



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
August 6th, 2024
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Member Present:

Jesus Murillo	Illona Hendrick
Cynthia Torres	Raul Munoz
Sherry Kidd	Magali Ochoa
Shavon Spiller	Mireya Romero
Caycee Ricketts	Luz Curiel
Teyanna Williams	Renard Standford
Cedron McKnight	Christella Frutos
Hyunju Lee	

Members Absent:

Ana Da Silva

Staff Present:

Dexter Henderson	Jesse Rocha
Jenice Turner	Kyla Lee
Cherylle Mallinson	Cesar Garcia
Ingrid Oliva	Kiara Lopez
Armando Sanchez	Javier Ramirez

I. General

- Board President, Jesus Murillo, opened the August 6th, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom with roll call.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by The President Jesus Murillo.

B. Public Input – None

C. Approval of BOD Minutes for May 28, 2024

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes - May 28th, 2024

M/S/C: Mireya Romero/Sherry Kidd /Unanimous

II. Board Member Reports

A. Executive Committee – Jesus Murillo

Board Action:

Approval of Retroactive Renewal for a Second Term- Mireya Romero- Effective 4/27/24 - 4/27/2027
M/S/C: Teyanna Williams / Magali Ochoa/ Unanimous

B. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

- Mr. Muñoz provided key updates from the latest committee meeting, including revisions to the new Social Recreation Policy Changes presented by Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services. Ms. Turner discussed policy changes related to social recreation and non-medical therapy services. It was detailed how these changes affect service accessibility.
- Cynthia Rivera, Participant Choice Specialist, introduced updates to the self-determination program. It was announced that participants can now complete an online orientation through the new Learning Management System (LMS) at their own pace before joining the self-determination program. The portal covers program processes such as budgeting and finding an independent facilitator.
- Joseph Velasquez, Talent Development and Training Manager, outlined the new training opportunities and the Pathway Program for Board Members.
- The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 12, at 6 PM via Zoom. If you're interested in learning about upcoming programs or policy changes regarding services, please join us.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illiona Hendrick

- Vendor Advisory Committee met on July 10th, 2024.
- DDS presented incentive programs for providers, emphasizing the importance of completing surveys to provide feedback on business practices, training, and payments. This information helps the department during rate setting and when developing future incentives.
- SCLARC Leadership provided information on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) compliance for home and community-based services, highlighting DDS's directive for adherence both on paper and in practice, while also noting that consultants have been deployed to evaluate vendors in the community to ensure compliance with HCBS regulations.
- Efforts to address budget cuts and state budget issues through rallies, letters, and calls to the governor were successful advocacy which led to only a six-month delay in budget increases, rather than a full year.

- There will be no meeting for the month of August. Next meeting postponed to September 11th, 2024, at 10am.

D. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Stanford

- The ACC meeting on June 22, 2024, focused on community safety with a presentation by South Central Los Angeles Emergency Response Manager Rupert Staine. Key safety tips included staying alert, avoiding cellphone use while walking, walking in groups of two or more, and making noise if walking alone.
- DDS emphasized the importance of having an emergency response plan at all 21 regional centers. They highlighted the right to use pepper spray for self-defense, advised against leaving extra keys in visible places, and noted that no neighborhood is completely safe. Participants were encouraged to join neighborhood watch programs, avoid posting whereabouts on social media, and leave keys with trusted family members.
- On July 22, 2024, Monique Craig, Educational Specialist, discussed the importance of higher education and available resources. She highlighted that the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires schools receiving federal funding to be accessible. The Department of Rehabilitation offers support for booking, transportation, and tuition. Suggested college options include West LA College and Long Beach City College.

E. Recruitment & Training Committee – Sherry Kidd

- The Self Determination Local Advisory Committee met on June 3rd and July 1st.
- The committee announced the vacant Board of Directors position through LinkedIn and via public announcements made by Sherry Kidd at the Board of Directors meeting on May 21, 2020. This outreach resulted in a strong response, with applications and communications from 20 individuals. The recruiting and training committee and the Executive Committee subsequently interviewed 4 of these candidates.
- Currently, there is 1 opening on the Board of Directors. The recruitment committee and the Executive Committee have recommended Hyunju Lee as a potential candidate for this position. Hyunju Lee will be presented to the Board later this evening for a vote of acceptance or rejection.
- The recruitment and training members of the Executive Committee have interviewed 3 candidates for future Board openings. These future openings are expected to be filled within the next 5 months, with a possible special Board meeting before September 20, 2024.
- The committee will meet on the 1st of Monday of every month by announcement to members as needed for planning, interviews, or training purposes.

- Hyunju Lee addressed the board, expressing her enthusiasm about joining SLARC. She is eager to contribute positively to the community with her knowledge and experience.

Board Action:

Approval of new Board Member Hyunju Lee

M/S/C: Teyanna Willaims /Cynthia Torres /Unanimous

F. Finance Committee – Sherry Kidd

On July 31, 2024, the Committee approved the Finance Committee minutes from May 15, 2024, with no corrections. Kayla Lee provided the following updates:

- She reviewed DDS drafts for fiscal years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, discussing the DDS audit findings and the corrective actions being taken. SCLARC responded appropriately to a DDS letter sent to Mr. Henderson and the Board Chair.
- SCLARC has secured new office space at 221 Western Ave, Los Angeles. This office will provide 60 workspaces and accommodate 120 telecommuting staff, with an opening scheduled for February 2025.
- The lower level of the Goldene State Mutual Building is being converted into office space for 26 staff members, with tenant improvement work scheduled from August 7 to October 31.
- The team completed the 2023-2024 fiscal year, including the rollover process. New authorizations for all vendors have been issued for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024.
- SCLARC's independent auditor, AGT, will begin preliminary auditing in September 2024 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Rate implementation will start on January 1, 2025, with vendors receiving 90% of their benchmark rate. To receive the final 10%, vendors must complete a service provider survey.
- The next Finance Committee meeting is set for September 18, 2024.

III. Staff Reports

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

- **Statement of Financial Position:** As of June 30, 2024, the final month of the fiscal year, the cash balance stands at approximately \$34 million. This is a decrease from nearly \$51 million at the same time last year, reflecting a reduction of about \$16 million. A line of credit was utilized for roughly \$17 million by June 27, but this amount was promptly repaid upon receiving the first DDS advance on July 10. Accounts payable at the end of June totaled \$42 million, up from \$31 million last year. This increase is primarily due to timing differences in check runs and report generation, but the overall financial position remains strong.

- **Statement of Activities:** For the operational allocation as of June, \$72 million was allocated, with \$53 million spent, or 74% of the total. The remaining balance is expected to be fully utilized. In terms of Purchase of Services (POS), the allocation for the year was \$594 million, with \$526 million, or 88%, spent to date. An additional \$25 million is projected to be spent, reaching a total utilization of \$552 million. The allocation summary includes \$72 million for our operation, \$200,000 for (FRC), and \$892,000 for Community Placement Plan (CPP) operations. The total Purchase Service (POS) allocation with \$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 regional centers to assist in POS expenditure projections. The projected maximum expenditure for the fiscal year is estimated at \$552 million, accounting for outstanding bills and other factors. The allocation schedule shows a significant increase from last year's allocation of approximately \$590 million, reaching nearly \$672 million this year.
- **Approval E-2 Allocation:** An E-2 allocation of \$1.4 million has been received, with a significant portion designated for tuition reimbursement. Of this amount, \$741,000 is allocated for staff reimbursement of college expenses or program support within specified parameters. Additionally, \$82 million was received for POS, primarily for base allocations to pay vendors. CPP and Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) allocations were also received for housing plans. Board approval is required to submit this allocation back to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

B. Employment Services- Cherylle Mallinson

- Introduced by Governor Brown, Assembly Bill 1041 established California with employment policies for individuals with developmental disabilities, promoting integrated competitive employment. Regional Centers, including SCLARC, appointed Employment Specialists to enhance these opportunities.

