



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
January 28th, 2025
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Member Present:

Cynthia Torres	Caycee Ricketts
Sherry Kidd	Luz Curiel
Teyanna Williams	Renard Standord
Raul Munoz	Cedron McKnight
Illona Hendrick	Christella Frutos
Magali Ochoa	Hynunju Lee
Mireya Romero	Norma Hernandez

Members Absent:

Shavon Spiller	Stephanie Reyes
Ana DaSilva	

Staff Present:

Dexter Henderson	Tamilyn Bonney
Kyla Lee	Kiara Lopez
Cherylle Mallinson	Armando Sanchez
Jesse Rocha	Ingrid Olivia
Cesar Garcia	Iris De La Tova
Jenice Turner	

I. General

- Board President, Cynthia Torres opened the January 29th, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom with roll call.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by The President Cynthia Torres.

B. Public Input – None

C. Approval of BOD Minutes for November 19th, 2024

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes – November 19th, 2024

M/S/C: Magali Ochoa /Renard Standford /Unanimous

II. Board Member Reports

A. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

At the December 9th meeting, we heard from Ms. Jenice Turner and Ms. Sharon Dixon about changes to the Individual Program Plan (IPP) template, effective January 1, 2025. The new template is designed to be more user-friendly and person-centered, focusing on participants' strengths rather than deficits. Service Coordinators will be trained on the new template and will send documents to families 30 days before IPP meetings. IPPs will be signed electronically and submitted to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). This change aligns with the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Final Rule. The next meeting will be via Zoom on February 10th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illona Hendrick

The Vendor Advisory Board met on January 15th, where South Central leadership discussed ongoing issues, including insurance, new service codes, and rate reform. Vendors expressed concern over the attestation process, with a deadline of March 31, 2025, especially regarding staffing levels and service code changes. Residential providers are seeking clarity on the process and exceptions. The goal is to work collaboratively to ensure documents are submitted on time and meet rate reform requirements. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

C. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Stanford

The AAC meeting in December reviewed topics from 2024, including HCBS Final Rule, grief, respect, and education. Members were pleased with their in-person meeting with USC students and the Best Buddies program, looking forward to the next event on January 30, 2025. The need for new AAC officers was also discussed, with elections set for June. Members shared their New Year's resolutions, and the group appreciated a Zoom call for support after recent fires. It was also announced that the Supported Life Conference will be held on May 9-10, 2025.

D. Self Determination Advisory Committee – Magali Ochoa

As of January 1, 2025, SCLARC serves 142 individuals in the Self-Determination Program. The January 8 meeting focused on proposals from three organizations offering training to individuals and families: Autism Society, Los Angeles; A Better Tomorrow; and Mana Unlimited LLC. These proposals aimed to educate participants on navigating the self-determination program, with a focus on fiscal management and providing tools for Spanish-speaking families. A fourth proposal from Meraki Solution LLC will be presented at a special meeting on January 29, 2025. SCLARC also offers self-determination orientation through its learning management system, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities provides monthly orientations.

E. Finance Committee – Teyanna Williams

The Finance Committee met on January 20, 2025, where CFO Kyla Lee provided updates on the financial statements and D4 allocation for FY 2023, which will be presented for Board approval. She also shared that the new office at 221 Western Avenue is on track to open by April-May 2025. Kyla informed the committee that the audit report is in draft with two minor issues to resolve, and the final audit and Form 990 will be submitted to DDS by March 31, 2025. DDS auditors will visit in April 2025 to audit FY 2023 and 2024. The committee also discussed vendor rate updates, with 100% of benchmark rates for enrolled vendors, and job fairs are scheduled for March 2025. The next meeting is set for March 19, 2025.

III. Staff Reports

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

Statement of Financial Position:

As of November 2024, SCLARC's cash balance was approximately \$98 million, compared to \$57 million at the same time last year, reflecting an increase of \$40 million. Accounts payable stood at \$40 million, compared to \$36 million last year. Monthly spending is approximately \$50 million, and SCLARC has ample cash flow to meet vendor and staff payments while maintaining a healthy balance sheet.

Statement of Activities:

SCLARC has received \$78 million in its operational allocation, spending \$28 million (35% of the budget) so far. For POS (Purchase of Services), SCLARC has received \$724 million and spent \$252 million (34.8%). The anticipated total expenditure for the fiscal year is \$689 million. With the implementation of rate reform, vendors will receive an additional 50% of their benchmark rate starting in January, potentially resulting in increased expenses. A positive variance of \$34 million is expected to return to the allocation as January invoices are processed.

POS Expenditure Projection Summary

The projection for the fiscal year indicates that after processing January invoices, there will be noticeable movement in POS, with vendors receiving increased payments due to rate reform. SCLARC is tracking expenses closely to ensure sufficient funding throughout the year.

Approval of E-1 Allocation

SCLARC received \$358,000 in the D-4 allocation, including \$100,000 for competitive integrated employment placements and \$362,000 for SDP-related data input. There was also a \$45,000 allocation for home monitoring, but \$148,000 was deducted for tuition reimbursement due to a statewide defunding.

Board Action:

Approval of A-1 Amendment

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

IV. Staff

A. New IPP Template and Procedures Update - Jenice Turner and Sharon Dixon

The new Individual Program Plan (IPP) template, implemented in January 2025, ensures consistency across regional centers and aligns with Senate Bill 138. Information sessions for families will be held in February in English and Spanish, with Person-Centered Thinking training for families planned for the spring. The updated IPP offers more flexibility for individual preferences and introduces new terminology and formats, along with resources like "Your Plan" for adults and "Your Youth Plan" for ages 14-22.

The IPP prioritizes person-centered planning, focusing on individual preferences and collaboration. Service Coordinators will help families gather information, and families will receive tools to prepare for the meeting. New tools like one-page descriptions and "Important To/Important For" prompts will guide the process. Feedback from a pilot group of service coordinators will help refine the process. Life Areas now replace previous domains, and youth plans include a transition checklist for those moving from school to employment or other services.

B. Performance Contract – Cherylle Mallinson/Raul Munoz

Approval Performance Contract Prior Year End Report by Board – No approval needed.

Mr. Munoz presented the performance contract report for SCLARC, detailing the organization's progress and compliance with the Lanterman Service Act and DDS requirements. As of June 2024, SCLARC is serving 22,350 individuals, with a focus on improving placements for both children and adults. The report highlighted that 99.84% of children and 84.24% of adults are living in home settings, while there has been a reduction in the number of adults in developmental centers. However, SCLARC faces challenges in securing residential facilities and addressing staffing shortages. Employment outcomes have been a focus, with the Paid Internship Program (PIP) showing a low success rate of 1% for securing competitive integrated employment, below the state average of 10%. Despite these challenges, SCLARC has made strides in improving service delivery, including developmental screenings, early outreach for children, and a technology lending program. The organization continues to maintain DDS compliance standards, and has formed several key partnerships, including with LA County, UCLA, Baby 2 Baby and DoorDash. The Board approved the performance report and reiterated its commitment to meeting DDS standards while collaborating with families and the community to enhance service delivery.

V. Public Comment

The Board discussed plans to open upcoming meetings to the public, following a public comment that emphasized the importance of greater community engagement. Starting with the next Board of Directors meeting in March, public notice of the meeting's date and time will be posted, and virtual attendance options will be made available for those unable to attend in person.

VI. New Business

VII. Executive Director Report

VIII. Executive Session

The Board approved the minutes from the most recent closed executive session and discussed the real estate matter concerning the search for a new location.

Board Action:

Approved Executive Session Minutes – November 19th, 2024

M/S/C: Cynthia Torres /Raul Munoz /Unanimous

IX. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm by The President Cynthia Torres

X. Supplemental Information

***Action Item**

Submitted by:

Ingrid Oliva
Executive Assistant

Date

Approved by:

Raul Munoz
Board Secretary

Date