

**South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
Home and Community-Based Services Waiver
Monitoring Review Report**

Conducted by:

**Department of Developmental Services
and
Department of Health Care Services**

July 27–August 04, 2020

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) conducted the federal compliance monitoring review of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver from July 27–August 4, 2020, with South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC). The monitoring team members were Natasha Clay (Team Leader), Nora Muir, Corbett Bray, Kelly Sandoval, Hope Beale, and Bonnie Simmons from DDS, and JoAnn Wright, Kevin Phomthevy, and Janie Hironaka from DHCS.

Purpose of the Review

DDS contracts with 21 private, non-profit corporations to operate regional centers, which are responsible under state law for coordinating, providing, arranging or purchasing all services needed for eligible individuals with developmental disabilities in California. All HCBS Waiver services are provided through this system. It is the responsibility of DDS to ensure, with the oversight of DHCS, that the HCBS Waiver is implemented by regional centers in accordance with Medicaid statute and regulations.

Overview of the HCBS Waiver Programmatic Compliance Monitoring Protocol

The compliance monitoring review protocol is comprised of sections/components designed to determine if the consumers' needs and program requirements are being met and that services are being provided in accordance with the consumers' individual program plans (IPP). Specific criteria have been developed for the review sections listed below that are derived from federal/state statutes and regulations and from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' directives and guidelines relating to the provision of HCBS Waiver services.

Scope of Review

The monitoring team reviewed a sample of 39 HCBS Waiver consumers. In addition, the following supplemental sample consumer records were reviewed: 1) one consumer whose HCBS Waiver eligibility had been previously terminated; 2) three consumers who moved from a developmental center, 3) ten consumers who had special incidents reported to DDS during the review period of January 1 through December 31, 2019, and 4) three consumers who were enrolled in the HCBS Waiver during the review period.

The monitoring team completed visits to 13 community care facilities (CCF). The team reviewed 13 CCF consumer records and interviewed and/or observed 28 selected sample consumers.

Overall Conclusion

SCLARC is in substantial compliance with the federal requirements for the HCBS Waiver program. Specific recommendations that require follow-up actions by SCLARC are included in the report findings. DDS is requesting documentation of follow-up actions taken by SCLARC in response to each of the specific recommendations within 30 days following receipt of this report.

Major Findings

Section I – Regional Center Self-Assessment

The self-assessment responses indicated that SCLARC has systems and procedures in place for implementing the state and HCBS Waiver requirements addressed in the self-assessment criteria.

Section II – Regional Center Consumer Record Review

Thirty-nine sample consumer records were reviewed for 31 documentation requirements (criteria) derived from federal and state statutes and regulations and HCBS Waiver requirements. The sample records were 99 percent in overall compliance for this review.

SCLARC's records were 99 percent and 98 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2018 and in 2016, respectively.

New Enrollees: Three sample consumers were reviewed for level-of-care determination prior to receipt of HCBS Waiver services. SCLARC's records were 100 percent in overall compliance for this review.

Section III – Community Care Facility Consumer Record Review

Thirteen consumer records were reviewed at 13 CCFs for 19 documentation requirements (criteria) derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations. The sample records were 99 percent in overall compliance for 19 criteria on this review.

SCLARC's records were 100 percent and 98 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2018 and in 2016, respectively.

Section IV – Day Program Consumer Record Review

The closure of day programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented document review and site visits.

SCLARC's records were 100 percent and 99 percent in overall compliance for the collaborative reviews conducted in 2018 and in 2016, respectively.

Section V – Consumer Observations and Interviews

Twenty-eight sample consumers, or in the case of minors, their parents, were interviewed and/or observed at their CCFs, day programs, or in independent living settings. The monitoring team observed that all of the consumers were in good health and were treated with dignity and respect. All but one of the interviewed consumers/parents indicated that they were satisfied with their services, health and choices.

Section VI A – Service Coordinator Interviews

Eight service coordinators were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The service coordinators responded to questions regarding their knowledge of the consumer, the IPP/annual review process, the monitoring of services, health issues, and safety. The service coordinators were very familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VI B – Clinical Services Interview

The clinical nurse consultant was interviewed using a standard interview instrument. She responded to questions regarding the monitoring of consumers with medical issues, medications, behavior plans, the coordination of medical and mental health care for consumers, tracking medical diagnoses, treatment and discharge plans, clinical supports to assist service coordinators, and the clinical team's role in the Risk Management and Mitigation Committee and special incident reporting.

Section VI C – Quality Assurance Interview

The quality assurance specialist was interviewed using a standard interview instrument. She responded to questions regarding how SCLARC is organized to conduct Title 17 monitoring reviews, verification of provider qualifications, updates to resource development and training activities, special incident reporting, and QA activities where there is no regulatory requirement.

Section VII A – Service Provider Interviews

Six service providers at six CCFs were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The service providers responded to questions regarding their knowledge of the consumer, the annual review process, and the monitoring of health issues, medication administration, progress, safety and emergency preparedness. The staff was familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VII B – Direct Service Staff Interviews

Six CCF direct service staff were interviewed using a standard interview instrument. The direct service staff responded to questions regarding their knowledge of consumers, the IPP, communication, service delivery, procedures for safety, emergency preparedness, and medications. The staff were familiar with the consumers and knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

Section VIII – Vendor Standards Review

The monitoring team reviewed six CCFs utilizing a standard checklist with 23 criteria that are consistent with HCBS Waiver requirements. The reviewed vendors were in good repair with no immediate health or safety concerns observed.

Section IX – Special Incident Reporting

The monitoring team reviewed the records of the 39 HCBS Waiver consumers and 10 supplemental sample consumers for special incidents during the review period. SCLARC reported all special incidents for the sample selected for the HCBS Waiver review. For the supplemental sample, the service providers reported all ten of the incidents to SCLARC within the required timeframes, and SCLARC subsequently transmitted all ten of the special incidents within the required timeframes. SCLARC's follow-up activities for the 10 consumer incidents were timely and appropriate for the severity of the situation.

SECTION I

REGIONAL CENTER SELF-ASSESSMENT

I. Purpose

The regional center self-assessment addresses the California Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver assurances criteria and is designed to provide information about the regional center's processes and practices. The responses are used to verify that the regional center has processes in place to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

The self-assessment obtains information about SCLARC's procedures and practices to verify that there are processes in place to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and regulations as well as the assurances contained in the HCBS Waiver application approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

II. Scope of Assessment

SCLARC is asked to respond to questions in four categories that correspond to the HCBS Waiver assurances with which the regional center is responsible for complying. The questions are shown at the end of this section.

III. Results of Assessment

The self-assessment responses indicate that SCLARC has systems and procedures in place for implementing the state and HCBS Waiver requirements addressed in the self-assessment criteria.

✓ The full response to the self-assessment is available upon request.

Regional Center Self-Assessment HCBS Waiver Assurances	
HCBS Waiver Assurances	Regional Center Assurances
<p>State conducts level-of-care need determinations consistent with the need for institutionalization.</p>	<p>The regional center ensures that consumers meet ICF/DD, ICF/DD-H, or ICF/DD-N facility level-of-care requirements as a condition of initial and annual eligibility for the HCBS Waiver Program.</p> <p>Regional center ensures that the regional center staff responsible for certifying and recertifying consumers' HCBS Waiver eligibility meet the federal definition of a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP).</p> <p>The regional center ensures that consumers are eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal benefits before enrolling them in the HCBS Waiver.</p>
<p>Necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving HCBS Waiver services.</p>	<p>The regional center takes action(s) to ensure consumers' rights are protected.</p> <p>The regional center takes action(s) to ensure that the consumers' health needs are addressed.</p> <p>The regional center ensures that behavior plans preserve the right of the consumer to be free from harm.</p> <p>The regional center maintains a Risk Management, Risk Assessment and Planning Committee.</p> <p>The regional center has developed and implemented a Risk Management/Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>Regional centers and local Community Care Licensing offices coordinate and collaborate in addressing issues involving licensing requirements and monitoring of CCFs pursuant to the MOU between DDS and Department of Social Services.</p> <p>The regional center has developed and implemented a quality assurance plan for Service Level 2, 3 and 4 community care facilities.</p> <p>The regional center reviews each community care facility annually to assure services are consistent with the program design and applicable laws and oversees development and implementation of corrective action plans as needed.</p> <p>The regional center conducts not less than two unannounced monitoring visits to each CCF annually.</p> <p>Service coordinators perform and document periodic reviews (at least annually) to ascertain progress toward achieving IPP objectives and the consumer's and the family's satisfaction with the IPP and its implementation.</p> <p>Service coordinators have quarterly face-to-face meetings with consumers in CCFs, family home agencies, supported living services, and independent living services to review services and progress toward achieving the IPP objectives for which the service provider is responsible.</p> <p>The regional center ensures that needed services and supports are in place when a consumer moves from a developmental center (DC) to a community living arrangement.</p>

Regional Center Self-Assessment HCBS Waiver Assurances	
HCBS Waiver Assurances	Regional Center Assurances
Necessary safeguards have been taken to protect the health and welfare of persons receiving HCBS Waiver services (cont.)	Service coordinators provide enhanced case management to consumers who move from a DC by meeting with them face-to-face every 30 days for the first 90 days they reside in the community.
Only qualified providers serve HCBS Waiver participants.	The regional center ensures that all HCBS Waiver service providers have signed the "HCBS Provider Agreement Form" and meet the required qualifications at the time services are provided.
Plans of care are responsive to HCBS Waiver participant needs.	<p>The regional center ensures that all HCBS Waiver consumers are offered a choice between receiving services and living arrangements in an institutional or community setting.</p> <p>Regional centers ensure that planning for IPPs includes a comprehensive assessment and information-gathering process which addresses the total needs of HCBS Waiver consumers and is completed at least every three years at the time of his/her triennial IPP.</p> <p>The IPPs of HCBS Waiver consumers are reviewed at least annually by the planning team and modified, as necessary, in response to the consumers' changing needs, wants and health status.</p> <p>The regional center uses feedback from consumers, families and legal representatives to improve system performance.</p> <p>The regional center documents the manner by which consumers indicate choice and consent.</p>

SECTION II

REGIONAL CENTER CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review is based upon documentation criteria derived from federal/state statutes and regulations and from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' directives and guidelines relating to the provision of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver services. The criteria address requirements for eligibility, consumer choice, notification of proposed action and fair hearing rights, level of care, individual program plans (IPP) and periodic reviews and reevaluations of services. The information obtained about the consumer's needs and services is tracked as a part of the onsite program reviews.

II. Scope of Review

1. Thirty-nine HCBS Waiver consumer records were selected for the review sample.

Living Arrangement	# of Consumers
Community Care Facility (CCF)	14
With Family	15
Independent or Supported Living Setting	10

2. The review period covered activity from January 1–December 31, 2020.

III. Results of Review

The 39 sample consumer records were reviewed for 31 documentation requirements derived from federal and state statutes and regulations and HCBS Waiver requirements. One supplemental record was reviewed solely for documentation that SCLARC had either provided the consumer with written notification prior to termination of the consumer's HCBS Waiver eligibility or the consumer had voluntarily disenrolled from the HCBS Waiver. Additionally, three supplemental records were reviewed solely for documentation indicating that the consumer received face-to-face reviews every 30 days for the first 90 days after moving from a developmental center.

- ✓ The sample records were 100 percent in compliance for 28 criteria. There are no recommendations for these criteria. Two criteria were rated not applicable for this review.
- ✓ A finding for one criterion is detailed below.

- ✓ A summary of the results of the review is shown in the table at the end of this section.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

- 2.2 Each record contains a dated and signed Medicaid Waiver Consumer Choice of Services/Living Arrangements form (DS 2200). [SMM 4442.7; 42 CFR 441.302(d)]

Finding

Thirty-eight of the thirty-nine (97 percent) sample consumer records contained a completed DS 2200 form. However, the DS 2200 form in the record for consumer #34 was signed by the consumer's parent/legal representative after the initial reenrollment period. Prior to the monitoring review, the consumer's parent/legal representative signed the DS 2200. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 39 + 4 Supplemental Records						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.0	The consumer is Medi-Cal eligible. <i>(SMM 4442.1)</i>	39			100	None
2.1	Each record contains a Medicaid Waiver Eligibility Record (DS 3770), signed by a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP), which documents the date of the consumer's initial HCBS Waiver eligibility certification, annual recertifications, the consumer's qualifying conditions and short-term absences. <i>[SMM 4442.1; 42 CFR 483.430(a)]</i>	Criterion 2.1 consists of four sub-criteria (2.1.a-d) that are reviewed and rated independently.				
2.1.a	The DS 3770 is signed by a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional and the title "QIDP" appears after the person's signature.	39			100	None
2.1.b	The DS 3770 form identifies the consumer's qualifying conditions and any applicable special health care requirements for meeting the Title 22 level-of-care requirements.	39			100	None
2.1.c	The DS 3770 form documents annual recertifications.	39			100	None
2.1.d	The DS 3770 documents short-term absences of 120 days or less, if applicable.			39	100	None
2.2	Each record contains a dated and signed Medicaid Waiver Consumer Choice of Services/Living Arrangements form, (DS 2200). <i>[SMM 4442.7; 42 CFR 441.302(d)]</i>	38	1		97	See Narrative
2.3	There is a written notification of a proposed action and documentation that the consumer has been sent written notice of their fair hearing rights whenever choice of living arrangements is not offered, services or choice of services are denied, the consumer/parent/legal guardian or legal representative does not agree with all or part of the components in the consumer's IPP, or the consumer's HCBS Waiver eligibility has been terminated. <i>[SMM 4442.7; 42 CFR Part 431, Subpart E; W&I Code §4710(a)(1)]</i>	1		39	100	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 39 + 4 Supplemental Records						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.4	Each record contains a current Client Development Evaluation Report (CDER) that has been reviewed within the last 12 months. <i>(SMM 4442.5; 42 CFR 441.302)</i>	39			100	None
2.5.a	The consumer's qualifying conditions and any special health care requirements used to meet the level-of-care requirements for care provided in an ICF/DD, ICF/DD-H, and ICF/DD-N facility are documented in the consumer's CDER and other assessments. <i>(SMM 4442.5; 42 CFR 441.302(c); Title 22, CCR, §51343)</i>	39			100	None
2.5.b	The consumer's qualifying conditions documented in the CDER are consistent with information contained in the consumer's record.	39			100	None
2.6.a	IPP is reviewed (at least annually) by the planning team and modified as necessary in response to the consumer's changing needs, wants or health status. <i>[42 CFR 441.301(b)(1)(I)]</i>	39			100	None
2.6.b	The HCBS Waiver Standardized Annual Review Form is completed and signed annually by the planning team to document whether or not a change to the existing IPP is necessary, and health status and CDER have been reviewed. <i>(HCBS Waiver requirement)</i>	39			100	None
2.7.a	The IPP is signed, prior to its implementation, by an authorized representative of the regional center and the consumer, or where appropriate, his/her parents or legal guardian or conservator. <i>[W&I Code §4646(g)]</i>	39			100	None
2.7.b	IPP addenda are signed by an authorized representative of the regional center and the consumer, or where appropriate, his/her parents, legal guardian, or conservator.	26		13	100	None
2.7.c	The IPP is prepared jointly with the planning team. <i>[W&I Code §4646(d)]</i>	39			100	None
2.8	The IPP includes a statement of goals based on the needs, preferences and life choices of the consumer. <i>[W&I Code §4646.5(a)]</i>	39			100	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 39 + 4 Supplemental Records						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.9	The IPP addresses the consumer's goals and needs. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(2)]	Criterion 2.9 consists of seven sub-criteria (2.9.a-g) that are reviewed independently.				
2.9.a	The IPP addresses the qualifying conditions identified in the CDER and Medicaid Waiver Eligibility Record (DS 3770).	39			100	None
2.9.b	The IPP addresses special health care requirements.	8		31	100	None
2.9.c	The IPP addresses the services which the CCF provider is responsible for implementing.	14		25	100	None
2.9.d	The IPP addresses the services which the day program provider is responsible for implementing.	19		20	100	None
2.9.e	The IPP addresses the services which the supported living services agency or independent living services provider is responsible for implementing.	10		29	100	None
2.9.f	The IPP addresses the consumer's goals, preferences and life choices.	39			100	None
2.9.g	The IPP includes a family plan component if the consumer is a minor. [W&I Code §4685(c)(2)]	4		35	100	None
2.10.a	The IPP includes a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports purchased by the regional center. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]	39			100	None
2.10.b	The IPP includes a schedule of the type and amount of all services and supports obtained from generic agencies or other resources. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]	39			100	None
2.10.c	The IPP specifies the approximate scheduled start date for the new services. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]	26		13	100	None
2.11	The IPP identifies the provider or providers of service responsible for implementing services, including but not limited to vendors, contract providers, generic service agencies and natural supports. [W&I Code §4646.5(a)(4)]	39			100	None

Regional Center Consumer Record Review Summary						
Sample Size = 39 + 4 Supplemental Records						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
2.12	Periodic reviews and reevaluations of consumer progress are completed (at least annually) to ascertain that planned services have been provided, that consumer progress has been achieved within the time specified, and the consumer and his/her family are satisfied with the IPP and its implementation. <i>[W&I Code §4646.5(a)(8)]</i>	39			100	None
2.13.a	Quarterly face-to-face meetings are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56047; Title 17, CCR, §56095; Title 17, CCR, §58680; Contract requirement)</i>	24		15	100	None
2.13.b	Quarterly reports of progress are completed for consumers living in community out-of-home settings, i.e., Service Level 2, 3 or 4 community care facilities, family home agencies or supported living and independent living settings. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56047; Title 17, CCR, §56095; Title 17, CCR, §58680; Contract requirement)</i>	24		15	100	None
2.14	Face-to-face reviews are completed no less than once every 30 days for the first 90 days following the consumer's move from a developmental center to a community living arrangement. <i>(W&I Code §4418.3)</i>	3		39	100	None

SECTION III

COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review addresses the requirements for community care facilities (CCF) to maintain consumer records and prepare written reports of consumer progress in relation to the services addressed in the individual program plan (IPP) for which the facility is responsible. The criteria are derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations.

II. Scope of Review

Thirteen consumer records were reviewed at 13 CCFs visited by the monitoring team. The facilities' consumer records were reviewed to determine compliance with 19 criteria.

III. Results of Review

The consumer records were 99 percent in compliance for 19 criteria.

- ✓ The consumer records were 100 percent in compliance for 17 applicable criteria. There are no recommendations for these criteria.
- ✓ Findings for two criteria are detailed below.
- ✓ A summary of the results of the review is shown in the table at the end of this section.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

- 3.1.e The consumer record contains a recent photograph and a physical description of the consumer.

Finding

Twelve of the thirteen (92 percent) sample consumer records contained a physical description of the consumer. However, the record for consumer #10 at CCF #12 did not have a physical description. However, during the review, CCF #12 provided the physical description of the consumer. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

- 3.2 The consumer record contains a written admission agreement completed for the consumer that includes the certifying statements specified in Title 17 and is signed by the consumer or his/her authorized representative, the regional center and the facility administrator. *[Title 17, CCR, §56019(c)(1)]*

Finding

Twelve of the thirteen (92 percent) sample consumer records contained a signed admission agreement. However, the record for consumer #5 at CCF #6 did not have the conservator's signature. During the review period, a signed admission agreement was provided. Accordingly, no recommendation is required.

Community Care Facility Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 13; CCFs = 13						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
3.1	An individual consumer file is maintained by the CCF that includes the documents and information specified in Title 17 and Title 22. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56017(b); Title 17, CCR, §56059(b); Title 22, CCR, §80069)</i>	13			100	None
3.1.a	The consumer record contains a statement of ambulatory or non-ambulatory status.	13			100	None
3.1.b	The consumer record contains known information related to any history of aggressive or dangerous behavior toward self or others.	9		4	100	None
3.1.c	The consumer record contains current health information that includes medical, dental and other health needs of the consumer, including annual visit dates, physicians' orders, medications, allergies, and other relevant information.	13			100	None
3.1.d	The consumer record contains current emergency information: family, physician, pharmacy, etc.	13			100	None
3.1.e	The consumer record contains a recent photograph and a physical description of the consumer.	12	1		92	See Narrative
3.1.i	Special safety and behavior needs are addressed.	13			100	None
3.2	The consumer record contains a written admission agreement completed for the consumer that includes the certifying statements specified in Title 17 and is signed by the consumer or his/her authorized representative, the regional center and the facility administrator. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56019(c)(1)]</i>	12	1		92	See Narrative
3.3	The facility has a copy of the consumer's current IPP. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56022(c)]</i>	13			100	None

Community Care Facility Record Review Summary						
Sample Size: Consumers = 13; CCFs = 13						
	Criteria	+	-	N/A	% Met	Follow-up
3.4.a	Service Level 2 and 3 facilities prepare and maintain written semiannual reports of consumer progress. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(b)]</i>	4		9	100	None
3.4.b	Semiannual reports address and confirm the consumer's progress toward achieving each of the IPP objectives for which the facility is responsible.	4		9	100	None
3.5.a	Service Level 4 facilities prepare and maintain written quarterly reports of consumer progress. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(c)]</i>	9		4	100	None
3.5.b	Quarterly reports address and confirm the consumer's progress toward achieving each of the IPP objectives for which the facility is responsible.	9		4	100	None
3.5.c	Quarterly reports include a summary of data collected. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §56013(d)(4); Title 17, CCR, §56026)</i>	9		4	100	None
3.6.a	The facility prepares and maintains ongoing, written consumer notes, as required by Title 17. <i>[Title 17, CCR, §56026(a)]</i>	13			100	None
3.6.b	The ongoing notes/information verify that behavior needs are being addressed.	13			100	None
3.7.a	Special incidents are reported to the regional center within 24 hours after learning of the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	5		8	100	None
3.7.b	A written report of the special incident is submitted to the regional center within 48 hours after the occurrence of the special incident. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	5		8	100	None
3.7.c	Follow-up activities were undertaken to prevent, reduce or mitigate future danger to the consumer. <i>(Title 17, CCR, §54327)</i>	5		8	100	None

SECTION IV

DAY PROGRAM CONSUMER RECORD REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review criteria address the requirements for day programs to maintain consumer records and prepare written reports of consumer progress in relation to the services addressed in the individual program plan (IPP) that the day program provider is responsible for implementing. The criteria are derived from Title 17, California Code of Regulations.

II. Scope of Review

The closure of day programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the review of Section IV Day Program records and remote site visits for the 2021 review.

III. Results of Review

NA

IV. Findings and Recommendations

NA

SECTION V

CONSUMER OBSERVATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The consumer observations are conducted to verify that the consumers appear to be healthy and have good hygiene. Interview questions focus on the consumers' satisfaction with their living situation, day program and work activities, health, choices, and regional center services.

II. Scope of Observations and Interviews

Twenty-eight of the thirty-nine consumers, or in the case of minors, their parents, were interviewed and/or observed via Zoom in their community care facilities (CCF), or in independent living settings.

- ✓ Thirteen consumers agreed to be interviewed by the monitoring teams.
- ✓ Nine consumers did not communicate verbally or declined an interview, but were observed.
- ✓ Six interviews were conducted with parents of minors.
- ✓ Eleven consumers were unavailable for or declined interviews.

III. Results of Observations and Interviews

All consumers and parents of minors interviewed via Zoom indicated satisfaction with their living situation, day program, work activities, health, choices, and regional center services. The consumers' overall appearance reflected personal choice and individual style.

SECTION VI A

SERVICE COORDINATOR INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the service coordinators know their consumers, the extent of their participation in the individual program plan (IPP)/annual review process, and how they monitor services, health and safety issues.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed eight SCLARC service coordinators.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories.
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to the consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The service coordinators were very familiar with their respective consumers. They were able to relate specific details regarding the consumers' desires, preferences, life circumstances and service needs.
2. The service coordinators were knowledgeable about the IPP/annual review process and monitoring requirements. Service providers and family members provided input on the consumers' needs, preferences and satisfaction with services outlined in the IPP. For consumers in out-of-home placement settings, service coordinators conduct quarterly face-to-face visits and develop written assessments of consumer progress and satisfaction. In preparation for the quarterly visits, service coordinators review their previous progress reports, pertinent case notes, special incident reports, and vendor reports of progress.
3. To better understand issues related to consumers' use of medication and issues related to side effects, the service coordinators utilize SCLARC's medical director and online resources for medication.

4. The service coordinators monitor the consumers' services, health and safety during periodic visits. They are aware of the consumers' health issues. The service coordinators are knowledgeable about the special incident reporting process and work with the vendors to ensure all special incidents are reported and appropriate follow-up activities are completed.

SECTION VI B

CLINICAL SERVICES INTERVIEW

I. Purpose

The clinical services interview is used to obtain supplemental information on how the regional center is organized to provide clinical support to consumers and service coordinators. This interview aids in determining what measures the regional center is utilizing to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all Home and Community-Based Services Waiver consumers.

II. Scope of Interview

1. The monitoring team received information from the Clinical Nurse Manager who is a member of South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's (SCLARC) Clinical Team.
2. The questions in the interview cover the following topics: routine monitoring of consumers with medical issues; medications and behavior plans; coordination of medical and mental health care for consumers; circumstances under which actions are initiated for medical or behavior issues; clinical supports to assist service coordinators; improved access to preventive health care resources; role in Risk Assessment and Mitigation Team and special incident reports (SIR).

III. Results of Interview

SCLARC's clinical services staff includes a variety of disciplines such as physicians, nurses, a dentist, a pediatrician, a pharmacist, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, behavioral consultants, nutritionist, a geneticist, a speech pathologist, a physical and occupational therapist, a dental assistant/hygienist, an autism liaison, an educational specialist and a clinical staff that tracks psychiatric hospitalizations.

The clinical team functions as a resource for the service coordinators and is available to assess consumers with medical, behavioral or psychiatric concerns. The clinical team has developed a checklist for the service coordinators to utilize during their annual review of consumers. The checklist incorporates information that will assist service coordinators to address health issues in the Individual Program Plan, or to identify potential issues that might benefit from a clinical team referral.

The nurses are responsible to track all hospitalized consumers and communicate with the admitting facility regarding diagnoses, treatment, and discharge plans. A nurse conducts a nursing assessment and/or intervention necessary to ensure that health and safety is maintained after discharge.

The clinical team provides training to staff and providers on a variety of topics, such as tuberculosis, nutrition, feeding issues, and restricted health care conditions. The pharmacist is available for consultation and training with service coordinators, providers, consumers and their families. The pharmacist reviews all special incident reports involving medication errors, which may result in onsite training as needed.

Clinical team members collaborate with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's crisis intervention team to improve services for dually diagnosed consumers. SCLARC's behavior consultants provide training and support to residential, day program, and regional center staff. The consultants also review and approve all behavioral intervention plans prior to implementation and evaluate progress reports to ensure that appropriate procedures are utilized. The clinical team psychiatrist and/or psychiatric hospital tracker staff participates in discharge planning for all psychiatric hospitalizations.

SCLARC has improved access to preventative health care resources by advocating prevention, education, resource development, and medical treatments for consumers. These include:

- ✓ SCLARC nurse attends L.A. Care Health Maintenance Organization and Health Net quarterly meetings;
- ✓ Assists providers in developing restricted health condition care plans;
- ✓ Dental screening/treatment services;
- ✓ Publications, such as: "The Wellness Communique" a quarterly newsletter with current and specialized clinical information for SCLARC staff;
- ✓ Health and dental fairs;
- ✓ Mobility clinics;
- ✓ Community outreach autism clinic;
- ✓ Nutritional Assessments; and,
- ✓ Human Rights Committee.

Clinical team members participate in SCLARC's Risk Management and Mitigation Team. All SIRs that require medical review are referred to the team for further evaluation and follow-up. The regional center utilizes Mission Analytics Group, Inc., the State's risk management contractor, to analyze special incidents for trends. The clinical team uses this information to make recommendations for appropriate follow-up and training as needed. The clinical team also reviews all deaths and reports findings to the mortality review committee.

SECTION VI C

QUALITY ASSURANCE INTERVIEW

I. Purpose

The interview with quality assurance (QA) staff ascertains how the regional center has organized itself to conduct Title 17 monitoring of community care facilities (CCF), two unannounced visits to CCFs, and service provider training. The interview also inquires about verification of provider qualifications, resource development activities, and QA among programs and providers where there is no regulatory requirement to conduct QA monitoring.

II. Scope of Interview

The monitoring team interviewed a quality assurance specialist who is part of the team responsible for conducting South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's (SCLARC) QA activities.

II. Results of Interview

1. The quality assurance specialists conduct the annual Title 17 visits. The service coordinators, who function as facility liaisons to the CCFs, conduct two unannounced visits. Service coordinators are conducting interviews through their case management process, unannounced visits are being conducted, and telephone conferences. Any issues or concerns from the facility liaisons are reported to the QA team for follow-up. When substantial inadequacies are identified, a corrective action plan is issued. Vendors are allowed up to 30 days to follow a plan of correction in most situations. Follow-up visits are completed when necessary, no later than 30 days after a corrective action plan is issued. The Case Management Department will train new service coordinators on their roles and responsibilities during visits to CCFs. There are two new positions, Program Manager of Resource Development & Training and Program Manager of Vendorization Resource Development & Training. This group is involved in tracking consumers affected by medical conditions and reporting the status for weekly update meetings.
2. The special incident report (SIR) coordinator receives all SIRs. SCLARC's QA team will follow up on vendor-related SIRs, while the service coordinator will follow up on any family-related SIRs. The QA Program manager is a member of the Risk Management and Mitigation Team, which meets monthly. The Risk Management and Mitigation Team will recommend additional trainings to be provided to staff and vendors based on SIR trend analysis. The SIR coordinator will review special incident reporting program and distribute to departments to monitor for compliance.

3. The quality assurance specialists also monitor all day programs annually. In addition, the quality assurance team requires new residential providers to complete Residential Specialist Services Training offered twice a year. This is a six-to-eight-week series of classroom instruction that all new providers are required to complete. The Vendor Advisory committee has resources to provide training in person or through video teleconferencing applications.

SECTION VII A

SERVICE PROVIDER INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the service provider knows the consumers; the extent of their assessment process for the individual program plan (IPP) development and/or review; the extent of their plan participation; how the plan was developed; how service providers ensure accurate documentation, communicate, address and monitor health issues; their preparedness for emergencies; and how they monitor safety and safeguard medications.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed six service providers at six community care facilities where services are provided to the consumers who were visited by the monitoring team.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories.
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to sample consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The service providers were familiar with the strengths, needs and preferences of their consumer.
2. The service providers indicated that they conducted assessments of the consumer, participated in their IPP development, provided the program-specific services addressed in the IPPs and attempted to foster the progress of their consumer.
3. The service providers monitored the consumer's health issues and safeguarded medications.
4. The service providers communicated with people involved in the consumer's life and monitored progress.
5. The service providers were prepared for emergencies, monitored the safety of the consumer, and understood special incident reporting and follow-up processes.

SECTION VII B

DIRECT SERVICE STAFF INTERVIEWS

I. Purpose

The interviews determine how well the direct service staff know the consumers and their understanding of the individual program plan (IPP) and service delivery requirements, how they communicate, their level of preparedness to address safety issues, their understanding of emergency preparedness, and their knowledge about safeguarding medications.

II. Scope of Interviews

1. The monitoring team interviewed six direct service staff at six community care facilities where services are provided to the consumer who was visited by the monitoring team.
2. The interview questions are divided into two categories:
 - ✓ The questions in the first category are related to sample consumers selected by the monitoring team.
 - ✓ The questions in the second category are related to general areas.

III. Results of Interviews

1. The direct service staff were familiar with the strengths, needs and preferences of their consumer.
2. The direct service staff were knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities for providing the services addressed in the consumer's IPP.
3. The direct service staff demonstrated that they understood the importance of communication with all individuals concerned with the consumer.
4. The direct service staff were prepared to address safety issues and emergencies and were familiar with special incident reporting requirements.
5. The direct service staff demonstrated an understanding about emergency preparedness.
6. The direct service staff were knowledgeable regarding safeguarding and assisting with self-administration of medications where applicable.

SECTION VIII

VENDOR STANDARDS REVIEW

I. Purpose

The review ensures that the selected community care facilities (CCF) and day programs are serving consumers in a safe, healthy and positive environment where their rights are respected. The review also ensures that CCFs are meeting the HCBS Waiver definition of a homelike setting.

II. Scope of Review

1. The monitoring teams reviewed six CCFs via Zoom. Zoom was used to conduct service provider, direct staff and consumer interviews, as well as site inspections.
2. The teams used a monitoring review checklist consisting of 24 criteria. The review criteria are used to assess the physical environment, health and safety, medications, services and staff, consumers' rights, and the handling of consumers' money.

III. Results of Review

All of the CCFs and the day programs were found to be in good condition with no immediate health and safety concerns.

SECTION IX

SPECIAL INCIDENT REPORTING

I. Purpose

The review verifies that special incidents have been reported within the required timeframes, that documentation meets the requirements of Title 17, California Code of Regulations, and that the follow-up was complete.

II. Scope of Review

1. Special incident reporting of deaths by SCLARC was reviewed by comparing deaths entered into the Client Master File for the review period with special incident reports (SIR) of deaths received by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
2. The records of the 39 consumers selected for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver sample were reviewed to determine that all required special incidents were reported to DDS during the review period.
3. A supplemental sample of 10 consumers who had special incidents reported to DDS within the review period was assessed for timeliness of reporting and documentation of follow-up activities. The follow-up activities were assessed for being timely, appropriate to the situation, resulting in an outcome that ensures the consumer is protected from adverse consequences, and that risks are either minimized or eliminated.

III. Results of Review

1. SCLARC reported all deaths during the review period to DDS.
2. SCLARC reported all special incidents in the sample of 10 records selected for the HCBS Waiver review to DDS.
3. SCLARC's vendors reported all 10 (100 percent) applicable incidents in the supplemental sample within the required timeframes.
4. SCLARC reported all 10 (100 percent) incidents to DDS within the required timeframes.
5. SCLARC's follow-up activities on consumer incidents were appropriate for the severity of the situations for the 10 incidents.

SAMPLE CONSUMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS/VENDORS

HCBS Waiver Review Consumers

#	UCI	CCF	DP
1	7410263	4	
2	6046139	3	
3	7598234	1	
4	6055940	2	
5	7402949	6	
6	7403714	5	
7	7403434	9	
8	5750807	11	
9	7408192	8	
10	5728548	12	
11	7407269	7	
12	7411272	13	
13	7404407		
14	7410710	10	
15	7456330		
16	6809671		
17	5695267		
18	4940235		
19	7494321		
20	7997729		
21	7401306		
22	7997826		
23	6046436		
24	7307668		
25	7493550		
26	7402845		
27	7610454		
28	7401474		
29	7416334		
30	7405973		
31	5321567		
32	6809759		
33	7601065		
34	7329648		
35	7441040		
36	7425216		
37	7437749		

#	UCI	CCF	DP
38	7452134		
39	7444523		

Supplemental Sample Terminated Waiver Consumers

#	UCI
T-1	7426719

Supplemental Sample Developmental Center Consumers

#	UCI
DC-1	6943039
DC-2	7414705
DC-3	6099956

HCBS Waiver Review Service Providers

CCF #	Vendor
1	HX0711
2	HX0685
3	HX0628
4	HX0441
5	HX0138
6	H73579
7	H18833
8	H08280
9	HX0789
10	H19549
11	HX0352
12	HX0711
13	HX0678

SIR Review Consumers

#	UCI	Vendor
SIR 1	4838884	HX0541
SIR 2	8011238	HX0591
SIR 3	7408611	HX0916
SIR 4	7407883	HX0172
SIR 5	7495084	HX0506
SIR 6	7406088	H18869
SIR 7	7604886	H73485
SIR 8	7575590	PX0493
SIR 9	6043683	NA
SIR 10	6955827	PX0923