SCLARC Scene

Governmental Affairs Manager Johanna Arias with State Controller John Chiang

SCLARC DCAS Director Reuben Lee, Community Relations Director Marsha Mitchell and Assemblyman Mike Davis.

SCLARC Assistant DCAS Director Jesse Rocha and State Controller John Chiang

State Senator Rod Wright

APRIL 2009

SCLARC’s Annual Legislative Forum Focuses the Impact of Budget Cuts on the Regional Center System

This year’s 7th Annual Legislative Forum, organized by SCLARC Governmental Affairs Manager Johanna Arias, took a in-depth look at what lasting effects the current budget deficit and cuts will have on all Californians, as well as how hundreds of thousands of individuals diagnosed See LEGISLATIVE on Page 6.
A Community Plan Comes Together

On March 23, 2009, community activists, city officials, housing developers, and area residents came together to celebrate the official grand opening of Morgan Place, a $19 million senior housing development located at 73 & Crenshaw. Morgan Place provides enriching and sustainable housing which was designed with the latest amenities, and provides 55 affordable units to seniors 55 years and up, including those who have developmental and/or physical disabilities.

As a service partner on the project, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is proud to have 10 consumers living in the Morgan Place Apartments. This partnership is a shining example of SCLARC’s current efforts to create affordable housing opportunities for those whom we serve. It is the first of what we hope will be many successful partnership with larger developers throughout Los Angeles.

Planned for seniors with incomes between approximately $16,000 to $26,500, this elegantly designed project has signature Mediterranean influences and sustainable features including a solar energy system that generates 75% of the electricity for all common areas. It demonstrates a sensitivity to the surrounding neighborhood with its architectural style and promotes independent living through various educational, health and recreational programs. With rents ranging from $381 to $665 per month, depending on household income, Morgan Place residents are afforded the chance to live in a safe, secure and affordable environment while enjoying the community at large.
Easter Basket GiveAway
2009

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center was given 52 Easter baskets by Hand in Hand Incorporated to help spread a little holiday joy to our younger consumers and their siblings. The baskets included a variety of water toys, outdoor games, Nerf paddle games and Easter candies. SCLARC also gave out Pokemon toys, Snugglers pillow animals, American Girl books and games as well as sport video games, all of which was donated by JAKKS Cares.

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Holly Robinson Peete Named to Autism Speaks’ Board of Directors

Autism Speaks, the nation’s largest autism science and advocacy organization, recently announced that Holly Robinson Peete – an actress, author, autism advocate and parent of a son, Rodney, who has autism – has been appointed to its board of directors. Robinson Peete’s career as an actress dates back more than two decades and has included starring roles on “21 Jump Street,” “Hangin’ With Mr. Cooper,” and “For Your Love.” In 1996, Robinson Peete founded the HollyRod Foundation (www.hollyrod.org), whose mission is to help improve the quality of life of people dealing with devastating life circumstances. It was inspired by her father’s sad but inspiring battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Four years later, inspired by her son, hollyrod4kids was formed to focus on children’s causes and improving the lives of children affected by circumstances beyond their control. Through hollyrod4kids and her family’s personal experiences, Robinson Peete has become an advocate for consistent and reliable education, treatment and support for families affected by autism.
Recently Held Cost Containment Community Forums

This year California saw one of the worst budget crises in the state's history. The orders the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) received from state legislature to cut $100 million from the Regional Center System prompted regional centers statewide to meet with their stakeholders in order to provide input to DDS. The goal of these meetings was to target areas where cost savings could be achieved with less of an impact on the regional center and our consumers and families while preserving the Lanterman Act.

SCLARC held three community forums throughout our service area. Consumers, parents, vendors and staff members took time from the schedules to give their input regarding cost containment strategies. Below is a sampling of expenditure reductions that were suggested by stakeholders during the community forums. For the entire list, please go to www.sclarc.org.

- Cut vendor employees pay, with an additional cut in vendor reimbursement rate
- Closure of all programs on all major holidays (except living options i.e. residential)
- Vendors systemwide could donate funds to the regional center system (which would also be tax deductible as a charitable contribution since regional centers are non-profit organizations)
- Parents transport their own children to services
- Maximize enrollment of consumers into the Medicaid Waiver program
- Close some of the Regional Centers
- Have schools take more responsibility for services to children
- Vendors should challenge the 3% reduction through a lawsuit
- Give parents vouchers for diapers instead of using vendors that may charge double the actual cost
- Reduce residential facility consultant hours
- Require vendors to pay an annual fee (similar to what they pay to Community Care Licensing)
- Pay the respite worker directly rather than paying a respite company who then pays the respite worker
- Holiday closure-day programs would be closed for all holidays (school break, Christmas & New Years)
- Reduce recreation and socialization program hours
- Reduce the number of Regional Center employees
- Create jobs for consumers
- Make sure service coordinators terminate services when the consumer no longer needs it/them
- Do not provide bus passes for consumers who qualify for Access services.
SCLARC Presents Its 6th Annual Information & Resource Fair

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center will host its 6th Annual Early Start/Family Resource Center Information Fair on May 15, 2009, at Bateman Hall located at 1133 Ernestine Ave in the city of Lynwood from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This annual event is held to increase awareness about Early Intervention within SCLARC's service area. Come meet representatives from Early Intervention programs, Regional Center, Community agencies and local school districts as well as mental health and social recreation programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

PINK PUMP PARTY
May 17th 2009
2-5 p.m.
A mid-afternoon tea party featuring a couture fashion show, beauty bar, delightful tea service and an opportunity to acknowledge distinguished women of our community. This event will feature some of the most prominent business, political and non-profit female leaders in Los Angeles.

For more information call 213-389-7100 or email SNN at info@specialneedsnetwork.net

The South Central Los Angeles Regional Center/ Family Resource Center serves as a central point of contact for consumers of all ages, including infants and toddlers, families of children with special needs, service providers, community-based agencies and organizations. It focuses on information, referrals, support, and training to promote family empowerment. These services are responsive to the community's ethnic diversity. The FRC, funded in part with Federal (Part C) funds made available through the Department of Developmental Services, is one of SCLARC's most important program initiatives.

"SCLARC has a 35-year commitment to providing culturally and ethnically sensitive services which enhance the inherent strengths of our consumers and their families. We encourage you to make time to come to the Information Fair so that you are made aware of the resources that will further enable you to help your children grow and develop," said SCLARC Executive Director, Dexter A. Henderson.

The featured organizations will include California Children Services, Shriners Hospital, and Fiesta Educativa. There will be fun, entertainment, refreshments, games, raffles and door prizes. Bring your children and family members. For more information, contact FRC coordinator Gloria Leiva at (213) 744-8878 or email her at glorial@sclarc.org.
SCLARC Prepares to Celebrate 35 Years of Service

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) staff members believe that at the heart of everything you will find our consumers and their families. Created in the midst of the 1960s struggles for equity, SCLARC’s roots lie deeply within our community. Prior to our inception, South Los Angeles had the highest incidence of mental retardation while receiving the lowest level of services. Moved to action, a group of concerned parents, professionals and community leaders formed the South Central Mental Retardation Association (SCMRA) in 1969. Spearheaded by Dr. Hiawatha Harris, the first chairperson of Area Board X, these efforts were rewarded with the enactment of legislation that authorized the building of additional regional centers, including one in South Central Los Angeles.

SCLARC officially opened its doors to its first clients in February of 1974. By June of 1975, there were 1,059 active consumers and approximately 25 staff members under the direction of Dr. Anna See 35 YEARS OF SERVICE on page 8

with developmental disabilities will be impacted by the major cuts experienced by the regional center system.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is committed to providing quality comprehensive services to those diagnosed with a developmental disability in South Los Angeles and the surrounding communities despite the challenges that will come with the new budget. On April 3, 2009, SCLARC continued its dialogue with legislative representatives in an effort to partner with those who represent us in Sacramento while allowing our stakeholders the opportunity to voice their concerns. Representatives taking the lead in this group discussion included State Controller John Chiang who did an excellent job of explaining what factors contributed to California current fiscal crisis. He also gave a detailed summary of what the next 18 months might look like fiscally for the state of California.

Likewise, Senator Roderick D. Wright and Assembly member Mike Davis addressed the group and talked about the current budget cuts for the final quarter of the 2008/2009 fiscal year as well as the upcoming budget cuts for 2009/2010 fiscal year. There was also an in-depth panel discussion with SCLARC’s professional partners and its stakeholders. Panel guests included:

- Eric Sawyer - Admin Law Judge, Office of Admin. Hearings
- Celia Baldarrama - Office of the Public Defender
- Jeanne E. Molinaux - Attorney, Director Office of Clients Rights
- Cynthia Billy - Alliance for Children’s Rights
- Carol Vernon - Ph.D., District Chief SA6
- Megan Riley, Chief Financial Officer, LAUSD

Visit us at www.sclarc.org
Did you know Supported Employment (SE) services are aimed at finding competitive work in a community integrated work setting for persons with developmental disabilities who need ongoing support services to learn and perform the work. SE placements can be individual placements, group placements and work crews. Support is usually provided by a job coach who meets regularly with the individuals on the job to help him or her learn the necessary skills and behaviors to work independently.
Smith. Today, as SCLARC prepares to celebrate 35 years of service, SCLARC has grown from serving 1,000 consumers to its current level of 9,500 consumers, 240 staff members and an annual budget of $130 million. Today, SCLARC’s consumers reflect the rich diversity of Southern California. Our service area includes the cities of Paramount, Cudahy, Downey, Huntington Park, South Gate, Compton and Carson as well as the Los Angeles communities of Watts, the Crenshaw District, Hyde Park, Leimert Park, View Park and Baldwin Hills.

SCLARC’s sole purpose is to serve developmentally disabled persons with conditions such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy and other neurological disorders. SCLARC believes that individuals with developmental disabilities should approximate the pattern of everyday living afforded to others of the same age. This philosophy is actualized through the coordination of generic resources, consumer self-advocacy groups, community supports, purchased services and the development of services from state, local and private funding.

Operating under contract with the State Department of Developmental Services, (DDS) SCLARC’s staff provides intake, assessment, advocacy, diagnosis, counseling, outreach and lifelong case management services for those who are at-risk of developmental disabilities. Working in close partnership with the regional center is a dedicated force of over 500 service providers who offer a high level of quality care and professional expertise. Since opening our doors, we have committed ourselves to providing culturally and ethnically sensitive services that enhance the inherent strengths of the family, and enable consumers of all ages to lead more independent and productive lives in community-integrated settings.