



## **Harbor Regional Center**

### **Board Development Committee Meeting**

**May 11, 2022**

In Attendance: Joe Czarske (Chair), Ron Bergmann, Fu-Tien Chiou, Paul Quiroz, LaVelle Gates, Ann Lee, Patrick Ruppe (Executive Director) and Jennifer Lauro (Executive Assistant)

Absent: Chris Patay

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The Board Development Committee held a meeting on May 11, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Zoom to interview a candidate to be seated on the Board.

- Mr. Ruppe reviewed the Board Composition and Term status with the Board.
- In response to HRC's 2021/2022 Board Composition needs, the Board Development Committee conducted an interview of Laurie Zaleski, who is a community member of the South Bay.
- The Board Development Committee will bring Ms. Zaleski's candidacy to the May meeting. If elected, Ms. Zaleski's term of service will be through June 30, 2024.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for June 8, 2022.



**OFFICIAL ELECTION BALLOT**

**May 17, 2022  
Board of Trustees**

The Board Development Committee is pleased to recommend the following candidates to serve on the Board.

If elected, the term of service for the following Board members will be  
July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Laurie Zaleski			



## Harbor Regional Center (HRC) Board Planning Committee March 31, 2022

**Committee Members Present:** Kim Vuong, Chair, Client and Board Member; Ann Lee, Board Member; Jackie Solorio, Parent and Board Member; April Stover, Service Provider, AbilityFirst, Long Beach; Laurie Zaleski, Parent; Dee Prescott; Service Provider, Easter Seals Southern California; Patricia Jordan, Client and Board Member; Thao Mailloux, HRC Director of Information and Development, Patrick Ruppe, HRC Executive Director.

For this meeting, members of the Board Planning and Community Relations Committees met jointly.

Others Present: Jesus Jimenez, HRC Executive Assistant

### **Review of Committee Purpose**

Committee members participated in Introductions and an Opening Round. The Board Planning Committee is a standing committee of Harbor Regional Centers' Board of Trustees. The members of this committee reviewed the purpose of meeting. Committee members will contribute to the development of the mission, vision, core values, and identify key result areas for Harbor Regional Center. It was determined that members will meet at least semi-annually to discuss these topics. In addition, committee members will develop, implement, and review the Annual Performance Plan. A majority of members voted to meet during evening hours. Ongoing meetings will be scheduled for committee members, in consultation of the Committee Chairperson.

### **Mission/Vision Statement**

In continuing the review of HRC's Mission and Vision statements, Thao Mailloux reviewed what the members discussed during the prior meeting. In addition, Ms. Mailloux shared definitions of mission and vision statements to help the group distinguish the difference between the two statements. The committee members reviewed HRC's *current* Mission statement, as well as HRC's *current* Vision Statement. The members were led in a guided discussion to envision how HRC serves and represent its' community. The members of the committee were asked to list some words that came to mind. At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Mailloux projected an image of a seabird consisting of the words the committee members shared.

An ongoing review and dialogue will continue in the upcoming months with committee members and the members of the Board of Trustees regarding the development of HRC's updated Mission and Vision Statements.

### **Joint Meeting**

Committee members joined the Community Relations committee on a presentation about the upcoming Grassroots Day. Thao Mailloux shared that the annual event, coordinated by ARCA, would be taking place virtually this year on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and a majority of the regional centers across the state would be participating in this event. HRC is scheduled to participate in 9 legislative meetings, sharing a

few meetings with neighboring Los Angeles County regional centers.

Major Advocacy Talking Points was shared with the group:

1. Modernizing existing Core Staffing Formula
2. Repealing of fees on families
3. Legislation Support: SB882 (Eggman) proposes the creation of an advisory council to look at ways to improve interactions between law enforcement and people with developmental disabilities
4. Legislation Support: AB2378 (Irwin) tax incentives for employers to hire a person with developmental disabilities
5. Provider Rate Reform acceleration



## Client Services Committee |

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Meeting date | time March 22, 2022 | 6 PM | Meeting location ZOOM

### ATTENDEES

Oanh “Kim” Vuong  
(Individual)

Deaka McClain (Individual)

Patricia Jordan (Individual)

April Rehrig (Parent)

Robin Hayes (HRC Staff)

Lavelle Gates (Parent)

Lucy Paz (Interpreter)

Fu-Tien Chiou (Parent)

Monica Diaz (HRC Staff)

Judy Taimi (HRC Staff)

Juan Carlos Aguila (HRC Staff)

Michael Allen (Presenter)

### AGENDA TOPICS

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Time allotted | 6 PM to 7 PM | Agenda topic HRC Clinical Services | Presenter Juan Carlos Aguila and Robin Hayes

- Presenting on Psych services: Consulting with Service Coordinators and supporting with meeting families to support SC- linking families to services.
- Consultation with SC and family allows for a more intimate setting where families may feel more open to share and ask questions and in turn this is more effective
- Adult mental health committee /Health Committee: professionals coming together to provide recommendations and suggestions to family, client and service providers.
- Developed trainings on self-care for staff and families
- Re-evaluation assessment (therapy /specialist in assessment) both type of psychologists on board at HRC.
- Robin: Forensic specialist: job is primarily to consult with SC’s when a client is forensically involved or at risk at becoming forensically involved.
- Individual who is detained or arrested; where are they in the process; supports through the process
- Individuals are properly housed when they arrive at the jail; Robin makes sure that jails are aware that individuals are developmentally disabled so they are not housed with general population.
- Information/court hearing must be gathered by SC ; Robin attends hearings for support
- Forensic Liaisons support SC’s
- Robin supports SC’s to be prepared before hearings.

- We do not want clients to take a plea that they do not understand; are they competent to stand trial.
- Diversion plan: SC will complete and we will provide the courts with updates on how the client is doing with services that are placed. Court will grant a diversion if client is willing to work with RC and willing to follow a plan of support (to avoid client from going to jail).
- Forensic committee: clients need housing after jail; the committee will review each case and search for placement.
- BCBA consultants: provides behavioral classes and consultations.
- We support all clients as long as they are HRC clients.
- Passport to learning will be supporting individuals that are ages 15 and over that are forensically involved
- Goal is to link individuals to supports and services outside of HRC
- Consultants do support families who have DCFS involvement
- Attend multi agency quarterly board meetings with other LA county RC's, public defenders, probation department. Support throughout the judicial process.
- Crisis response provider: CBEM (Creating Behavioral + Educational Momentum) supporting with behavioral and psychological crisis in the home setting.
- Can clients self-register their disability? Can we collaborate with DMV?

