



**SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**

**Remote Zoom Meeting**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD DIRECTORS' MEETING**

**Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**7pm - 9pm**

**Members Present:**

|                 |                 |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cynthia Torres  | Cedron McKnight | Sherry Kidd     | Christella Frutos |
| Norma Hernandez | Jesus Murillo   | Illona Hendrick | Deicy Sandoval    |
| Magali Ochoa    | Julio Lopez     | Caycee Rickets  | Renard Standford  |

**Members Absent:**

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| Ogechi Ikhile | Teyanna Williams |
| Mireya Romero |                  |

**Staff Present:**

|                  |               |                 |                    |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Dexter Henderson | Jenice Turner | Cesar Garcia    | Cherylle Mallinson |
| Jesse Rocha      | Kyla Lee      | Armando Sanchez | Ingrid Oliva       |
| Katherinne Ayala | Karen Santos  |                 |                    |

**I. General**

- Board President Cynthia Torres opened Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting.

**A. Call to Order and Roll Call**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:11pm by Board President Cynthia Torres.

**B. Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Board Action:**

**Approved BOD Minutes** – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

M/S/C: Jesus Murillo/ Sherry Kidd/ Unanimous

## **II. Board Member Reports**

### **A. Executive Committee – Norma Hernandez**

The Executive Committee met on May 11<sup>th</sup> via zoom to go over dates along with locations for the board retreat meeting. Board Retreat will take place on September 19<sup>th</sup> and September 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday and Sunday). During this meeting it was brought to everyone's attention that DDS will try to relax and provide a range of options to be able to comply with the board composition requirements. To comply with these requirements the Executive Committee has been working alongside the recruitment committee. During the upcoming Board Retreat in September elections will be taking place. Real Estate matters were discussed during closed session.

### **B. Supportive Services Committee – Caycee Ricketts**

The Supportive Services Committee met on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, during this meeting Cherylle Mallison discussed the Placement Plan and the Community Resource Development Plan, both these plans were created by DDS, sole purpose of these plans is to provide funding to the Regional Center for the development of various resources including Residential Development, transportation, Day Programs, Mental Health and Crisis Services. SCLARC is using the funds to develop safety, affordable and substantial homes. The Supportive Services Committee also discussed different programs for Family Resource Centers. These programs are intended for children birth to 3, these services provide parents with training and education workshops, referrals, Outreach Services and Advocacy Services if needed. Wendy Castillo went over the Tailored Day Program, which is a paid internship program, if seeking help, you can do so from the Department of Rehabilitation. The next Supportive Services meeting will take place on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm to 7:30pm.

### **C. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illona Hendrick**

The Vendor Advisory Committee met on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The VAC Committee expressed appreciation to the leadership team for their continued collaboration and support. Monthly PowerPoint presentations have helped vendors better understand key areas such as service programs, rate reforms, and fiscal operations. This ongoing communication has improved access to information and made it easier for vendors to connect with the appropriate contacts. Working with SCLARC has provided a valuable opportunity for open dialogue, allowing vendors to ask important questions and gain clearer insight into processes. As we approach the new fiscal year in July 2026, there is a strong emphasis on prioritizing compliance to help streamline operations and strengthen partnerships. Vendors have appreciated the ability to share feedback and participate in discussions, reinforcing a collaborative approach. Overall, there is shown gratitude for the progress made and a commitment to continuing this collaborative effort moving forward.

#### **D. Self Determination Committee – Magali Ochoa**

The Self Determination Committee met on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00pm, the meeting began with the interpretation instructions provided to attendees, committee members and attendees were welcomed to the meeting, roll call and attendance was conducted right after. The committee went over approval of minutes. Quorum was initially not met which caused a delay of approval of minutes. SDP updates were mentioned, SCDD is now the only provider of orientations, this is now held via a two-part Zoom session.

Medicaid changes raised concerns regarding the 6-month redetermination and loss of benefits. Autism Society LA reported twenty-seven participants and ongoing support programs, with a summit planned in September. Regional Center provided a budget update on remaining funds. Minutes were approved; meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

#### **E. Recruitment and Training Committee – Sherry Kidd**

The Recruitment and Training Committee did not meet this past month but will be meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, at 7:00pm.

#### **F. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Stanford**

The Advocate Advisory Committee met on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. During the AAC meeting, information was shared about Cinco de Mayo, highlighting that it commemorates the Mexican victory over France in 1862 and the difference from Mexican Independence Day, which is celebrated in September. The importance of understanding the historical meaning behind holidays was emphasized. Highlights were also shared from the Supported Life Conference, including a session on self-efficacy, focusing on speaking up for yourself and actively participating in decision-making. The concept of self-advocacy was discussed as a movement that began in the 1960s and 70s, along with the idea of “dignity of risk,” which encourages learning from life experiences and mistakes. Dr. Jerry Allen’s presentation on grief was reviewed, explaining how people grieve differently and outlining the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Coping methods such as journaling, talking with others, and engaging in calming activities were encouraged. Kiara Lopez also provided a helpful demonstration on how to use SCLARC website, including how to find community events and navigate the platform easily. Overall, the conference and meetings were informative, engaging, and provided valuable tools and resources.

## **G. Finance Committee – Julio Lopez**

The Finance Committee met on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026. CFO, Kyla Lee, provided updates, including a review of financial statements as of March 31, 2026. The committee reviewed and recommended approval of the fiscal year 2024–2025 A-3 allocation and the renewal of SLARC’s line of credit for fiscal year 2026–2027.

