

sclarc scene

*the newsletter for south
central los angeles
regional center*



february 2018



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group of interns

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THIRTY YEARS OF COMMITTED SERVICE—When asked to sum up his illustrious career at SCLARC, Reuben is quick to quote his catch phrase, “SCLARC is more than just a job, it’s an adventure.” A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Reuben looks forward to traveling and being bicoastal in order to spend time with his “Ace Jace”—his first grandchild who lives in Atlanta. (From left) Mr. Lee is pictured above with Program Manager Joseph Velasquez, Administrative Assistant Irene Arcinada and Team Leader Andrea Holliis-Shells.

winter

issue # 1

vol. 16

director reuben lee retires from south central los angeles regional center

For the past 10 years, Reuben Lee has served as Director of the Consumer and Support Services Department. Mr. Lee has been with SCLARC since February 1987 and has held several positions including Service Coordinator, Placement Specialist, Senior Service Coordinator, Program Manager and Assistant Director. On February 28, 2018, he will retire from South Central Los Angeles Regional Center after an illustrious and committed 30-year career.

Mr. Lee’s staff consists of the lion’s share of SCLARC’s service coordinators who are responsible for ongoing case management and support services for 15,000 consumers and their families. His team is responsible for purchasing services for SCLARC’s consumers, providing supports and reports, and conducting internal audits to ensure compliance with mandated Federal and State standards. Additionally, he serves as one of the lead managers for internal and external audits and on select Interdisciplinary Review Teams. When asked to sum up his illustrious career at SCLARC, Reuben is quick to quote his catch phrase, “SCLARC is more than just a job ... it’s an adventure.”

jesse rocha selected as new director of consumer supports services

SCLARC's Leadership Team is pleased to announce that Jesse Rocha has been appointed the new Director of the Consumer Support Services Department. Mr. Rocha will continue to work in his present position as Assistant Director and transition into his new role in March. Jesse began his career with SCLARC in 1997 as a Service Coordinator and worked in that capacity until 2003. At that time, he was promoted to the position of Fair Hearing & Complaints Coordinator. As Fair Hearing Coordinator, he held informal mediations, participated in state level hearings, met mandated time frames for responding to hearing requests and informed staff of legislation as it pertained to individuals diagnosed with a developmental disability.

In 2004, Jesse was promoted to Program Manager, supervising a staff of 15 service coordinators. In addition to these duties, he was very instrumental in the implementation of the Virtual Chart system, a new computer program designed to improve efficiencies in Regional Centers' Case Management efforts. In 2008, Mr. Rocha was named Assistant Director where he currently supervises four managers and works with other departments to develop and implement the new Smart Chart case management computer program. Smart Chart is intended to help the agency stay in compliance with yearly mandated changes under state law. In this role, he also represents the agency and works collaboratively with external stakeholders to develop partner relationships with agencies that provide a myriad of generic resources.

As the new Director of the Consumer Support Services, Mr. Rocha will lead management staff and support services for over 15,000 consumers and their families. He will provide oversight to 14 case management units including the residential placement and special incident/risk mitigation teams. Jesse will also be responsible for attending and participating in Board of Director meetings; participating on state and local agency committees, and establishing, in conjunction with the Executive Director and Board of Directors, policies and programs for SCLARC.

Mr. Rocha attended and received his Bachelors of Arts Degree in Sociology from California State University, Northridge and his Masters of Science in Health Care Management from California State University, Los Angeles. The entire agency wishes Mr. Rocha much success in his new role.



jesse rocha

Have you visited SCLARC's McClaney Family Resource Center lately?

You can keep up with all the exciting activities at the McClaney FRC by going to www.mcclaneyfrc.org.

Also visit its facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcclaneyfrc

sclarc celebrates its inaugural group of LEAP

SCLARC, with the assistance of its community and vendor partners--Banneker Career and Transition Center and Pathways Employment Services respectively--successfully implemented the Legacy Employment Assistance Program (LEAP) as a pilot program. From August 15 through December 14, 2017, SCLARC provided an opportunity for six of its consumers to gain valuable work experience. Tabitha Lopez, Angelica Machado, Christian Oleta, Tommaniqueka Varnado, Rudyard Sighn and German Vasquez rotated through a series of work assignments at SCLARC that included administrative office work, mailroom duties, janitorial rotations, as well as land- and street-scaping responsibilities. The interns were on SCLARC's Legacy campus five days a week for a four-month period, which culminated in a certificate ceremony and Christmas luncheon celebration.

