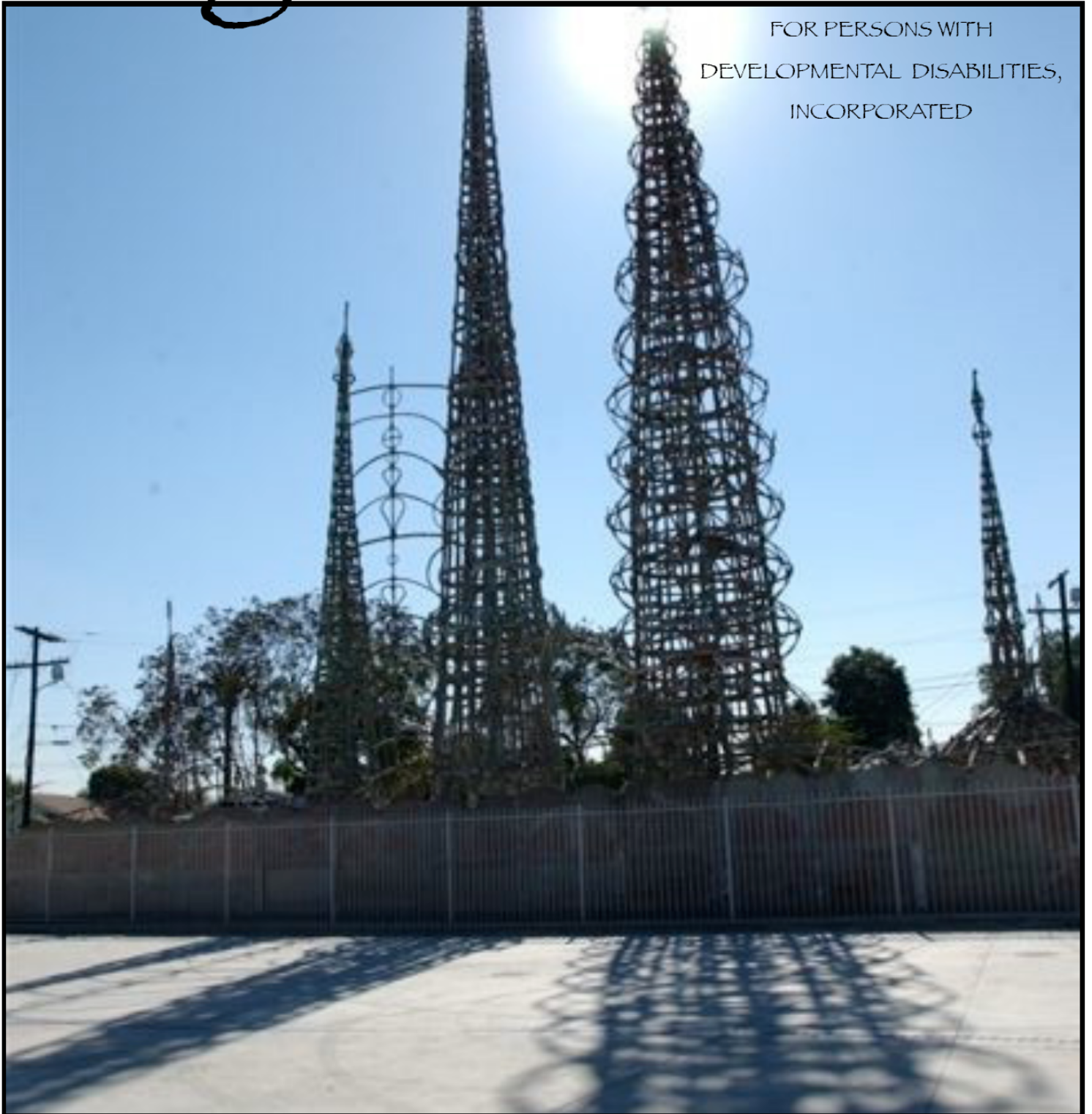


South Central LA Regional Center

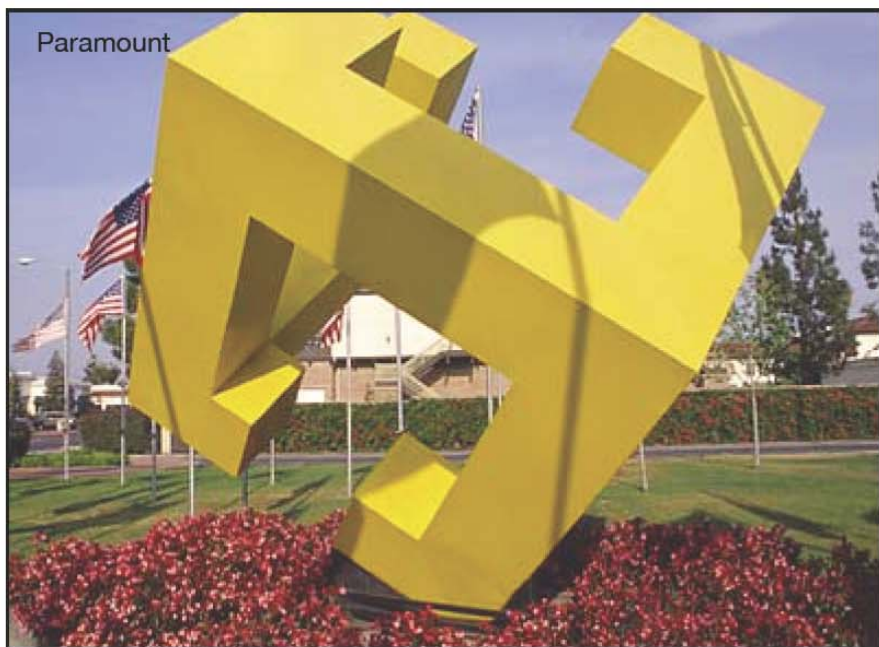
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR PERSONS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
INCORPORATED



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITIES

FY 2006-2007



Paramount

Downey



Gonzales Park & Pool

Compton



We Are Proud of Our Diverse Communities

Serving South Central Los Angeles since 1974, SCLARC gives assistance to its consumers and their families within a service area that includes the cities of Paramount, Cudahy, Downey, Bell Gardens, Huntington Park, South Gate, Compton and Carson, as well as the Los Angeles communities of Watts, the Crenshaw District, Leimert Park, View Park and Baldwin Hills. South Central Los Angeles Regional Center is one of 21 Regional Centers in the State of California providing services to persons with developmental disabilities. Our mission is to provide assessment, information and referrals, advocacy, prevention services and coordination of case management services to people who are

developmentally disabled (consumers) as well as to those who are at risk for a developmental disability. SCLARC is 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.



Speaker Fabian Nunez smiles with SCLARC consumer Angie who is also the daughter of SCLARC Family Resource Center Coordinator Gloria Leiva. Speaker Nunez was very instrumental in creating The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. The Commission seeks to improve services and supports for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families.

Speaker Fabian Núñez (D- 46th District) is no stranger to serving the needs of the people. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 2002 and sworn in as the State's 66th Speaker on February 9, 2004. In 2005, he was an integral part of establishing The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. The resolution creating it received strong bipartisan support and its goal is to have direct impact on the needs of children and adults with autism spectrum disorders.

Authored by Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata (D-Oakland) and supported by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles), the resolution (SCR 51), created a sixteen member Commission representing parents of children with autism, the public

and private sector, educators, physicians, and public health officials. The Commission established the following three Task Forces: Early Identification & Intervention; Education & Professional Development; and Transitional Services & Supports. These workgroups were charged with the role of assisting the Commission in fulfilling the legislative mandate that "the Commission shall identify gaps in programs, services, and funding related to the early identification of autism spectrum disorders and provide recommendations to close the identified gaps."

Between November 2006 and February 2007, the three groups focused on the identification of major problems and gaps in services to children and families, particularly those that are

amenable to state policy intervention. The Commission established a strategic plan that is focused on a "strength-based approach" that will improve services and supports for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and their families, by integrating validated best-practices with family-focused, community-based providers and systems of care. Members of the three Task Force groups have worked extensively and their preliminary findings and recommendations were presented to the Commission. You can view the findings at <http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/autism>. Regional meetings are being held to obtain public input from families, advocates, community organizations and other stakeholders.

PARENTAL GUIDANCE

Areva Martin (left) and
Donna Ross-Jones with
their sons.

ACTION HEROES!

In Los Angeles, the names Areva Martin and Donna Ross Jones are synonymous with action. The two mothers co-founded Special Needs Network, Inc., a non-profit organization in order to change public policy while changing lives. Besides offering skills, support, and education to families with special needs children, SNN engages policy-makers in Sacramento, school district headquarters and city halls in meaningful dialogue in order to make them aware of the need for equal services and adequate personnel for the African American community which has been woefully neglected until now.

YOU WOULD BE A-MAZED

Martin and Jones came together four years ago after their sons were diagnosed with autism. Both were astounded by how difficult it was to find help for their children. Their communities lacked knowledge of the disorder, and there was a void of centralized information, affordable

medical support, treatment and services for children with autism. After years of successfully working their way through the bureaucratic "maze," they decided to pool their resources and expertise to assist families who have children with developmental disabilities.

ON A MISSION

SNN's mission is to raise public awareness of developmental disabilities and impact public policy, while providing education and resources to families, children and adults. SNN serves as a link between underserved communities – particularly African Americans - and mainstream developmental disability organizations and governmental institutions, which often fail to address issues specific to these communities.

BLUE RIBBON COMMITMENT

SNN is only one reason California Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Núñez(D-Los Angeles) has named

Areva as the only African American woman on his Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism (see page 3). Her legal practice embraces hundreds of families who are in need of special education and regional center services, but could not access them by themselves. She is also a sought-after speaker for governmental agencies and medical/para-medical professionals who deal with the special needs community.

TOOLS FOR TRANSFORMATION

For the second year, SNN will be presenting **Tools for Transformation: Building Confidence and Capacity** on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. Last year, families traveled from as far as Fresno to the Inland Empire in order to participate in the event. Attendance is limited.

For more info, contact SNN at 323-295-8358.

A CHANGING OF THE GUARD



South Central Los Angeles Regional Center bids a fond farewell to Beverly Morgan (above)) as Reuben Lee (left) takes over the reigns of leadership for the Department of Children & Adult Services.

On December 6, 2007, Beverly Pegues Morgan, former Director of Children & Adult Services, celebrated the culmination of her auspicious career. One hundred and fifty of her closest family members, friends and colleagues gathered at the Carson Community Center in order to honor Ms. Morgan for three decades of service to those diagnosed with developmental disabilities.

Beverly worked in various management capacities, beginning as a part-time unit manager in 1977. As a unit manager, her staff in the In-Home Services Department implemented a specialized sub-unit that provided services to judicially involved consumers residing in the community. She also provided on-site liaison activities to those

incarcerated at Sybil Brand and Men's Central Jail; and represented Los Angeles County Regional Centers on the Psychiatric Emergency Coordinating Committee (PECC) to establish an inter-agency agreement with law enforcement, mental health and health services entities in order to facilitate better community response in an effort to meet our consumers' needs.

She rose through the ranks of SCLARC's management to become the Director of Children and Adult Services, a position in which she had oversight over the majority of the agency's staff. On December 4, 2007, her department honored her with a luncheon program at which she gave her parting words.

"As you know, SCLARC is the best thing that ever happened to me that I never planned for. And after such a wonderful career here at SCLARC, I know I am leaving the Department of Children & Adult Services in very capable hands. Mr. Reuben Lee is unquestionably committed to the well-being of this organization and navigates a myriad of issues as they pertain to the developmental disabilities system," stated Ms. Morgan. "Reuben's motto is 'SCLARC is not just a job, but an adventure.' It's an adventure that he is proud to be a part of. He is supportive to staff, fosters relationships between vendors and the agency, and is

See Changing of the Guard on Page 8

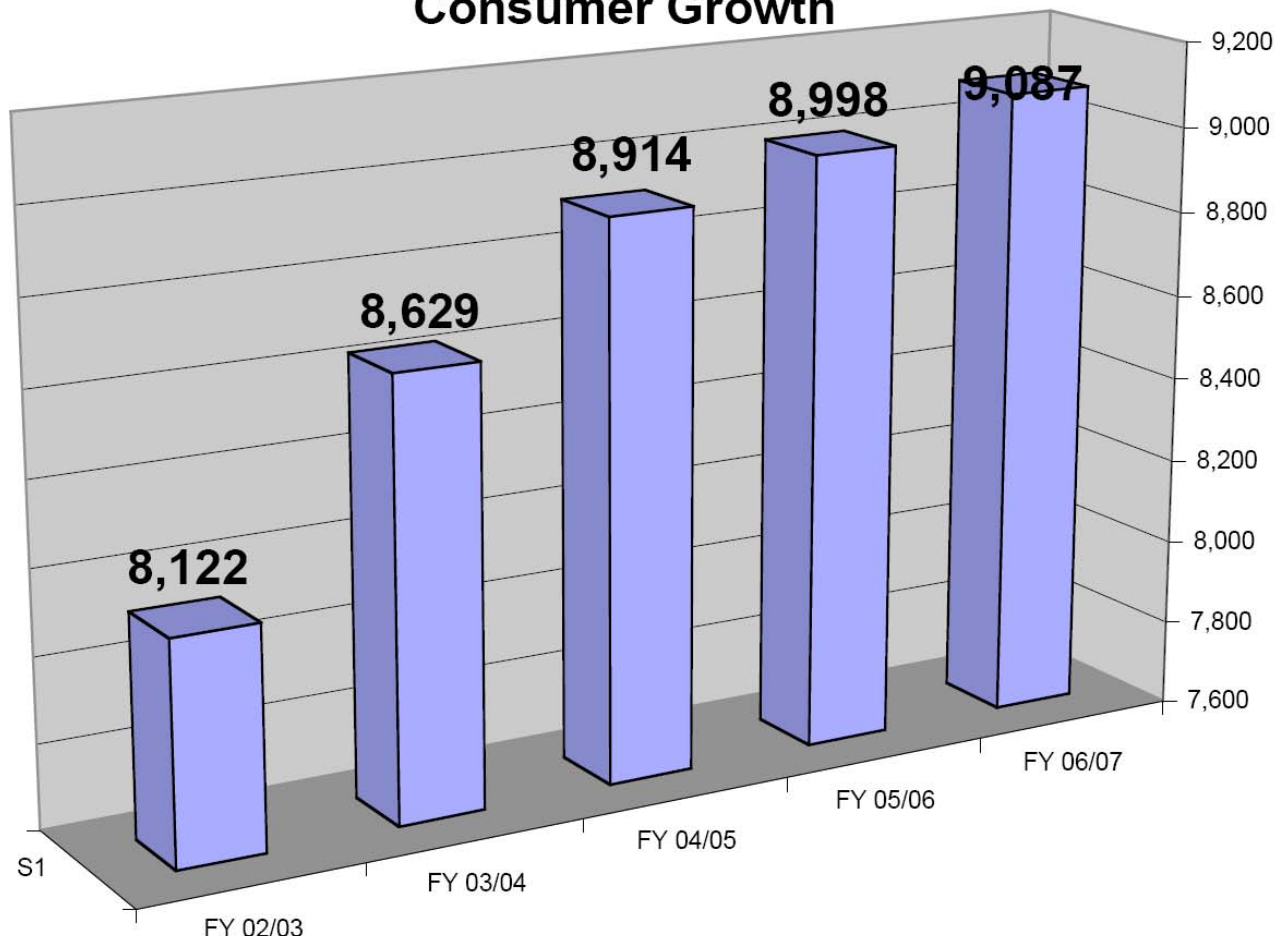
Under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, the “State of California accepts a responsibility for persons with developmental disabilities and an obligation to them which it must discharge.” Soon after the enactment of the Lanterman Act, the State established regional centers to carryout this responsibility. The first two regional centers were established in 1966 and they had a budget of \$966,386 to serve 559 consumers. Today there are 21 regional centers in California each serving a total of more than,192,000 consumers. Each regional center contracts with the State Department of Developmental Services to coordinate services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

A developmental disability is a condition that originates before a person reaches age 18, is expected to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial impairment. There are five categories of disability: mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, and disabling conditions closely related to mental retardation or requiring treatment similar to that required by a person with mental retardation.

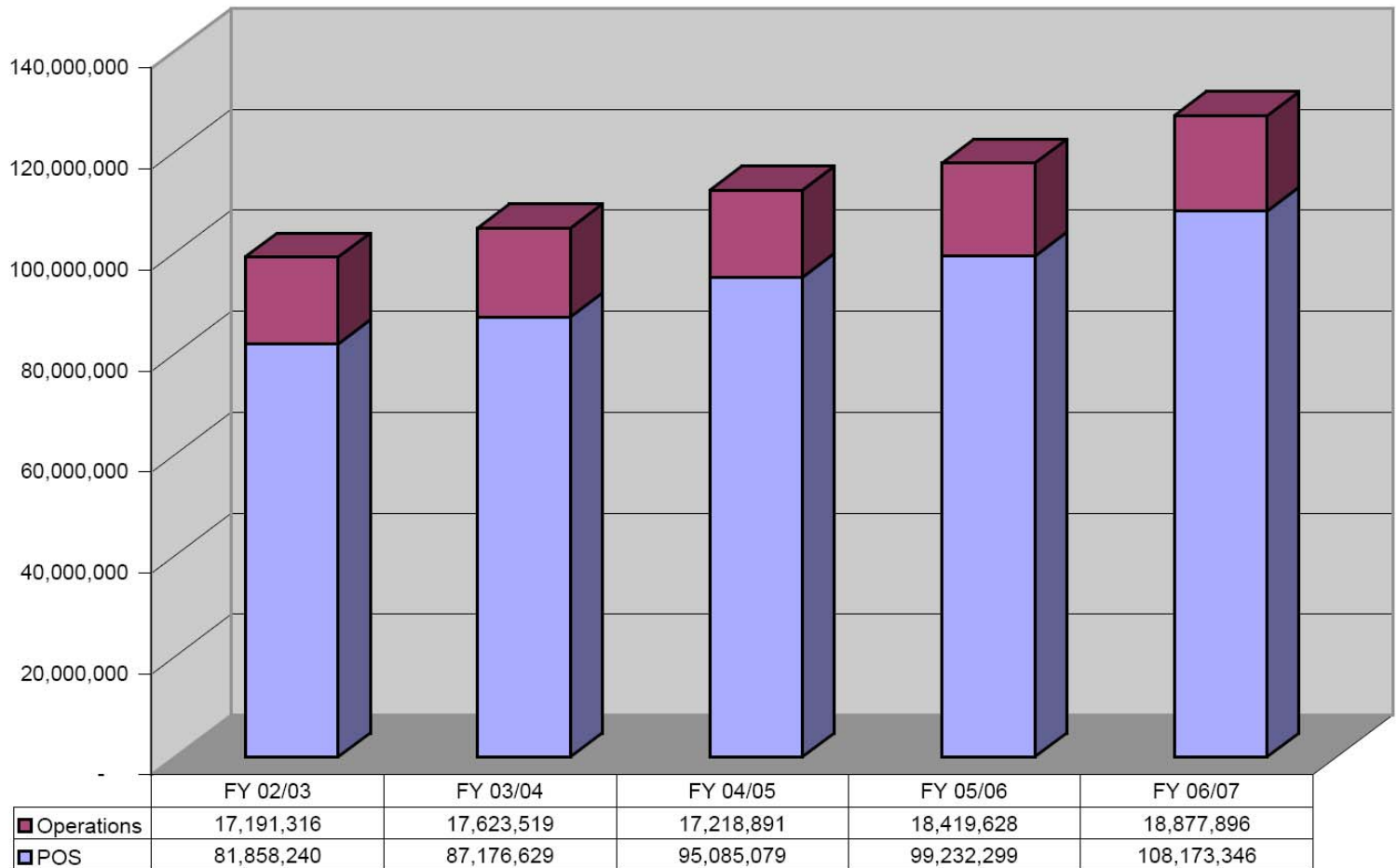
Currently, SCLARC serves over 9,000 consumers. In past years, the agency has averaged an annual increase of approximately 400 consumers per year. In the last two years, those numbers have changed dramatically and SCLARC has appointed a special task force to examine the reasons why its caseload growth has slowed. Also, a new outreach and education campaign is underway in order to alert our diverse communities to regional center services and resources.

SCLARC provides a variety of services which include: intake and assessment for diagnosis and eligibility determination; individualized planning and coordination of services; advocacy; family support; assurance of service quality through monitoring, auditing, technical assistance and training to its service providers; and resource development. All services provided directly by regional centers as well as services purchased by regional centers for consumers and families are provided without regard for family income.

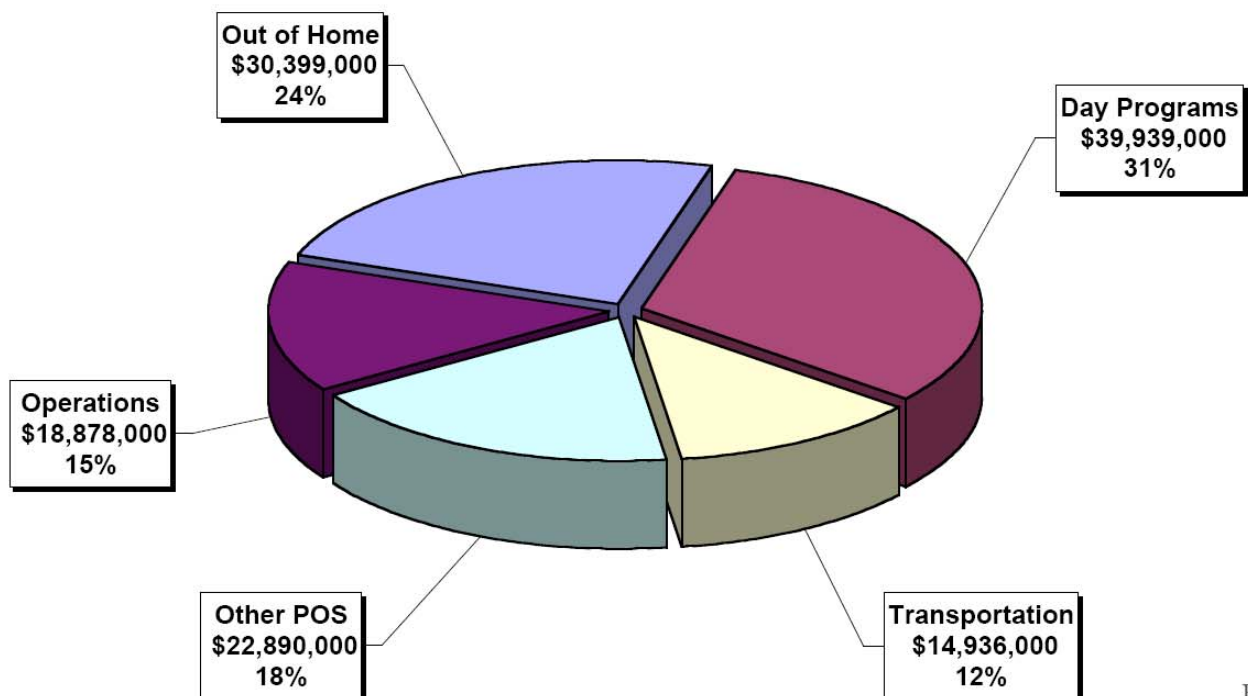
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Consumer Growth



Annual POS and Operations Expenditures



South Central Los Angeles Regional Center Total Expenditures Fiscal Year 2006-07



Changing of the Guard (continued from page 5)

loyal in his efforts to see that the job, whatever it is, gets done.”

Mr. Lee, who has been at the agency for two decades, knows well the intricacies of service coordination and service delivery to SCLARC's consumers and families. He says his department is the hub of the agency. “SCLARC is a network of professionals working together towards a shared goal,” says Lee.

“Our employees represent a major value to the agency,” he continues. “As Director of DCAS, I plan to deploy managers and key case management staff to serve as liaisons to agencies with whom SCLARC shares consumers i.e. the Department of Children and Family Services, California Children Services, Mental Health, and the Department of Probation. If we partner with these agencies, we will be able to provide better case management to our dually diagnosed and/or judicially involved consumers.”

Mr. Lee's department encompasses the hub of SCLARC's workforce with approximately 120

service coordinators and managers under his supervision. The department provides ongoing case management services to SCLARC's 9,000 consumers and their families. And Reuben is now responsible for conducting internal audits to ensure compliance with mandated federal and state standards. He serves as a point of

participate on select Interdisciplinary Review Teams and ad hoc committees, as well as provide bimonthly reports to SCLARC's Board of Directors.

Additionally in his new role, Reuben will help develop long-term policies for SCLARC through his participation on SCLARC's Leadership Team and define the scope of services to be rendered

on SCLARC and the community we serve.

Joining SCLARC in 1987, Reuben entered the agency as a Service Coordinator. He was promoted to Placement Specialist, Unit Manager, and Assistant Director during his 20-year tenure with SCLARC. As the Assistant Director of DCAS, Reuben assisted Ms. Morgan with the administrative and

operational aspects of the department. He supervised staff, coordinated special projects, trained new staff members, provided input to the consumer services department's ad hoc committees, attended inter/intra-departmental meetings and participated in quality assurance, funding and service compliance reviews. Reuben Lee holds a bachelor's degree in Social Rehabilitation from Talladega College in Alabama, and a Master's in Special Education from California State University, Los Angeles. He is the proud father of three—Reuben Jr., Adrienne and Nicole Lee. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Compton Chapter. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball, traveling and listening to music.



PASSING THE BATON—Beverly Morgan and Reuben Lee share a laugh in the Funding Room. Ms. Morgan says she knows that she is leaving the department in “very capable hands.”

contact for external federal audit officials and the review of and compliance with purchase of service standards to ensure the continuity and consistency of services. He will also represent SCLARC as a member of the Chief Counselor's group,

within legislative regulations and contractual mandates. Mr. Lee says it is vitally important that he stays abreast of current trends in the field of developmental disabilities in order to be able to interpret the impact that these trends might have

LEADERS FOR A NEW ERA

JESSE ROCHA, Assistant Director
Dept. of Children & Adult Services

Jesse Rocha began his career with SCLARC in 1997 as a Service Coordinator and worked in that capacity until 2003. It was then that Mr. Rocha was promoted to the position of Fair Hearings & Complaints Coordinator which he held until

2004. As Fair Hearings Coordinator, he held informal mediations; met mandated time frames for responding to hearing requests and



informed staff of legislation as it pertains to the developmentally disabled population. In 2004, Mr. Rocha was promoted again; this time to the position of Program Manager working in the Department of Children and Adult Services. In December 2007 the new dad was promoted to Assistant Director for the Department of Children and Adult Services. As the new designated Assistant Director, Jesse will report to the Director of Children and Adult Services and be responsible for the supervision of four case management units, and the administrative and clinical consultation aspects of the department. He will also coordinate diagnostic assessments, special projects and related duties as assigned. Mr. Rocha will interface with other agencies i.e. ARCA and SCLARC management staff to facilitate the daily operations of the department in meeting compliance with governmental entities.

MARSHA D. MITCHELL, Director of
Development/Community Relations

For more than six years, **Marsha Mitchell** has served as the Community Relations and Governmental Affairs Manager for South Central L. A. Regional Center (SCLARC). During her tenure, she has been responsible for an extensive

outreach and public relations campaign. Always a team player, Ms. Mitchell has employed her organizational expertise as Fair Hearings Coordinator and Human



Resources Manager. Having recently spearheaded the creation of Friends of SCLARC, Inc. a non-profit support organization for the regional center, Marsha has also been chosen to serve as the director of the newly formed entity. While she will still continue to perform her current community relations duties for South Central L. A. Regional Center, Ms. Mitchell will expand SCLARC's various development initiatives taking them to the next level.

With the merging of the three areas--1) Community Relations, 2) Fund and 3) Housing Development--comes the new job title of Director of Development & Community Relations. As a graduate of UCLA, Ms. Mitchell holds a B.A. in English and is currently pursuing certification in Fund Development at UCLA. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and enjoys spending time with her husband Omar and two sons, Malik and Malcolm.

JOHANNA ARIAS, Fair Hearing &
Governmental Affairs Manager

Taking on new job responsibilities at South Central L. A. Regional Center (SCLARC) is Fair Hearings Coordinator **Johanna Arias**. Since June 2004, Johanna has coordinated and investigated all fair hearing requests, represented the agency at all

informal meetings and administrative hearings; provided administrative consultation by responding to questions or concerns regarding legal or regulatory matters,



drafted resolutions to Welfare and Institution Code 4731 complaints, coordinated referrals to legal consultants and functioned as a liaison at all SCLARC related judicial procedures. As the new Fair Hearings and Governmental Affairs Manager, Johanna will continue to oversee all issues related to fair hearings and coordinate all the agency's legislative activities and issues requiring advocacy. She will also now:

- * Serve on the ARCA Legislative Committee
 - * Represent SCLARC at, and coordinate all, Grassroots Day activities in the Capital
 - * Organize and facilitate SCLARC's annual Legislative Forum
 - * Track key pieces of legislation for the Leadership Team and Board of Directors
- Two additional areas where Johanna will bring her expertise are housing and board development. Housing is one of the most pressing issues facing SCLARC's consumers. Through her community activism, Johanna has gained a broad knowledge of housing issues and their impact on Los Angeles residents.

LEADERS FOR A NEW ERA

LEAH CHIN, Program Manager

Leah Chin was promoted to program manager of Unit 6 in the Children and Adult Services Department in January 2007. Ms. Chin will supervise service coordinators, assign caseloads, and coordinate the activities of staff members in providing case management services to assist consumers/families. She will also



facilitate individual and/or group planning meetings to analyze case management problems and train new employees.

Leah was hired as a service coordinator in September of 1998. While at SCLARC, she has served on many volunteer committees including the Dental Task Force and the Virtual Charts Implementation Planning Team. For the last year, she has also been the coordinator of the New Employee Orientation program where she has introduced new staff members to the inner workings of SCLARC. She holds a Master's degree in Human Behavior from National University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton.

In her spare time, Leah likes to read, water ski and has recently learned to snowboard. Leah also likes to spend time enjoying her family and friends.

SAUL LOPEZ, Program Manager

Saul Lopez was promoted in December 2007 to Program Manager of Unit 8 in the Children and Adult Services Department. In his new position, Saul will supervise service coordinators, assign caseloads, and coordinate the activities of staff members in providing case management



services to assist consumers/families. He will also facilitate individual and/or group planning meetings to analyze case manage-

ment trends and train new employees.

Hired as a service coordinator in September of 2005, Mr. Lopez has been a very active employee within the agency. He immediately took on a role of leadership after becoming involved with the Staff Advisory Committee, for which he also served as co-chair person. Saul holds a Master's degree in Health Care Administration from Cal State Long Beach and a Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In his spare time, Saul enjoys playing/watching sports, hiking, attending festivals, camping, reading the newspaper and listening to live music. He also likes to spend quality time with friends and family.

JENICE TURNER, Program Manager

Jenice Turner was hired in December 2007 as a Program Manager for the Department of Children & Adult Services. Jenice comes to SCLARC with a diverse and multi-faceted background in social services and health care. Ms. Turner was most recently employed with SCAN Health Plan as a senior planner. In that capacity, she was responsible for



monitoring service delivery of vendors, project planning and grievance resolution. Jenice's other employment

opportunities was with JB&M Consulting, LLC, Robert F. Kennedy Vital Care and Skilled Health Care Group where she was Director of Social Services responsible for case management, staff training, supervision and budget development.

Jenice received her B.S degree from the University of Southern California in Gerontology and her Masters in Business Administration from The University of Phoenix.

As a Program Manager for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center, Ms. Turner feels she is more than ready to supervise service coordinators, assign caseloads, and coordinate the activities of staff members in providing case management services to assist consumers/families. She will also facilitate individual and/or group planning meetings to analyze case management trends and train new employees.



BUILDING BRIDGES

SCLARC's Vendor Advisory Committee



DAVINA DOUTHARD
Chairperson

Supportive Employment vendor and owner of the Polished Professional, Davina Douthard's commitment to people with developmental disabilities began as a child. Having a brother with a disability fueled her drive to advocate for those who are not able to do so for themselves.



KEN RICHARD
Vice-Chairperson

In 1999, Richard founded Solid Foundation Weight Management Program which was one of the first programs established that addressed weight loss, health and nutritional issues for adults with developmental disabilities. They have been very successful in helping consumers lose weight.



GERI WILLIS
Treasurer

Ms. Willis is the current General Manager for SMS Transportation Services Inc., one of the largest transportation company's in the Southern Los Angeles Region, and the largest transportation provider for SCLARC. She is dedicated to the safe and timely transport of SCLARC consumers.



MARIA PERALTA
Secretary

Following the footsteps of her parents, Maria Peralta has made a lifelong commitment to helping others. As the Program Director of Giant Steps Training Programs, Maria oversees the agency's ILS, Activity Center and Transportation Programs for five Los Angeles County Regional Centers.



650 W. Adams Blvd. Suite 400
Los Angeles, CA 90007