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**Time allotted | 7 PM to 8 PM | Agenda topic LA County Probation| Facilitator Michael Allen**

- Worked for 39 years
- Working with Community based organizations
- Instructor at Cerritos College
- Working on how so we support individuals prior to them being arrested.
- Also having services set up for them as soon as they are released from Juvenile hall
- Services providers are set to support as soon as they are in custody (meet and support)
- When support is provided to individuals, they find that other members in the family are requiring support moving forward as they are also transitioning.
- (562) 480-5642 Michael Allen contact

Next Meeting: April 26, 2022 at 6 PM via ZOOM



## Client Services Committee |

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Meeting date | time April 26, 2022 | 6 PM | Meeting location ZOOM

### ATTENDEES

Oanh “Kim” Vuong  
(Individual)

Deaka McClain (Individual)

Patricia Jordan (Individual)

April Rehrig (Parent)

Guadalupe Nolasco (Parent)

Patricia Canton (Interpreter)

Fu-Tien Chiou (Parent)

Judy Taimi (HRC Staff)

### AGENDA TOPICS

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Time allotted | 6 PM to 7:30 PM | Agenda topic *Assessing Needs & Coordinating Services* |  
Presenter *Judy Taimi*

- Assessment of needs for individuals served through HRC is to assist with improving the person’s current level of functioning, promote achievement of their life goals and desired outcomes, and promote and support inclusion in the community.
- What are needs compared to wants
  - NEEDS: what we must have to stay healthy and safe; food, shelter, clothing, personal care items, reliable transportation; and services that promote community membership
  - WANTS: things that would be good to have; not essential to survive
- Ways we use to gather information to assess needs
  - Individual/Family Service Plan (IFSP) or the Individual Person-centered Plan (IPP)
  - Observations
  - Record Review
    - Ms. Nolasco asked if the staff reviewing the records have expertise to understand the information provided such as the Individual Education Plan (IEP)
    - HRC contracts with various disciplines including the special education attorney in which support is provided to the service coordinator and/or parent/conservator to help them during advocacy at IEP meetings. Service coordinators are trained in providing support and advocacy at IEP meetings.



- Ms. Nolasco expressed that families need an attorney funded through the regional center to represent them at IEP meetings or during due process. Based on her experience, she does not believe that the staff reviewing the records have expertise in such areas like the IEP.
      - Ms. Vuong provided a generic resource, Disability Rights of California that would be able to support families at IEP meetings
        - Informal Source of information with individual/parent/conservator consent
- Exploration of Services
  - What natural resources does the person have in their life?
    - Family, friends, neighbors, church, etc.
  - Is there a generic resource that could pay for this service?
    - Public Education, Private Insurance, Medi-Cal, Department of Mental Health (DMH), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), In Home Support Services (IHSS)
      - Ms. Nolasco asked if the regional center provide any legal representation at IHSS or SSI appeal
      - The regional center does not provide legal representation; however, the service coordinator is able to support the family through the appeal process in connecting the individual/family to the resource needed to pursue such appeals. HRC has a parent mentor program that provides assistance to families needing to appeal IHSS or SSI decisions.
  - Does this fall within HRC's general standards service policy?
  - Does the service have a measurable purpose as established in the IFSP/IPP?
    - Goals developed and agreed upon by the individual/parent/conservator
- HRC is the payer of last resort according to WIC4659(A)(1)
- HRC's General Standards Policy
  - Be accountable, accessible, and culturally appropriate
  - Identify each individual's strengths and needs
  - Promote client and family empowerment
  - Involve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in all aspects of development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of other services.
- Services directly provided by HRC staff or consultants
  - Assessment and consultation
  - Early Childhood Development Classes (Infants and Toddlers)
  - Educational Support (School-Aged Children)
  - Family Support
  - Informational Presentations
  - Assistive Technology Center
- Based on the need of each individual will determine the service that will be funded through the regional center if it is not already met by a generic service. Discussed different services that are available through the regional center system and provided a list of services.
- Service Coordinator Responsibilities: Gather and request information, determine the need and identify the appropriate service or support, consult with a specialist or service provider if needed, write the purchase of service, develop or amend the IFSP/IPP to describe the needs, outcomes, and

agreed upon services and supports, work within the timelines (15 calendar days to provide the decision)

- Ms. Nolasco expressed that the special education attorney has an approximately a wait list of 3 months, family needs faster turnaround with these consultations when needed and service coordinators are invited to the IEP meetings and they are not showing up to meetings.
- Individual/Parent/Conservator have a legal right to appeal through due process/fair hearing process
  - Ms. Nolasco expressed the importance of discussing HRC funding for legal representation at IEP meetings as this is a high need in the families that she supports.
  - The committee agreed to have further discussion on this topic in one of future meetings. We will gather information to ensure a meaningful outcome is accomplished.
  - Ms. Rehrig has offered her support in presenting information on IEP advocacy supports for our committee.

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**Time allotted | 7:30 PM to 8 PM | Agenda topic *General Discussion* | Presenter *Judy Taimi***

- In-Person Meetings: The committee discussed the possibility of resuming in-person meetings. The Long Beach office and Torrance office are options we can use to rotate out monthly meetings. Unfortunately, we will not have the ability to utilize zoom for the meetings when we resume in person. We will continue to discuss this topic to agree on how to move forward with in-person meetings.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2022 at 6 PM via ZOOM

## Harbor Regional Center (HRC) Community Relations Committee March 31, 2022

**Committee Members Present:** Ann Lee, Chair, Board Member; Kim Vuong, Client and Board Member; Jackie Solorio, Parent and Board Member; April Stover, Service Provider, AbilityFirst, Long Beach; Laurie Zaleski, Parent; Dee Prescott; Service Provider, Easter Seals Southern California; Patricia Jordan, Client and Board Member; Thao Mailloux, HRC Director of Information and Development, Patrick Ruppe, HRC Executive Director.

For this meeting, members of the Board Planning and Community Relations Committees met jointly.

Others Present: Jesus Jimenez, HRC Executive Assistant

### **Review of Committee Purpose**

Committee members participated in Introductions and an Opening Round. The Community Relations Committee is a standing committee of Harbor Regional Centers' Board of Trustees. The members of this committee reviewed the purpose of meeting. Committee members will promote, develop, and maintain relationships with clients, families, service providers, and community organizations as well as, educate clients, families, service providers, and community organizations about HRC and HRC services. It was determined that members will meet bi-monthly. A majority of members voted to meet during evening hours. Ongoing meetings will be scheduled for committee members, in consultation of the Committee Chairperson.

### **Annual Grassroots Day**

Committee members joined the Community Relations committee on a presentation about the upcoming Grassroots Day. Thao Mailloux shared that the annual event, coordinated by ARCA, would be taking place virtually this year on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and a majority of the regional centers across the state would be participating in this event. HRC is scheduled to participate in 9 legislative meetings, sharing a few meetings with neighboring Los Angeles County regional centers.

Major Advocacy Talking Points was shared with the group:

1. Modernizing existing Core Staffing Formula
2. Repealing of fees on families
3. Legislation Support: SB882 (Eggman) proposes the creation of an advisory council to look at ways to improve interactions between law enforcement and people with developmental disabilities
4. Legislation Support: AB2378 (Irwin) tax incentives for employers to hire a person with developmental disabilities
5. Provider Rate Reform acceleration

### **Joint Meeting**

Committee members joined the Board Planning Committee on a discussion about envisioning HRC's Missing and Vision statements. Thao Mailloux reviewed what the members discussed during the prior meeting. In addition, Ms. Mailloux shared definitions of mission and vision statements to help the group distinguish the difference between the two statements. The committee members reviewed HRC's *current* Mission statement, as well as HRC's *current* Vision Statement. The members were led

in a guided discussion to envision how HRC serves and represent its' community. The members of the committee were asked to list some words that came to mind. At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Mailloux projected an image of a seabird consisting of the words the committee members shared (attachment enclosed).

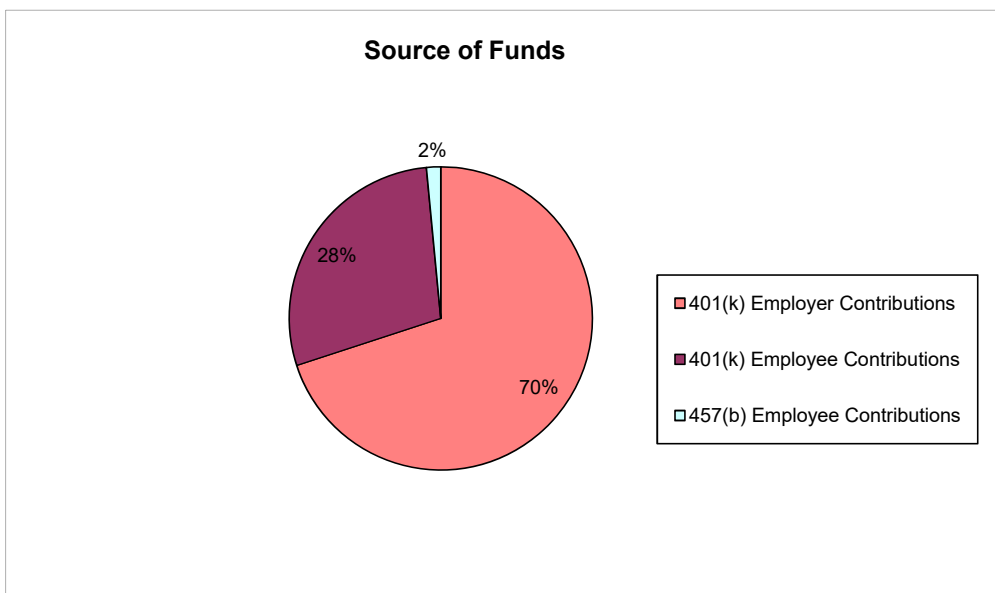
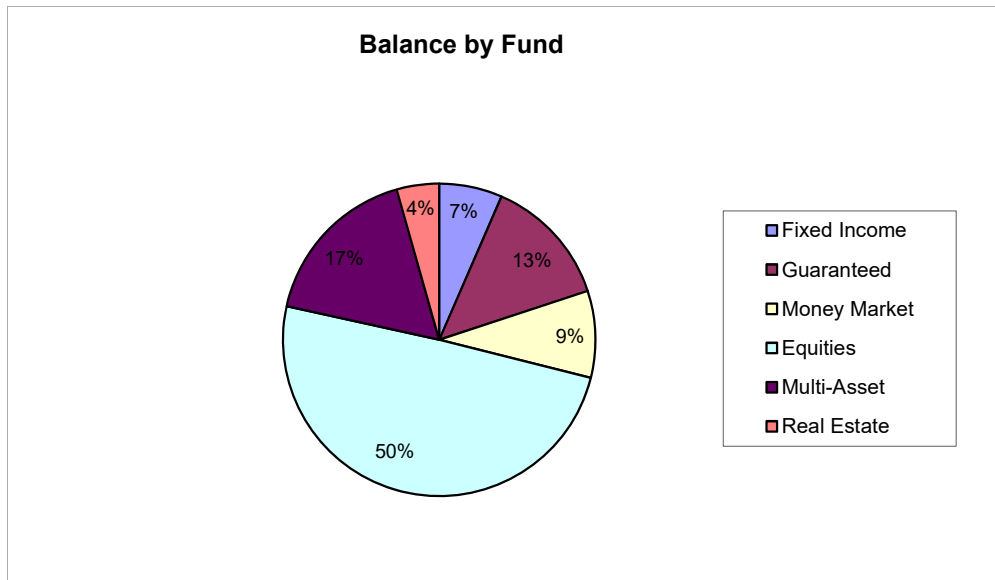
An ongoing review and dialogue will continue in the upcoming months with committee members and the members of the Board of Trustees.



**Harbor Regional Center  
Retirement Plan Balances as of 3-31-2022**

	<b>401(k) Employer Contributions</b>	<b>401(k) Employee Contributions</b>	<b>457(b) Employee Contributions</b>	<b>Total Balance</b>
Fixed Income	\$2,829,635	\$1,096,082	\$24,982	\$3,950,698
Guaranteed	\$4,680,777	\$2,768,669	\$659,203	\$8,108,649
Money Market	\$4,380,819	\$1,032,753	\$9,532	\$5,423,105
Equities	\$21,033,004	\$8,864,892	\$55,875	\$29,953,771
Multi-Asset	\$7,638,034	\$2,584,215	\$156,271	\$10,378,520
Real Estate	<u>\$1,753,457</u>	<u>\$890,288</u>	<u>\$8,407</u>	<u>\$2,652,153</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,315,726</b>	<b>\$17,236,899</b>	<b>\$914,271</b>	<b>\$60,466,895</b>

\* Plan Balances include active and terminated employees still in the Retirement Plan.  
 \*\* Employee Contributions include **\$1,457,896** in Rollover funds.

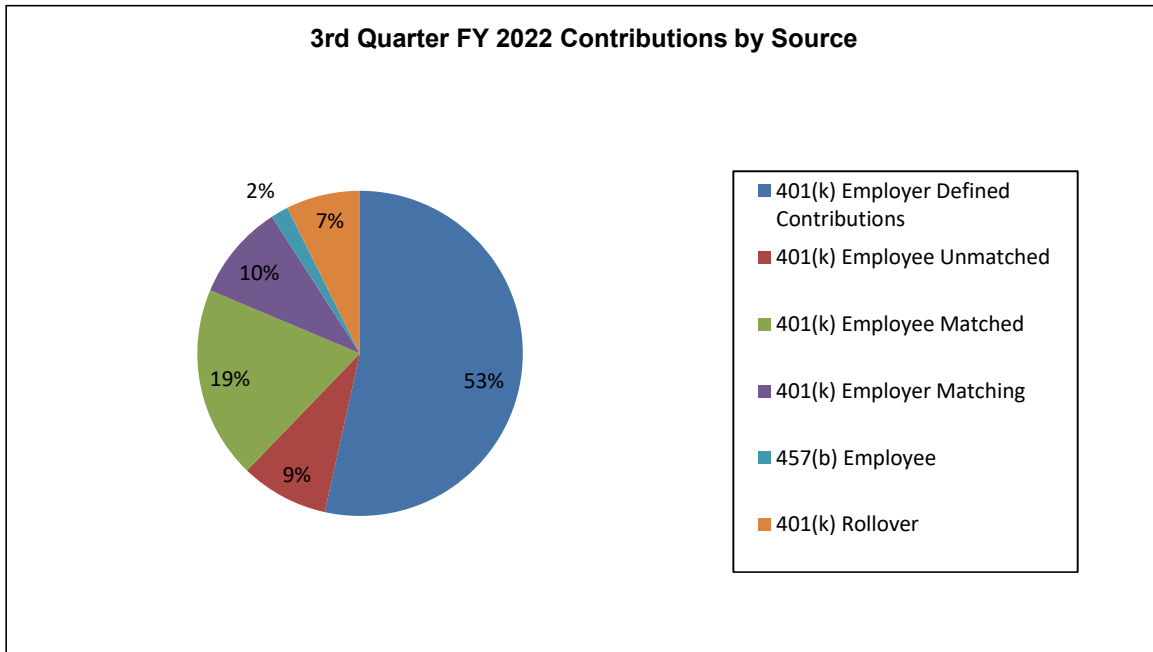


**Harbor Regional Center  
Retirement Plan Balances as of 3-31-2022**

	<u>401(k)</u>	<u>457(b)</u>	
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/21</b>	<b>\$61,293,815</b>	<b>\$903,783</b>	
Activity 1/1/22 - 3/31/22			
Distributions	(\$244,428)	\$0	
Contributions	<u>\$1,108,420</u>	<u>\$19,852</u>	
Net	\$62,157,807	\$923,635	
<b>Fund Balance 3/31/22</b>	<b>\$59,552,625</b>	<b>\$914,271</b>	
Gain/(Loss)	(\$2,605,182)	(\$9,364)	
% Gain/(Loss) for the Period	-4.25%	-1.04%	
<b><u>Participants</u></b>			
Active Employees in Retirement Plan	355	3	59%
Terminated Employees in Retirement Plan	240	5	41%
Active Employees Total Balance	\$38,819,226	\$252,128	65%
Terminated Employees Total Balance	\$20,733,398	\$662,143	35%
<b><u>Loan Information</u></b>			
	<b><u>3/31/22</u></b>		
Employees with Loans			
Active Employees with Loans	24		
Terminated Employees with Loans	<u>6</u>		
Total	30		
Average Balance Amount	\$5,187		
Loan Value Total	\$155,624		

**Harbor Regional Center  
Retirement Plan Balances as of 3-31-2022**

	<u>401(k)</u>	<u>457(b)</u>
<b><u>Contributions</u></b>		
Employer		
Defined (10%)	\$603,564	\$0
Matching (50% of Employee Matched)	\$107,799	\$0
Employee		
Matched (up to 6%)	\$215,598	\$0
Rollover	\$83,101	\$0
Unmatched	<u>\$98,356</u>	<u>\$19,852</u>
Total	\$1,108,420	\$19,852
Employees Contributing	239	
Average deferral percentage	6.81%	





HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00PM on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 via Zoom. Quorum was established at start of meeting.

**Committee Member Present**

Rosalinda Garcia, Parent  
Deaka McClain, Client  
David Oster, Client  
Johnanthony Alaimo, Office of Client Rights Advocacy Representative  
Linda Chan-Rapp, Parent  
Miriam Kang, Parent  
Juliana Martinez, Parent  
Sunghee Park, Parent  
Patricia Jordan, Client

**HRC Staff Present**

Judy Taimi - Director of Adult Services  
Josephina Cunningham – Client Services Manager  
Donna Magana - Client Services Manager  
Ashley Brown – Client Services Manager  
Katy Granados- Client Services Manager  
Jessica Guzman-Client Services Manager  
Bjoern Peterson – Client Services Manager  
Jessica Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Johnny Granados- Participant Choice Specialist  
Bryan Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Patrick Ruppe - Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children’s Services  
LaWanna Blair- Director of Early Childhood Services  
Angela Woods- Provider Relations

**SCDD Staff Present**

Albert Feliciano

**Abbreviations**

HRC: Harbor Regional Center  
IF: Independent Facilitator  
PCP: Person-Centered Plan  
SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
SDP: Self-Determination Program  
DVU: Disability Voices United  
FMS: Financial Management Service  
DDS: Department of Developmental Services  
RFP: Request for Proposal

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

**Visitors**

Lucy Paz (Interpreter)	Jamie Van Dusen (DDS)	Paul Quiroz	Whitney Williams
Reiko Sakuma Umeda	Shelia Jones	Vianey Gomes	Irma Castellanos
Santiago Villalobos	Tim Jin (DVU)	Yolanda Gomez	Adriana Garcia
Ivon Martinez			

**Welcome**

Introductions of committee members and guests – Via Chat on Zoom

**Approval of Minutes:**

Quorum was established at start of meeting. February 2, 2022 minutes posted and available for viewing on HRC website. There were minor grammar errors corrected on notes, with spelling of name and Deaka noted under public comments it indicated CDC instead of CAC. In relation to the content of the minutes, no concerns identified. Meeting minutes approved as corrected- David Oster motioned first and Deaka second. The rest of the committee voted to approve the minutes via Zoom chat. Minutes successfully approved.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Johnny Granados presented the SDP data in a graph format via an “HRC SDP” Power Point presentation shared on the screen.

- Soft Roll Out Participants (no changes from previous month)
  - Total Participants Selected: **129**
    - Remained in SDP: **88**
    - Withdrew: **34**
    - Moved out of State: **3**
    - Inactivated/Not DD: **3**
    - Transferred Out (to another RC): **1**
  - Completed PCPs 56; 29 within the soft rollout and 27 from 7/2021 to 2/2022
  - Certified Budgets 80; 34 within the soft rollout and 46 from 7/2021 to 2/2022
  - Spending Plans 57; 29 within the soft rollout and 28 from 7/2021 to 2/2022
  - SDP Live 58; 31 within the soft rollout and 27 from 7/2021 to 2/2022
    - Total Participants fully orientated 363 (69 are in the follow up stages, 64 have chosen to withdraw and 200 in the unknown stage)
- Questions/Comments:
  - Linda inquired the budget number that is being represented in the chart. Katy and Antoinette clarified the data represents per participant not the amount of budgets (i.e. first year vs second year).
  - Katy shared that once we get to the budget phase, as reported up and down the state, some barriers are due to FMS and with providers completing the documentation required. This explains why we have more budgets than we do spending plans and/or live.
  - Miriam suggested to update chart to show the small growth from last meeting to this meeting (line graph suggested by Johnanthony Alaimo). HRC Staff confirmed the presentation of numbers can display tracking of growth.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

- Deaka expressed concerned about number of individuals that have dropped out. Johnny clarified that based on ID notes, every family has their own reason why they have chosen to not move forward with SDP. Miriam clarified that the number of individuals that have dropped out since the start, not just since it opened for everyone. Some families are expressing that SDP is too much to move forward. Families are happy with Traditional services, respect individual's decision to pick which system they care to be a part of.
- Deaka requested clarification on traditional to SDP and the waiting period between. There is no waiting period at this time to go to SDP or to go back to traditional. The only waiting period is if you go live in SDP and want to go back to traditional, there is a 12-month waiting period.
- There are no updates with fair hearings at this time
- The presentation continued to report there are no updates with fair hiring at this time.
- Participant Choice Specialist Position
  - Bryan Sanchez was introduced as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Participant Choice Specialist for HRC
- Paul Quiroz reported updates for Skills4care
  - There were 3 new referrals since last reporting period, 2 in the children's department and 1 in adults. 1 referral submitted was for IF support and the other 2 for FMS. Out of the 3, 2 Spanish and 1 English.
  - Deaka inquired about those wanting an IF, does Skills4Care provide resources or find someone. Paul clarified that resources are provide and do follow up to make sure that their questions are asked.
  - Linda inquired about list of questions that have been asked thus far. Paul will put together a FAQ /list of questions that have been asked. This would be of benefit when determining the need for on going funding of the program.
- RFPF update
  - Rosalinda shared there were a few proposals and in process of getting them reviewed and interviews scheduled. Next meeting hopefully additional updates on what the status is.
  - Linda motioned for the committee to extend application date for RFP to 3/31/22. Deaka second the motion. Angela Woods had no opposition to the extension. It was agreed upon to allow time for the state council to share at the roundtable and give two weeks after that.
- Linda Chan Rapp
  - Linda shared a PowerPoint on the success story for her daughter with SDP.

**Partner Updates:**

**Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy – Johnanthony Alaimo**

Johnanthony shared that OCRA now has a New Director; Shannon Cogan is now the new full time director for OCRA. There are no additional updates at this time. Johnanthony shared his contact information in the chat box if anyone has any questions/concerns.

**HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER**  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano**

- Albert shared again about the trainings taking place every Monday at 10 AM there are statewide trainings offered by LA Office being provided to anyone interested. Albert will be providing flyer information. These trainings are conducted in English and Spanish.
- State Council hosts periodic meetings for IF. Albert shared that anyone who is an IF, monthly meetings are held. The requirements are for the IF to have an active caseload, not just for their own relative. Anyone interested is to email Albert to be added to the list. The IF meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 AM.
- Linda inquired about an RFP announcement to be shared as a roundtable announcement. Albert confirmed if it is sent to him, he would announce it in that setting.

**Statewide Updates:**

Rosalinda provided statewide updates.

- There was some confusion with an email. The local advisory committees ask if they were willing to share their budget to fund more meetings for the State Council and several regional centers chose not to allocate the money towards that. State Council requested DDS to fund for additional meetings, which they agreed to fund quarterly meetings. DDS has requested that they include mentorship and update distribution lists. It will be required to have 3 reports prepared and written annually and focus groups in meetings as requested by DDS in these meetings. In addition, the program to train SDAC and local Volunteer Advisory Committee members about their roles and responsibilities and leadership skills as requested. The next steps are for contracts to be signed, it to be posted and interview and offer positions.
- Spending priorities for SDP begin in July 2021, available to all consumers and to support expansion of the program, the estimate includes funding for enhanced transition support, services for individuals and their families, implementation of statewide orientation and participant choice specialist at Regional Centers. At HRC, all 3 positions have been filled.
- 2021 Trailer bill language that was discussed and DDS is to address the choice of independent facilitators, choice of FMS, long term sustainability of the SDP and the IPP teams responsibility during the individual budget development and review of individual budgets that are or above specializing thresholds. There is definition of spending plan requirements, medical, eligible participants obligations and the spending plan and not the individual budget should be assigned to uniform budget categories. Additional information posted on the SDCC website.
- In regard to statewide orientation, there will be 5 modules in 7 languages (Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Farsi, Armenian and Arabic). All material will be translated to threshold languages including video success stories, interactive exercises and supplemental materials.
- Major SDP trends and resources, regional centers has internal contact lists and SDP process checklist, on going tracking and surveying technology access and assistance, working on capacity and quality building through the FMS.

**Public Comments:**

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
March 2, 2022

- Juliana Martinez suggested that we start the meeting with explaining what is SDP and purpose of the meeting at the start
- Linda and Albert brought it up that there is room for Public Comment
- Miriam King asked about a new vendor who is being signed up. They went through the process for another client without someone showing up with the HCBS form. Wondering if they will have to go thru the whole process again for the new client. Katy stated they would have to complete HCBS for every individual for every client.
- Shelia Jones- Thank you for everything! Lovely story Linda. HRC is having great success, numbers are not where we want to be but successful. Linda and Rosalinda second what Shelia shares. Linda appreciates Harbor Staff.
- Yolanda Gomez asked if HRC has a list of vendors. It was shared that families could get their own vendors.
- Tim from Disability Voices United. He asked what is HRC doing for outreach. What is HRC doing for outreach seems like we favor traditional.
  - Katy shared we are doing social media, different avenues and conducting monthly orientations in different languages. We have hired our Participant Choice Specialist to focus on outreach.
- Linda shared that in our last meeting, IF said that they took a long time to get payment out. Is there anything that SDAC be able to get payment. It was advised that the IF should get the Director or CSM of department if there are issues.
- Miriam King will be sharing at the next meeting.
- Ivon Martinez asked about funding for an IF and if parent is losing out of money since they cannot be paid.
  - Clarification was given that under the age of 18 you cannot be the IF. If the client is an adult, they can obtain reimbursement.

**Next meeting:** April 6, 2022 via Zoom 6PM-8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Josephina Cunningham

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05PM on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 via Zoom. Quorum was established at start of meeting.

**Committee Member Present**

Rosalinda Garcia, Parent  
Johnanthony Alaimo, Office of Client Rights Advocacy Representative  
Linda Chan-Rapp, Parent  
Miriam Kang, Parent  
Sunghee Park, Parent  
Patricia Jordan, Client

**HRC Staff Present**

Katy Granados- Client Services Manager  
Jessica Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Johnny Granados- Participant Choice Specialist  
Bryan Sanchez- Participant Choice Specialist  
Patrick Ruppe - Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children’s Services  
LaWanna Blair- Director of Early Childhood Services  
Angela Woods- Provider Relations  
Jessica Leos- Client Services Manager

**SCDD Staff Present**

Albert Feliciano

**Abbreviations**

HRC: Harbor Regional Center  
IF: Independent Facilitator  
PCP: Person-Centered Plan  
SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
SDP: Self-Determination Program  
DVU: Disability Voices United  
FMS: Financial Management Service  
DDS: Department of Developmental Services  
RFP: Request for Proposal

**Visitors**

Fernando Núñez (Interpreter)	Jamie Van Dusen (DDS)	Martha Grajeda	Whitney Williams
Reiko Sakuma Umeda	Shelia Jones	Maria Zavala	Katie Ramirez
Vic Martinez	Kin Vuong	Tess Clemons	Naomi Hagel

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

**Welcome**

Introductions of committee members and guests – Via Chat on Zoom

**Approval of Minutes:**

Quorum was established at start of meeting. March 2, 2022 minutes posted and available for viewing on HRC website. Patrick's last name was spelled incorrectly. Correction was made. Miriam Kang stated at the bottom of the minutes her last name was incorrect; correction was made. Linda motioned to approve minutes as amended. Rosalinda asked for a second; Miriam second. Minutes successfully approved.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Bryan Sanchez presented the SDP data in a graph format via an "HRC SDP" Power Point presentation shared on the screen.

- Soft Roll Out Participants
  - Total Participants Selected: **129**
    - Remained in SDP: **87**
    - Withdrew: **35**
    - Moved out of State: **3**
    - Inactivated/Not DD: **3**
    - Transferred Out (to another RC): **1**
- Completed PCPs 58; 27 within the soft rollout and 31 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
- Certified Budgets 101; 37 within the soft rollout and 64 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
- Spending Plans 63; 29 within the soft rollout and 34 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
- SDP Live 60; 29 within the soft rollout and 31 from 7/2021 to 3/2022
- SDP by Ethnicity: 19 Latino participants, 17 White/Caucasian participants, 8 African-American/Black participants, 3 Filipino participants, 1 Korean participant, 9 other/ Bi-Racial participants, 4 Other Asian, and 2 Chinese participants.
- SDP by Language: 51 English speaking participants, 1 Korean speaking participant, and 11 Spanish speaking participants.
  - Total Participants fully orientated 390 (73 are in the follow up stages, 63 have chosen to withdraw and 223 in the unknown stage)
- Questions/Comments:
  - Miriam commented and expressed gratitude for graphs.
  - Linda inquired what the total number of live participants are at this time. Bryan answered that there were 31 live clients from the open enrollment and 29 from the soft roll out which equals 60. Linda inquired that of the 60 clients that are live how many are second year or third year participants. Antoinette responded by asking Katy if HRC has seen any third year participants. Katy stated there might be a third year in adults. Katy expressed that HRC would be able to look into it and share it next time. Antoinette confirmed that there are mostly first and second year participants at this time.
  - Rosalinda commented that she is happy to see things are going in the right direction
  - Miriam asked if this was the first month that we have seen that White/ Caucasian is no longer the higher number of participants in SDP. She commented that Latino is higher than White/ Caucasian at this time. Antoinette commented that she made a good

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

observation and stated that in the past the White/ Caucasian number of participants have been higher. Miriam stated that HRC is moving in the right direction to match our demographic. Patrick stated that HRC serves about 42% Latino and 19% White/ Caucasian. Patrick clarified that this reflects the clients we serve now.

- The presentation continued to report there are no updates with fair hiring at this time.
- Implementation Funds:
  - Antoinette presented that for the 2019-2022 year HRC was awarded a total of \$59,107.00 and the funds were supposed to have been spent by March 2022. Skills 4 Care billed for a total of \$17,631.63 Therefore \$41,475.38 of the money that was not spent.
  - Rosalinda stated that her assumption was that Skills4Care was going to have a larger amount of clients come through and the funds were going to be expensed at that point and that is not quite what turned out. Rosalinda asked if there was any discussion why it turned out that way. Antoinette stated that the pandemic had a direct impact on families' willingness to access supports. It was anticipated that a larger pool of individuals would benefit from coaching services. Rosalinda stated she believed we made a considerate effort to ensure families knew the service was available to them.
  - Linda asked when people go through SDP orientation are they given information of how to access Skills4Care. Antoinette answered that Skills4Care is discussed in the orientation, but HRC will now be making an adjustment because the contract for Skills4Care has ended. Antoinette also explained that Skills4Care was marketed on social media as well and HRC will continue to increase strategies in marketing these programs when a decision is made for the next allocation of funds.
  - Rosalinda inquired if it was felt that the same need is still there. Antoinette confirmed that the need is still there. Rosalinda suggested more creative ideas in order to have a better result.
  - Linda stated that the coaching RFP that is going to be decided in the next week addresses a lot of the goals in the Skills4Care program.
  - Patrick stated that he believes we need to monitor the utilization/running balance from the funds allotted once provider is selected and report it back to this committee. In order to see if we are going to spend all of the funds, we can go back to the drawing board and see what else can be done to make sure all funds can be spent.
  - Linda stated that Paul from Skills4Care was going to write a report about the issues that were brought up that motivated people to seek coaching support and she has not seen one yet. Antoinette informed Linda that HRC has the data and HRC can present.
  - Rosalinda and Linda both mention that data from Skills4Care could provide insight on how to use next round of funds.
- RFP update
  - Antoinette stated that the RFP's that they have received are more comprehensive than was seen in Skills4Care
  - Antoinette stated that the total allocated funds for the 2021 year is \$80,784.00. The RFP that this committee helped with was posted and had five responses: Phoenix, First Choice, ASLA ,Ally and Mountain Top.
  - HRC has reviewed the responses and will be following up soon to get the committees input soon. Antoinette discussed the 2021/2022 funds (same amount was allocated \$80,784.00) and stated that we are recommending we use the responses from current



HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

RFP and make a decision on the 2021/2022 funds to get a head. There is a dead line to spend funds March 2023 and March 2024.

