



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
July 22nd, 2025
7:00pm – 9:00pm

Member Present:

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

Members Absent:

Shavon Spiller	Christella Frutos
Ana DaSilva	

Staff Present:

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

I. General

- Board President, Cynthia Torres opened July 22nd, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom with roll call.

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by The President Cynthia Torres. The quorum was met at 7:07pm

B. Public Input – None

C. Approval of BOD Minutes for May 27th, 2025, and June 17th, 2025

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes – May 27th, 2025

M/S/C: Sherry Kidd /Norma Hernandez /Unanimous

Board Action:

Approved BOD minutes – June 17th, 2025

M/S/C: Sherry Kidd/Caycee Rickets /Unanimous

II. Board Member Reports

A. Supportive Services Committee – Raul Munoz

At the June meeting, the committee reviewed several employment programs offered by SCLARC, including Individualized Supported Employment, the Work Incentive Program, and a Paid Internship Program offering up to 1,040 paid hours annually. A new initiative also introduces person-centered career plans to better support employment goals. Participants may qualify for additional support through the Department of Rehabilitation if they have a qualifying disability. The committee also viewed a video showcasing SCLARC's efforts to support deaf and hard-of-hearing clients, including staff trained in American Sign Language. Lastly, SCLARC remains committed to supporting families impacted by immigration issues, with resources available on its website. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM via Zoom.

B. Vendor Advisory Committee – Illona Hendrick

At the July 9 meeting, the Vendor Advisory Board Committee shared updates with SCLARC leadership regarding DDS requirements for the vendor portal, as well as SCLARC's own portal in relation to rate reform. It was reported that over 90% of vendors successfully registered by the DDS deadline. The leadership team also gave a presentation outlining vendor responsibilities and ways to collaborate with SCLARC staff. There will be no meeting in August, as the committee uses this time to recruit and interview new members for the leadership team. Regular meetings will resume in September.

C. Advocate Advisory Committee – Renard Stanford

The AAC meeting featured Wesley Witherspoon from USC Children's Hospital, who spoke on self-love and encouraged members to focus on self-care, setting goals, and recognizing their strengths. The next meeting will be held on July 28, 2025, at SCLARC, with the topic "Knowing Your Rights." DDS CAC has changed its name to "Live the Experience Advisory Group" and is seeking new advocates. The AAC also continues its long-standing partnership with USC's Best Buddies Program.

D. Self Determination Advisory Committee – Magali Ochoa

The July 16 Self- Determination Advisory Committee meeting did not reach quorum, so the May minutes were not approved. Alex Marquez provided updates on enrollment, budget utilization (ranging from 68% to 80%), and program support efforts including training and facilitator roundtables. The top three fiscal management service providers are GT Independence, Acumen, and Aviana. Challenges remain with budget planning, provider availability, and facilitator training. Current enrollment includes 94 adults and 80 children.

E. Recruitment and Training Committee Meeting – Sherry Kidd

Sherry Kidd reported that three board members were excused due to exceeding absence limits, resulting in three current board vacancies. The committee emphasized the importance of ensuring board composition reflects the community and will submit a compliance plan to DDS. Recruitment efforts focus on increasing self-advocate participation through outreach via the Self Advocate Committee, word of mouth, social media, and the regional center website. Several candidates from previous interviews remain in consideration.

F. Finance Committee – Teyanna Williams

The committee approved the May 20 minutes and reviewed the May 31 financial statements. Updates included progress on rate reform, with nearly all vendors registered in the DDS portal and vendor payments expected to increase in 2026. SCLARC submitted a 5-Year Facility Plan to DDS for new office locations to support growth. The DDS audit draft report for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 is being addressed. Facility improvements include a new generator, upgraded auditorium, audio and video systems, and a new office opened on June 30. The organization will transition to DDS's Life Outcomes Improvement System over the next few years. The next meeting is September 17, 2025.

III. Staff Reports

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

Statement of Financial Position: As of May 2025, SCLARC's cash position was \$58.4 million, an increase of \$22 million compared to \$36 million the previous year. By July, the agency received \$118 million in DDS cash advances, providing a strong start to the new fiscal year. Accounts payable stood at \$48 million, up from \$42 million last year. With full implementation of rate reform, cash flow is expected to support vendor payments at 100% of benchmark rates.

Statement of Activities: Total operations allocation is approximately \$79 million, with 76% (\$60 million) spent as of May. Spending is projected to continue steadily for the remaining balance. Overall allocation year-to-date totals \$804 million, with \$626 million spent and an expected additional \$95 million in expenditure. Unencumbered funds total about \$82 million but are expected to decrease as rate reform progresses.

Current allocations include \$79 million for operations, \$200,000 for FRC, \$856,000 for CPP OPS, \$721 million for POS, and \$2.4 million for CPP POS, totaling \$804 million for the fiscal

Approval of the E-4 Allocation: The E-4 allocation for FY 23-24 reflects adjustments including a \$741,000 deallocation for tuition reimbursement by DDS, a \$7,000 grant for Service Access and Equity, and \$380,000 in performance incentives, resulting in a net reduction of \$354,000. An additional \$17,606 was allocated for CPP CRDP assessments. These adjustments are retroactive for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

Board Action:

Approval of E-4 Allocation

M/S/C: Teyanna Williams/Norma Hernandez /Unanimous

IV. Staff

B. Performance Contract – (Cherylle Mallinson)

Cherylle Mallinson, Director of Community Services, presented the final draft of the FY 2025–2026 Performance Contract following a 30-day public comment period. Based on community feedback, minor revisions were made to goals related to housing and employment. Updates include plans to develop more enhanced behavior support homes for both adults and minors, efforts to reduce shared rooms in large facilities, and increased collaboration with DDS-approved housing organizations. The contract also reflects continued focus on employment partnerships and family education. Board approval was requested to submit the updated performance contract to DDS.

Board Action:

Approval of E-4 Allocation

M/S/C: Mireya Romero/ Teyanna Williams /Unanimous

C. Early Start – (Cesar Garcia)

Early Start Audit Results: Cesar Garcia, Director of Clinical Services, reported on the 2024 Early Start Audit. DDS reviewed 90 records, including 45 standard and 45 transition cases, to assess compliance with IDEA Part C. SCLARC received 100% scores in nearly all areas, including consent, evaluations, and school district referrals. Two areas of noncompliance were identified: missing justification for services provided outside of natural environments and unclear service location language in IFSPs. Both issues were promptly corrected. A follow-up audit on June 23 confirmed full compliance. DDS commended SCLARC's early start program and may encourage other regional centers to model their approach.

Update on Non-Medical Respite/ PA: SCLARC is strengthening non-medical respite services in alignment with DDS guidelines and prior audit feedback. While state law allows more flexibility in respite hours, proper justification and documentation are required based on individual family needs. In response to audit findings, SCLARC has improved training and internal procedures to ensure consistent and appropriate authorization of respite services.

D. Revised COI Policy – (Tamilyn Bonney)

Tamilyn Bonney, Directives Compliance Manager, presented the Board with required updates to the conflict-of-interest policy as mandated by DDS for all regional centers. The first update prohibits regional center employees from accepting gifts valued over \$15 per year from service providers, consumers, or their family members, which has been incorporated into the policies and procedures under the Standards and Procedures section, specifically under General Prohibition. The second update establishes a policy prohibiting senior regional center staff from hiring relatives at the center or any affiliated foundations or organizations. This policy has been added to the Regional Center contract and included in the Governing Board training. The Board was asked to approve these changes for implementation.

Board Action:

Approval of the COI Policy

M/S/C: Raul Munoz/ Magali Ochoa /Unanimous

E. Public Comment

F. New Business

G. Executive Director Report – Dexter Henderson

H. Executive Session- As Needed.

I. Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm by The President Cynthia Torres

J. Supplemental Information