



People First[®] of California, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

April 8-10, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott, Cal Expo
1782 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA. 95815

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (region)

Gail Walters (1)
Roger Pulliam (2)
Carmen Quinones (5)
Anders Pearson (6)
Terrail Lott (8)
Jody Barker (9) (Sargeant @ Arms)
Kecia Weller (10) (President)
Hallie Long (11) (Treasurer)
Chris Pirino (13)

Roy Rocha (MAL & Vice President)
Regina Woodliff (MAL)

OTHERS PRESENT

Robin Rhoades (Deputy Executive)
Carlos Palacios (Clerical Support)
Keith Bonchek (Outreach Coord)
Dashia Del Rosario (Los Angeles)
Wanda Henderson (Helper – 1)
Cindi Freshour (Helper – 2)
Penny Vinson (1) Alternate
Debby Vinson (Helper – 1)
David Miklas (Helper – 9)
Debbie Marshall (Helper – 13)
Denis Craig (AB – 5)

Friday, April 8, 2011

Meeting Called to Order

Introductions:

Self introductions

President's Report on Envision Summit 2011

The Federal Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Sharon Lewis, held the second of five Self-Advocacy Summits in Los Angeles on March 24th & 25th. Also included in this summit were representatives from Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Oregon. Each state representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights California, and the 3 University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The California team co-leaders were Kecia Weller (PFCA President) and Melody Goodman (Area Board 10 staff) The team was responsible for creating a PowerPoint about self-advocacy in California, which was shown at the summit. The main purpose of the summit was to come up with state and national recommendations, which will strengthen the self-advocacy movement. The CA State team's state recommendations focused on having some state funds go to local area board regions that would decide the best use of the money to meet measurable outcomes in their areas. Some money would stay at the state level for coalition building, a possible statewide self-advocacy resource library, and other activities. Our team's national recommendations centered on creating an ADD Consumer Advisory Committee or national task force; creating more user-friendly website for self-advocacy information; influencing public policy on important issues such as closing institutions, increasing employment opportunities, and stopping the Social Security marriage penalty; and doing more disability awareness media campaigns. All recommendations also stressed the importance of outreach to youth, outreach to people of color, people who do not speak English, and other underserved communities, as well as the need for more leadership training to bring in new blood and future leaders. All of these ideas were discussions only; no final decisions were made.

Approval of Minutes from January 28-29, 2011 Board Meeting:

Terrail Lott made a motion to approve the minutes as mailed, Roger Pulliam second the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roy Rocha

Roy Rocha gave the financial report for period ending 3/31/11, after some discussion, Roger Pulliam made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as given, Jody Barker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Anthem: (Discussion) – Jody Barker

Jody Barker felt the PFCA anthem was difficult to sing. Anders Pearson made a motion that we say it rather than sing it. Terrail Lott seconded the motion. The motion was approved. The Board read it instead of singing, and It made a beautiful pledge.

ELECTIONS:

Resignations Letters (Scott Winfield, Cindy Lee Richards)

Kecia instructed the board to read the resignation letters.

Voting Machines – Roy Rocha

Roy explained to the board how to use the new voting machine.

Fill Vacant Positions (Vice President, Secretary, 2 MAL)

We will fill the positions of Vice President, Secretary and one MAL. Kecia read the roles of Vice President, Secretary and Member at Large

Vice President

Roy Rocha nominated himself, Hallie 2nd the nomination

Terrail made a motion to accept Roy as Vice President, Jody 2nd the motion.

Yes – 8

No – 1

Secretary

Kecia Weller nominated Gail Walters, Jody Barker second the motion

Anders Pearson made a motion to accept Gail Walters as Secretary, Hallie Long 2nd the motion.

Yes – 9

No – 0

Treasurer

Hallie Long nominated herself. Jody 2nd, Roger made a motion to accept Hallie Long as Treasurer.

Anders Pearson 2nd the motion.

Yes – 9

No – 0

Member at Large (MAL)

Regina Woodliff applied for the 2 year term position

The board interviewed the candidate for the position,

Jody made a motion to elect Regina as a Member at Large, Terrail Lott 2nd the motion.

Yes – 9

No - 0

Changes to PFCA coming up in the future

- **Board Meetings**

Reviewed the report showing the cost of a board meeting (transportation, hotel, food)

Terrail made a motion to have two 3-day board meetings instead of the 3 meetings we currently have. Anders 2nd the motion

Yes – 6

No – 3

Motion passes

The Board decided to have two board meetings

Sept 23-24, 2011 (last meeting under the old grant)

March 23, 24, 25, 2012

September 21, 22, 23, 2012 (under the new grant)

Education Training Committee:

- **Peer to Peer Book**
Hallie and Keith explained what the Peer-to-Peer, Get-Together Guide.
- **Update on Youth Book**
The Board had a chance to see the new Youth Book (Unlocking the Power)
This book is geared towards young people to help them realize their value as an individual.

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Regional Reports: (optional)

Reports given to the Board Secretary to be posted on website

PFCA STRATEGIC PLANNING

- **3-5 year plan**

Vision Statement:

People First of California envisions all people with disabilities will have the opportunity to gain empowerment through UNITY and respect for each other.
(Adopted April 9, 2011)

Jody made a motion to accept the vision statement as written
Roger 2nd the motion
Motion carried.

Mission Statement:

After generations of being invisible we have joined together, with our OWN voice to inspire and educate each other “peer to peer” throughout the state, to start People First chapters.
We train, inform, and support all people with developmental disabilities to help our peers learn to:

- Speak up for themselves,
- Know our rights and responsibilities,
- Make decisions and solve problems,

And, stand together in unity, to take our rightful place in the world.
(Adopted April 9, 2011)

Jody - 1ST - Made a motion to adopt the mission statement as written
Terrail - 2nd.
Motion carried

PFCA By-Laws

The board needs to ratify changes that were made to the By-Laws
Article 3, Purposes
Section 13 – Absences
Section 17 – Removal of Directors
Article 11 – Conflict of Interest Policy Section 3 – Duty to disclose

Employee Handbook

Kecia instructed the board to read the changes and get back to her by Monday, May 2nd, if they approve the changes.

California Memorial Project (CMP) Report – Linda Thompson

Work on the restoration and placement of monuments at Patton, Sonoma, and NAPA are slowly progressing by attaining lowest bids, getting contractors to finalize the paper work, and surveying the sites.

The CMP partners have been brainstorming on how to include the CMP in a RFP grant proposal. The possibility was explored on the 3/18 conference call.

CMP has set a goal on collecting oral histories. PFCA has offered to set up a room to collect oral histories during the June conference. This was confirmed at the April PFCA Board Meeting.

Handouts:

- Save the Date – Remembrance Day 2011, September 19, 2011 with a list of participating sites.

Linda Thompson – will take oral interviews all day Saturday during the conference, starting at 10:30 am, Debby & Penny Vinson will be helpers, Debbie Marshall will assist Debby video tape the oral histories.

Conference Planning

- **PFCA Board Registration for Conference**
(See list of roommates assigned)

Gail Walters/Wanda Henderson
Penny Vinson/Debbie Vinson
Hallie Long/Carmen Quinones
Kecia Weller/Regina Woodliff
Chris Pirino/Keith Bonchek
Dashia Del Rosario/Jeanine
Robin Rhoades/?
Jody Barker/?
Roy Rocha/Petra

Linda Thompson – Red Lion
Roger Pulliam/Mark Plaza
Robert Jaques/Jay (Cindi Freshour's son)
Anders Pearson/Terrail Lott
Debbie Marshall,

- **Pre-Conference Meeting on Friday (6/10/11) 2:00 – 4:00 pm**

A meeting of the board before the conference to give last minutes instructions. Meeting room to be announced at a later date.

- **Teams and Team Captains**

The team duties were explained and board members selected which team they wanted to work on.

