



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**  
**May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Member Present:**

Jesus Murillo	Caycee Ricketts
Luz Curiel	Renard Stanford
Illona Hendrick	Mireya Romero
Raul Muñoz	Teyanna Williams
Sherry Kidd	

**Members Absent:**

Magali Ochoa	Malcolm Harris
Shavon Spiller	Ana De Silva
Cedron McNight	Christella Frutos

**Staff Present:**

Dexter Henderson	Jesse Rocha
Jenice Turner	Kyla Lee
Cherylle Mallinson	Cesar Garcia
Ingrid Oliva	Perla J. Leon
Armando Sanchez	

**I. General**

- Board President, Jesus Murillo, opened the May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom with roll call.

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

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by The President Jesus Murillo.

**B. Public Input – None**

**C. Approval of BOD Minutes for November 14, 2023**

**Board Action:**

**Approved BOD minutes - March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams/Renard Stanford/Unanimous

## II. Board Member Reports

### A. Executive Committee – Jesus Murillo

Ms. Lauren Black, who served as Treasurer, has tendered her resignation and appointed Ms. Sherry Kidd as her successor in this role. The closed session meeting originally scheduled has been postponed to the next board of directors' meeting. During the previous session, discussions included the real estate lease agreement matter concerning South Gate, as well as pending allegations related to the original center. Additionally, the executive board reviewed Mr. Henderson's contract during this meeting.

### B. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

- Mr. Muñoz provided key updates from the latest committee meeting, including the introduction of Cesar Garcia as SCLARC's new Director of Clinical Services. Mr. Garcia brings over 30 years of experience in disability services development, and the committee expressed enthusiasm about his appointment.

#### **Mr. Cesar Garcia delivered a presentation to the committee on DDS Public Comment Opportunities:**

- DDS conducted public comment sessions in April to address issues such as race, ethnicity, and self-determination. These sessions are crucial for DDS to assess representation gaps among the diverse groups receiving services.

#### **Mr. Jesse Rocha introduced the Coordinated Career Pathways program:**

- Scheduled for launch in June across all Regional Centers, this program was established following the enactment of a trailer bill in October 2023.
- The program aims to facilitate connections between young adults and competitive integrated employment opportunities. Currently, SCLARC is actively seeking vendors and providers to support this initiative.

#### **Ms. Kiara Lopez reported on the successful Grassroots Day event:**

- Ms. Lopez, accompanied by Mr. John McKnight and other staff members, attended this productive in-person event.
- Discussions at the event focused on two main issues: advocating for a vendor rate increase and developing a blue envelope initiative. The latter aims to identify individuals with disabilities within the community, enhancing law enforcement's awareness and interaction protocols.

### C. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illiona Hendrick

- Vendor Advisory Committee met on May 8th.
- The committee engaged with vendors to ensure compliance with Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) standards and expressed satisfaction with the outcomes related to HCBS.
- The committee will actively participate in upcoming rallies, commencing on May 31st, aimed at urging legislators to uphold their commitment at the Keep The Promise Community Rally. These rallies are a response to the governor's May revise, which proposed delaying the scheduled increase in services and service providers' compensation from July 2024 to 2025. It is crucial for VAC to attend these rallies and demonstrate solidarity with vendors, as this delay could potentially impact the services provided by SCLARC and the individuals it serves. The rallies are scheduled to occur in Irvine, West Covina, and San Diego.

- VAC is currently in negotiations to secure the necessary resources for the Family Resource Fair, an upcoming summer event tailored for the families and individuals under our care. The event aims to provide attendees with essential information about the resources and services available at SCLARC.

#### **D. Advocate Advisory Committee – Caycee Ricketts**

- Insight was shared by advocate Esther Kelsey from Westside Regional Center, emphasizing the importance of respect, honesty, and mindfulness. Ms. Kelsey illustrated her own experience of handling disrespect positively. Additionally, AAC members engaged in roleplaying scenarios focused on respect.
- In the May 2024 AAC meeting, gratitude was expressed to Mr. Henderson for facilitating Advocates' attendance at the 28th annual Supported Life Conference. Attendees enjoyed sessions aboard a boat, participated in the self-determination program, and strengthened family bonds. Renard Stanford was recognized for winning a prize related to family bonds during the event.

#### **E. Self-Determination Advisory Committee – Jenice Turner**

- The Self Determination Local Advisory Committee met on May 8th from 6pm – 8pm via zoom.
- Cynthia Rivera, SCLARC's Participant Choice Specialist provided a report to the committee as follows:
  - As of June 1, 2024, SCLARC will serve 120 individuals in the Self Determination Program.
    - SCLARC's next Self Determination Orientation is on Monday, June 17th, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in English, available in-person at SCLARC's South Gate Office and via Zoom. Additionally, SCLARC offers a self-paced orientation through our Learning Management System (LMS). The State Council on Developmental Disabilities also provides orientations throughout the month.
    - For more information on orientation, contact the SCLARC Team at [selfdetermination@sclarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@sclarc.org) or the State Council at [losangeles@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:losangeles@scdd.ca.gov).
  - DDS Directives were shared as follows:
    - April 22, 2024, for Updated Billing Requirements for Services under the Self Determination Program.
    - April 25, 2024, for an Update to Financial Management Service Provider Requirements; and Employer Burden and Other Employment Related Costs.
  - Ms. Rivera also provided an update on items expensed through the Self Determination Local Advisory Committee allocation for Fiscal Year 2021/2022. The entire allocation of \$89,260 has been utilized.
- Individuals enrolled in Self Determination presented their experience with the program and the impact of services received on their daily lives. The committee also brainstormed ways to support individuals and families with barriers experienced during transition into the program.

- The committee meets every other month, the next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 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. Finance Committee – Sherry Kidd

- On May 15, 2024, the committee approved the finance committee meetings held on March 20, 2024, without any revisions. Kyla Lee provided updates, noting the resignation of Chairperson Lauren Black and the appointment of Ms. Sherry Kidd as interim finance chair. Ms. Lee presented the E-2 Allocation, which allocated \$1.4 million for operations and \$83 million for POS, resulting in a total year allocation of \$617 million. Preliminary allocations for fiscal year 24-25 (A-Preliminary) included \$45 million for operations and \$476 million for POS, totaling \$521 million. SCLARC is slated to receive three cash advances totaling \$130 million starting in July 2024, which Ms. Lee will seek board approval for.
- Ms. Lee also presented the final 22-23 common area maintenance invoice from CID, amounting to \$763,810. These invoices cover operating expenses that exceeded the limit, necessitating board approval. Management has been authorized to commence the search for a replacement site for the SCLARC office in South Gate. Additionally, the new SCLARC site at 221 S Western Ave, Los Angeles, has received approval from DDS.

### III. Staff Reports

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

- **Statement of Financial Position:** The current cash balance is \$79 million, compared to \$105 million at the same time last year, indicating a decrease of \$27 million. Accounts payable as of March are \$41 million, up from \$38 million last year, an increase of \$2.7 million. The decrease in cash flow during this period is due to reduced state claims. However, we maintain a strong cash flow to end the fiscal year. For the preliminary contract, SCLARC will receive \$139 million in cash advances, which will sustain us until we receive full reimbursement.
- **Statement of Activities:** We have spent approximately \$38 million, which is 53% of the total allocation. Operational expenses have amounted to \$72 million. For purchasing services, \$421 million has been spent from an allocation of \$671 million. The projected spending by the end of the year is \$596 million, leaving \$75,844,000 available for additional allocations if needed. The allocation summary includes \$72 million for operations, \$200,000 for the Family Resource Center (FRC), and \$892,000 for Community Placement Plan (CPP) operations. The total Purchase of Services (POS) allocation is \$594 million, with \$4.4 million in CPP POS, bringing the total allocation to \$671 million through the E-2 allocation.
- **POS Expenditure Projection Summary:** A form is available for all regional centers to assist in POS expenditure projections. By the end of the fiscal year, we anticipate \$514 million as the maximum expenditure for the current month's projection.
- **Approval of E-2 Allocation:** We have received \$1.4 million, with a significant portion designated for tuition reimbursement. SCLARC received \$741,000, which can be used to reimburse staff for college expenses or to support programs within specified parameters. Under POS, we received \$82 million primarily for base allocations to pay vendors and received CPP and Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) allocations for housing plans. We need board approval to send this back to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

**Board Action:**

Approval of the E-2 Allocation

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams / Mireya Romero / Unanimous

- **A-Prelim Allocation** – Received \$45 million on A-preliminary allocation and for POS \$475 million, which gets us started on the fiscal year of roughly \$521 million. Ended last year with \$671 million and we are starting at \$520 million, which is under about \$100 million. However, every year allocations continue to grow. Will receive 3 cash advances of roughly \$43 million each, first one starting in July 15, the second one two weeks after, and the third one in August.

**Board Action:**

Approval of the A-Prelim Allocation

M/S/C: Jesus Murillo / Teyanna Williams / Unanimous

- **CID Invoice** – For FY 2022-2023, the lease agreement specifies that SCLARC is responsible for the operating costs of the building. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, expenses totaled \$1.3 million. SCLARC has reimbursed \$1,000,076 and still owes \$763,000. These expenses include maintenance, security, insurance, and other repair costs. CID has refinanced the bond, which will reduce the amount SCLARC needs to pay for rent, allowing more funds to be redirected towards operating costs.

**Board Action:**

Approval of the CID Invoice

M/S/C: Jesus Murillo / Mireya Romero / Unanimous

**H. The Approval of DRAFT 2024 Performance Contract – Cherylle Mallinson**

- The law mandates that the contract with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) includes annual performance objectives.
- The Performance Contract is due on June 15 (refer to page 44 of the slides).
- Slide 59 compares SCLARC's 2020-2021 employment performance to that of the state of California.
- The LA Times highlighted SCLARC's success in reducing disparities related to the use of our purchase service dollars.
- A public meeting on the performance contract was held on May 23rd. Before this meeting, SCLARC distributed a survey in English and Spanish to identify areas for improvement as suggested by the community. The main feedback focused on the quality of services, services for DCFS placements, and resources for children's homes.
- The survey included demographic questions and asked respondents if they were regional center staff, family members, community members, or vendors.
- Another topic of discussion at the public meeting was increasing resources for families in daycare programs, such as transportation vouchers for services like Uber or Lyft and increasing the number of vendors in SCLARC's catchment area.

- In the fiscal year 2022-2023, utilization by African Americans increased to 59.2%, compared to 57.2% in the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
- During the same fiscal years, the Hispanic community's utilization rate rose to 66.2% from 63.7%.
- Under Measure 8, which covers intake and assessment, it was noted that six individuals took more than 240 days to complete the intake process instead of the standard 142 days.
- Improving the intake process is a priority, and Mr. Garcia is working on hiring more intake coordinators for this purpose.
- Ms. Mallinson will focus on increasing resources needed for early start services.
- SCLARC has hosted three job fairs with employers such as Disney, Crypto Arena, and LAUSD participating. SCLARC has successfully retained three individuals to work for the organization.

**Board Action:**

Approval of the DRAFT 2024 Performance Contract with the pending revision of the report to include daycare.

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

- **Information about ICF Lag Funding Social Recreation Policy Changes – Cherylle Mallinson**  
Regional Centers are to issue lag funding while intermediate care facilities are transitioning to managed care plans. ICF are having significant delays in receiving reimbursement from managed care providers. This will not replace the managed care plan reimbursement process. Another directive was sent that this will be extended until the end of the year. Providers need to sign an attestation agreement that they will reimburse SCLARC after 15 days of receiving payment from managed care. They also need to provide the name of individuals they served and the number of days the individual was placed there. They must also have a current ICF license. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, ICF Lag Funding is at \$1,760,000.

**I. Social Recreation Policy Changes – Jenice Turner**

**Approval of SCLARC's Social Recreation Policy Changes  
Postponed for next BOD meeting in July**

- SCLARC planned to present Social Recreation Policy Changes to the Board for approval this evening. However, on Friday, May 24th, DDS informed us that they will request additional changes to the policy. As a result, we are postponing the presentation. We hope to receive the necessary information from DDS in the coming weeks to present this item at the July Board meeting.

**J. Research Update Improving Services for SCLARC – Cesar Garcia**

Briefly introduced Dr. Robin Dodds, who has been working in collaboration with SCLARC to research how families and individuals have been utilizing the services we provide. Dr. Dodds is an Associate Professor of Special Education at CSULA. Dr. Dodds received her PhD at UCSB and conducted a post-doctorate fellowship at the University of Illinois, Chicago, in the department of Disabilities and Human Development. She is currently the Principal Investigator for the Institute of Education Services.

- **Introduction of Dr. Robin Dodds:**

Dr. Robin Dodds was briefly introduced as a collaborator with SCLARC, researching how families and individuals utilize our services. Dr. Dodds is an Associate Professor of Special Education at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). She earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois, Chicago, in the Department of Disabilities and Human Development. Currently, she serves as the Principal Investigator for the Institute of Education Services.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **President Jesus Murillo**

- The Board of Directors (BOD) Retreat is scheduled for September 20th and 21st. Flyers and location details will be distributed soon.
- Mr. Murillo will attend the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Meeting in June in Sacramento.
- Surveys will be sent to the board to gather preferences for attending meetings in person or in a hybrid format on select days.

##### **Chair Sherry Kidd**

- Additional members are needed for the Board of Directors. Interested individuals should email [IngridO@sclarc.org](mailto:IngridO@sclarc.org). Applications will be reviewed at the next meeting on June 3rd.

#### **V. Executive Director Report – Dexter Henderson**

- Mr. Henderson acknowledged that the funds used for Dr. Dodds' research were paid from SCLARC's operational budget, emphasizing the importance of the issues highlighted by Dr. Dodds. He expressed pride in SCLARC being one of the few centers to take the initiative to explore ways to better serve individuals receiving services. This project, he noted, will provide SCLARC with valuable direction for the future in serving individuals who are currently underutilizing our services.

#### **VI. Executive Session – Postponed for July 23<sup>rd</sup> BOD Meeting**

- **Approval of March 24<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting**
- Executive Director Contract Discussion
- Real Estate Litigation – Update

#### **VII. Meeting Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm by The President Jesus Murillo.

#### **VIII. Supplemental Information**

#### **\*Action Item**

**Submitted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ingrid Oliva**  
**Executive Assistant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Shavon Spiller**  
**Board Secretary**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**