Tabitha was excited and nervous about the program initially, but she wants to be "self-sufficient and make a contribution to her family." **Angelica** was excited by the opportunity to "gain valuable work experience" at SCLARC. Ultimately, she would like work as a caretaker in the nursing field. **Christian** was familiar with work life because he had "volunteered at an elementary school" prior to the LEAP internship. **Tommaniqueka** was confident about her "ability to work at SCLARC" having also come to the program with basic job skills. Both Christian and Tommaniqueka are now working at the Grocery Outlet part-time.

Rudyard, who has an effervescent personality, always displayed his positive attitude throughout the day and internship. Rudy, as he likes to be called, had excellent janitorial skills and provided equally excellent customer service as he greeted guests each day. **German**, who was quiet, yet very determined, demonstrated his eagerness to participate in job training activities that would help improve his job readiness skills. He hopes to find employment that "allows him to utilize his landscaping skills."

SCLARC would like to thank Banneker and Pathways Job Developers and Coaches who presented the interns with the agency's Certificates of Completion. A special thanks goes to Community Impact Development (CID), the Legacy Plaza property management company, which partnered with SCLARC to provide daily work assignments for the interns. CID presented gift cards to all the participants to congratulate them on a job well done. SCLARC looks forward to its Spring semester interns who will begin the LEAP Internship in March.



angelica machado



tabitha lopez



christian oleta



tommaniqueka varnado



german vasquez



rudyard sighn



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

Participantes en el SDP deben ser clientes de un centro regional, vivir en casa o en la comunidad pero no en algún centro de cuidados a largo plazo, participar en una orientación aprobada y estar dispuestos a cumplir con ciertas reglas del programa.

El Departamento de Servicios de Desarrollo (DDS) ha sometido una solicitud al gobierno federal para el programa de autodeterminación (SDP). Después de que la solicitud sea aprobada, el SDP será implementado para 2,500 participantes en California durante los primeros tres años.

DDS elegirá los clientes quienes participaran de cada centro regional.

DDS elegirá 108 clientes de SCLARC quienes participaran en el SDP durante los primeros tres años. Después de este periodo de prueba el programa estará disponible para todos los clientes interesados.

¿Dónde puede obtener la información más actualizada?

Inscríbese para recibir noticias del DDS por correo electrónico, solo mande un correo electrónico a sdp@dds.ca.gov y pida que lo incluyan en la lista de avisos de noticias. Mande sus preguntas dirigidas a SCLARC a mariaf@sclarc.org llame al 213.744.8402.

AUTO- DETERMINACIÓN

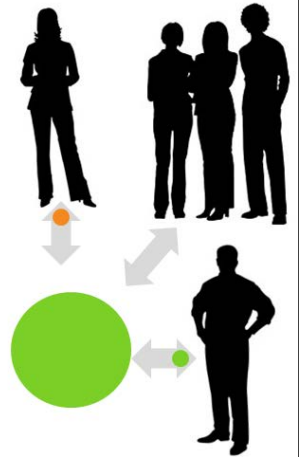
El programa de autodeterminación es un programa voluntario que ayudara a personas con discapacidades y a sus familias tener más control sobre los servicios y apoyos necesarios para alcanzar sus metas. Les dará un presupuesto individual con el que podrán comprar los servicios y apoyos necesarios para implementar sus planes individuales.

self determination program updates

In December of 2017, SCLARC consumers and/or families may have received a letter from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) stating that their name was added to the list for the Self Determination Program (SDP). From this list, DDS will select the first 2,500 participants for the Self-Determination Program. To make sure that their names were added to the Department's list, consumers and families may check the DDS website at www.dds.ca.gov/SDverification. In order to search the Department's database, consumers and families will need to use their UCI (Unique Client Identifier) number. The UCI number can be found on your Individual

What is the Self Determination Program?

On October 9, 2013, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 468 into law, amending the Lanterman Act and mandating Regional Centers to implement a Self-Determination Program. The Self-Determination Program is a voluntary delivery system consisting of a mix of services and supports, selected and directed by a participant through person-centered planning, in order to meet the objectives in his or her Individual Program Plan (IPP). The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) applied for approval of federal funding for this new Self-Determination Program in December of 2014. The application was rejected at the federal. The Waiver application was formally resubmitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shortly after the public comment period, which ended on September 7, 2015.



