



**sclarc
scene**

*south central los angeles
regional center's newsletter*



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U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (43rd District) and Councilman Curren Price (9th District) officiated the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for SCLARC's Legacy Building located at 2500 S. Western Avenue. The Grand Opening was held on November 14, 2015. Pictured with SCLARC's officials are the agency's Leadership Team, Board Members and Legacy Plaza's Project Manager. -PHOTO BY MELISSA KOBE



sclarc hosts its official grand opening of legacy plaza

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South Central Los Angeles Regional Center hosted the grand opening of its Legacy Building and the grand reopening of the Historic Golden State Mutual Building on Saturday, November 14, 2015. This momentous occasion featured a Ribbon Cutting, an Awards Ceremony as well as a vendor program showcase in order to give participants the opportunity to see first-hand the benefit of the agency's programming and resource development. The much anticipated event was well attended by a host of SCLARC's political representatives including Congresswoman Maxine Waters (43rd District), Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District), 8th District Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Councilman Curren Price of the New 9th and as well as former 9th Council District representative Jan Perry. More than 350 staff members, stakeholders and community partners were also on hand to tour SCLARC's new headquarters and celebrate this important milestone in the agency's history.

from the desk of the executive director:**new home, new year, same mission to provide excellent services while developing community resources**

Happy New Year!

As SCLARC begins this calendar year and a new chapter in our history in our new headquarters, one cannot help but reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. I am so proud of what has been accomplished with the completion of Legacy Plaza. It is a wonderful testament to what can be built when the vision of one's future honors the accomplishments of the past. The Legacy project joins the legacies of two companies—South Central Los Angeles Regional Center and Golden State Mutual Insurance Company—which were both founded with a mission to serve the residents of South Los Angeles. It encompasses the best designs of iconic architect Paul R. Williams as well as the forward thinking and aesthetically pleasing designs of AE3 Partners Architectural Firm. It delivers a beautiful message to residents and SCLARC stakeholders that we are all in this together. As we reach out to assist those with special needs, the community as a whole is uplifted and becomes a better place to live.



It wasn't so long ago that people with disabilities were sent to state hospitals because communities lacked the necessary resources to help them be fully included citizens. As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Lanterman Act, Legacy Plaza will help to extend SCLARC's efforts to keep the promise of quality service provision that the Lanterman Act guarantees persons with developmental disabilities.

Our presence in the historic West Adams corridor assists in facilitating outreach and awareness to the larger community, helping residents to better understand the challenges our consumers and families face. SCLARC will continue to provide an array of community resources and educational services that promote empowerment and self-advocacy skills which lead to our stakeholders finding their own voices.

I want to say a heartfelt thanks to SCLARC's staff members and consultants. Thank you for your commitment to the job you do. You are the advocates and the facilitators who are our families frontline link to the services of the regional center. Your support and assistance is at the very core of SCLARC's service delivery system and the Leadership Team recognizes and salutes your dedication. Please know, it is our combined effort that has created a legacy of which I am extremely proud. I look forward to working with you, our families, vendors and community partners in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Dexter Henderson

legacy plaza grand opening candid camera



legacy plaza grand opening candid camera



on behalf of sclarc's board of directors, the leadership team extends the agency's thanks for the support of all who attended our grand opening event.

Study: no downside to eliminating asperger's label

Many parents have a fear of their child being labeled. When Asperger's syndrome was dropped from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) of Mental Disorders, the change prompted concerns about increased stigma, but a new study finds those fears may be unfounded. In fact, researchers found that adults in the American general public appear to harbor no negative perceptions about a particular label on the autism spectrum over another. For the study, 465 adults were presented with vignettes describing a 9-year-old with symptoms that would qualify for both the old diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome as well as the current definition of autism. Though the story remained nearly identical for each participant, there was one key distinction—some were told the child had a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome while others were told the boy or girl was on the autism spectrum. A third group read the same story with no label provided at all.

