

SOUTH CENTRAL LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER
Remote Zoom Meeting
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 19th, 2024
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Member Present:

Cynthia Torres	Mireya Romero
Sherry Kidd	Caycee Ricketts
Teyanna Williams	Luz Curiel
Raul Munoz	Renard Standford
Illona Hendrick	Christella Frutos
Shavon Spiller	Hyunju Lee
Magali Ochoa	Norma Hernandez
Ana DaSilva	

Members Absent:

Cedron McKnight

Staff Present:

Dexter Henderson	Cesar Garcia
Kyla Lee	Kiara Lopez
Cherylle Mallinson	Berlin Ruiz
Jenice Turner	Ingrid Olivia
Jesse Rocha	Iris De La Tova
Karmell Walker	Armando Sanchez

I. General

- Board President, Cynthia Torres, opened the November 19th, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting with roll call.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by The President Cynthia Torres

B. Approval of BOD Minutes for September 24th, 2024

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes – September 24th, 2024

M/S/C: Ana DaSilva/Teyanna Williams/Unanimous

II. Board Member Reports

A. Executive Committee – Cynthia Torres

- The Executive Committee met on October 21st, 2024. The meeting focused on setting goals for 2025, with committee chairs to be contacted for proposals. Emphasis was placed on ensuring all board members are involved in at least one committee. Starting in January 2025, board meetings will alternate between in-person (January, May, September) and virtual (March, July, November). Cynthia Torres was selected as the ARCA representative, with Sherry Kidd as the backup.

B. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

- The Supportive Services Committee met on October 14, 2024. Raul Munoz emphasized staying focused on the agenda and allowing public comments after all items. Liu B. Xu presented a new conservatorship policy required by DDS, which will be voted on later. Cesar Garcia announced a training session for parents on understanding children's psychological reports. Odulia Juarez summarized public comments from the August 2024 SCLARC Board meeting, addressing concerns like service delays. Kiara Lopez provided an update on the Flex Vote Center, held on October 29, 2024, in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Registrar's office, which was open to all registered LA County voters. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2024, via Zoom.

C. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illiona Hendrick

- The Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) held meetings on October 9 and November 13, 2024. Key topics included the Vendor Directory, an important survey, and vendor codes 055 and 063, which are set to sundown by March 2025. The HCBS Peer Support Group shared details about the well-attended Octoberfest event and provided insights into the HCBS final rules. The committee's final Zoom meeting for 2024 will be on December 4, focusing on gathering feedback from vendors and the peer group to identify areas for further training. The first meeting of 2025 is scheduled for January to gather vendor input and strengthen partnerships with the regional center.

D. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Standford

- The Advocates Advisory Committee met on November 12, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Committee members introduced themselves, and the agenda and minutes were approved. Advocates emphasized the importance of self-advocacy, respect, and following meeting guidelines. The meeting included a discussion on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), focusing on consumer access, privacy, and other services, presented by HCBS Evaluators Veronica and Felicia Garcia.

E. Self-Determination Advisory Committee – Jenice Turner

- The Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee met on November 13, 2024, via Zoom. As of October 1, 2024, 133 individuals are enrolled in the Self-Determination Program. In response to a community request, the committee released an RFP to identify an organization to train families on entering the program, with four agencies submitting proposals. SCLARC now offers a self-paced orientation through the Learning Management System, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities provides monthly orientations. The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2025, via Zoom.

F. Recruitment and Training Committee – Ana Da Silva

- Ana reported on attending the ARCA meeting on October 17, where it was announced that ARCA would form a committee to suggest training topics for regional centers, with a resource list already initiated. The first Board Committee meeting for training is scheduled for January to review proposed topics and plan upcoming sessions. Ana also provided an update on Ceci Arispus' nomination, recommending it be put on hold until next year. Stephanie was then welcomed to the Board after introducing herself and expressing excitement to collaborate.

Board of Action:

Approval of Raul Munoz- Effective 1/22/25- 1/22/26

M/S/C: Ana DaSilva/Teyanna Williams/Unanimous

Board of Action:

Approval of Stephanie Reyes- Effective 11/14/24- 9/26/27

M/S/C: Ana DaSilva/ Magali Ochoa/ Unanimous

G. Finance Committee – Teyanna Williams

- The Finance Committee met on November 13, 2024, reviewing the September 30, 2024, financial statements and confirming stable financial status. Discussions included the DDS rate implementation starting January 1, 2025, which requires vendor enrollment in the Provider Directory for full reimbursement, and updates on new office space by March 2025. Ms. Lee provided an update on SCLARC's external independent audit, with final fieldwork conducted from November 12th-15th. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2025.

III. Staff Reports

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

- Statement of Financial Position:** As of September 2024, SCLARC's cash flow was \$53,304,000 compared to \$71,000,549 at the same time last year. This reflects a decrease of approximately \$18 million. However, as we are in the first quarter of the fiscal year, we received the final cash advance from DDS in October, which included \$50 million, significantly increasing our cash balance. The financial flow remains positive, as SCLARC spends roughly \$45 million monthly, submits claims, and receives 100% reimbursement for those claims. will receive \$139 million in cash advances, which will sustain us until we receive full reimbursement.
- Statement of Activities:** For the year to date (September 2024), the operations allocation amounted to \$78,901,000, with \$16 million spent so far, representing approximately 20% of the total allocation. It is projected that the remaining balance of \$62 million will be spent by the end of the year. In terms of the purchase of services (POS), the organization has been allocated \$643 million, of which \$122 million has been spent, or 19% of the allocation. Another \$480 million is projected to be spent to reach the full allocation of \$603 million by year-end. Currently, there is \$39 million of unspent funds available to cover future expenses, which will be reimbursed by DDS as costs are incurred. The Family Resource Center (FRC) has received an allocation of \$200,000, with \$25,000 spent to date, and the remaining \$174,000 is expected to be spent by the end of the year. Overall, the total allocation for the year to date is \$724 million, which is a \$35 million increase from the previous fiscal year's allocation of \$690 million, reflecting growth in consumer count and staffing.

- **POS Expenditure Projection Summary:** The regional center provides monthly projections for its purchase of service (POS) expenditures based on past spending trends, year-to-date expenses, late bills, and the expected impact of rate reform. As of September 2024, SCLARC's charitable program had a balance of \$147,000. These funds are used to support initiatives outside of the state, such as backpack giveaways, utilities, and other needs not covered by state contract dollars. Additionally, the program funds community events, including holiday giveaways

B. Delegated Conservatorship Policy – Presenter Liu B. Xu, Chief of Case Management

- Mr. Liu presented the Delegated Conservatorship Policy developed by SCLARC to support individuals under DDS conservatorship. The policy addresses conflicts of interest when a regional center serves as both the conservator and service coordinator. It ensures individuals' rights, health, and safety while respecting their independence. Staff are responsible for monitoring well-being, providing updates to DDS, and supporting decision-making. An assessment review of needs is conducted every two years and sent to DDS. The policy also separates conservatorship duties from case management and requires ongoing staff training to maintain best practices.

Board Action:

Approval of Delegated Conservatorship Policy

M/S/C: Mireya Romero/ Magali Ochoa/Unanimous

IV. Public Input

- The public was given 20 minutes, with each person allotted 2 minutes to share opinions, concerns, and ask questions.

VI. Executive Director Report – Dexter Henderson

- Mr. Henderson provided a brief update on the implementation of a standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP). He then handed the floor to Jenice Turner, who provided a more detailed explanation of the implementation and training process
- Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services, provided an update on the implementation of a standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP), which is required for all Regional Centers. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) worked with a work group to create the template and procedures, which were finalized by June 30th, 2024. Since then, DDS has been meeting with regional centers to introduce the new guidelines, enabling each center to develop its own procedures and train staff. The new template and procedures, finalized by June 30, 2024, will be implemented by January 1, 2025. SCLARC began training their service coordinator staff in October, with training set to conclude by December 6, 2024.

VII. Executive Session – Cynthia Torres

- Cynthia Torres, President of SCLARC, provided updates on what was discussed during Board Session. The Board reviewed updates regarding real estate litigation. No further action was required. The Board also discussed a letter received from DDS. The contents were noted, and no immediate actions were taken. Lastly, the Board was provided with an update regarding a personnel contact issue. No further actions were needed

VII. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm by The President, Cynthia Torres