Teams

Red – Regina Woodliff is captain. (All board members)

Blue – Roy Rocha is Captain, Gail Walters is co-Captain, Dashia, Jeannine, Keith, (Robin, Wanda, Cindi, Kecia) will be rovers

Green – Roger Pulliam is Captain, Jody Barker

Gold – Hallie Long is Captain/ SLI, Chris Pirino, Carmen Quinones, Terrail Lott, Anders Pearson, Robert Jaques

Announcers for the Conference

Friday – Terrail Lott

Saturday – Roy Rocha/Keith Bonchek (co-announcers)

Sunday – Kecia Weller, President

- **President's Comments will be on Sunday 6/12/11**

- **Future Conferences (subcommittee)**
No discussion

**Special Board meeting to finish PFCA Strategic plan
Will be Friday, May 20th 1:00 pm. to Saturday, May 21st – 12:00 pm, PFCA will provide the
funding for all board members for this meeting.**

Parking Lot

Can you be a member of the PFCA Board and not be a member of a People First Chapter?

How to use helpers?

Is Penny Vinson (an alternate for region 1) a board member?

Notes

The Board voted to present a Nicky Award again this year. It was also approved that PFCA present Joe Meadours an award.

Send Scott Winfield and Cindy Lee Richards a certificate for their work with PFCA.

Carlos was asked to order AA batteries to have on hand for the new voting machines.

Regional Reports

April 8-10, 2011

Region #1 – Gail Walter

February, groups began a letter writing to Sacramento about the budget, and also marched in front of the court house with signs reading “No More Cuts” and “No Budget Cuts”. Several people went to Sacramento to talk about the Budget issues. I went to the Area Board Meeting. They were honoring the board for the startup money from the board. Valerie Johnson told about all the projects her group did. Calendars, photos they took and entered into two different fairs. Several people won ribbons. The Senior Center honored the Special Olympians with a dance for Valentine’s Day and invited everyone. UVAH had a Polar Bear Plunge and several members participated and raised money. They dipped into 41 degree water and follow with a pizza party.

People First of Ukiah had a pizza party at Marino Pizza. It was very well attended and pizza was flying. Everyone had a great time.

Region #2 – Roger Pulliam

We are really busy in Region #2:

Chico – Has been writing letters to Assembly members. They spent a lot of time on officer training and learning how to work together. It has made a big difference in the chapter. Now, they are working on a bowl-a-thon and a car wash.

Corning – My Chapter in Corning has adopted a soldier. Our chapter worked together to write our letter. The soldier’s wife lives in Gerber and she said he has agreed to write back. We have a

fundraising dance coming up in August. We will have a live band and it will cost \$5.00 to get in.

Oroville – has elected a new Secretary and Vice President. The Vice President is Scott Winfield. Their chapter received their Tax ID number and voted to have their Vice President and Treasurer on their bank account. They will start their People First of California Chapter Certification soon. They also talked about voting and the Lanterman Act.

Paradise –has discussed changing their guidelines to by-laws. Their chapter has been discussing the state budget and has decided to write letters to legislators. They are hiring a new helper.

Red Bluff – has taken the old Treasurer off their account and added the new Treasurer. At their last meeting they wrote letters to their Assembly Members about the budget cuts.

Shasta County – Chapter has been writing letters to Legislators and their president got the opportunity to take them to the office of one of their legislators.

Trinity County – Wrote a letter to their congressmen together as a chapter about the state budget.

Far Northern Regional Center – Laura Larson recommended everyone on the Far Northern Board go to the People First of California Conference to show their support for People First. FNRC has also set up a meeting with a State Assembly member.

Region 2 People First – We have started planning our 2012 conference. All of the chapters signed up for their jobs for their planning teams.

Region #5 – Carmen Quinones

Bay Area People First had their quarterly meeting on March 26th in San Francisco. Five out of the six chapters were represented, all except for Marin County.

The **Northern Alameda** Chapter will be holding their elections in May.

