRC has hired five case managers, some of which were to fill behind people leaving but there has been a net gain of 2.5 full time growth employees. NBRC's goal is to hire five full time growth case managers this year.
- Is there a financial penalty from the Federal Government for being out of compliance with the Medicaid Waiver caseload ratio? The Regional Center receives funding from the Feds and it is a constant concern which is another reason to attempt to meet the caseload ratios.
- As NBRC hires more case managers, focus should be on increasing Client Services Assistants for support. Currently there are a number of CSAs out with substantial injuries due of workload. NBRC Management should consider hiring additional CSAs to assist in minimizing injuries. CSAs work is as important as CPCs. NBRC is in the process of instituting DocuShare along with field laptops to assist in limiting hauling around heavy client charts.
- Are new case managers as skilled as tenured case managers who have left the agency? Tom noted that he has met with all the new case managers and has been impressed with their skilled and education. They all have the necessary experience, knowledge and understanding, skill, and passion for serving those with developmental disabilities.
- Recruitment process includes advertising, receiving applications, interview process, choosing the best candidate, making an offer, and then putting each individual through a nine month training program which familiarizes them with the Regional Center system and the work that needs to be done.

- NBRC is currently hiring for both children and adult services. It was suggested an additional adult case management services unit be developed.
- How does NBRC decide how to allocate Operations monies for case management services as opposed to administrative costs i.e., hiring Management as opposed to case managers, attorneys versus additional client services positions? Tom noted that it depends on what is happening at the Center in a particular year. Litigation forces NBRC to spend more money on attorney's fees to engage and defend. The less NBRC engages in those kinds of administrative costs the most money can be allocated to case management services, which is a priority.
- NBRC retains attorneys for due process hearings and other legal issues. Eliminate those positions and use that money toward case management services.
- Why does NBRC retain an employment attorney from Southern California when case managers are forced to use generic resources? NBRC has the option of retaining a free Mediator versus a paid attorney for some Union issues. It was suggested free services a mediator provides be utilized prior to retaining an attorney. It was also suggested an attorney in NBRC's catchment area be retained rather than pay travel and hotel expenses. Mike Monk, labor attorney, has represented NBRC for over 15 years. He has assisted NBRC in negotiating multiple contracts and is a trusted attorney.
- How does NBRC compare to other Regional Centers Operations budget regarding percentage expended on case management versus administrative costs. DDS requires all 21 Regional Centers allocate their Operations budget with 15% to administration and the remaining 85% to client services. Bob Hamilton noted that the long standing issue is that DDS uses a core staffing formula that has not been updated since 1991 except for a few positions that have been added. DDS multiplies all the factors i.e., how many psychologist, doctors, case managers, by individual Regional Center case count. Rent and other factors are also considered. Since the mid 1990's DDS has subtracted millions of dollars statewide in unallocated reductions which means Regional Centers receive an inadequate Operations budget to begin with. NBRC tries to assure funding is directed to clients and families first and foremost and then administrative costs. There is significant detail in administering DDS programs and contracts. Bob Hamilton and several California Regional Center Executive Directors recently met with Terri Delgadillo and her executive staff to discuss "doing more with less". The Executive Directors presented several scenarios that might work plus requested legislative support from the Department. Anyone can present a cause to the legislature but if the Health and Welfare agencies and the Governor don't support it, it doesn't happen. ARCA and a group of Executive Directors are working behind the scenes to move forward with legislative proposals. The salary allotted by the Legislature for case managers is \$34,000 per year. The average cost of a case manager is \$50,000 statewide. The difference, multiplied statewide is roughly \$40 million. Efforts through ARCA are underway in an attempt to introduce proposed Legislative changes.
- The Lanterman Act is the law and NBRC and Board of Directors are bound by them and responsible for making sure that we follow the law. It seems that the Operations budget is making it almost impossible to do that. Service coordination is of the highest priority but cannot happen with the current core staffing formula. CPCs and CSAs are of the highest priority. Linda Jarvis quoted portions of the Lanterman Act i.e., Chapter 5, Article 2, Section 4640.6(a) "In approving regional center contracts, the department shall ensure that regional center staffing patterns demonstrate that direct service coordination are the highest priority". Chapter 9, Section 4791(c) "assurances that all other Operations expenditure reductions are considered before any reductions are made and non-supervisory service coordination staff". The case manager and client services assistant positions are of the highest priority in order for NBRC to take care of client needs. If DDS chooses not to fund these positions, then clients will end up back in Developmental Centers where costs are prohibitive.
- Bob Hamilton noted that the big player in the funding of Regional Center Operations is the Legislature, not the Department of Developmental Services. The Department has worked tirelessly to obtain funding but due to incidents in the last few years and the great recession, the Regional Center Statewide system has not been in favor with the Legislature. Legislative leaders have indicated if costs were not controlled, the Entitlement would either be capped or eliminated altogether. They have tried to whittle away at the entitlement by putting limits on respite, eliminating the funding of social recreational programs, etc. DDS is our ally and in support the Regional Center system and have even tried to head off onerous legislation by placing language in Regional Center contracts that then placates legislation. Discussion followed.
- Cut Management salaries in order to hire more case management.
- A parent requested direction on what to do to advocate for lower caseload ratios as her daughter is being underserved. She indicated she wrote a letter to the Governor with no results. The more legislators hear from their constituents, the better.
- The States budget is determined every year July 1. November prior, the Governor estimates what the budget will be. In January the Governor introduces the budget to the Legislature various hearings are held where they receive public comment/feedback. In May, the legislature does the "May Revise" which is the final budget sent to the legislature for approval. There is a joint Legislature Committee that works through

differences between the Senate and Assembly prior to going to the Governor's desk for final signature. The Governor can veto certain "line items" but can not change too much.

- More outreach to Spanish speaking families. One of NBRC's ongoing strategic goals is to develop better outreach with Spanish speaking families. NBRC needs more bilingual case managers. In all media advertisement for case management positions, NBRC lists bilingual Spanish English speaking preferred.
- There are many uncovered caseloads which add an additional burden to bilingual case managers. Tom noted that NBRC is trying to hire the best bilingual Spanish/English speaking case managers.
- Streamline caseloads so they are less confusing i.e., caseloads stay with case managers rather than supervisors. The compilation of a caseload can determine the depth of the workload.
- NBRC is in the beginning stages of providing more technology to service coordinators to reduce workload.
- Management and Mike Monk declined to work with union on the issue of workload. Solicit information from case managers.
- Supervisors take on uncovered caseloads when case manager's workload is unattainable rather than pile it on "overworked" case managers. There should be a protocol in place for supervisors to step in and help with caseload coverage.
- When supervisors go on vacation, case managers cover while they are out. Case managers are expected to cover ten days per fiscal year prior to receiving compensation for the 11<sup>th</sup> day. The burden should not be on the case manager. Supervisors should cover each other.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A. NBRC Performance Contract Information (distributed at meeting) – Pamela Madden Krall noted that NBRC met almost all performance goals:

- Fewer clients reside in state developmental centers. NBRC continues to develop new homes to meet intensive health, mental health, and behavioral support needs.
- More children live with families. NBRC provides New Parent Orientation including resources for and referrals to community agencies such as IHSS. NBRC continues providing family support as needed including respite, daycare supplement, and behavioral services that include the family.
- Fewer children live in licensed homes serving more than six children. NBRC continues developing alternative living arrangements that meet health needs and continues improving crisis intervention services through the utilization of contracted vendors.
- More adults living in home settings. NBRC continues advocating for and developing a wide array of living arrangements for adults, including use of individualized housing plans.
- More adults reside in the home of a parent or guardian. NBRC will continue monitoring living arrangements to meet client needs, advocating for and modifying supports as needed.
- More adults reside in independent living arrangements. NBRC will continue working with clients and families to identify appropriate living arrangements, and develop ILS services.
- More adults reside in support living arrangements. NBRC will continue to identify supported living options, and advocates for affordable housing options including housing vouchers.
- More adults reside in family home agencies (FHA) living arrangements. NBRC continues educating and training staff and clients/families in use of FHA living arrangements.
- Fewer adults living in licensed homes serving more than six adults. NBRC develops homes that serve four adults or less while meeting health and behavioral needs.
- Intake/assessments is completed in a timely manner. NBRC will continue providing timely completion of intake/assessment for children three years old and above, and adults.
- Client Development Evaluation Reports (CDERs) and Early Start reports are current.
- NBRC passed independent audit with no material findings.
- NBRC is in compliance with DDS fiscal audits.
- NBRC POS fiscal percentage projections are accurate based on the Sufficiency of Allocation Report (SOAR).
- NBRC operates within the POS budget
- NBRC participates in the Federal Waiver.
- NBRC complies with vendor audit requirements.
- NBRC develops IPPs that meet Welfare & Institutions Code requirements.
- NBRC completes IFSPs to meet Title 17 requirements in compliance with timelines.
- Individuals achieve self-reliance and independence.
- Individuals achieve economic influence through employment.
- Individuals are the principal decision-maker in their lives.
- Family support services result in health family environments.

- Individuals and families have access to community resources.

B. Zero Tolerance Policy (Pg 37) – Bob Hamilton – The Department of Developmental Services added a contract requirement that all Boards develop a Zero Tolerance Policy by October 1, 2013. The Regional Center reviewed other Centers policies and decided to simplify. The policy indicates that any kind of abuse or neglect to people NBRC serves be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement. NBRC will take action against any employee who neglects to follow this policy.

Molly noted that portions of the document are confusing and recommended clarity. She also suggested clarity regarding consequences should this policy be violated. Molly encouraged the Board to assess and think about how this document can be clearer. Bob noted that the policy is an embodiment of current practice. NBRC will post on the website. Irene Rosario stated that any policy requires “impact bargaining”.

**M/S/C (Matthews/Phillips) Move approval of the Zero Tolerance Policy.**

**UNANIMOUS**

C. Enriching Lives FHA Waiver Proposal (Pgs. 20-23) – Cherie Lanam

NBRC is pursuing approval of waivers in four areas, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4669.2, from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

1. **Support Level 5 (\$6760/month) and Support Level 6 (\$10,010/month).**

The FHA model is uniquely suited to serve some individuals with significant professional and direct support needs. Many of these individuals cannot be served in our regular licensed homes or in supported living, including consumers considered at risk for placement in more restrictive settings. Current law restricts FHA payment rate to \$5159 per month. While the proposed rates are above the traditional licensed residential settings, they are significantly less than NBRC’s specialized residential homes that are also set up to serve individuals with significant professional and direct support needs.

2. **The use of the Enriching Lives Family Homes for out of home respite for adults living with their families.**

The Title 17 regulations (section 54342(a)(58) for out of home respite were written before the Family Home Agency model was developed, and define a vendor of out of home respite services as a vendor who is “licensed by the Department of Social Services.” The FHA was developed later as a model where homes are not licensed, but are monitored by Regional Centers and the Department of Developmental Services. Title 17 was never modified to allow this change, which is what we propose to do with this exception.

3. **The ability for Enriching Lives to serve 17 year old consumers in a Family Home.**

Occasionally there will be an older teen in need of a living option, but for whom none of our children’s homes are appropriate. The FHA may be the option best suited for that individual, and under this exception request, the teen may move into the family home setting in which he/she will live as an adult.

4. **The ability for a custodial parent to reside together with their minor child in a Family Home.**

NBRC already has a waiver to allow adults with their child(ren) to live with Family Home Providers in the CA Mentor FHA. We would like to expand this exception to include our new FHA, Enriching Lives, as well. Providing safe, healthy and stable living options to adult consumers who are also parents is an ongoing resource development need. The Family Home Providers will provide stable family life opportunities for the adults and their minor children. The parent provides the direct care for the child. NBRC would only be funding the adult consumer in the FHA, with the child’s expenses covered through parental resources or social services.

Discussion followed.

**M/S/C (Stern/Hanson) Move approval of the Enriching Lives FHA Waiver Proposal through DDS with Board review in a year.**

**UNANIMOUS**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee – The Executive Committee met August 20, 2013 via conference call. The following issues were discussed:

- Agenda items for Board meeting.
- CBEM Crisis Services will present at October Board meeting
- Considering changes to the bylaws will be in compliance with the Lanterman.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) – Kelley Hanson

- The VAC met on Tuesday, August 13, 2013.
- Group reports were provided.
  - The Napa/Solano group met on August 7<sup>th</sup> and talked extensively about Emergency Preparedness. There was discussion around the different requirements for agencies that are CARF certified vs. agencies that are not and who rely on inter agency resources. There was also discussion around including some type of disaster preparedness in individual’s IPP. Michi indicated that NBRC is working on a check list to identify risks in client’s homes which will focus on basic health and safety.

- Bob Phillips from the Area IV Board reported that Disability Rights California and the Autism Society of Los Angeles is supporting Senate Bill 468 on Self Determination. The hearing is scheduled for 8/13/13.
  - Mary Eble, North Bay Housing Coalition (NBHC), reported that they are vendorized with NBRC to place individuals into homes that are pre ILS and/or SLS. NBHC owns six homes and Mary noted that they are looking to purchase more. They are also looking for information regarding how they can educate families about housing options.
  - Stan reported that the Vendor Fair is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Sonoma Veterans Building from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It will follow the NBRC all staff meeting scheduled earlier that day.
  - Mike Huckins reported that the Bay Area caucus meeting for CDSA will be the Annual Meeting scheduled in Costa Mesa.
  - Dave Johnson reported that the POS budget was over spent from state allocations and the hope is additional funds can be obtained from the Feds. NBRC is working on the POS Bridge and also working towards initiating the vendor portal. The portal will allow vendors visibility to POS information that NBRC has in the system for their specific vendor codes.
  - Stan reported on the CASACC conference call in which AB 468 and AB 579 were discussed.
  - Edie reported that the next Disaster Preparedness meeting will be held at the conclusion of the VAC meeting.
  - NBRC is working on a check list/process for SLS providers to assist them in complying with the service expectations of NBRC. Laura Cepoi will also be limiting SLS contracts and reviewing current capacities to ensure client safety.
  - Terri Rowland announced that the Vine Village 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was a huge success. She also announced that Milestones will be having their semi-annual Poker Night on September 27, 2013. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. and refreshments will be served.
  - Deidre Sheerin, Sweetwater Spectrum, announced that they have been approved to man a farmer's market stand located on Spain Street in Sonoma.
- The next VAC meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013.
- C. Nominating Committee – Walt Spicer introduced Rhonda Foster, a Sonoma County Board applicant and recommended to the full Board that she be seated. Harry noted that he, Joanne, and Bob interviewed Rhonda and were very impressed with her background. She holds a Doctorate in Education, Masters Degree in Public Health and Public Health Administration. She also holds a degree in nursing and is currently employed at St Joseph's Medical Center in Sonoma County. Rhonda has a son who receives services from NBRC. Harry welcomed Rhonda to the Board and invited her to take her seat at the table.

**M/S/C (Spicer/Matthews) Move approval of seating Sonoma County Board Member Rhonda Foster.  
UNANIMOUS**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*Bob Hamilton, Executive Directors Report:* Bob noted the following:

- Bob encouraged those in attendance to refer to [www.arcenet.org](http://www.arcenet.org) (bill file link) to review all bills ARCA is following.
- Senate Bill 468 (Emmerson) Self Directed Services. This bill requires the Department to establish a self determination program which allows regional center consumers to use an individual budget to purchase services and supports at the consumer's direction, with the assistance of the Regional Center. There is no funding attached to this bill. ARCA supports the concept.
- Legislature must have all bills that will go before the Governor enrolled by September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Governor has until October 13 to veto or sign the bill. There are bills that have been tabled that ARCA is interested in that will come back next year. One of those bills is Senate Bill 391 (DeSaulnier) California Homes and Job Act 2013 which would deposit a \$75 fee for every real estate transaction into a fund for low income housing. Senator Steinberg (Acting Governor) has a sustainable bill revolving real estate development that will come back next year.
- The ARCA President (who is a parent) sent a letter to Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services recognizing her service to the field of developmental disabilities. The letter reads as follows:

"On behalf of ARCA's Board of Directors and staff, I wish to convey to you our appreciation for your tireless work during your tenure as Director of the Department of Developmental Services, as well as our best wishes for your retirement.

Your leadership at DDS has seen the system through two different administrations, the worst parts of the worst recession in generations, and diverse challenges. The seat of power does not often lend itself to the thanks deserved for success. We very much recognize, and are profoundly grateful

for, your fundamental concern for the needs of those our system serves. Whether in your commitment to keep budget cuts as far from clients as possible, or your unflagging energy in meeting the task of facing the extraordinary circumstances that have confronted us all, your primary focus has always been apparent - the people served by the Lanterman Act.

It is rare for top-level officials to find their tenure live beyond a change in Governors. That your skills and competences were so singularly apparent is, perhaps, one of the most immediate demonstrations of a commitment that transcends partisanship.

It is in that spirit of devotion to the needs of Californians with developmental disabilities that I reiterate our thanks for your service. We hope that your hard-earned and well-deserved retirement finds you in ever-improving health and spirits. Should either waver, we trust you will look back on the excellent work you have done, and take strength from the knowledge that your legacy is being written by your skillfulness in rising to trying times, all the while working to leave the Lanterman Act stronger for your having stewarded it.”

In deep appreciation, Fernando Antonio Gomez  
President, Association of Regional Center Agencies

*Michi Gates, Director of Client Services:* Michi noted the following:

- One of the legacies that Terri Delgadillo will be remembered for is her leadership in establishing resource development for clients with challenging needs. Under her leadership, NBRC will be able to refine resources for clients with specialized needs. In the next several years, NBRC will achieve a much higher sophistication of services for our clients.
- This is a statewide collaboration between all 21 regional centers to share these specialized resources. Discussion followed.

*Dave Johnson, Financial Report:* - By this time of the fiscal year NBRC has the second allocation from DDS, which provides a much better idea what our budget for the year will look like. Unfortunately that is not the case this year. Based on DDS's first allocation, the POS allocation is \$93,611,605 for 2013/14 vs. \$96,819,332 after the first allocation of 2012/13, (a 3% reduction).

NBRC's last fiscal year, 2012/13, POS expenditures were \$132 million vs. \$124 million during 2011/12, a 6.5% increase (of which 3% represents the restoration of prior budget cuts). NBRC has overspent its allocation through the D-5 by over \$5 million. That means NBRC has paid vendors \$5 million even though NBRC does not have the budget authority from DDS to do so. We are anticipating additional funds will be allocated by DDS in the future to make up this shortage but will not be able to process any additional claims from 2012/13 until NBRC receives the additional budget authority we are seeking.

On the Operations side, the first allocation is \$13,231,074 for 2013/14 vs. \$13,107,457 after the first allocation of 2012/13, (a 1% increase). NBRC has used this additional funding plus a forecasted reduction in legal expenses to hire five new service coordinators. The expectation is that this will lower caseloads across the agency by five cases per service coordinator and thereby improve client service.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) – Bob Hamilton (10 minutes): The following issues were discussed:

- Conflict of Interest waivers that some Centers are facing issues with.
- Self directed services – meaningful way to determine an allocation for an individual client. There is a wide disparity in services and costs across the system that we can't do it based on historical costs.
- Committee structure and reform
- POS disparity data
- Caseload ratios
- Family program plan
- Employment Development Department and some of the rulings they are coming out with.
- New rates/rate reduction for Intermediate Care Facilities
- Zero Tolerance policy
- Shared vendors

- Two doctors and one psychologist presented on what the system will do with the new DSM5 (service manual mental health code which has redefined the autism definition). Dr. Patrick Maher from NBRC headed up the committee and provided a great report. They have solicited and received input from Regional Center medical and psychological professionals across the state. The goal of the presentation was to receive the “go-ahead” from the Directors to pass out the manual as a best practices guideline. The committee will work individually with Regional Centers as requested and then will be reviewed system-wide.

B. Area IV Board – Bob Phillips, Executive Director (10 minutes):

- Senate Bill 468 (Emmerson) would establish a self determination project. In 1999 there were self determination projects established at three regional centers. Later two more regional centers were added. Participants would have the option of going into a new project. The project has been very successful. ARCA supports the bill if amended. This is legislation that would re-establish this program. The bill passed through the Senate and Assembly appropriations. This bill will give an Individual person or family the option of having an individual budget. The Individual Program Plan (IPP) team will meet annually with the client for person centered planning to determine need. This program phases in over a three year period. If the bill passes information will be provided to the client base. The client will be able to purchase services either from an established vendor or someone who is not vendored. People who are not vendored will be required to go through a criminal background check. A client has the option to utilize their Client Program Coordinator rather than an independent facilitator. The AIVB will communicate that this is an option for those receiving services through the Regional Center system.

**GENERAL COMMENT:** The following North Bay Regional Center staff and SEIU Representative provided comments on the status of labor negotiations, high caseload ratios, Regional Center supervisory oversight, administration, policies & procedures, etc.

- JC Andrade, Early Intervention Specialist
- Vivian Woll, Client Program Coordinator
- Angelica Smith, Early Intervention Specialist
- Ben Kaplan, Client Program Coordinator
- Diana Tucker, Quality Assurance
- Miriam Wilcox, Early Intervention Specialist
- Irene Rosario, SEIU Representative
- Laurie Cole, Early Intervention Specialist
- Kathy Graves, Client Program Coordinator
- Richard Greenwood, Client Program Coordinator and Union Chapter President

**GOOD OF THE ORDER** – Molly noted that this meeting will be her last. She thanked the Board and NBRC staff for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. She noted that the service has made her a better person. Molly dedicated all her service on the Board and beyond to her brother Danny.

Bob and the Board presented Molly with an honorary gavel and flowers in honor of her service.

Harry noted that so much of the service provided by Board members is done behind the scenes. He thanked Molly for her service and for handling all public Board meetings with grace, patience, and respect. On behalf of the Board, Harry wished her well and wished her well as she moves forward in supporting those with developmental disabilities. Molly encouraged the Board to ask questions when she is no longer here to do so.

**NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT** – The next Board meeting is a Regular Business Meeting scheduled for October 2, 2013 at Sonoma Developmental Center at 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT – M/S/C (Tsai/Stern) Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.**

**UNANIMOUS**