



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2021 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION, INC.**

**BOARD PRESENT:**

Mr. Ron Bergmann, *Treasurer*  
Mr. Fu-Tien Chiou, *Secretary*  
Mr. Joe Czarske, *President*  
Dr. James Flores, Board Member  
Mr. La Velle Gates, Board Member  
Mr. David Gauthier, Board Member  
Mr. Jeffrey Herrera, Board Member  
Ms. Ann Lee, Ph.D, Board Member  
Mr. Christopher Patay, *Vice-President*  
Ms. Paul Quiroz, Board Member  
Dr. Monica Sifuentes, Board Member  
Ms. Kim Vuong, Board Member

**BOARD ABSENT:**

Dr. Bobbie Rendon-Christensen, Board Member  
Ms. Latisha Taylor, Board Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director  
Ms. Judy Wada, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Nancy Spiegel, Director of Information & Development  
Ms. LaWanna Blair, Director of Early Childhood Services  
Ms. Antoinette Perez, Director of Children's Services  
Ms. Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management Support Services  
Mr. Mike Ikegami, Director of IT  
Mr. Richard Malin, Manager of IT  
Ms. Jennifer Lauro, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Jesus Jimenez, Executive Team Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Ms. Giovanna Alvarez  
Ms. Lourdes Aguilar  
Ms. Elena Barrales  
Ms. Silvia Bautista  
Ms. Karin Blas  
Ms. Raquel Brizuela  
Mr. Jeremy Van Buren

**GUESTS continued:**

Ms. Silvia Cadena  
Ms. Nancy Canchola  
Ms. Amelia Castellanos  
Ms. Gilberta Castellanos  
Ms. Irma Castellanos  
Ms. Deisi Flores  
Ms. Martha De La Torre  
Ms. Minerva Flores  
Ms. Adriana Garcia  
Ms. Mayra Garcia  
Ms. Vianey Gomes  
Ms. Lourdes Gomez  
Mr. Michael Gomez  
Ms. Lyne Hardimon  
Ms. Blanca Hernandez  
Ms. Emily Ikuta  
Ms. Guadalupe Izquierdo  
Ms. Hilda Jimenez, DDS  
Ms. Nishanti Kurukulasuri, DRC  
Ms. Elia Lopez  
Ms. Silvia Lopez  
Ms. Yazmin Martinez  
Ms. Fabiola Martinez  
Ms. Paula Martinez  
Ms. Verenice Meza  
Ms. Ivon Munoz Diaz  
Ms. Guadalupe Nolasco  
Ms. Magali Ochoa  
Ms. Luz Maria Ortiz  
Ms. Maria Ortuno  
Ms. Mary Palacios  
Ms. Celia Pena  
Ms. Angela Robles  
Ms. Leonor Silvia  
Ms. Alma Solano  
Ms. Viviana Vara  
Ms. Claudia Velazquez  
Ms. Andrea Villalobos  
Ms. Maria Zavala

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Czarske called the Board to order at 6:30 p.m.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Czarske welcomed Board members, guest and staff and took roll call of Board Members and HRC Staff.

Mr. Czarske reviewed with visitors the various zoom instructions and how to use the interpretation feature.

Mr. Czarske encouraged any visitors who wish to address the Board at the end of our meeting during the time we have set aside for public comment to please make a request through the Chat.

Mr. Czarske announced that prior to moving on to the regular agenda we will have a re-election of Board Members whose term end on June 30, 2021. Board Members have received their link to vote through the chat feature. The Board Members will vote yes, no or abstain for the following members:

Ron Bergmann	Chris Patay
LaVelle Gates	Paul Quiroz
Joe Czarske	Latisha Taylor
David Gauthier	Ann Lee, Ph.D.

Mr. Czarske advised Board Members experiencing any difficulty in accessing the link to ask IT Staff for assistance. Mr. Czarske informed that the results of the re-election will be forwarded to the Board President once balloting is completed and the Board Development Committee Chairperson will report on the results of the re-election during the reporting of the Committee Reports.

Mr. Czarske advised that we will now proceed with our regular agenda.

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

Mr. Chiou presented the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting of our Board which were included in the board packet provided to all Board members and posted for the general public on the HRC website.

**The MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2021 BOARD MEETING were received and filed.**

## **PRESENTATION OF FINANCIALS**

**Mr. Bergmann reviewed the following financial statements, which were received and filed:**

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2020-21, dated December 2020; Harbor Regional Center Functional Expenditures, dated December 2020; Harbor Regional Center Line Item Report, dated December 2020; Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, December 2020; Harbor Regional Center Monthly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2020-21, dated January 2021; Harbor Regional Center Functional Expenditures, dated January 2021; Harbor Regional Center Line Item Report, dated January 2021 and the Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated January 2021.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **1. CORONA VIRUS UPDATES:**

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the various tables and charts of data compiled and provided to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) by the 21 regional centers concerning various COVID-19 data as they relate to the developmental service system. Mr. Ruppe then shared information on the COVID-19 vaccine and how the state turned over distribution responsibilities to Blue Shield as a way to accelerate the delivery of the vaccine and see that it is distributed equally. Mr. Ruppe also shared how all regional center clients ages 16 and older are now eligible to get the vaccine, but being eligible does not guarantee that our clients will receive the vaccine quickly because there are still supply issues. Mr. Ruppe explained that in response to this expansion of individuals eligible for the vaccine, the regional centers and DDS developed a letter to go out to clients informing of eligibility. Lastly, Mr. Ruppe thanked several members of his senior management staff, our IT specialist and our Facilities manager for the quickly developing and distributing 8,000 letters to our clients and for ensuring that

they have the necessary documentation to access the vaccine. Mr. Ruppe also noted that our staff are ready to assist clients and families should clients or families need any assistance in scheduling their appointment to get the vaccine.