The **Southern Alameda** chapter will begin meeting again next month. After being without a meeting place for a while, they found someone to pay for a meeting room at the Castro Valley Bowling Alley. They will begin meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 10:30 a.m...

The **San Francisco** chapter has its officers' meetings on the first Friday, and its membership meetings on the second Friday of the month. Some of the members are on the planning team for the annual conference in San Francisco, which will take place this year at the end of September. They are also planning to make a donation to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

The **Mid-Peninsula** chapter, which meets in Belmont, made a donation to the Red Cross to help the victims of the San Bruno gas fires. They also attended public meetings at Caltrans to speak up about needing to keep local stations open.

The **Contra Costa** chapter changed its name to **Mount Diablo People First**. They had a guest speaker, Daniel Meadows, who came down from Sacramento to talk about voting rights and taking political action. Together with the Consumer Action Committee at ALIVE, they participated in a "die-in" at DDS in Sacramento to protest the budget cuts.

The next meeting for Bay Area People First will be in July, and the group will hold its annual

meeting and election of officers. Officers must live in one of the five Bay Area counties, and for the local chapters the officers must live in the county where the chapter meeting is held.

Region #6 – Anders Pearson

Self-Advocacy Council 6 (SAC 6):

On 2/18/10 the Council celebrated 19 years of self advocacy with Back to the Future as this year's theme. This year's CHOICES T-Shirt contest winner was announced. A small survey was handed out at the meeting for everyone to tell SAC 6 what they want us to do for them. Our next area meeting will be on May 6th. Last weekend we had our yearly two day retreat at the Area Board office on March Lane in Stockton, followed by a quick two hour meeting. At the meeting we were given a small quiz and given the Treasurer's Report by Krisi Franzone after that we went over the monthly Chapter reports in our region and then looked at the representative reports. We ended our meeting with an open forum which we talked about the CHOICES event. At the retreat we had a Q&A segment by Kathy Barns on Who we are and Why we're a council. At the end of our first day of Retreating we had a Council hosted BBQ party. The next day, we had a What, Where, and When – 2011-12 goals with a pizza lunch in the middle of Saturday's retreat. Our meeting is actually on right now in Stockton. Yesterday our region had its yearly CHOICES event.

Side note: **San Joaquin People First** (SJPF) was at Five Guys in Stone Creek Shopping Center in Stockton on 2-19-11. Krisi Franzone is writing a book on People with Disabilities living on their own and how they can get help if they need it and Erik Ybarra is also writing a book on how he is not using his handicap to his advantage and how he overcame his disability on his own. In February, Krisi Franzone and Dena Hernandez went to Napa to try to start a new chapter at a program there.

Area Board 6 (AB-6) the meeting took place at Stockton's Disability Resource Agency for Independent Living (DRAIL) where Krisi Franzone gave a presentation on what DRAIL is. The next day they went to the VMRC to tell the new Service Coordinators how to treat people with disabilities.

California Memorial Project (CMP) I will be talking to Prof. Michael Wurtz from the University of the Pacific's (UOP) Holt Atherton Department of Special Collections soon, about his research on Stockton's Stat Hospital and its history. I, myself plan on writing a book someday in the future on California's first State Hospital here in Stockton.

Mayer's Task Force: This year's Spring Fling will be held on May 20th at Ronald E. McNair High School hosted by the Recreational Sports Club (RSC). On the 25th of August our region's Disability Fair will be held at the Stockton Ports Baseball Stadium.

Region #8 – Terrail Lott

We are selling Carl Jr. tickets for \$5.00 and we are going to Porterville Hospital on April 13, 2011 and having our big meeting on April 19, 2011.