Through an online survey, participants were asked various questions including how nervous, uncomfortable or compassionate they would feel around the boy or girl described and if they would be inclined to move away from or play with the child. Meanwhile, the adults in the study were also asked how likely they would be to seek help from a mental health professional if the child described was their own. Overall, researchers found that the label used to describe the youngster—or lack thereof— had no bearing on the likelihood that those surveyed would harbor stereotypes, prejudice or discriminatory attitudes, according to findings published recently in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. But the presence of a diagnosis did impact opinions about treatment. In cases where the child in the story was identified as having autism or Asperger's, individuals surveyed were more likely to indicate that they would seek out professional assistance and they expressed more confidence in the effectiveness of potential treatment options, the study found.

“A range of individuals, including professionals, researchers and those with lived experience, have expressed concern that the recent DSM-5 diagnostic label change from ‘Asperger's disorder’ to ‘autistic spectrum disorder’ will increase stigma,” wrote researchers from The University of Western Australia and the Illinois Institute of Technology in their findings. “This study finds no support for these concerns in a general U.S. adult sample, as there were no differences between stigma ratings for Asperger's and ASD labels, nor did either label increase stigma over no label.”--By MICHELLE DIAMENT, REPRINTED FROM DISABILITY SCOOP

are you interested in becoming an advocate?

SCLARC's board of directors meets the 4th Tuesday of every other month at 6 p.m.
Our vendor advisory committee meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 10 a.m.
Our parent advisory committee meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 10 a.m.
Our consumer advisory committee meets the 4th Monday of each month at 4 p.m.

For more information on how you can become involved, call maria figueroa at 213.744.8402 or email her at mariaf@sclarc.org

have you heard about the self determination program?

On October 9, 2013, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 468 into law, amending the Lanterman Act and mandating that regional centers implement the Self-Determination Program (SDP). The Self-Determination Program is a voluntary service delivery system. It consists of services and supports which are totally selected and directed by consumers/families through person-centered planning so that the goals of his or her Individual Program Plan (IPP) can be met. Participants will be provided with a budget based on the previous year's history of funding for services. The budget allows participants to purchase the services and supports they want.

The California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) applied for approval of federal funding for this new program in December of 2014. The application was rejected at the federal level the first time it was submitted. On September 29, 2015, the application was resubmitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) after a public comment period, which ended on September 7, 2015. Regional Centers, in partnership with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), formerly known as the Area Board), established Local Advisory Committees in the June of 2015. The committee members, who represent consumers, parents and advocates, were appointed by SCLARC's Board of Directors and the Los Angeles Area Executive Director of the State Council. The criteria for appointees included the consumers' diagnoses, ethnicity, age and the unique needs of each community.

Two thousand five hundred people will be selected to participate statewide for the first three years of implementation. This will be the pilot phase. After the pilot phase, the Self-Determination Program will be open to everyone who receives regional center services. SCLARC currently has 108 consumers/families who are able to participate in the pilot program. Participants will be chosen by DDS via a lottery. In order to be considered for the lottery, you must attend an informational meeting on Self-Determination. No dates for these meetings have been set by DDS. Once dates are announced, SCLARC will publish them on its website and service coordinators will contact families that have expressed interest.

If you are interested in the Self-Determination Program, email SDP@DDS.CA.GOV and give them your and/or your loved one's name. You can also call your SCLARC service coordinator. SCLARC's Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. These meetings are open to the public and are conducted in English and Spanish.

What: Self Determination Local Advisory Committee

When: 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Where: 2500 S. Western Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90018

Contact: Marsha D. Mitchell-Bray, Director of Community Services & Family Supports

Can you see it?



Can you tell which child has a developmental disability? Oftentimes it's hard to tell. South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) can help you find the answers. If you think you know a child who is at-risk of developing a developmental disability, contact a SCLARC Intake Coordinator at 213-744-8872 or visit us @ www.sclarc.org!

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 meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month. During the holiday season, the November/December meetings may be held on the 3rd Monday of the month.

WHERE: SCLARC
2nd Floor

650 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
90007.

WHEN: 4:00 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

For additional information, you may contact Desiree Boykin at (213) 743-3071.