



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
May 27th, 2025
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Member Present:

Cynthia Torres	Caycee Ricketts
Sherry Kidd	Luz Curiel
Teyanna Williams	Renard Standford
Raul Munoz	Christella Frutos
Illona Hendrick	Shavon Spiller
Hynunju Lee	Magali Ochoa

Members Absent:

Stephanie Reyes	Cedron McKnight
Ana DaSilva	Norma Hernandez
Mireya Romero	

Staff Present:

Dexter Henderson	Tamilyn Bonney
Kyla Lee	Cynthia Rivera
Jesse Rocha	Alex Marquez
Jenice Turner	Ingrid Oliva
Cherylle Mallinson	Iris De La Tova
Cesar Garcia	Kiara Lopez
Armando Sanchez	

I. General

- Board President, Cynthia Torres opened the May 27th, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom and In-Person with roll call.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by The President Cynthia Torres.

B. Approval of BOD Minutes for March 25th, 2025

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes – March 25th, 2025

M/S/C: Caycee Ricketts / Renard Standford /Unanimous

II. Board Member Reports

A. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

Raul Munoz reported that the committee reviewed the rollout of the new standardized IPP template. He noted that Jenice Turner, Director of Children Services, provided an update on progress and areas needing improvement. SCLARC is supporting the transition with coordinator trainings, office hours, and an upcoming full-day session. The template is based on a person-centered approach, emphasizing individual needs. Joseph Velasquez led a brief workshop on the “What’s Working and What’s Not Working” tool used to align participant goals and services. Raul also noted the recent Vendor Fair in mid-April and the upcoming Mental Health and Wellness Resource Fair scheduled for Saturday May 31st, 2025, at the LA office on Western Avenue.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illona Hendrick

Illona Hendrick reported that April 16th, the Vendor Fair was well attended, with nearly 100 participants including families and self-advocates. She shared ongoing concerns from the May 14th, VAC meeting about challenges vendors are facing with the DDS Provider Directory and rate reform attestations, both of which are required by May 30th, to avoid disruptions in reimbursement. VAC and Leadership are providing support, but the process has been difficult for many vendors. Illona emphasized the importance of continued collaboration as the community navigates state budget changes and prepares for the new fiscal year.

C. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Stanford

Renard Stanford shared the AAC report and highlighted two recent presentations. Guest speaker, Wendy Castillo spoke about employment opportunities for individuals seeking meaningful work and financial independence, emphasizing the importance of reporting wages and coordinating with Regional Center service coordinators to maintain services. She also recapped last month’s presentation by Dr. Barrow, who discussed stress management and emotional health. Dr. Barrow explained that unmanaged stress can affect physical health, communication, and daily functioning, and encouraged using exercise and self-care to manage emotions effectively. Renard noted both were valuable and timely topics for the AAC community.

D. Self Determination Advisory Committee – Jenice Turner

The Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee met on May 14th, 2025 via zoom. Alex Marquez was introduced as the new Self-Determination Program Manager, and Luis Salazar as the new Participant Choice Specialist. As of May 1, SCLARC serves 156 individuals in the program. Delays in participant transitions were linked to incomplete spending plans, and a checklist is being developed to help streamline this process. Updated qualifications for new FMS providers were reviewed, and a bilingual survey will be distributed to gather feedback from participants. The Autism Society was awarded the RFP to provide transition training beginning August 2025. A self-paced orientation is now available online, with additional live sessions offered monthly by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2025.

E. Recruitment and Training Committee Meeting – Sherry Kidd

On April 27th, the committee reviewed attendance and confirmed that all current members intend to remain active. They discussed Board responsibilities, including mandatory committee participation, and reviewed Board composition to ensure state compliance. Training sessions on conflict of interest and email use have been completed, with three more planned. Norma Hernandez and Ingrid created a demographic spreadsheet tracking member terms and vacancies to assist with recruitment.

F. Finance Committee – Teyanna Williams

The Finance Committee met on May 20th, led by CFO Kyla Lee, who reviewed the financial statements as of March 31st and provided updates on the Governor’s May budget revision and rate reform. Vendor payments have increased due to rate adjustments, raising the monthly burn rate from \$50 million to \$55 million. DDS is monitoring cash flow to avoid use of the line of credit. Vendors must complete attestations and enroll in the DDS Provider Directory by May 30th to avoid contract termination or billing suspension. Updates were given on the upcoming fiscal year’s rate changes effective July 1st, the new office space opening by June 23rd, and the 5-Year Facility Plan which includes hiring new case management staff and acquiring additional office space to meet current and projected needs. The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 16th, 2025.

III. Staff Reports

A. Budget Update & Finance Report (2025) – (Kyla Lee)

Statement of Financial Position: As of March 2025, our cash position was \$93 million, up \$14 million from \$78 million last year. DDS has been closely monitoring regional centers and supported us with additional funds, helping us avoid using our line of credit. Accounts Payable totaled \$51 million, compared to \$42 million the prior year, reflecting increased payment volume. As expected at this point in the fiscal year, DDS is beginning to hold back funds advanced earlier, so we are closely managing our cash flow.

Statement of Activities: For operations, we were allocated \$79 million and have spent \$47 million (60%), with \$32 million projected through year-end. For Purchase of Services (POS), we were allocated \$721 million, spent \$448 million (62%), and projected to spend an additional \$190 million, resulting in a total projected expenditure of \$638 million. Spending is tracking as expected.

The total allocation for the fiscal year is \$804 million. Of that amount, \$496 million has been spent to date, with an additional \$223 million projected in upcoming expenditures. This results in a total projected expenditure of \$720 million, leaving a remaining balance of \$84 million available for vendor-related needs or other final-quarter adjustments.

Governor’s May Revise Update - The Governor’s May Revise increased the DDS budget to \$18.7B for FY 2025–26, serving a projected 491,000 individuals. Key funding areas like the Outcomes Improvement System and health and safety staffing remain. Reductions include \$221M from the Quality Incentive Program and \$22.5M from Self-Determination. Rate reform adjustments were accelerated to Feb 2026. Despite ongoing fiscal uncertainty, DDS issued preliminary allocations, allowing services to begin July 1 as planned.

IV. Staff

A. NCI Survey – Tamilyn Bonney – (Jesse Rocha)

Tamilyn Bonney, Directives Compliance Manager, presented highlights from the 2022–2023 National Core Indicators (NCI) Adult In-Person Survey, a national quality assessment tool used to evaluate services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. The survey, administered by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, gathered confidential data from 419 participants (ages 18–75), covering areas such as service access, self-direction, safety, communication, and community involvement. Key findings inform improvements in service coordination, outreach, training, and advocacy. Efforts include promoting the Family Portal App for real-time access to services, supporting self-determination orientations, expanding public resources, and encouraging family and individual empowerment through transparency, engagement, and choice.

B. Self Determination Services – Alex Marquez/ Cynthia Rivera PM’s – (Jenice Turner)

Jenice Turner, Director of Children’s Services, introduced Program Managers Alex Marquez and Cynthia Rivera, who presented an overview of the transition process into the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at SCLARC. Cynthia provided a summary of the enrollment process, including orientation, person-centered planning, budget and spending plan development, and coordination with Financial Management Services (FMS) and independent facilitators. Alex outlined several key barriers to transition, such as misunderstandings about budget development, delays in spending plan submissions, inconsistencies in facilitator training, and limited FMS availability. Solutions discussed included increased training and outreach, improved communication with facilitators and families, regular roundtable discussions, and the use of implementation funds to support transitions. The team is also developing new resources, including a video series and planning the next annual Self-Determination Resource Fair.

C. Performance Contract – (Cherylle Mallison)

Cherylle Mallinson welcomed the Board, stakeholders, and community members and presented the draft 2025 to 2026 Performance Contract, emphasizing that it is still open for public feedback. She explained that a survey will be made available to collect suggestions for improvement, including a continued effort to increase the number of vendored daycare centers, which remains at four. Cherylle reviewed employment performance data and noted that some figures rely on older National Core Indicator data due to delays in reporting. She also highlighted Purchase of Service expenditure data by ethnicity for fiscal year 2023 to 2024, showing that 62.6 percent of allocated funds were utilized by African American individuals and 68.4 percent by Hispanic individuals, indicating ongoing progress in addressing disparities. She encouraged all attendees to review the full contract and share input, especially regarding planned activities that support the achievement of key goals.

V. Public Comment

VI. New Business

VII. Executive Director Report – Dexter Henderson

CEO Dexter Henderson, explained the decision to disable public chat during meetings, citing the need for a more respectful and focused environment due to past inappropriate comments. He noted this approach aligns with other regional centers and ensures productive input. He emphasized the center’s ongoing commitment to community feedback through direct communication, which has led to meaningful changes. Mr. Henderson also addressed state budget concerns, expressing relief at the absence of deeper cuts and urging the community to contact legislators as key decisions are expected in the coming weeks.

VIII. Executive Session- As Needed.

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm by The President Cynthia Torres

X. Supplemental Information

***Action Item**