Region #9 – Jody Barker

- (1) On February 16th, 3 advocates attended a meeting with Sam Blakeslee's Aide, Etta Waterfield, in Santa Maria. We spoke with her about IHSS and concerns about cuts to the DDS System.
- (2) **People First of SLO** co-sponsored the screening of the documentary "When I', Not Alone" at the SLO International Film Festival on March 11th. This short film tells the story of Sam Durbin, a person with developmental and emotional disabilities who becomes a strong advocate and leader in the disability rights movement. Sam spoke in SLO and begins our COHRS presentations.
- (3) On March 14th, 2 advocates presented a training session for SLO County employees at the Government Center in downtown SLO. The session focused on People First Language and accessibility awareness.
- (4) On March 30th, People First of SLO submitted two nominees for the Paul Wolfe Accessibility Advocacy Award. The Award is presented annually to recognize and honor those people and organizations who are dedicated to serving the accessibility needs of all people in SLO County. Our nominees are David Miklas, for his work on the COHRS Grant and the San Luis Coastal Adult School, for support and facilitation of our advocacy group. The Award ceremony will take place on April 30th in Arroyo Grande.
- (5) People First of SLO's new email address is peoplefirstofslo@gmail.com

Please send all advocacy –related communication to our new email address.

People First of Santa Barbara Report:

- (1) People First of SB is, with the help of the Tri-Counties Regional Center Peer advocates, helping to submit names of persons served to receive partial regional center funding to the upcoming People First of California Self-Advocacy Conference.
- (2) PFSB is in the early stages of pursuing its non-profit (501C-3 status).
- (3) PFSB is currently exploring future fundraising/group awareness activities.

Region #10 – Kecia Weller

On February 10, approximately 1000 self-advocates, parents and providers held a rally at the State Office Building in Van Nuys to protest the proposed severe state budget cuts that would affect people with disabilities. The rally was scheduled at the same time as a budget hearing in Sacramento, so that Southern California people, who could not travel up north, could participate in the process. There were many speakers and lots of media coverage.

In February, many Los Angeles self-advocates took advantage of 2 opportunities to give input into the State Council's draft 2011-2016 state plan. There was an all-day hearing and also a meeting of the Self-Advocacy Board of Los Angeles County where Area Board 10 Executive Director,

Roberta Newton listened to feedback answered questions.

People First of Santa Monica has joined People First of Culver City to do some fundraising together.

Region #11 – Hallie Long

People First of Orange County: In January, we discussed about moving to the new regional center and how to help people get transportation there. In February, we were welcome by our regional center director and he told us we can do all our future meetings there. We got some new members and I explained what the treasurer is for. Several of us went to Huntington Beach pier on February 22nd, 10-12:00 p.m. to participate in a rally. We also had an Awards Ceremony. One of our members got an award for Client Accomplishment. We talked about SDPF, we had a guest speaker, Janice Ritz from Independent Endeavor. March we had Safety Service talks about personal safety.

Fairview People First will be holding elections in May 2011, Gail and Laurie St. Pierre from SCDD – Area Board XI will be working with the nominees to help them write their speeches in April. They now only meet every other month.

Region #13 – Chris Pirino

Imperial Valley People First had their 19th annual conference. Their theme was It's Black of White with Imperial Valley People First. There were 120 people who came to the event.

As a fundraiser for their conference the group hosted a pancake breakfast and raised \$1,000.00 to go toward their conference.

At their February meeting **San Diego People First** (SDPF) made Valentine's Day cards for Rachel's Women's Shelter and for the Veteran's Hospital. At the March meeting, the group talked about Boardmanship and several of the officers shared different materials on being a board member with the group.

SDPF is partnering with the vendor community and San Diego Regional Center in preparing for the annual Legislative Forum.

The registration materials are out for the 21st annual San Diego People First Self Advocacy Conference. The keynote presenter will be Keith Jones from Massachusetts. Registration materials can be found on the www.sandiegopeoplefirst.com website. This year a new thing that is happening with the conference is to offer an early check in on Friday night. This should be helpful for people who are traveling or who want to make a vacation out of their weekend.

The self advocates and members of SDPF are very concerned with the state budget. The members of SDPF are very concerned with how the new purchase of service standards might affect eligibility and limit choices. They are also concerned with how the cuts might jeopardize the ability of some people to live safely in the community.

SDPF members want PFCOA to continue to advocate and protect the rights of persons with developmental disabilities.