Job fairs showed varied outcomes:

- April 2013: 14 employers, 30 attendees; minimal hires.
- November 2013: 8 employers, 177 attendees; some hires and gift cards issued.
- March 2024: 6 employers, increased attendance; 1 hire despite challenges.
- Ongoing initiatives include collaborations with Pathways Business Service Program and DOR, resulting in 10 participants with 7 securing employments. Opportunities were created at Disney, Crypto Arena, LAUSD, Clippers Stadium, and USC. Challenges remain in converting internships to permanent roles.

C. Standardized IPP Template and Procedures- Jesse Rocha

- Presenter Jesse Rocha, Director of Adult Services, provided an update on the new standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP) requirements. The new approach emphasizes person-centered planning, focusing on individual goals, strengths, and preferences while considering health, safety, relationships, and community resources. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is introducing a standardized IPP template, agreement, and guide for regional centers.
- The rollout will begin on June 30, 2024, when regional centers will receive the new IPP materials. DDS will start updating the state case management system in July 2024, followed by SCLARC's update of its IPP template in the Smart Chart system from August to September 2024.
- SCLARC is currently in the initial stages of integrating the new IPP template and agreement into its systems. The next steps involve continuing the development of Smart system integration and preparing for DDS training sessions for SCLARC staff. The focus remains on ensuring a smooth transition to the new IPP requirements and effectively incorporating the standardized materials into daily operations.

G. D. Social Recreation Policy Changes – Jenice Turner

- Janice Turner, Director of Children's Services, is reviewing final changes to the social recreation, camping, and non-medical therapy services policy.
- DDS granted temporary approval on June 29, 2024. Board approval is now requested.
- "Horseback riding and equestrian services" replaced with "non-medical therapy" throughout the policy
- Section B (Criteria for POS Funding) now specifies required documentation, including program registration letters, flyers, brochures, or program websites.
- Removed specific vendor requirements (Section 4E) not applicable to all vendors
- Non-medical therapy vendor requirements adjusted to align with CCR Title 17 regulations.
- Added a template for weekly social recreation activity schedules for funding requests.
- Option included for participant-directed services funded by financial management services to enhance access to services.
- Conclusion: The changes aim to streamline and clarify the policy, improving compliance and accessibility.

Board Action:

Approval of Policy Changes

M/S/C: Raul Munoz /Magali Ochoa / Unanimous

E. 2024 HCB Medicaid Waiver Audit Preliminary Results— Cesar Garcia

- This year, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) reviewed approximately 130 cases and 18 vendor files—a significant increase from previous years. The audit covered a broad range of individuals, including those living at home with family, those living independently with support, and residents of licensed facilities.
- Considerable effort was invested in preparing for and addressing the audit findings.
- The 2024 Medicaid waiver audit achieved a 99% overall compliance score. The audit, covering 130 cases and 18 vendor files, was more extensive than previous cycles. Positive feedback was received, with Community Care Facilities scoring 98% and Day Programs 100%.
- The audit team praised SCLARC for its performance, noting that all staff interviewed demonstrated a strong understanding of Medicaid waiver procedures and a high level of care.
- This reflects the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the service coordinators, managers, leadership, and team.

F. Outreach Efforts- Kiara Lopez

- The SCLARC Ambassadors Program features 10 trained ambassadors assisting with resource fairs, applications, and family connections. Community outreach includes resource fairs, presentations, and training on intake and eligibility. Requests for presentations can be made via the website form.
- Partners for Children South Los Angeles involves 40 agencies offering resources and referrals for families with children ages 0-5, including HeadStart and other services.
- The Technology Lending Program offers 50 laptops and hotspots for 90-day loans, with possible extensions. It is one of seven regional centers in LA County providing this service.
- Technology classes, in partnership with Everyone On, cover basic computer skills, Zoom, and SCLARC family app over a four-week series, available in English and Spanish at Southgate and LA offices. There is a waiting list for classes, with six additional sessions planned.
- A successful video testimonial from a participant is also available.

IV. New Business-

V. Executive Director Report – Dexter Henderson

No additional information or report was provided due to the questions already addressed.

VI. Executive Session-

VII. Meeting Adjournment-

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm by The President Jesus Murillo.

VIII. Supplemental Information-

Submitted by:

Ingrid Oliva
Executive Assistant

Date

Approved by:

Shavon Spiller
Board Secretary

Date