**2. DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES COVID DIRECTIVES:**

Mr. Ruppe informed that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been issuing timely and informative directives to the regional centers throughout the pandemic. Mr. Ruppe indicated that DDS has also provided clarity for regional centers and for our providers so that our client's needs could continue to be met during this challenging time. Mr. Ruppe reported on HRC's timeline of contact with our clients since the beginning of the pandemic and how the information our service coordinators are gathering on a person's vaccination status is to be inputted into our database to allow DDS will have access to the information. DDS will then be able to utilize the vaccination data to populate a COVID 19 Dashboard on their website.

**3. STATE BUDGET UPDATE:**

Mr. Ruppe updated the Board on the February 17, 2021 State Assembly Hearing and on the February 23, 2021 Senate Assembly Hearing. Mr. Ruppe noted that the budget hearings went well. There appeared to be support for funding to lower caseload ratios. Additional issues discussed included caseload growth, the merits of the self-determination program, concerns about the rate study findings not being implemented, and COVID 19 response issues.

**4. GOLDEN STATE STIMULUS:**

Mr. Ruppe summarized the main points of the recently passed Golden State Stimulus and COVID relief bills.

**5. PURCHASE OF SERVICE EXPENDITURE DATA:**

Mr. Ruppe reported that the Lanterman Act requires the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and all Regional Centers to compile and distribute information regarding the purchase of regional center services by age, diagnosis, ethnicity, language and living arrangement. Harbor Regional Center posted the data on our website for public view and it is has been analyzed and summarized and ready to report to our community. Harbor Regional Center will hold two public meetings via Zoom Webinar to report our Purchase of Service Expenditure data on Thursday, March 25, 2021 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and also on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Spanish translation will be provided for both meetings.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. ARCA**

Mr. Czarske advised that we have been kept advised of all of the various activities taking place in Sacramento by the ARCA staff, specifically the ARCA Academy, which has resumed and has been scheduled for the second Saturday of every month, via zoom platform. Mr. Czarske encouraged other Board members who are interested to attend.

**B. AUDIT**

Mr. Czarske informed that there has been no meeting of the Audit Committee since the last Board Meeting.

**C. BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Bergmann reported that the Board Development Committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup> and on March 10<sup>th</sup> via zoom. At the February meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed the status of the updates to the HDDF Bylaws, the Board Composition Data and the relevant sections of the Lanterman Act that pertain to board Composition. At the March meeting, the committee reviewed current board trustee terms and identified those board members who are eligible for re-election. Tonight, board members voted to re-elect those members who are eligible to continue serving on the board and the results of the

re-election are in and all Board Members that were up for re-election have be re-elected by the full board.

**D. BOARD PLANNING**

Ms. Spiegel informed that the Board Planning Committee met on March 5<sup>th</sup> via zoom and reviewed and provided feedback on the re-designed HRC website, on DDS promoting service access and equity grant (formerly known as disparity grants), on HRC's draft Performance Plan Year-End Report and on diversity data prepared for the upcoming diversity public meetings on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

**E. CLIENT ADVISORY**

Mr. Gauthier reported that the Client Advisory Committee met on February 6<sup>th</sup> via zoom and were shown a presentation regarding Alternative Services for Day Programs and were provided information regarding COVID-19 information on vaccinations.

**F. CLIENT SERVICES**

Ms. Blair advised that the Client Services Committee met on January 27<sup>th</sup> via zoom and were updated on how HRC has supported clients and families during the pandemic. Ms. Blair also reported how the Committee was advised that HRC is working on creating a list of trainings that can be offered to the community and support groups.

**G. COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

Ms. Spiegel reported that the Community Relations Committee met on March 9<sup>th</sup> via zoom and shared how ARCA is planning a virtual Grass Roots Day this year for Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Spiegel also shared that the Committee was updated on how HRC has supported clients and families during the pandemic including statewide efforts to prioritize people with developmental disabilities and underlying health conditions for vaccine eligibility.

**H. RETIREMENT**

Mr. Chiou reported on the Retirement Plan Balances as of December 31, 2020.

**I. SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY**

Ms. Perez advised the Board that the Self-Determination Advisory continues to meet monthly via zoom and provided an update on the January and February meetings.

**J. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY**

Mr. Quiroz reported that the Service Provider Advisory Committee met on February 2<sup>nd</sup> via zoom and were provided information on the following topics: budget and rates, alternative service rates, HCBS updates, Community Placement/Community Resource Development Program, updates on Self-Determination, on HRC Disparity funding, community engagement and lastly were shown HRC's new website features.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Czarske advised that public input was next on the agenda. Mr. Czarske stated that he will call upon each person who has asked to address the Board and requested that he or she limit their comments to two minutes in order to accommodate everyone.

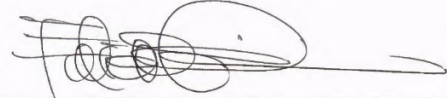
Mr. Czarske indicated that twelve attendees requested to address the Board through the Zoom Chat and invited the attendee to address the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Czarske advised that there will be no executive session tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Czarske thanked all those who participated in our Board meeting tonight. Mr. Czarske reminded Board members that our next Board meeting on April 20, 2021 will be a training meeting via zoom and our next regular business meeting will be a zoom webinar on May 18, 2021.



Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Fu-Tien Chiou, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation