



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 18, 2025 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION**

BOARD PRESENT:

Mr. Ron Bergmann, Board Member
Mr. Gordon Cardona, Board Member
Mr. Fu-Tien Chiou, *Treasurer*
Mr. Joe Czarske, Board Advisor
Dr. James Flores, *Secretary*
Mr. LaVelle Gates, *Vice-President*
Mr. Jeffrey Herrera, Board Member
Ms. Patricia Jordan, Board Member
Mr. Chris Patay, *President*
Ms. Angela Rodriguez, Board Member
Ms. Laurie Zaleski, Board Member

BOARD ABSENT:

Mr. Ramon Gonzalez, Board Member
Ms. Ann Lee, Ph.D, Board Member
Ms. Jacquelyn Solorio, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director
Ms. Elizabeth Garcia-Moya, Director of Community Services
Ms. Eun Kim, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
Ms. Thao Mailloux, Director of Information & Development
Ms. Judy Samana Taimi, Director of Adult Services
Ms. LaWanna Blair, Director of Early Childhood Services
Ms. Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management Support Services
Ms. Antoinette Perez, Director of Children's Services
Ms. Jennifer Lauro, Executive Assistant
Mr. Jesus Jimenez, Executive Office Department Assistant

STAFF ABSENT:

Ms. Judy Wada, Chief Financial Officer

INTERPRETER:

Mr. Fernando Nunez, LRA Spanish Interpreter

GUESTS:

Ms. Monserrat Palacios, DDS
Mr. Paul Quiroz, Service Provider
Ms. Jessica Vega, HRC Staff
Ms. Brianna Alvarez, HRC Staff
Ms. Diana Carrillo, HRC Staff
Ms. Eileen Orellana Lunna, HRC Staff
Ms. Chanda Simon, HRC Staff
Ms. Alicia Porter, HRC Staff
Ms. Abigail Vidauri
Ms. Sofia Garcia, HRC Staff
Mr. Brian Carrillo, HRC Staff
Ms. Lesly Nuno, HRC Staff
Ms. Analyssa Luna, HRC Staff
Ms. Ana Luviano, HRC Staff
Mr. Edward Carbajal, Union Rep
Ms. Yvette Robledo, HRC Staff
Ms. Sydney Woo, HRC Staff
Ms. Sandra Molina, HRC Staff
Ms. Yeisson Carrillo, HRC Staff
Ms. Alicia Arango, HRC Staff
Mr. Vincent K. Winston, Union Rep
Ms. Gizet Arellano, HRC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Patay called the Board to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Patay welcomed Board members, guests and staff, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Patay took roll call of Board Members and a quorum was established.

Mr. Patay introduced Board Member Angela Rodriguez who read Harbor Regional Center's Mission and Vision Statements.

Mr. Patay reminded the Board that our next meeting will be a training, closed to the public, on April 15, 2025. Our next regular business meeting will be on May 20, 2025 at the Torrance location in conference rooms A1&2.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Patay made the following announcements:

- Harbor will celebrate 'Grand Opening Day' of its newest building (the former Souplantation) on Saturday, May 17, 2025 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Fun activities and refreshments will be provided for individuals served and their families that wish to attend. Details to follow as the date approaches and we hope the Board will come and join the fun and festivities!
- Our annual Board Retreat and Recognition Dinner will be held of Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the Torrance location in rooms A1/2. The retreat will begin at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. The retreat topic will be on 'Strategic Plan Refresh: Evaluating Progress and Future Alignment'. The recognition dinner will follow at 6:00 pm with details to follow as the date approaches.

RE-ELECTIONS

Mr. Patay advised that prior to moving on to the regular agenda, we will carry the Board Development Committee minutes of February 12, 2025 forward to have a Re-Election of board members whose terms ends June 30th by referring to the Re-Election Ballot that was provided in your board packets and a vote by each board member is required.

Ann Lee, Ph.D. – one year	Ramon Gonzalez – two year
Ron Bergmann – two year	Patricia Jordan – two year
Fu-Tien Chiou – two year	Jackie Solorio – two year
LaVelle Gates – two year	

Mr. Patay called upon each Board member present at the meeting to vote on the above nominees and each member voted to re-elect the above members for the additional terms indicated. All members were in favor with no opposition or abstention.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Patay advised that public input was next on the agenda. Mr. Patay stated that he will call upon each person who submitted a Public Comment Request form to address the Board and requested that he or she limit their comments to two minutes in order to accommodate everyone.

Mr. Patay indicated that we had received two (2) Public Comment Request forms.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Mr. Ruppe presented the draft minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting of our Board which were included in the board packet and posted for the general public on the HRC website. **The MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2025 BOARD MEETING were received and filed.**

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIALS

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

- Harbor Regional Center Monthly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2024-25, dated Dec 2024
- Harbor Regional Center Functional Expense Summary, dated Dec 2024
- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated Dec 2024
- Harbor Regional Center Line Item Report, dated Dec 2024
- Harbor Regional Center Monthly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2024-25, dated Jan 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Functional Expense Summary, dated Jan 2025
- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated Jan 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Line Item Report, dated Jan 2025
- Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation Harbor Help Fund Statement of Activities Fiscal Year 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE REPORT

1. STATE BUDGET UPDATES:

Mr. Ruppe informed that the January budget was intended as a placeholder with key issues affecting the budget include \$2.5 billion in wildfire relief funding and uncertainties regarding federal funding for Medicaid. Mr. Ruppe also informed that the Assembly Subcommittee (Sub 2) Informational Hearing is scheduled for March 26, 2025 where the Master Plan will be presented.

2. MASTER PLAN:

Mr. Ruppe provided the Board with an update on the Master Plan that will be available in English and Spanish by March 28, 2025 with additional translations in Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean available shortly thereafter. The final committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2025 at 9:00 am.

3. HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN – FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 SECOND QUARTER UPDATE:

Mr. Ruppe called the Board's attention to the full progress report included in the Board packet and informed that the full progress report showed strategic plan focus areas, goals and objectives are on track, with the exception of Enhanced Service Coordination, Goal 2, Objective 1. Work has slowed on this Goal due to training for the new standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP) that took priority before the January 2025 statewide rollout. Additionally, two goals related to Resource Development from FY 2023-24 were not carried forward, which is why Resource Development Objectives 3 and 4 are the only items reflected on the full progress report summary page 4.

4. HARBOR OPERATIONS POLICY FOR BOARD APPROVAL | *revised* CONTRACT APPROVAL:

Mr. Ruppe advised that per statute and our contract with DDS, any contract exceeding \$250,000 requires Board approval before it is considered valid. Therefore, it was necessary to update our current Contract Approval Policy to show the addition of language specifying that a contract can be validated if approved by the Executive Finance Committee and subsequently ratified by the

Board through resolution. Mr. Ruppe presented the revised Contract Approval Policy and requested the Board file a motion for approval.

Mr. Bergmann moved to approve the revised Harbor Operations Contract Approval Policy and Mr. Chiou seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

5. HARBOR OPERATIONS POLICY FOR BOARD APPROVAL | revised CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the current Conflict of Interest Policy that was approved by the Board at the September 2024 meeting and informed that the Department now requires the inclusion of the following items: 1) Gift Restriction: Staff may not accept gifts over \$15 from service providers, individuals receiving services from a regional center or their family members; and 2) Nepotism Restriction: Senior staff are prohibited from hiring relatives within the center or with any affiliated foundations or organizations. Mr. Ruppe presented the revised Conflict of Interest Policy and requested the Board file a motion for approval.

Ms. Zaleski moved to approve the revised Harbor Operations Conflict of Interest Policy and Ms. Jordan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

6. HARBOR OPERATIONS CONTACT FOR BOARD APPROVAL | revised PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | EXTERIOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR 21231 & 21307 | D'ESCOTO WEST:

Mr. Ruppe advised that the Lanterman Act requires any regional center contract which exceeds \$250,000 be approved by the regional center Board. Mr. Ruppe indicated that this contract was originally approved at the January 21, 2025 Board meeting and provided a description of the project and purchases needed to renovate facilities located at 21301 and 21307 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503 with a revised contract amount not to exceed \$575,000.00.

Mr. Chiou moved to approve the revised Operations Contact for professional services and Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESOLUTION PLAN FOR BOARD APPROVAL:

Mr. Ruppe called the Board's attention to the Conflict of Interest Resolution Plan for Board Member Chris Patay and advised that Mr. Patay, a parent of an individual who has a developmental disability and receives regional center services from Harbor was appointed as a member of the Harbor Board of Trustees on July 1, 2024. Mr. Patay's daughter, Kate Patay is presently employed by Cambrian Homecare, LLC (Vendor #HH2795), which is an in-home respite services agency vendored by Harbor, as a caregiver. This presents a direct conflict of interest and therefore a resolution plan has been prepared for the Board's review and for review and approval by the DDS and SCDD (State Council on Developmental Disabilities). Mr. Ruppe advised that the resolution plan presented is designed to eliminate any adverse consequences from the conflict and asked the Board to make a motion for approval.

Dr. Flores moved to approve the Conflict of Interest Resolution Plan for Mr. Chris Patay and Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board to submit to DDS and SCDD for their respective reviews and approvals.

8. BOARD TRAINING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the letter provided by the Department of Developmental Disabilities, dated March 4, 2025 indicating that Harbor's Board Training Report and Plan is consistent with the requirements specified in the contract.

9. HARBOR ANNUAL PURCHASE OF SERVICE MEETING:

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 posted the data on our website for public view and it is now being analyzed and summarized so that we will have current data to report to our community. The dates for the Purchase of Service Expenditure public meetings are as follows:

- March 24, 2025 beginning at 6:00 pm via zoom webinar. This meeting will be conducted in Spanish with English and American Sign Language Interpretation.
- March 26, 2025 beginning at 6:00 pm via zoom webinar. This meeting will be conducted in English with Spanish and American Sign Language Interpretation.

10. 'PERSON-CENTERD SERVICE PLANNING SURVEY RESULTS' presentation:

Mr. Ruppe called upon Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management Support Services who made a presentation to the Board on the results of Harbor's Person-Centered Service Planning Survey.

11. 'CUSTOMER SERVICE SITUATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS' presentation:

Mr. Ruppe called upon Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management Support Services who made a presentation to the Board on the results of Harbor's Customer Service Situational Survey.

12. 'COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT' presentation:

Mr. Ruppe called upon Thao Mailloux, Director of Information and Development, who made a presentation to the Board on Harbor's Community Engagement efforts, including a cultural celebration of Black History Month and sharing photos and information on Grassroots Day 2025. Mr. Ruppe and Ms. Mailloux each thanked the Board, Staff and Guests for participation in these community engagement events.

13. 'COMMUNITY TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS' presentation:

Mr. Ruppe called upon Antoinette Perez, Director of Children Services, who made a presentation to the Board on the highlights of Harbor's Community Training efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARCA

Mr. Ruppe summarized the key highlights of the March meetings.

B. CLIENT ADVISORY

Ms. Jordan, Chair of the Committee reported that the Committee met on February 12, 2025 and had discussions on emergency planning, rate reform, black history month cultural celebration and peer hang out. Next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2025.

C. CLIENT SERVICES

Ms. Jordan, Chair of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on January 28, 2025 where the Committee reviewed Harbor's current service policy for Parent Training in Behavior Management Services focusing on efforts to update the policy to be person-centered. Next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2025.

D. COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In Ms. Lee's absence, Chair of the Committee, Ms. Mailloux, reported that the Committee met on January 16, 2025 and had discussions on a variety of topics including strengthening partnerships, community accessibility, digital literacy, legislation and rate reform. Next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025.

E. SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY


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

F. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY

Ms. Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee, informed that the Committee met on February 4, 2025 and focused primarily on rate reform, emergency preparedness and the Public Records Act. Next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Patay thanked all those who participated in our Board meeting tonight.

Submitted by: 
Dr. James Flores, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation