



## **HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR BOARD of TRUSTEES**

The regional center concept is unique in the field of human services. We combine the most compassionate and professional elements of the social services with the best features of business practice. The result is a remarkable partnership between people with developmental disabilities, interested citizens and government.

Our center is a private, non-profit, community-based corporation that operates under contract with state government. We provide services and supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families who live in the greater South Bay and greater Long Beach geographic regions of Los Angeles County, and we are governed by a community-based board of trustees which includes individuals with developmental disabilities, family members and local leaders.

### **Our Board Members:**

Our policies and major financial decisions are made by a volunteer Board of Trustees whose members include individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and leaders in our community. The members of our governing board are required to be composed of individuals with demonstrated interest in, or knowledge of, developmental disabilities and our board membership is also required to include:

- Persons with legal, management, public relations, and developmental disability program skills;
- Representatives of the various categories of disability served by our center;
- Representatives reflecting the geographic and ethnic characteristics of the area served by our center;
- A minimum of 50 percent of the members of the governing board must be persons with developmental disabilities or their parents or legal guardians;
- No less than 25 percent of the members of the governing board must be persons with developmental disabilities;
- One member of our board must be a representative of our service provider community.

All members of our Board are required to either live or work in the geographic area served by our center. Members of our governing board are not permitted to serve more than seven years within each eight-year period.

### **Our Board Meetings:**

All interested persons are welcome to attend Harbor Regional Center board meetings which are held bi-monthly on the third Tuesday evening of January, March, May, July, September and November beginning at 6:00 pm. via zoom webinar. Those interested in attending will find a registration link on our website: <https://www.harborrc.org/board-trustees> one week prior to each meeting.

### **How to Apply for Board Membership:**

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Trustees for Harbor Regional Center we encourage you to contact our Executive Office at 310-543-0632 to let us know of your interest. We will provide you with an application and after you have completed and returned it to us we will keep in on file for review and consideration as vacancies occur.

Each year our Board Development Committee determines how many vacancies we expect to occur in the coming fiscal year and, before the end of each calendar year, the Committee members review all applications on hand to select candidates for interview. When we expect to have vacancies, the Board Development Committee schedules and conducts interviews in the months of January, February and March and advises Board members by April of those candidates whom they will recommend. Candidates are voted on at our annual meeting in May and, those elected are seated on the Board at the beginning of the fiscal year in July.

### **Other Opportunities to Get Involved:**

There are many additional ways to get involved with Harbor Regional Center as well. We encourage you to consider any and all of these and to contact us if you have questions:

- We have at least three committees of our Board that are open to participation from interested HRC clients, family members and service providers. These include:
  - Our Client Advisory Committee which consists of HRC adult clients who discuss matters of common interest and also plan activities (such as mini conferences for clients, a speaker series, a campaign to encourage clients to register to vote, etc.)
  - Our Client Services Committee consists of clients, family members and service providers who explore various issues of interest related to client services
  - Our Community Relations Committee which plans various events (such as a legislative reception) and helps us with our holiday giving campaign
- HRC facilitates quite a number of parent support groups. Some are designed for family members who have children with a specific diagnosis, others are designed for family members who speak a specific language, and others are open to any family member who has a child or relative with a developmental disability. All of these groups provide both support and education as well as opportunities to take on leadership roles with the service delivery system
- HRC offers training for parents who are interested in learning how to support other parents on a one to one basis. We then connect these “mentor parents” who are ready to listen and provide support with other parents who may be facing challenges and concerns
- HRC also facilitates a large number of sibling support groups which provide opportunities for siblings of our clients to become more involved with our organization while learning about developmental disabilities and meeting other siblings
- Many organizations with which we work very closely have opportunities for participation from client and family members. For example, our closely related affordable housing organization, HOPE, and many of our service provider partner organizations are always looking for volunteers

Thank you for your interest in Harbor Regional Center.