

**SAN GABRIEL/POMONA DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
**(A California Corporation)**

**April 26, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE**

The following members of the Board of Directors were present at said meeting:

**PRESENT:**

Gisele Ragusa  
Susan Stroebel  
Mary Soldato  
Bruce Cruickshank  
Joseph Huang  
Julie Chetney  
Wendy Lai  
Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige  
Jaye Dixit  
Bill Stewart  
Trish Gonzales  
Preeti Subramaniam  
Richard Centeno  
Natalie Webber  
Tina Wright

**STAFF:**

Jesse Weller, Executive Director  
Lucina Galarza, Executive Deputy Director  
Dara Mikesell, Chief Financial Officer  
Daniela Santana, Director of Client Services  
Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Outreach & Compliance and Team  
Tim Travis, Associate Director, Community Services  
Yaned Busch, Manager, Specialized Services II, Special Projects  
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager, Communications & Public Engagement Officer  
Hortencia Tafoya, Director of Clinical Services  
Yvette Espinoza, Participant Choice Specialist- System Analyst  
Beverly Stoll Maldonado, Service Coordinator  
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant

**ABSENT:**

**INTERPRETERS:**

***Spanish:***

Shelley Hash & Eduardo Kogan

***ASL:***

Ron Shields & Monique Johnson

***Mandarin:***

Charlene Shih & Ken Chen

**GUESTS:**

Nada Saleh  
Ali Dorri  
Alma Jansen  
Albert Feliciano, SCDD

- **CALL TO ORDER:**

Gisele Ragusa, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed.

The minutes for the March 22, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board.

**M/S/C (Stewart & Soldato) The Board approved the minutes.**

- **PUBLIC INPUT:**

- Mr. Carl Argila reminded the Board that he records the entire meeting and uploads the video of the meeting to his personal blog. He also requested that his son's conservatorship be terminated and that more specifics of his input be added to the minutes.
- Albert Feliciano, SCDD, shared information regarding a series of trainings. He provided the flyers.

- **CONTRACTS FOR APPROVAL**

Lucina Galarza, Deputy Executive Director, presented the following contracts:

- *All Faith*  
**(M/S/C – Stewart & Cruickshank) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**  
**Abstain: Stroebel**
- *Cole Covina*  
**(M/S/C – Soldato & Wright) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**  
**Abstain: Stroebel**
- *Reliable*  
**(M/S/C – Subramaniam & Chetney) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**  
**Abstain: Stroebel**
- *Vocational Innovations*  
**(M/S/C – Stewart & Soldato) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**

**Abstain: Stroebel**

- *Interceptive Orthodontics for Dr. Rodef / Children Dental Fun Zone (M/S/C – Zarsadias- Ige & Subramaniam) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00. Abstain: Stroebel*

Hortencia Tafoya, Director of Clinical Services, presented the following contract:

- *Columbus (M/S/C – Huang & Wright) The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00. Abstain: Stroebel*

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director, Jesse Weller reported on his monthly report to the Board of Directors. (Please refer to the report attached to these minutes.)

**SPECIAL TRAINING – TWO PART SESSION**

Part 1: Communicating Outcomes and Costs of Regional Center Programs to the Board and its Committees.

- Outcomes and Costs of Programs
- Outcomes are Necessary
- Programs and Rates (or Costs)
- Types of Costs/ Rates
- DDS Set Rates
- Negotiated Rates
- Median Rates
- Schedule of Maximum Allowances
- Specialized Rates for EBSH/CCH
- Usual and Customary Rates

Part 2: Understanding Regional Center Financial Requirements, Reports, and Annual Fiscal Audits.

- Budget
- Monthly Financial Report
- Types of Audits

**Next meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.**

**BOARD MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 26, 2023 MEETING**

Submitted by:

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Gisele Ragusa, Board President

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Date



**San Gabriel / Pomona  
Regional Center**

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center  
Jesse Weller, Psy.D.  
Executive Director's Report  
Wednesday April 26, 2023

**State/Local Updates**

- Los Angeles County Fire Department (2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sirens of Silence Event)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Event for a Special Day with First Responders. In partnership, the event will be hosted at SG/PRC on *Saturday April 29, 2023, from 9AM-12PM*. The community will have opportunities to interact with safety equipment, interact and engage with first responders, and learn how to be protected in emergencies.

- Parents' Place 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Information Fair & Festival

The Parents' Place along with the City of West Covina proudly announce the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Information Fair and Festival. The event will be this *Sunday April 30, 2023, from 1:00PM-4:00PM* at Cortez Park, located at 2344 E Cortez Avenue in West Covina.

- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Request for Applications FY 2023-24 through 2025-26

This grant funding is aimed to expand and transform California's behavioral health system to better serve individuals with, and at risk of, serious mental health issues, and their families. The Department has \$2.2 million in funding to allocate over 3 fiscal years to award to regional centers to develop and implement innovative projects to support individuals served. The time frame for these projects is July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026. Applications were due on March 17, 2023, at 5:00PM. As such, SG/PRC in partnership with the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), submitted a statewide project proposal, "Building Bridges". The purpose of this project is to increase collaboration and communication between regional centers, behavioral health, alcohol/drug agencies, and law enforcement.

- Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Lanterman Act Hearing Advisory Committee

I am pleased to announce that I have received notification that I have been appointed for a three-year term to a committee established in WIC 4717 to help improve mediations and hearings for all people with developmental disabilities. The first meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2023.

- Monthly Coffee in the Community with Jesse

I am also pleased to announce that we are seeking interest from service providers and community members to host myself at a community location to have coffee and conversation. Anyone interested in being a host site, please contact Willanette Steward-Satchell.

### **Legislative Information**

#### Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health & Human Services

This afternoon, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services held its follow-up hearing. Assemblymembers Arambula, Jackson, and Rubio were in attendance. The items discussed ranged from the Little Hoover Commission Report and the interim evaluation report from Georgetown University. In addition, caseload ratio and phasing out sub-minimum wage practices were discussed.

#### AB 1147 (Addis) – Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023

The bill has framework on eliminating disparities, providing equitable access to services, increasing accountability, service consistency, transparency, and regional center governance. The current bill has been revised. Most notable among them are new Sections 6, 16, and 19, as well as the uniform statewide vendorization process in Section 18.

#### AB 649 (Wilson) – Developmental Services

This bill would remove the generic service appeal mandate. Per the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), current law prohibits regional centers from purchasing any service that would otherwise be available from Medi-Cal, Medicare, and private insurance, among other sources, when an individual served or their family meets the criteria of this coverage but chooses not to pursue that coverage. Current law also prohibits regional centers from purchasing medical or dental services for individuals 3 years of age or older unless the regional center is provided with documentation of a Medi-Cal, a private insurance, or a health care service plan denial, and the regional center determines that an appeal by the individual or their family does not have merit. This bill would delete both of those prohibitions on regional center purchases.

### **Department of Developmental Services Directives**

- Regional Center Staff Tuition Reimbursement

The Department has released guidance as it relates to Regional Center Employee Tuition Reimbursement. The directive outlines the eligibility requirements, terms, and regional center reporting requirements related to this funding. In addition, you will see that each regional center shall develop a process for review and approvals, which includes how SG/PRC will identify the eligibility requirements and terms of the program listed in the Directive, will be verified. Regional Centers have 60 days from today to submit their plans to the Department.

- Self Determination Update: FMS Rates

Effective May 1, 2023, the Department has established new maximum monthly rates to be paid to FMS providers for services provided to participants in the SDP. Previously, the FMS monthly rates were based on the total number of services listed in the spending plan. The enclosed FMS monthly rates are based on the total number of employees and providers listed in the SDP participant's spending plan. Only individuals directly employed by the FMS or participant are part of this total – it does not apply to employees of providers paid by the FMS statements by June 1, 2023.

- Update on Enhanced Service Coordination

Enhanced Service Coordination are specific to 1:40 caseloads that serve individuals with low or no Purchase of Services (POS). DDS will be providing quarterly reports to help identify participants and the first report is expected in April 2023. Regional Centers are expected to use the most current reporting to identify potential participants. Additionally, DDS will be releasing an Enhanced Service Coordinator (ESC) Experience Questionnaire to measure impact and outcomes. This questionnaire will be provided when individuals begin receiving Enhanced Service Coordination, every 12 months, and within 60 days of exiting the unit. The questionnaires will be provided in a variety of methods based on the individual/family choice. Lastly, there is guidance for regional centers to validate data on each current participant enrolled in this unit.

## **San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center**

- Staffing Statistics

As of March 31, 2023, SG/PRC has 444 authorized positions. This total number includes 402.5 full time employees. Recruitment continues for April 2023: 1 IT Director, 1 IT System Operator, 1 PC Specialist, 1 Aging Adult & Life Span Services Manager, 1 Hybrid Early Intervention/Pre-school Services Manager, 1 Nurse Consultant, 1 Part-Time Nurse Consultant, 1 Mental Health Specialist, 1 Part-Time Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, 1 Executive Assistant/Board Liaison, 2 Admissions Coordinators, 13 Service Coordinators, 1 Vendor Department Clerk, 1 Document Imaging Clerk, 1 Early Childhood Development Services Clerk, 1 Emergency Management Coordinator, Placement Coordinator, and 1 Resource Developer.

- Individual Served Statistics

As of March 31, 2023, SG/PRC served 15,830 individuals. Early Start Admissions (Birth to Three Years of Age) received 251 new referrals, 235 were found to be eligible for Early Start Services. Lanterman Admissions (3 Years of Age through Adulthood) received 26 new referrals. From Previous referrals 39 were found to be eligible under Lanterman and 1 under Provisional eligibility. Exiting Early Intervention at 3 years of age 49 were found eligible under Lanterman and 5 under Provisional Lanterman eligibility.

- Self-Determination Program (SDP)  
As of March 31, 2023, SG/PRC enrolled 110 participants to the Self-Determination Program. The team continues to collaborate with the Local Voluntary Advisory Committee (LVAC) to develop training opportunities and support groups to further enhanced the implementation of SDP. The SDP team attended the webinar on Self-Determination hosted by ARCA on March 30, 2023. This webinar was on the history and philosophy of the Self-Determination Program. We continue to create materials for case management to provide to families at meetings—especially reaching our Hispanic/Latino/Latina community to increase awareness of the Self-Determination Program.
- SG/PRC Monthly Meetings for Vendors/Service Providers  
Beginning March 2023, these meetings that were held weekly will now occur on the third Monday of each month. Please note, this meeting will be *in addition* to the regularly scheduled Vendor Advisory Committee (which is a formal committee of the Board) that occurs the first Thursday of each month.
- SG/PRC Monthly Meetings for the Community  
Beginning April 2023, these meetings that were held weekly will now occur on the third Tuesday of each month. Please note, this meeting will be *in addition* to the monthly Critical Issues Forums, community trainings, and existing committees and support groups.