- Linda inquired whether it was possible as an advisory committee to recommend that some of the funds for the third year address issue previously expressed.
- Rosalinda stated that the committee should give suggestion to determine what direction to go and requested to hear from HRC if there has been any new needs that have been discussed in the orientations that have not been captured. Antoinette stated that consistently there is a Spanish-speaking language need. Families are going through orientations multiple times to get information. Whoever is chosen for RFP must have high capacity to serve Spanish-speaking clients.
- Katy discussed barriers in accessing FMS, IF's and PCP's. She also discussed families' struggle to understand all of the responsibility in SDP.
- Patrick discussed that under the DDS directive there is a definition that states that orientation support and cost of speakers. HRC can re-look at materials.
- Linda stated it would be beneficial for committee members to have the criteria on areas of focus that need to be addressed to help guide discussion. Rosalinda discussed a possible survey of the committee to have suggestions put in to have guidance of what meeting should look like.
- Linda inquired about the number of Korean speaking families at HRC families and stated that Korean-speaking participants who are live is low in SDP. Patrick was able to say that there are 93 clients who's primary language is Korean. HRC will work with IT to attempt to find out the actual break down.
- SungHee agreed to check in with the Korean community to discuss barriers they may be facing. Angela discussed that in the RFP Korean speaking was requested. SungHee explained that a barrier for the Korean community is understanding the concept of SDP.
- HRC agreed to compile data about FAQ about coaching requests from Skills4Care and provide prior to May meeting.
- Shelia discussed barriers for the African American families from accessing SDP. It should be made clear to families that they are the employer. There is disparity in the budget that must include technology. Shelia will be providing her time to support families to be more successful in SDP and explained what some of the questions she asks families prior to PCP meetings.

**Partner Updates:**

**Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy – Johnanthony Alaimo**

Johnanthony shared that the update is not SDP related but is important regarding Medi-Cal. It is expected that public health emergency is going to expire. During Covid under public health, emergency Medi-Cal terminations were halted. Medi-cal will start doing redeterminations. Families may start getting notices. Advice to contact county to make sure contact information is up to date.

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano**

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2022

- Albert shared a website that is for any family looking for IF or service providers. The website will give families a blurb about IF. IF and service providers can access website as well.
- LA office continues to host statewide trainings. Next training is on 4/11 in English and is about strategies for coping with change. On 04/18, 10:00 AM, same topic in Spanish.
- Albert discussed that SCDD LA will be having a conversation with Spanish speaking families, self-advocates and providers (Spanish only) to discuss Senate Bill 639 on Friday 03/08/2022 at 10 AM. Other state offices will be having conversations in other languages
- Miriam Kang
  - Miriam shared the success story for her son in SDP.

**Statewide Updates:**

Rosalinda provided statewide updates.

- There was an update 3/15 from SDD that spending plan FAQ's have been updated and located on the website. They now include conservator, durable power of attorney and specifically who reviews and approves the spending plan at Regional Center.
- FMS contact list for SDP has been updated on website.
- Updates on HCBS final rule requiring individuals who receive services and be provided full access to the benefits of the community living and services be offered in settings that are integrated in the community. Assessment tool is posted.

**Public Comments:**

- Linda stated she had noticed that the number of FMS agencies are decreasing. Antoinette provided information that it is happening all over the state and DDS is aware and have gotten input for FMS agencies.
- Whitney asked are there any updates regarding 04/01 DDS rate study and how it impacts SDP participant budgets. Patrick answered that as it relates to SDP budgets, there was nothing in the service codes that were looked at regarding SDP.
- Linda commented that she is concerned that day programs are changing more to participants in SDP than traditional.
- Miriam commented that she had heard that other vendors of regional centers are charging more to SDP participants.

**Next meeting:** May 4, 2022 via Zoom 6PM-8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Sanchez

**Harbor Regional Center  
 Service Provider Advisory Committee  
 April 5, 2022 10:00 am  
 Virtual via Zoom Meeting**

**Committee Participants**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Paul Quiroz, Chairperson	Cambrian Homecare
Alex Saldana	Oxford Healthcare
Angie Rodriguez	Social Vocational Services
Dee Prescott	Easter Seals
Patricia Flores	Life Steps Foundation
Alex Saldana	Oxford Healthcare
Patty Solorzano	Oxford Healthcare
April Stover	Ability First
Christine Grant	Dungarvin CA.
Anthony MacConnell	Dungarvin CA.
Tammi Castillo	CA. Mentor
Donna Gimm	CA. Mentor
Jerri Miles	CA. Mentor
Brian Lockhart	CA. Mentor
Ryan Rieger	CA. Mentor
Verretta Boatner	CA. Mentor
Scott Elliott	ICAN California
Lindsey Stone	ICAN California
Ben Espitia	Goodwill Industries
Nancy Langdon	Canyon Verde
Amy Miller	InJoy Life Resources
Shea Matherly	ARC Long Beach
Maria Ortiz	Pathpoint
Glenda Lang	Options for Birth & Family
Melvin Randolph	Westview Services
Elaine Winkler	CBEM
Dan Merrell	Maxim Healthcare Services
Misha Stevenson	24HR Homecare

## **HRC Staff Participating**

<b>Staff Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Heather Diaz	Director of Community Services
Patrick Ruppe	Executive Director
Judy Wada	Chief Financial Officer
Leticia Mendoza	Community Services Department Assistant
Mercedes Lowery	Community Services Manager
Steve Gocłowski	Clinical Services Manager
Elizabeth Garcia-Moya	Community Services Manager
Tovah Lennon	Deaf Hearing Specialist
Brenda Bane	Provider Relations Specialist
Erika Landeros	Provider Relations Specialist
Mary Hernandez	Director of Case Management Support Services
Karine Paulan	Manager of Rights and Quality Assurance
Ute Czermmel	Controller
Tes Castillo	Assistant Controller
Jessica Sanchez	Participant Choice Specialist
Bryan Sanchez	Participant Choice Specialist
Johnny Granados	Participant Choice Specialist
Katy Granados	Children Services Manager

### **Call to Order**

Paul Quiroz, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Total of 59 participants.

### **HRC Updates:**

- Heather Diaz, Community Services Director provided information on changes to SPAC, a summary of the roles of the SPAC memberships and Chair Individual. She continued to encourage the group to participate to appoint representatives for subgroups in the various service categories that remained vacant.
- Elizabeth Garcia Moya, Manager of Vendorization and Resource Development introduced new HRC staff Tovah Lennon, Deaf and Hearing Specialist. Tovah will be working to develop resources for Deaf clients.

### **Provider Re-Engagement**

Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director encouraged service providers to share feedback they have received recently from clients and families regarding re-opening of programs and plans or any barriers they are facing. Angie Rodriguez from SVS shared that all of their programs have re-opened and in operation and continue to follow CDC guidelines. They continue to face challenges with hiring and maintaining staff. SVS has also faced some challenge with the mitigations plans submitted to Community Care Licensing. April Stover from Ability First also shared similar challenges for their programs.

### **Special Incident Reporting**

Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management and Support Services reminded service providers the importance in submitting SIR reports to HRC in a timely manner with complete client information. Service providers are to use the new SIR form when completing reports. The SIR form is available on HRC's website. HRC receives monthly reports from DDS regarding SIR's and HRC continues to be at only 63% in reporting in comparison to other regional centers.

### **Budget Updates**

Judy Wada, CFO provided update for the FY 2021-2022 Purchase of Service Expenditures Projection (PEP). State-wide & HRC comparison, HRC surplus is \$16,061,008. Projections do not include the current rate study implementation rate increase since we do not know yet what impact will have. Governor's Budget for Community Services increase for FY2022-2023 variance of 15%.

FY 2022-2023 Governor's Budget Highlights Update:

- Rate model Implementation
- Social Recreation and Camp
- DSP Training & Development
- DSP Bilingual Differential
- START Services
- Lanterman Act Provisional Eligibility
- Performance Incentives
- RC Service Coordinators & Caseloads
- Information Technology Modernization

### **Governor's Budget Highlights for FY 2022-2023**

New Policy Items

- Caseload ratios for children through age 5
- Communication Assessments for Deaf Clients
- Subminimum Wage Phase-out Pilot
- Federal Compliance
- Enrolling Vendors as Medicaid Providers

Next Steps

- Senate & Assembly Committees meet and develop bills
- Governor submits May Revise
- Committees, Conference Committee, Legislature votes
- Governor signs Budget

### **Rate Study Implementation**

Heather Diaz shared rate study background of DDS & HMA-Burns conducted a comprehensive vendor rate study (ABX 2-1) in 2016. The rate models established in 2019 proposed standardized rates within each regional center. In February 2022, DDS and HMA-Burns updated the rate models/benchmark rates to include the \$15 p/hr California minimum wage assumption, an inflation estimate, updated benefits cis, and IRS mileage rate.

For the April 1, 2022 rate adjustment, there are no changes in service code, program designs, or billing units (hours, days, etc); and no rates will be reduced.

The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 DDS Budget included the implementation of the Rate Study (AB 136). The timeline for the AB 136 Rate Adjustment Implementation is as follows:

April 1, 2022

- 25% of difference between March 31,2022 rate and applicable rate model/“benchmark rate”

July 1, 2023

- 50% of difference between March 31,2022 rate and applicable rate model/“benchmark rate”

July 1, 2025

- Full implementation of rate models with two payment components
  - Base rate equaling 90% of the rate model/“benchmark rate”
  - Quality incentive program component of up to 10% of the rate model/“benchmark rate”

\*Alternative Services Nonresidential Monthly Rates are not subject to the rate adjustment.

**Rate Study Implementation Process**

**Data Sharing & Review**

- DDS/HMA-Burns compiled Rates Files using POS data as of June 30, 2021
- Over 154,000 individual vendor rates state-wide
- Service codes separated into four (4) batches
- RCs checked for missing rates, discrepancies, courtesy/shared vendors, and “bundled/unbundled” amounts
- RCs provided service detail: Reviewed program designs and service agreements; reached out to service providers
- If 3/31/2022 Rate Unit different Rate Model/“Benchmark” Unit, provided tail to convert units

**Rate Study Implementation Status**

- Batch 1 and 2 service codes providers HRC has received the DDS final rates. HRC will be sending out rate letters, vendor excel sheets out to applicable service providers.
- Batch 3 service codes- HRC still is waiting to receive final rates from DDS
- Batch 4 service codes- RC’s are reviewing DDS initial rates
- Rates vary across Regional Centers because the rate models include differences in regional geographic areas.

Service providers are encouraged to email their questions to [ratesquestions@harborrc.org](mailto:ratesquestions@harborrc.org). DDS is currently developing instructions for when service providers disagree with rates.

Community Services Department staff was recognized for all their time and hard work in reviewing over 7,000 provider rates.

## **COVID -19 Update**

Mercedes Lowery and Judy Wada reminded service providers that HRC continues to provide PPE. They can email their request to [hrcpperequest@harborrc.org](mailto:hrcpperequest@harborrc.org).

HRC continues to host free COVID-19 PCR Testing at Torrance office, Wednesdays 9:30 AM-11:30 AM. Appointments are required at <https://ihd-patient.preciseq.com/harbor-regional-center>

## **Home and Community Based Services – Grant Updates**

Mercedes Lowery, Manager of Service Provider Relations Team provided an update report for those service providers that received HCBS grants. A total of 11 providers were approved for residential homes and day programs services. Grants are for providing home accessibility modifications, vans, staff trainings, technology devices for activities directly related to employment development and for some to come to be in compliance with HCBS guidelines.

## **Electronic Visit Verification Update**

Erika Landeros, SLS Specialist provided information and update regarding EVV for service providers. EVV is part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act enacted in 2016. Primary goal is to ensure people are getting the services needed while receiving Medicaid. This system verifies electronically the visits clients received.

## **The Self Determination Program at HRC**

Participant Choice Specialist Representatives Jessica Sanchez, Bryan Sanchez and Johnny Granados provided an overview of the SDP program.

Soft Roll Out of program.

- July 2018-June 2021
- 99 participants initially selected in October 2018
- HRC started offering orientations in May 2019
- DDS 2<sup>nd</sup> draw –November 2019
- March 2022-87 participants
- Began July 2021
- 379 families are fully oriented
- 65 not moving forward
- 74 moving forward
- 240 unsure

Financial Management Services

- Paying for services, including paying employees
- Assist with hiring employees
- Verifying provider qualifications
- Helping providers get criminal background checks, if needed
- Helping the participant comply with employment laws and tax requirements.

SDP Information

- Orientations are held on a monthly basis with alternating schedules
- SDAC meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month.

- Participant Choice Specialist (PCS)

Additional Information is available on the following websites

- [DDS Website- Self-Determination Program - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)
- HRC- [Self-Determination - Harbor Regional Center \(harborrc.org\)](#)
- [HRC SDAC- SDP Advisory Committee - Harbor Regional Center \(harborrc.org\)](#)

### **Adjournment**

Next committee meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.