

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

May 24, 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
Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige
Jaye Dixit
Bill Stewart
Trish Gonzales
Preeti Subramaniam
Richard Centeno
Karen Zarsadiaz - Ige
Tina Wright

STAFF:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Lucina Galarza, Director, Community Services
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
Rosa Chavez,
Jessie Lagos, Manager, Specialized Services II, Special
Projects
Yvonne Gratianne, Manager, Communications/P.R.
Hortencia Tafoya, Director of Clinical Services
Willanette Satchell, Executive Assistant – Exec.
Director
Erika Gomez, Liaison BOD & RDDF

ABSENT:

Natalie Webber

GUESTS:

Cris Schlanser
Michelle Nelson
Alma Janssen, DDS
Phillip Loi
Nada Saleh
Nancy Bunker
Ali Dorri
Nikki Mirikitani

INTERPRETERS:

Mandarin:

Charlene Shih
Ken Chen

Spanish:

Shelley Hash
Sonia Hernandez

ASL:

Ron Shields
Monique Johnson

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Gisele Ragusa, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established.

The agenda for today’s meeting was reviewed and a closed session regarding a legal matter was added.

The minutes for the April 26, 2023, meeting were reviewed and approved by the Board.

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

B. PUBLIC INPUT:

- Carl Argila reminded the Board that he records the entire meeting and uploads the video of the meeting to his personal blog. He shared details about his son’s conservatorship and asked that more specifics of his input be added to the minutes.

C. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Financial Report

In regional center operations, the allocation based on the D-1 Amendment is projected to meet expenditure projections. Projections include operating continuation cost and expenditures from the prior fiscal year. The operations D-1 allocation for fiscal year 2022-23 is currently at \$43,584,193 with projected expenditures of \$41,332,098. The year-to-date expenditure is \$25,882,837 with projected remaining expenditures of \$15,449,262. This results in an unencumbered amount of **\$2,252,095** in regular operations.

The Family Resource Center allocation is projected to meet expenditure projections, resulting in a zero-balance remaining in allocation. The current allocation is \$154,564 with projected expenditures of \$154,564.

The Lanterman Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion program has a current allocation in the amount of \$1,380,279, we expect to spend the full amount. The Fairview program’s is included in this amount.

The Community Placement Plan (CPP) and DC ongoing Workload operations was **only allocated at 50%** in the D-1 amendment. SG/PRC expect to receive full funding at the same level as last year in the amount of \$1,580,746. If SG/PRC does not receive the full allocation for CPP and DC Closure Ongoing expenditures, the

regular operations budget would have to absorb these costs, thereby reducing our budget unencumbered balance to **\$ 1,525,843** for the year.

The Purchase of Service allocation is based on the D-1 amendment in the amount of \$376,782,375. The current month's expenditure amounted to \$29,828,976, bringing the year-to-date expenditure for services to \$228,475,439. The remaining projected expenditures and late bills are in the amount of \$109,649,340 leaving an unencumbered amount of **\$38,657,596**.

CPP POS is in a separate line item, SG/PRC is allocated \$100,000 for placement only.

HCBS is allocated in the amount of \$ 638,638, and staff expect to spend within the allocated amount.

Contracts for Review

Tim Travis, Associate Director of Community Services, presented the following contract:

- California Mentor
(M/S/C – Chetney & Centeno) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- People's Care Ferrero
(M/S/C – Wright & Stewart) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- RSCR CA Grayburn
(M/S/C – Chetney & Centeno) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- Easter Seals Pasadena
(M/S/C – Subramaniam & Soldato) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- Brilliant Corners
(M/S/C – Stewart & Subramaniam) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- Brilliant Corners – Enhanced Behavioral Home for Children
(M/S/C – Soldato & Wright) **The Board reviewed and approved the**

contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.

Abstain: Stroebel

- Vocational Innovations – Diamond Bar
(M/S/C – Stewart & Wright) **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:

- Dr. Thomas Carrillo, Psychologist
(M/S/C – Wright & Huang) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- The Psychological Group
(M/S/C – Wright & Soldato) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- Dr. Yadira Vasquez
(M/S/C – Wright & Soldato) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel
- Columbus
(M/S/C – Wright & Dixit) **The Board reviewed and approved the contract based on their policy for contracts over \$250,00.**
Abstain: Stroebel

D. COMMUNITY RELATIONS/LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Joseph Huang, Chairperson, reported that the committee heard from the different members of the Community Outreach & Compliance Department and their efforts to the community. (See Community Outreach Report for more details). Also shared that the committee were provided updates on the “Back to School Readiness Festival,” Richard D. Davis Golf Scramble, Coffee with the Director and Sirens of Silence.

E. ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR INDIVIDUALS SERVED AND THEIR

Preeti Subramaniam, Chairperson, reported that the committee learned about “Early Childhood - Preschooler Units 3-5” as well as the new updates regarding Self Determination. The members were also asked to review the Service Provider Draft Insurance Policy, which they will vote on soon.

F. VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VAC)

Susan Stroebel, Chairperson, informed the Board that the vendors held another meeting to focus on legislative efforts. 35 vendors have organized to fine tune talking points to meet with legislators. Their intent is to help legislators understand the impacts on individuals served whose programs are being challenged by staffing issues.

G. STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Julie Chetney, Chairperson shared that the committee interviewed a few people for committee membership and recommended the following:

- Phillip Loi for Advisory Committee for Individuals Served and Their Families
M/S/C (Cruikshank & Stewart) The Board approved the recommendation.
- Henrick Wong for Community Relations/Legislative Committee
M/S/C (Stewart & Soldato) The Board approved the recommendation.

Mrs. Chetney shared there is not a lot to report at the time regarding Strategic Planning. Updates will be provided as they become available.

The committee provided a notice to conduct election of a slate of officers for Fiscal Year 23/24 on June 28, 2023. The following slate was proposed:

- Julie Chetney, President
- Jaye Dixit, 1st VP
- Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, 2nd VP
- Trish Gonzales, Secretary
- Bill Stewart, Treasurer

H. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gisele Ragusa, Board President, shared the following information:

- The ARCA Academy - Southern California session was held on May 6, 2023, at SG/PRC. It was an in-person event, and 52 Board members from across the Southern California regional centers attended. She thanked the staff for their assistance.
- Strategic planning updates will be provided soon.
- Wendi Lai resigned because her group started to receive DDS funding and that made her ineligible to serve on the Board. Ms. Ragusa thanked her for

her services.

I. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, discussed the following (for the complete, detailed Director's Report, please see attachment)

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) – Regional Center Infographics - ARCA has produced a range of infographics for both the public and regional center staff.
- Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) Lanterman Act Hearing Advisory Committee - The first advisory meeting was held on May 15, 2023.
- Monthly Coffee in the Community with Jesse – He is seeking interest from service providers and community members to host him at a community location to have coffee and conversation.
- Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 – May Revise Hearings - On May 23, 2023, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3, had a hearing and votes were held on a range of budget items within our service system.
- AB 649 (Wilson) – Developmental Services - This bill would remove the generic service appeal mandate.
- Early Start Standardized Information Packet - The Department has released the Early Start Information Packet that provides an overview of the regional center system and early intervention services.
- Percentage of Rate Adjustment Used for Wages & Benefits - Requires a provider that received a rate increase to use no less than the percentage in the rate model for staff wages and benefits to enhance the wages and benefits of staff who spend at least 75% of their time providing direct services to individuals served.
- 2023 Reimbursement Rate for In-Home Respite Agency Worker Travel Costs - The mileage reimbursement rate for California state employees using their personal vehicle for authorized state business increased from \$.625/mile to \$.655/mile, effective January 1, 2023.
- 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.

- 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.
- Staffing Statistics - As of April 30, 2023, SG/PRC has 460.6 authorized positions. This total number includes 415 full-time employees, and 45.5 vacancies.
- Individual Served Statistics - As of April 2023, SG/PRC served 16,021 individuals.
- Self-Determination Program (SDP) - As of April 30, 2023, SG/PRC enrolled 115 participants to the Self-Determination Program.

J. OTHER BOARD & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal Matter

Next meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

BOARD MINUTES FROM THE MAY 24, 2023 MEETING

Submitted by:

Gisele Ragusa, Board President

Date



**San Gabriel / Pomona
Regional Center**

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
Jesse Weller, Psy.D.
Executive Director's Report
Wednesday May 24, 2023

State/Local Updates

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) – Regional Center Infographics

ARCA has produced a range of infographics for both the public and regional center staff. The following infographics can be located on the ARCA website under the webinar resource library. In addition, they will be posted on the SG/PRC website and shared with the community. The following infographics are available:

- What Does A Service Coordinator Do? ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- One Team – One Goal [RC staff as a whole] ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Generic Resources ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#))
- Supporting Your Employment Journey ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Intake – Lanterman Act Services ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Intake – Early Start Services ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Social Recreation Services ([English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#))
- Understanding the HCBS Final Rule ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Emergency Preparedness – What's The Plan? ([English](#), [Spanish](#))
- Self-Determination Program ([English](#), [Spanish](#))

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

The first advisory meeting was held on May 15, 2023. This committee is a requirement in WIC 4717 to help improve the mediation and hearing process for all people with developmental disabilities.

- 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

Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 – May Revise Hearings

On May 23, 2023, the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3, had a hearing and votes were held on a range of budget items within our service system. At the former hearing on May 16, 2023, DDS Director Bargmann highlighted the request to reallocate Community Placement Plan/Community Resource Development Plan funds in support of the construction housing. In addition, Coordinated Family Support Services, the adjustment to specific service coordination salaries (Enhanced Service Coordination, Performance Incentives, and Early Start Eligibility) to align them with equivalent state salaries were discussed. 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.

Tomorrow the full Assembly Budget Committee will be meeting to review all pending items. This format is not typical and will involve a presentation of the “2023 Assembly Budget Plan.” Of significance, the Legislative Analyst’s Office just published a “[Multiyear Budget Outlook](#).” The LAO’s Office predicts more shortfalls than the May Revise anticipate, and potentially urge further spending cuts and delays. You will see terms like “no longer affordable” and “multiyear deficits.”

Key Takeaways from the Legislative Analyst Office (LAO):

- The state faces operating deficits throughout the multiyear window, meaning revenues would need to come in above projections for the budget to be balanced. While the revenues required to balance the budget are optimistic, but plausible, in the budget window, they are improbable in the out-years.
 - For example, to eliminate the operating deficit in 2024-25, revenues would need to be roughly \$30 billion higher than our forecast.
- LAO Analysis suggests that level of revenue is very unlikely—there is less than a one-in-six chance the state can afford the May Revision spending level across the five-year period. This means that, if the Legislature adopts the Governor’s May Revision proposals, the state very likely will face more budget problems over the next few years.

ARCA shared the following points:

- Generic services appeals is recommended to be repealed, though the specific language is not yet available and may not match with what ARCA is supporting for with [AB 649](#) (Wilson).
- Remote IFSP/IPP meetings would be allowed through June 30, 2024.
- Family Home Agency rates will be addressed.
- Family fees will be suspended for an extra six months beyond what the May Revise proposes, through June 30, 2024.
- Independent Living Services rates will be addressed.
- Department authority on directives will be approved, but with modifications.

- Unused, former Community Placement Plan funding will be rolled over and put towards housing in our system.
- Notable in its absence is any funding to address regional center service coordination needs.

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

- Early Start Standardized Information Packet
The Department has released the *Early Start Information Packet* that provides an overview of the regional center system and early intervention services. Regional Centers are required to have a personalized letter on Page 2 from the Executive Director and can include a maximum of eight local and useful resources, specific to SG/PRC, on Page 40. By June 1, 2023, regional centers must post the PDF versions of the information packet on their websites. In addition, by July 1, 2023, regional centers must begin distributing the information packets to families at Intake in the preferred language of everyone served family’s choice.
- Percentage of Rate Adjustment Used for Wages & Benefits
Requires a provider that received a rate increase to use no less than the percentage in the rate model for staff wages and benefits to enhance the wages and benefits of staff who spend at least 75% of their time providing direct services to individuals served. The percentage of direct care staff wages and benefits varies by rate model. To assist providers and regional centers, the Department has posted an online look up tool showing the required percentage applicable to each service code.
- 2023 Reimbursement Rate for In-Home Respite Agency Worker Travel Costs
The mileage reimbursement rate for California state employees using their personal vehicle for authorized state business increased from \$.625/mile to \$.655/mile, effective January 1, 2023. This change affects in-home respite agency providers claiming worker travel costs as a supplemental cost in accordance with Welfare & Institutions Code section 4690.2(b)(6).

- 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. SG/PRC submitted their policies within the timeframe 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.

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center

- Staffing Statistics

As of April 30, 2023, SG/PRC has 460.6 authorized positions. This total number includes 415 full-time employees, and 45.5 vacancies.

Recruitment continues for May 2023: 1 IT Director, 1 IT System Operator, 1 PC Specialist, 1 Aging Adult & Life Span Services Manager, 1 Manager of Transition Services 1V, 1 Manager of Family Services 1V, 1 Participant Choice Specialist, 1 Nurse, 2 Part-Time Nurses, 1 Mental Health Specialist, 1 Part-Time Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, 1 SIR Coordinator, 1 Executive Assistant/Board Liaison, 2 Admissions Coordinators, 16 Service Coordinators, 1 Federal Revenue Specialist, 1 Psychologist, 1 Placement Coordinator, 1 Healthcare Specialist, 1 Public Information Specialist, 1 Participant Choice Specialist, 1 Early Childhood Development Specialist, 1 Vendor Department Clerk, 1 Document Imaging Clerk, 1 Emergency Management Coordinator, and 1 Resource Developer, 1 Fiscal Department Clerk, and 1 HR Department Clerk.

- Individual Served Statistics

As of April 2023, SG/PRC served 16,021 individuals. During April 2023, Early Start Admissions (Birth to Three Years of Age) received 265 new referrals, 185 were found to be eligible for Early Start Services. Lanterman Admissions (3 Years of Age through Adulthood) received 50 new referrals. From Previous referrals 34 were found to be eligible under Lanterman. Exiting Early Intervention at 3 years of age 38 were found eligible under Lanterman and 8 under Provisional Lanterman eligibility.

- Self-Determination Program (SDP)

As of April 30, 2023, SG/PRC enrolled 115 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 enhance the implementation of SDP. On April 11, 2023, the SDP team attended the DDS meeting on SDP updates, held the SDP Meet & Greet and attend the LVAC on SDP. At April's LVAC meeting, the committee approved a new SDP coaching/training program by Healed Women Heal. SG/PRC continues to create materials for case management to provide to families at meetings, with a particular focus on underserved communities.