It's about choice!
Consumers/Parents as
facilitators and Regional Centers
as partners.

The Next Self Determination Meeting:

Self-Determination participants have not been selected yet. If you are a consumer or parent who is interested in participating, join us at our next meeting on March 14, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 2500 S. Western Avenue, 4th Floor of the Legacy Building.

Program Plan (IPP) document or by asking your regional center service coordinator.

The Self Determination Program participants have not been selected yet. There is still time to sign up for the program. The program, when implemented by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), will be a pilot program for the first three years. After that, all regional center consumers will be eligible to take part in the program. In the pilot phase, SCLARC will have approximately 108 families (out of 2500 statewide from all 21 Regional Centers) that will be able to participate. Families will be chosen by a lottery process conducted by DDS. Those families who are selected will be enrolled in the program.

If your name is selected to participate in the Self-Determination Program, you will be notified by your regional center. You will then have the opportunity to start the enrollment process by attending a Self-Determination Program orientation at your regional center. If you are not selected, your name will be kept on DDS's list in the event that space opens up in the program.

If you would like to make sure your name has been added to the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) Self Determination Program (SDP) list, you may check their website at www.dds.ca.gov/SDverification



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Participants in the SDP must be a client of a regional center, must live at home or in the community but not in a long term care facility, participate in an approved orientation, and be willing to follow certain rules of the program.

SELF - DETERMINATION

The Self-Determination Program (SDP) is a voluntary program which will help people with developmental disabilities and their families have more control over the services and supports that they need to achieve their goals. It will provide them with an individual budget with which to purchase the services and supports they need to implement their individual person-centered plans.

Where can you obtain the latest information?

Sign up for email updates from DDS by sending an email to sdp@dds.ca.gov.
Submit your questions for SCLARC to marshamb@sclarc.org.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has submitted an application to the federal government for the Self-Determination Program.

After the application for federal funding has been approved, the SDP will be implemented for 2,500 participants in California during the first 3 years. DDS will select the clients from each regional center to participate; including 108 from SCLARC

After the three year pilot period, the program will be made available to all interested clients.

south central's says goodbye to two more long-time staff members



fezem shabaf

Fezem Shabaf, SCLARC's former Nurse Manager, held many positions at the agency over her 32-year tenure. From Pediatric Nurse Specialist, Nurse Consultant, Prevention Associate to Nurse Manager, she touched the lives of countless SCLARC consumers and families. With more than 42 years in the Health and Nursing field, her expertise and commitment to helping others is evident with patients, families, and coworkers. When asked what was one of her favorite memories from her many years of dedicated work at SCLARC, Ms. Shabaf said, "working with the parents who participated in the "Project FAMILY Program." They would welcome me into their homes and it was an honor to assist them with their children." The SCLARC family would

like to wish Fezem the best as she begins her next chapter in life.

Robin Scott was a Service Coordinator with SCLARC for over 35 years. Her outstanding commitment and care for her consumers would shine through to everyone she spoke with. As Robin has said, "being here so long, I've seen where they were before the services were provided and after the assistance. I saw [my consumers] blossom." Known for commitment, persistence, and a bubbly personality, the Board of Directors and the entire agency wish Robin the best as she begins her next-level life adventure.



robin scott

do you know about sclarc's consumer advisory committee?



The CAC members are comprised of SCLARC consumers who identify topics that are important to the group. The CAC also invites speakers to their meetings to address these topics.

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month. November/December meetings may be held on the 3rd Monday of the month.

WHERE: SCLARC

2500 S. Western Avenue 4th Floor
Los Angeles CA 90018

TIME: 10:00 A.M. to 12 NOON

For additional information, contact
Desiree Boykin at (213) 743-3071 or
desireeb@sclarc.org.



SELF-DETERMINATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018

The following dates are for this year's meetings:

Wed Jan. 10, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed Mar 14, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed May 9, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed Jul 11, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed Sept 12, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wed Nov 14, 2018	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the Legacy building 4th Floor
Please share with your consumers and mark your calendars.

Marsha Mitchell-Bray,
Director, Community Services & Family Supports
(213) 743-3061