Budget updates showed that the DDS projected budget for 2026–2027 is approximately \$21.6 billion, reflecting a 15.5% increase from the previous year, supported by improved state revenues and federal reimbursements. Additional funding includes support for office expansion, early intervention services, intake tools, and implementation of the HCBS grievance process. Rate reform implementation is about 97% complete, with retroactive payments still being processed. The organization is also preparing for its annual rollover, with about 180,000 authorizations transitioning into the new fiscal year. Lastly, progress on the Laserfiche system was noted, with retention plans completed and testing underway, and full implementation expected by early 2027.

## **III. Staff Reports**

### **E. Budget Update & Finance Report (March 2026) – Kyla Lee**

**Statement of Financial Position:** The March 2026 financial statements show the organization has \$105 million in cash, an increase of \$12 million from the previous year, providing strong financial stability heading into the end of the fiscal year. This increase is partly due to DDS not applying certain payment offsets, allowing additional cash flow, and reducing the need to use the line of credit. Accounts payable are at \$54 million, slightly higher than last year, due to ongoing efforts to process retroactive payments.

**Statement of Activities:** In terms of operations, \$82 million has been allocated, with about 70% already spent and the remainder projected to be used by year-end. For Purchase of Services (POS), \$779 million has been allocated, with \$544 million spent so far and projections indicating most of the remaining funds will be utilized. Overall, total contract allocation is \$863 million, with \$603 million spent to date and \$822 million projected by year-end. Additionally, the organization contributed approximately \$13.4 million in unused POS funds back to the state to support other Regional Centers with funding needs, this reallocation reflects collaborative statewide financial management and ensures resources are distributed where they are most needed.

**POS Expenditure Projection Summary:** Projected expenditures are monitored internally through the PEP (Projected Expenditure Program) process. The current analysis indicates that the agency has estimated POS expenditures in the amount of \$739 million through June 30, 2026.

**Board Action:**

**Approval of FY 2024-25 A3 Allocation**

M/S/C: Sherry Kidd/ Caycee Ricketts/ Unanimous

**Board Action:**

**Approval of \$75 Million Line of Credit**

M/S/C: Magali Ochoa/ Deicy Sandoval/ Unanimous

**F. Self Determination Program: Growth Accountability, and System Improvement –**

**Alex Marquez SDP Manager.**

The Self-Determination Program (SDP) is a voluntary alternative for receiving Regional Center Services, offering individuals a greater choice, control, and flexibility through an individual budget. Participants follow a structured process that includes orientation, person-centered planning, developing a budget and spending plan, and working with a financial management service agency. As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, orientations are now provided only by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and require completion of two parts. The program has experienced significant growth, with 228 individuals enrolled and a net total of 209 active participants, showing a continued 41% growth rate that is expected to add approximately 77 more participants by the end of the year. This growth has increased workload demands, including more budget renewals, spending plan reviews, and enrollment activities, each requiring multiple steps and coordination across teams.

Currently, spending plan modifications take about 20 business days to process, involving several stakeholders and steps, with delays often caused by incomplete documentation or mid-process changes, to improve efficiency, the team has implemented workflow changes, enhanced data tracking, increased administrative support, and expanded communication with stakeholders. Additional efforts include community outreach, monthly information sessions, and improved staff training using interactive, real-world scenarios. The program emphasizes fiscal responsibility to ensure long-term sustainability while maintaining participant choice. Despite challenges such as increased demand and complex processes, SCLARC is focused on improving workflows, strengthening collaboration, and enhancing support for participants and the community.

#### **G. Performance Contract FY26-27 Information – Cherylle Mallinson**

The organization is inviting board members and the public to provide input on the 2026–2027 performance contract during a Zoom meeting scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. The meeting will include English and Spanish interpretation, as well as American Sign Language support, to ensure accessibility. A flyer has been shared with a link to the current year's performance contract and a survey for additional feedback. Early responses to the survey have already been received, and more participation is encouraged. The meeting will be held in a standard Zoom format rather than an online seminar to allow for greater interaction and open discussion. Participants are encouraged to attend and share their feedback to help improve future planning and services.

#### **H. Preliminary Findings of the HCBS Medicaid Waiver Audit – Cesar Garcia**

The 2026 Medicaid Waiver Audit, conducted in March, reviewed 140 cases and 15 vendors, with expanded criteria compared to previous years. Overall, SCLARC performed very well, earning high scores across all waivers, including 98% on the developmental disability waiver and 98.3% on the Self-Determination Program (SDP) waiver, with several areas receiving 100%. The 1915(I)-waiver scored lower in one area (80%) due to a late incident report from a vendor. Staff interviews showed strong performance, with employees demonstrating knowledge of the waiver process and a clear understanding of the individuals they support. Vendor site visits and program reviews also scored highly, averaging 92% overall, with some areas reaching 100%. Participant satisfaction was 100% for the traditional service model but lower (67%) for SDP, with concerns related to payment delays, difficulty finding resources, and process delays. Overall, the audit highlighted strong compliance and performance, while also identifying areas for improvement, particularly within the SDP program and vendor reporting timelines.

#### **IV. Close Session**

- Board President Cynthia Torres called Close Session at 8:26pm
- Meeting resumed from close session at 9:08pm

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm with no public comments.**

**Next Board Meeting will take place as of July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**