



south central los angeles
regional center

sclarc
scene

march 2017



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history at the captiol

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UNVEILING THE NEW McCLANEY FRC--Drucilla Garcia-Richardson, Senior Vice President of Manufacturers Bank; Dexter A. Henderson, Executive Director of SCLARC; Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., Presiding Bishop of West Angeles Church of God in Christ, Dr. La Doris McClanley, President & CEO of McClanley Properties; Clifton L. Johnson, Vice President/Manager (Retired) of Beverly Hills Union Bank; Martin Ludlow, President & Chief Executive Officer, Bridgestreet, Inc. and Thomas Parker smile for the cameras in front of the new McClanley Family Resource Center logo and signage.

spring

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sclarc renames its family resource center in honor of la-doris mcClanley

On Saturday, February 25, 2017, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center's (SCLARC) Family Resource Center (FRC) hosted an Unveiling Ceremony that honored Dr. La-Doris McClanley and her family. More than 100 guests attended the event to witness the unveiling of an innovative logo and fresh signage designating this well used community resource as the new McClanley FRC. Dr. McClanley is being honored because of her generous support of children and families in South Los Angeles who have been, or are at-risk of being, diagnosed with a developmental disability.

For more than 40 years, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) has provided vital services to thousands of children and adults living with developmental disabilities throughout South Los Angeles. It is SCLARC's goal to empower families and their loved ones diagnosed with autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, or an intellectual disability to find

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WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY CELEBRATION 2017



**CALLING ALL
SUPERHEROES!**

**Join South Central
Los Angeles Regional Center
for our *Super Hero Party* to celebrate
the super kids in our lives!**

WHEN: SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

**WHERE: SCLARC - 2500 S. WESTERN AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90018**

TIME: 10 AM - 12 PM

**Celebration is for children of SCLARC age 0-10.
Siblings are welcome to attend!**

**SPACE IS LIMITED &
RESERVATION IS REQUIRED!**

**for more information and
to reserve your spot,
call (213) 744-8882**



March 21st is World Down Syndrome Day

A day the world joins together to spread awareness and celebrate the abilities of those diagnosed with Down syndrome.

march is developmental disabilities awareness

The California Regional Center system was developed by the State Legislature to implement its policies regarding citizens diagnosed with developmental disabilities. Specifically, the passage of the Lanterman Developmental Services Act in 1966 created the Regional Center System whereby the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with local community based agencies, known as Regional Centers, to assist people of all ages with intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, autism and other similar disabilities. We provide intake, assessment, diagnosis and lifelong service coordination. In 1987 President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.” SCLARC is proud to be in service and partnership with our stakeholders in South Los Angeles. We believe special needs deserve special attention. We are committed to the provision of culturally sensitive services which enhance the inherent strengths of the family and enable consumers to lead independent and productive lives.



did you know?

Nationwide, approximately 4.6 million Americans have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) is one (1) of 21 private, non-profit centers contracting with the State of California, specifically with the Department of Developmental Services, to provide diagnosis, evaluation, case management and life-long planning to individuals who are developmentally disabled. Currently, the agency serves over 14,000 people who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability.

A part of the regional center's job is explaining, “what is a developmental disability?” It is SCLARC's goal to help lessen fears and false public assumptions about disabilities through education and awareness campaigns. In order to decrease attitudinal barriers that can lead to individuals with disabilities being isolated, advocates believe the vocabulary of typically functioning individuals has to change. In short, hurtful language marginalizes those served by regional centers.

Using people first language can go a long way in tearing down those barriers. "People First" language is a reflection of how people see each other. That's why the words we use can hurt. It's also why responsible communicators are now choosing language that reflects the dignity of people with disabilities--words that put the person first, rather than the disability. For instance you can say "a woman who has a disability" rather than "a disabled woman." Avoid words like "unfortunate," "afflicted," and "victim." Also, try to avoid casting a person with a disability as a superhuman model of courage. People with disabilities are just people, not tragic figures or demigods.

A developmental disability is not a disease. Do not mention "symptoms," "patients," or "treatment," unless the person you're describing has an illness as well as a disability. Use common sense. Avoid terms with obvious negative or judgmental connotations, such as "crippled," "deaf and dumb," "lame," and "defective." If you aren't sure how to refer to a person's condition, ask. And, if the disability is not relevant to your conversation, why mention it at all? Never refer to a person as "confined to a wheelchair." Wheelchairs enable people to escape confinement. People with mobility impairments "use" a wheelchair. Also, describe people without disabilities as "typical" rather than "normal."

sclarc consumers alex and alan make history

The Governor and First Lady lit the Capitol Christmas tree with 7-year-old twins Alex and Alan Rosales, who receive services from South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC). The dynamic duo made SCLARC history being the first to ever receive such an honor. Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and First Lady Anne Gust Brown hosted the 85th Annual Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5th on the West Steps of the State Capitol. The 60-foot-tall white fir Christmas tree was decorated with 900 handcrafted ornaments made by children and adults with developmental disabilities including ornaments from consumers attending SCLARC programs--Prairie Place and Compton Adult Day Program.

Alex and Alan are two loveable, 7-year-old boys who have both been diagnosed with autism. This dynamic duo attends 99th Street Elementary in Los Angeles. Currently tackling the second grade in superhero fashion, they are enrolled in a Special Day class specifically for children with autism. The Twins are very social and participate well with their classmates with whom they have formed meaningful relationships.

Alex is proud to be a member of the LAUSD Special Olympics Team for the 2016-2017 school year and both boys have a true passion for cars. Their mother, Mildred Orellana, says that the support her boys have received from their school community has been very beneficial and the assistance given through the Early Start program and Lanterman Services at SCLARC has set the foundation for skill building, community integration and forward progress for the family.

Mildred has been a stout advocate for her sons. After they were diagnosed, she knew she had to learn all that she could about autism in order to support her children. She received assistance with navigating generic services, her insurance company, therapy and socialization services through the Early Intervention Program at SCLARC.



Mildred participates in several parent supports groups, including SCLARC's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). She has even taken her advocacy efforts to the State Capitol by attending the 2016 ARCA Grassroots Day and speaking with Mayor Garcetti's staff about the special needs community while highlighting the supports and resources that are available in the community.

"My voice is necessary in order to obtain and provide all necessary supports for my children so that they can be productive members of the community and happy successful adults," says Orellana.

McClaney frc unveiling ... continued from Page 1



dr. la-doris mcclaney spearheads community support of SCLARC's families who utilize the mcclaney family resource center with a generous \$400K donation.

acceptance in their local community. The Family Resource Center (FRC) helps families, caring for children at-risk of or diagnosed with a developmental disability, find solutions and services. Of the many supports offered by SCLARC, its FRC has stood as a beacon of hope, help and understanding for more than 28 years. Recently, Dr. La-Doris McClaney spearheaded a \$1,000,000 fundraising campaign to expand and enhance the center's programming by personally donating \$400,000. As a result, many more families will learn to manage the challenges that come with having a loved one diagnosed with a disability.

The McClaney family has a long history of charitable giving in Los Angeles and beyond. Dr. McClaney's mother, Eula McClaney, was born to a sharecropping family in rural Alabama. With only a sixth grade education, Eula began a small business selling sweet potato pies. From those humble beginnings she amassed a real estate portfolio of 33 properties and managed their rentals. In the late 1950's, on a visit to Los Angeles with her daughters, La-Doris and Burnestine, Eula purchased a motel. Within a few years, she decided to relocate to Los Angeles. The motel, which was originally converted into the McClaney's residence in Los Angeles, later became Flagstone Guest Haven, one of the first residential care facilities for the developmentally disabled in South Los Angeles.

It was during this era that La-Doris came to understand the special needs of the population served by SCLARC. The center is one of 21 private, non-profit centers contracting with the State of California, specifically with the Department of Developmental Services, to provide diagnosis, evaluation, case management and life-long planning to individuals who are developmentally disabled. Currently, the agency serves approximately 14,000 individuals who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. Now, with her new commitment to SCLARC's Family Resource Center, her legacy will continue to grow.

The McClaney Family Resource Center will continue SCLARC'S long standing legacy of serving as a central point of contact for parents and caregivers with infants and toddlers ages birth to three who are have been diagnosed or at risk of a developmental disability. Dr. McClaney's generous fundraising support will help add knowledgeable staff who will help parents navigate the complicated world of benefits and services that exist for children with disabilities. It will also improve outcomes for young children, providing them with increased access to quality play and developmentally appropriate activities. Most of all, the new McClaney Family Resource will increase opportunities to equip parents and caregivers with the tools they will need to be empowered advocates for their loved ones.

