



# Developmental Disabilities Board

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## Minutes (approved) for

Area 4 Board Public Meeting  
Wednesday, March 16, 2011  
Petaluma Community Center  
320 N. McDowell Blvd.  
Petaluma, CA 94954

CALL TO ORDER AT 6:18 p.m. by Laura Mefford, Chairperson.

Members: Laura Mefford, Vallerie Birdsell, Jeana Eriksen, Martin Weil, Maryann Cantone, and Robert Horon.

Members Absent: Angel Goss, Paul Von Gottfried, Virginia Barraza and Max Duley

Staff: Robert Phillips, Cindy Ruder, Robin Tigh,

Facilitators: Alice Ashby and Richard Ruge

Public: Andy Lunceford, Jasmine Marks, Cynthia White, Laureen McAndrew, Mark Jackson and Debbie Levy from Sweetwater Spectrum, Dori McDonnell from Lifehouse ASC, and Zoe Bartholomew from ZMB Consulting and Behavior Management.

Approval of Minutes of 12-15-10: MSC - Weil/Cantone.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Presentation: Debbie Levy and Mark Jackson with *Sweetwater Spectrum* gave a presentation on a new housing development being built for adults with autism in the Town of Sonoma. Their mission statement for Sweetwater Spectrum is, "Maximizing the individual development and independence of persons with autism by providing an array of state-of-the-art residential options and exposure to new opportunities." They are establishing a supported living, cohousing community for 16 adults who have autism. The goal for opening the facility is June, 2012.

### Action Items:

- (a) State Budget: It was noted the vote on the budget requires majority for budget to pass, but for taxes it needs a two-thirds majority. The Board discussed cuts to regional center services, In Home Support Services, and Medi-Cal. Mention was made of the two Budget Forums the Board sponsored in Petaluma with attendance close to 100, and in Fairfield on a rainy night with attendance of 90. The question was asked, "*How do we continue to educate the community?*" It is important to encourage people to take action with their legislators and reach out to friends and

families all over California. Also, continue to contact the community through the e-newsletter to inform them on what is going on.

(b) Assembly Bill 171: This legislation would reduce State general fund costs in developmental and other services by requiring private health insurers to pay for critical services for children and adults with autism spectrum disorders. M/S/C– Weil/Horon, Support: AB 171. Motion passed unanimously.

(c) Amendments to A4B Strategic Plan: The Board discussed the current strategic plan and Maryann Cantone and Jeana Eriksen handed out a paper with a proposed amendment. Martin commented that he is not pleased with the amount of time spent on the plan to conform it to formatting wanted by the State Council. M/S/C - Mefford/Eriksen to have the strategic plan reviewed by the executive Committee. Motion passed (4 ayes, 1 no, 1 abstention).

(d) Conflict of Interest Waiver Request for NBRC Board Member, Matt Bloom: M/S/C– Weil/Horon to approve the waiver request. Motion passed unanimously.

(e) Cycle 34 Grants: Deadline for grants is Monday, May 9, 2011. Information is included in board packet. Robert Phillips recommended establishing a Grants Committee. Discussions about who would be interested in serving on the committee. Robert Horon and Laura Mefford are both interested. Bob to send out an email to see who else on the Board would be interested in serving on the committee. Discussions about what area of interest that grants would be. It was agreed that all areas of the strategic plan would be areas of emphasis. M/S/C-Birdsell/Eriksen: to establish a Grants Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Reports:

(a) North Bay Regional Center: Bob Hamilton, NBRC -- Not present.

(b) State Council: Max Duley -- Not present

(c) Staff: Cindy Ruder—There was a Regional Self Advocacy meeting in January with many representatives (over 60 people) in attendance. We are having another meeting in May. Representatives are increasing their involvement in leadership and advocacy.

(d) Board Members: Jeana Eriksen and Maryann Cantone would like Robert Phillips to talk to the NBRC in regards to their emergency preparedness plans. Would like it to be considered a topic added to the AB4 strategic plan. Martin Weil would like to see NBRC send a representative to Area Board 4 meetings. He would like NBRC to make it a priority to have a representative at each meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.