



South Central Los Angeles  
Regional Center  
for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.

**SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER**  
**Remote Zoom Meeting**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Member Present:**

Jesus Murillo	Caycee Ricketts
Cynthia Torres	Luz Curiel
Magali Ochoa	Shavon Spiller
Illona Hendrick	Renard Stanford
Raul Muñoz	Cedron McNight
Teyanna Williams	Sherry Kidd

**Absent:**

Ana DaSilva  
Malcom Harris  
Lauren Black  
Christella Frutos  
Mireya Romero

**Staff Present:**

Dexter Henderson	Jesse Rocha	Sarai Cruz
Jenice Turner	Kyla Lee	Evelyn Ortega
Cherylle Mallinson	Cesar Garcia	
Kiara Lopez	Armando Sanchez	
Daniel Ospina	Moses Shiferaw	

**I. General**

- Daniel Ospina opened the March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board of Directors meeting with a welcome to SCLARC's board and the public.

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

- The meeting was called to order at 7:20pm by The President Jesus Murillo.

**B. Approval of BOD Minutes for January 23, 2024**

**Board Action:**

**Approval of BOD minutes – January 23rd, 2024.**

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams/ Sherry Kidd/ Unanimous

### C. Public Input

- Sofia Cervantes, representing the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, conveyed important information regarding the council's efforts to raise community awareness through state-wide training sessions. She highlighted that these sessions occur virtually every Monday at 10 AM, alternating between English and Spanish. Notably, Sofia announced a forthcoming series on Special Education scheduled for April and May, focusing on topics such as the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and understanding special education evaluations. These sessions are particularly beneficial for families and community members seeking to deepen their understanding and ask questions about these critical topics. Additionally, Sofia emphasized the ongoing provision of orientations for the Self-Determination Program, aiming to empower individuals with disabilities to make informed decisions about their lives. Through these initiatives, the State Council aims to foster greater community understanding and support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

## II. Board Member Reports

### A. Executive Committee – Jesus Murillo

- President, Jesus Murillo, leading the Executive Committee, provided an update on their recent meeting. In the previous month's meeting, the committee discussed the performance evaluation and contract of the director. These matters are set to be further addressed during closed session of the executive committee later today.

### B. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

- During the meeting, Raul Munoz informed attendees that the Supportive Services Committee (SSC) was unable to complete the SSC meeting minutes on time, resulting in a more limited presentation of information than usual. Raul proceeded to summarize the committee's activities over two meetings held in February and March. In the February meeting on the 12th of 2024, the committee discussed Maricel's retirement, recognizing her dedicated service to the regional center. Additionally, they reviewed a presentation on a research proposal by Dr. Robin Dodds, Assistant Professor of Special Education. Raul also advised that updates on the Coordinated Family Services Program and the restoration of the Social Recreation Policy were provided by Jesse Rocha, Director of Adult Services, and Kiara Lopez, Chief Advancement Officer, shared information on technology classes for families and participants. Lastly, the committee heard from Jose Beltran, Community Relations Specialist, regarding the Ambassador Program at SCLARC.

For the special meeting held earlier in March, Raul continued, informing the Board that Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services, provided updates on the trailer bill for social recreation. Raul indicated Jenice will offer further insights and information on the proposed policy changes for social recreation policies and will seek approval of these policy changes during this meeting.

### C. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illiona Hendrick

- Illiona Hendrick provided a detailed report from the Vendor Advisory Committee meeting held on February 14th. The meeting primarily focused on the recent vendor fair held at the LA Convention Center, which was well-attended by service coordinators. Feedback from coordinators indicated excitement and satisfaction with the information obtained and interactions with vendors. The emphasis was on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), with positive feedback regarding the clarity of vendor responsibilities and their practical implementation.

Moving into March, a meeting on the 13th reflected a slightly different structure, allowing for direct communication with SCLARC leadership to discuss the HCBS final rule and interactions with contracted monitors assessing vendor compliance. The aim is to ensure compliance not just on paper but in practice, with discussions ongoing about organizing a family resource fair to support families, individuals, and self-advocates in accessing services and employment opportunities. The target is to hold the fair in early summer to maximize attendance and provide valuable resources. Overall, there was a positive outcome from the March meeting, and there's a commitment to continued partnership with the regional center.

#### **D. [Advocate Advisory Committee](#) – Caycee Ricketts / Bernard Standford**

- The committee reviewed the report on the AAC meetings held in February and March. Firstly, Bernard summarized the meeting in February, where a discussion about housing and roommates was facilitated by Advocate Zoe Ginsburg from WRC. Zoe shared her personal journey, starting from living with her parents to eventually securing her own place with the help of an agency. The discussion highlighted the various living arrangements individuals have, including living independently or with family or agency support. The goal is to assist individuals in finding suitable housing arrangements.

Secondly, Bernard presented Aileen's inspiring story of perseverance and achievement in the AAC meeting held in March. Aileen, inspired by Disney princess movies, authored her own book titled "Lady Dragon." Despite facing challenges, Aileen completed her book, showcasing it at the meeting with a banner and setup table. Her story encouraged attendees to pursue their dreams diligently. Aileen's success in publishing her first book serves as motivation for others to pursue their aspirations.

Overall, the meeting provided valuable insights into housing support and personal achievements, inspiring attendees to dream big and work towards their goals.

#### **E. [Self-Determination Advisory Committee](#) – Jenice Turner**

- Jenice Turner, Director for Children Services, provided a detailed report from the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee.
- The Self Determination Local Advisory Committee met on March 13th from 6pm – 8pm via zoom.
- Cynthia Rivera, SCLARC's Participant Choice Specialist provided a report to the committee as follows:
  - The Independent Facilitator Certification Training concluded in February 2024.
  - Coordinated Family Support Services Program and remote services is now available to individuals enrolled in self-determination.
  - Information on DDS Directives for Initial Person-Centered Plan, Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports under service code 099 and Financial Management Transition Supports was also shared with the committee.

- SCLARC has:
  - 107 individuals currently enrolled in the Self Determination Program.
  - SCLARC’s next Self Determination Orientations are scheduled:
    - Monday, April 22, 2024, 1:00pm-5:00pm in Spanish and Monday, June 17, 2024, 1:00pm-5:00pm in English.
    - SCLARC Orientations are held in-person and via zoom, every other month.
  - The State Council on Developmental Disabilities also offers orientations throughout the month that individuals and families can attend if a SCLARC orientation does not fit their schedule.
  - For additional information on orientation, please reach out to the SCLARC Team at [selfdetermination@sclarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@sclarc.org) or State Council at [losangeles@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@scdd.ca.gov).
- Two self-determination providers also presented their services to the committee:
  - Understanding Needed Integration, which is an employment program and Taghi, which is a personal trainer.
- The committee would like to host another community fair later this year to showcase self-determination services and programs. They will begin searching for a venue so that a date can be secured. Additional details are forthcoming.
- The committee meets every other month, the next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2024, 6pm-8pm, via zoom. Please reach out to our team at [selfdetermination@sclarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@sclarc.org) for information on this meeting, self-determination orientations, upcoming trainings and to join the mailing list.

**F. [Recruitment & Training Committee](#) – Sherry Kidd**

- Sherry Kidd, leading the Recruitment & Training Committee, outlined their meeting schedule and recent activities. The committee meets every other month, specifically on the first Monday of the month, as needed. As of January 2024, the board reached its full capacity with the addition of Christella Frutos as the recent board member. Therefore, there was no need for a meeting in March.

Looking ahead, the committee is considering implementing regular training sessions, potentially on a quarterly basis. This initiative aims to ensure consistency in board operations and understanding among members.

**G. [Finance Committee](#) – Kyla Lee (Reports out on behalf of Lauren Black)**

- Kyla Lee, reporting on behalf of Lauren Black, presented the Finance Committee's update during the recent meeting on March 20, 2024. The report commenced with a brief synopsis from the Acting CPA Auditors concerning the year-end audit, concluding on June 30th, 2023. The board will subsequently be called upon for approval alongside Form 990.

### III. Staff Reports

#### A. AGT CPAs & Advisors Reports – Ellyn Bruce & Kristel Maikranz – (Kyla Lee)

- Ellyn Bruce, Audit Manager from AGT CPA's and Advisors, joined and provided a succinct presentation on the financial statements during the meeting. The committee, along with management, meticulously reviewed the financial statements, schedules, notes, and Form 990. Bruce expressed appreciation for management's efficiency and organization during the audit process, highlighting their responsiveness to inquiries and timely provision of information.

The focus of Bruce's presentation was on the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs, specifically page 33, which summarized crucial audit information. She emphasized that the audit report issued was unmodified, signifying a clean audit with no internal control findings or noncompliance issues. This positive outcome indicates the reliability of the financial statements and underscores the Finance Department's effective reporting structure.

Bruce concluded by commending Kyla, the CFO, and Robert, the Controller, for their outstanding work in financial reporting. Upon the board's approval of the financial statements, they will be finalized and issued, marking the completion of the reporting for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Additionally, the Form 990 report will be finalized, wrapping up the reporting process for that period. The presentation also noted that there are four years left in the audit cycle.

#### **Board Action:**

##### **Approval of SCLARC's Draft Financial Statements ending June 30, 2023.**

M/S/C: Sherry Kidd/ Teyanna Williams/ Unanimous

#### **Board Action:**

##### **Approval of SCLARC's Form 990 - June 30, 2023.**

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams/ Sherry Kidd/ Unanimous

#### B. Budget Update & Finance Report (January 2024) – Kyla Lee

- **Statement of Financial Position Summary**
  - Cash position at the end of January was approximately \$49 million, down from \$105 million last year, indicating a \$56 million decrease.
  - Accounts payable increased to \$42 million from \$37 million last year, reflecting a rise of roughly \$5 million.
  - Expenses are expected to increase as the fiscal year progresses into March and April, with cash advances being utilized for payments to vendors and staff, maintaining a healthy balance sheet.
- **Statement of Activities Summary / POS Expenditure Projection (PEP) Summary**
  - \$29 million has been spent on operations, which is 41% of the allocation.
  - \$289 million has been spent on purchased services, accounting for 56% of the allocation, with an anticipated total spending of \$499 million.
  - A new Projection Expenditure Summary (PEP) system has been implemented, providing uniform reporting across all regional centers, indicating a potential \$16 million allocation balance remaining.
- **POS Expenditure Projection Summary**
  - Current spending projections indicate a shortfall of \$2.8 million by the end of the year, necessitating additional funds.

- Total preliminary allocation for operations and purchased services was \$587 million, of which \$320 million has been spent to date, with plans to spend another \$253 million.
- The DDS-modified document ensures consistency in reporting format across regional centers, facilitating better understanding and monitoring of expenses.

### C. SCLARC's Whistleblower Policy Update – Cherylle Mallinson

- Cherylle Mallinson provided an update on the whistleblower policy, specifically focusing on pages 109 to 111 of the binder. The update pertains to page one (1) of the policy, specifically number 5, listing Maricel Cruzat as the clinical director. Since Maricel Cruzat has left and retired from SCLARC, her name has been replaced with Cesar Garcia. Mallinson emphasized that this update does not require any changes for approval but rather requests attention to the matter.

### D. SCLARC's NCI Surveys Presentation – Ayana Shepherd and Dr. Samantha Rowles

- Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services introduces Dr. Samantha Rowles and Ayana Shepherd, who presented the NCI (National Core Indicators) data for SCLARC's Plan for FY 2021-2022. The NCI survey has been conducted since 2000 to assess the performance of services and support provided to individuals with disabilities and their families. Three main surveys were discussed: the Child Family Survey, the Adult Family Survey, and the Family Guardian Survey.

Results from these surveys indicated:

- **Child Family Survey Highlights:**
  - 33% reported always being able to contact their service coordinator.
  - 19% knew what to do if they disagreed with the regional center's services.
- **Adult Family Survey Highlights:**
  - 49% reported always being able to contact their service coordinator.
  - 38% knew what to do if they disagreed with the regional center's services.
  - 77% felt their culture was respected by their child's case manager.
- **Family Guardian Survey Highlights:**
  - 39% always felt their culture was respected.
  - 29% knew what to do if they disagreed with the regional center's services.
  - 78% always felt their culture was respected.

Addressing the findings, SCLARC staff provide ongoing cultural training and ensure that individuals and families receive support in their preferred language. Measures include but are not limited to providing complaint forms and appeals rights brochures, offering access to IPPs (Individual Program Plans) in preferred languages, and organizing community events and resource information sessions. Overall, SCLARC is committed to supporting families and ensuring they receive the services they need. (Please see NCI presentation handout for detailed information).

### B. Social Recreation Policy Changes – (Jenice Turner)

- Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services, presented changes to SCLARC's Social Recreational Policy during a meeting. The goal was to ensure individuals have access to social and recreational activities. Changes include updating the policy language to reflect the process that service coordinators complete to show information with the planning team about social recreation and camping programs. Notable changes include clarifications that individuals cannot port services or change hours for any service

funded by SCLARC without approval. The policy emphasizes that service requests must be justified and meet the individual's needs as noted in their IPP. An exception policy has been added to accommodate individual situations. The process for securing social recreation and camping services involves reviewing the policy with the planning team and ensuring requested services appropriately address goals and outcomes documented in the IPP. Additionally, the policy outlines three ways SCLARC can fund social recreation and therapy services: direct authorization through a regional center vendor, reimbursement to the family, or direct purchase by a case management service provider. The purpose of the POS Funding Committee is clarified to review service requests for compliance with POS policies and laws.

**Board Action:**

**Approval of SCLARC's Social Recreation Policy Changes**

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams/ Raul Munoz/ Unanimous

**IV. New Business**

**IV. Executive Director Report – (Dexter Henderson)**

- Mr. Henderson introduced Cesar Garcia as the new Director of Clinical Services. Garcia's background includes starting as a service coordinator, which is viewed favorably by families due to their understanding of coordinator responsibilities. He progressed from a program manager to assistant director and eventually director of client services, demonstrating professional growth within the organization. Garcia emphasizes fairness, professional integrity, and creating a positive environment. Despite being in the role for only two months, his contributions are already appreciated, and he will provide further updates at the next board meeting.
- Mr. Henderson and President Jesus Murrillo adjourn the Board Meeting by explaining to the board and the public once again the topics that will be talked about in the closed Executive Session and the items that will be discussed during the next Board of Directors meeting, May 28, 2024.

**VI. Executive (Closed Session)**

- Performance Evaluation
- Real Estate lease Revision / Resolutions
- Real Estate Negotiation
- Real Estate Litigation

**\* VII. Meeting Adjournment**

**VIII. Supplemental Information:**

**Submitted by:**

---

**Ingrid Oliva**  
**Executive Assistant**

---

**Date**

**Approved by:**

---

**Shavon Spiller**  
**Board Secretary**

---

**Date**