You can keep up with all the exciting activities at the McClaney Family Resource Center by going to their website at www.mcclaneyfrc.org. Also visit their facebook page at www.facebook.com/mcclaneyfrc.

sclarc names clinical director and two new chiefs



maricel cruzat

Maricel Cruzat was recently named as the Director of Clinical Services for South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC). Ms. Cruzat started her career at SCLARC in June 2007 as the Federal Revenue Coordinator and was promoted to Quality Manager in 2010. She was promoted again to Chief of Federal Programs in 2016 and most recently to the Director of Clinical Services effective February 2017. She has 24 years of experience in the different service milieus designed for persons with developmental disabilities.

Maricel started her career as a Direct Care Provider in a day program, served as a Program Manager for Level 4 G and Level 4I residential care facilities and was a Program Coordinator for a Supported Living Agency in Northern California. She worked as a Service Coordinator in 1999, was promoted to a Consumer Services Supervisor for the School Age Unit and then became the Federal Revenue Supervisor overseeing the Medicaid waiver Program all at North Los Angeles County Regional Center. In her current role,

she will be responsible for providing leadership and guidance to the Clinical Team which is comprised of the Intake Units, Early Start Program, and various other Clinical staff and Consultants. Ms. Cruzat received her Master of Arts Degree in Organizational Management from the University of Phoenix, her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of California, Riverside, and completed her nursing education at LAC/USC Medical Center School of Nursing.

Kimberly K. Arrington-Bernardez was hired by SCLARC in 1998 and has served as a Service Coordinator, a Program Manager and most recently was promoted to the Chief of Case Management for SCLARC's Consumer Services Division. Kimberly, who has been working with persons diagnosed with developmental disabilities for 26 years, received her Masters in Educational Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She previously served as a Behavior Technician/Specialist at Geneva B. Scruggs ICF, People Inc. in Buffalo, NY as well as a Group Therapist/ Program Coordinator for Special Projects with Goodwill Industries of Southern California. A spoken word artist, poet and songwriter, Ms. Arrington-Bernardez is excited to serve SCLARC stakeholders.



kimberly bernardez

Jenice Turner has also been promoted to Chief of Case Management for SCLARC's Consumer Services Division. In this role, she provides leadership and oversight to Case Management units. She monitors service delivery and customer service to ensure the department is efficient, conforms to agency policy, procedures, and practice. She also oversees case management activities related to judicially involved consumers, those residing in and transitioning from a developmental center (DC) or institution for mental disease (IMD).

She works closely with the Community Services Department on resource development through the Community Placement Plan (CPP) for DC and IMD consumers. She has been instrumental in the implementation of SCLARC's document imaging platform, case management system Smart Chart and New Employee Training Program. Ms. Turner joined SCLARC in January 2008 and has held the positions of Program Manager and Program Manager II. She holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and Bachelor's degree in Gerontology from the University of Southern California.



jenice turner

sclarc consumer spotlight: cliffee crayon color her

by **desiree Boykin**
sclarc consumer advocate

For many years, Cliffee Crayon has been a SCLARC consumer. She sometimes participates in events sponsored by the Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). “I really had a good time at last year’s Cultural Fair,” Cliffee says.

Cliffee is close to her family. She especially enjoys spending time with her brother, Ricky Crayon, and her nieces Toya, Nicky, and Angie.

“I really like visiting my family on weekends,” Cliffee says.

As a family, they attend Saint Andrews Missionary Baptist Church on Sundays. “I love being around God’s people,” Cliffee says. Cliffee likes to relax by watching Police Academy movies. Her service coordinator is Dorice Cooper.

“Dorice is on her job,” Cliffee says. “She makes sure that I get the services I need to be independent.”



cliffee crayon

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.



DIA MUNDIAL DEL SINDROME DE DOWN 2017



**LLAMANDO A TODOS
LOS SUPERHEROES!**

**Únase al Centro Regional
del Sur Centro de Los Ángeles
Para nuestra *Fiesta de Superheroes* para
celebrar a los super niños en nuestras vidas**

**CUANDO: SÁBADO, 18 DE MARZO, 2017
DONDE: SCLARC - 2500 S. WESTERN AVE.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90018
HORA: 10 AM - 12 PM**

**La celebración es para niños de SCLARC de 0 - 10.
Los hermanitos están invitados a asistir!**

**EL ESPACIO ES LIMITADO &
SE REQUIEREN RESERVACIONES!**

**Por mas información y
para reservar su espacio,
por favor llame al
(213) 744-8882**



El 21 de Marzo es el Dia Mundial del Síndrome de Down

Un día en el cual todo mundo se une para aumentar el conocimiento y celebrar las habilidades de los diagnosticados con Síndrome de Down.