On January 29, 2010, the Schwarzenegger Administration announced that it would propose budget related legislation to close Lanterman Developmental Center which provides 24-hour residential care for approximately 380 people with developmental disabilities, overseen by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). On that same day, DDS Director Terri Delgadillo held a press conference citing the aging infrastructure and the decline in the number of residents as the primary reason for the developmental center’s closure.

“The decision to recommend closure of [Lanterman Developmental Center] was not made lightly, as it will impact the residents served, their families, and the staff, all of whom have worked hard to make Lanterman a caring and positive place to live,” said Delgadillo. “The well-being of all who live and work at Lanterman will be our utmost concern and priority as we move forward.”

On October 2, 2010 the California Legislature approved the Governor’s proposal to close Lanterman. At one time, Lanterman served more than 3,000 residents. Today, there are fewer than 400 living at the facility. Over the last decade, regional centers have worked with developmental centers to transition our residents into the community through our Community Placement Plan known as CPP.

CPP is a yearly plan developed by each regional center, and funded by the Department of Developmental Services, for the placement of people who live in state developmental centers into smaller, community-based residences. This process has enabled residents from DCs throughout the state to live in an environment appropriate for this

It wasn’t so long ago that people with disabilities were sent to developmental centers because society lacked community resources to provide quality services. Today, with the support of regional centers’ and service providers, people with special needs are able to achieve higher standards of living while residing in their own communities.
 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the long delayed 2010-2011 State budget on October 8, 2010 officially ending the 100 day long stalemate. By law, the budget is supposed to be signed by June 30th of each year. This was the longest period in California’s history in which the state operated without a current fiscal budget. The Regional Center System was hit with another reduction in POS payments to vendors as well as to the Operations Budgets of all regional centers. In addition to the 3% reduction already in place, the Legislature added a 1.25% reduction for a total of 4.25% effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

The Governor used his veto power to reduce $962 million from the state’s budget. This included $366 million from the CalWORKS program—the state’s “welfare to work” program that includes many parents and children with disabilities. He also cut a $256 million from subsidized child care programs. Other major cuts to departments and programs that will effect SCLARC stakeholders include:

- $19 million cut to the Title IV-E Waiver (Department of Social Services)
- $22 million cut in State general funds added for county administration (Department of Health Care Services)
- $10 million reduction in State general funds for various discretionary clinic grants (Department of Health Care Services)
- $1 million eliminated in State general funds for the Prostate Cancer Treatment Program (Department of Public Health)
- $52 million cut from the Office of AIDS local assistance programs (Department of Public Health)
- $5 million cut for the Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health programs (Department of Public Health)
- $7.6 million reduction in State general funds for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (Department of Public Health)
- $6.2 million reduction in State general funds for community-based senior programs (Department of Aging)
- 3.6% cut to the authorized service hours for every person receiving In Home Supportive Service
SCLARC serves five County of Los Angeles Districts including Compton, San Antonio, Southeast and Southwest. This area is bounded by Washington Blvd. on the North, La Cienega Blvd. on the West, the eastern and southern boundaries of Downey, Paramount, Compton, Dominguez Hills and Carson. For more than 35 years, our agency has provided and continues to provide an array of community resources. And we are dedicated to providing person-centered attention to those we serve.

Today, SCLARC’s staff of 250 provides services and supports to approximately 9,000 consumers and their families with a budget of $135 million. For our part, we are committed to empowering our consumers with self-advocacy strategies so that they find their own voices and can ask for the resources they seek. Forming a circle of support--comprised of our consumers, families, service providers and staff members--SCLARC’s goal is to educate, advocate and empower.
or her needs, as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Olmstead* decision.

DDS worked collaboratively with families and advocates in the closure of Agnews Developmental Center. Jointly, SCLARC, as well as other Southern California regional centers, is now developing resources and strategies to support the transition of Lanterman residents. SCLARC’s mission during this transition is to provide the highest quality services and supports to our families and consumers who require skilled nursing care and other enhancements. We are honored to join with you in forming a more comprehensive circle of support around your loved ones.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center recognizes the importance of providing and maintaining quality services. Likewise, staying connected to our consumers and families with whom we partner is our highest priority. SCLARC’s Board of Directors, Leadership Team and staff are dedicated to partnering with our consumers who have resided at Lanterman Developmental Center. We want to work with their families in advocating for policies that realistically address the challenges that this transition may bring. And we look forward to working with each and every one of our 33 Lanterman families as we move our consumers who are there loved ones from Lanterman into the community. Together, we will find safe and appropriate homes to proudly serve former Lanterman residents.

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*SCLARC consumers prepare for eorbics with Solid Foundation’s Day Program which promotes healthy living and exercise.*

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**Lanterman Developmental Center ... continued from page 2**

The first step to successful partnering is talking with one another so that everyone is heard and the needs of our consumers and families can be addressed. In that way, we will ensure proper and appropriate community placement for all of South Central Los Angeles Regional Center’s consumers who are currently residents of the Lanterman Developmental Center.
The regional center system has been hit hard by the budget cuts that it has sustained over the last three years. Many services our families depended on are no longer available through state funding. South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is proud of our parents, families and staff members because they have mined our communities to find generic resources that allow our consumers to continue to live the fullest, most vibrant lives possible despite the economic down turn. As an agency, we are restating our commitment to weathering the current fiscal with our entire stakeholder community--consumers, parents/families, service providers and our staff members.

We want you to know that we are committed to the provision of culturally and ethnically sensitive services which enhance the inherent strengths of the family and enable consumers to lead more independent and productive lives in community integrated settings. We remain fully invested in providing a high level of service coordination and are determined to be good stewards of public funds. We are open to exploring options with our families and encourage our service coordinators to engage in brainstorming sessions that result in solutions that are within SCLARC’s funding guidelines.

In this way, viable solutions are created that can be implemented while team building occurs between our center and our families. For our part, SCLARC is focusing on better customer service. This includes revamping our website so that it is easier to navigate and find information, implementing an effective information campaign, translating more regional center materials for parents and families who may have language barriers, and conducting more frequent public and town hall meetings in all parts of our service area so that we are outreaching to the maximum number of our stakeholders possible. This system and our center have seen tough budgetary times before, and it is our hope that we will through this ase we’ve done before--with our communities giving us their trust while providing their input so that the best possible outcomes can be reached within the guidelines that govern SCLARC.
SCLARC WANTS YOU AS A BOARD MEMBER

Presently, there are several vacancies on SCLARC’s Board of Directors. Our board members primary functions are to assist in creating polices that ensure SCLARC is run effectively, legally and ethically. Board members also provide direction to the organization by setting long-range goals and helping to develop strategic planning. During the planning process, members are asked to assess the present and future needs of the community in order to determine how SCLARC can better serve its stakeholder community. Board members are also occasionally called on to represent the agency at other community meetings and events throughout the year.

If you are interested in an application for board membership, please contact Marsha D. Mitchell, Director of Community Services & Family Supports at (213) 743-3061. SCLARC’s Board of Directors meets the 4th Tuesday of every other month at 7:00 p.m.