



MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2025 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION

BOARD PRESENT:

Mr. Fu-Tien Chiou, *Treasurer*
 Mr. Joe Czarske, *President*
 Dr. James Flores, *Secretary*
 Mr. LaVelle Gates, *Vice-President*
 Mr. David Gauthier, Board Member
 Mr. Ramon Gonzalez, Board Member
 Mr. Jeffrey Herrera, Board Member
 Ms. Patricia Jordan, Board Member
 Ms. Ann Lee, Ph.D, Board Member
 Mr. Chris Patay, Board Member
 Ms. Angela Rodriguez, Board Member

BOARD ABSENT:

Mr. Ron Bergmann, Board Member
 Mr. Gordon Cardona, Board Member
 Ms. Laurie Zaleski, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director
 Ms. Judy Wada, Chief Financial Officer
 Ms. Elizabeth Garcia-Moya, Director of Community Services
 Ms. Eun Kim, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
 Ms. Thao Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications & Engagement
 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

INTERPRETER:

Mr. Fernando Nunez, LRA Spanish Interpreter

GUESTS:

Ms. Monserrat Palacios, DDS
 Mr. Paul Quiroz, Service Provider
 Mr. Vincent K. Winston, Union Rep
 Ms. Sofia Garcia, HRC Staff
 Mr. Brian Carrillo, HRC Staff
 Ms. Lesly Nuno, HRC Staff
 Ms. Analyssa Luna, HRC Staff
 Ms. Lisa Hobart, HRC Staff
 Mr. John King, HRC Staff
 Mr. Christian Chacon, HRC Staff
 Ms. Cherryl Julian, HRC Staff
 Ms. Cassie Forrest, HRC Staff
 Ms. Josephina Cunningham, HRC Staff
 Ms. Becky Garduno, HRC Staff
 Mr. Jimmy Silvestre, HRC Staff
 Ms. Savannah Pio, HRC Staff
 Ms. Erika Godoy, HRC Staff
 Ms. LaMeikka Bagsby, HRC Staff
 Ms. Jessica Vega, HRC Staff
 Ms. Melissa Tirado, HRC Staff
 Ms. Gizet Arellano, HRC Staff
 Ms. Isabel Castellanos, HRC Staff

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Czarske called the Board to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Czarske welcomed Board members, guests and staff, then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Czarske introduced Board Member David Gauthier who read Harbor Regional Center's Mission and Vision Statement.

Mr. Czarske took roll call of Board Members and a quorum was established.

Mr. Czarske reminded the Board that we do not meet in August. Our next regular business meeting will be at Harbor's Long Beach location in conference room LB1.

Mr. Czarske reminded the Board that our annual Board Retreat and Recognition Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the Torrance location in the main board room. 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.

CLOSED SESSION – OPEN 6:10 PM

Mr. Czarske announced that we will have a Closed Session tonight to discuss: 1) Labor Contract Negotiations; and 2) Employee Salaries and Benefits. At this time Mr. Czarske made a motion to ask the Board to close the public board meeting and go into closed session.

Mr. Gauthier moved to close the public board meeting and go into Closed Session and Mr. Czarske seconded the motion. The full Board adjourned to the Executive Dining Room at 6:10 pm.

CLOSED SESSION – ADJOURN 6:50 PM

Mr. Czarske made a motion to ask the Board to conclude Closed Session on: 1) Labor Contract Negotiations; and 2) Employee Salaries and Benefit and return to the public Board meeting.

Mr. Czarske moved to close the Closed Session and return to the public Board meeting and Ms. Rodriguez seconded the motion. The full Board adjourned to the main Board room to continue the public Board meeting at 6:50 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Czarske advised that public input was next on the agenda. Mr. Czarske 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. Czarske indicated that we had received two (2) Public Comment Request forms.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Dr. Flores presented the draft minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting of our Board which were included in the Board packet and posted for the general public on the Harbor website. **The MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 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 April 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Functional Expense Summary, dated April 2025
- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated April 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Line Item Report, dated April 2025

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EXECUTIVE REPORT

1. BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION | H.U.F. AWARD | LAVELLE GATES "FATHERHOOD FOREVER":

Mr. Ruppe called the Board's attention to Mr. LaVelle Gates, President of the Board, who was honored with the "Fatherhood Forever" Award at the Judge Mablene Foundation's Honoring Unsung Fathers event. Mr. Ruppe informed this meaningful award celebrates dads who remain a steady, loving presence in their children's lives out of deep love and commitment. Mr. Ruppe, the Board and Staff congratulated Mr. Gates on this well-deserved recognition!

2. BOARD APPROVAL: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 HARBOR BOARD COMMITTEE ROSTER:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the proposed fiscal year 2025-26 Board Committees Roster and Chairs that was provided in their Board packet and called for a vote to approve the updated roster.

Mr. Chiou moved to approve the FY 2025-26 Board Committee and Chairs Roster and Ms. Jordan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.

3. CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET update:

Mr. Ruppe provided the Board with a detailed summary of the 25/26 State Budget, its impact on the Department and Regional Centers, on Health & Medi-Cal Changes and on IHSS Reductions.

4. LEGISLATION TO WATCH: AB 1208:

Mr. Ruppe advised the Board of AB 1208, referred to as California Developmental Disability Services Quality, Performance and Outcomes Act of 2025 and how it subjects regional centers to the Public Records Act. Mr. Ruppe summarized the key highlights of this legislation and how it will affect Harbor.

5. REGIONAL CENTER PERFORMANCE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to a slide from the Department of Developmental Services that showed the recognition and payment amounts by measure and regional center for fiscal year 2023-24 and shared how Harbor performed exceedingly well in this period as a top performing regional center in three (3) of the six (6) focus areas, which include: Early Start, Employment, Equity and Cultural Competency, Individual and Family Experience and Satisfaction, Person-Centered Services Planning and Service Coordination and Regional Center Operations. As a result of Harbor's performance, Harbor received over one million dollars in incentive funds, of which 100% was distributed back to staff to recognize their efforts. The Board acknowledged this achievement with applause and thanks to Harbor staff.

6. INSURANCE SCHEDULE renewal:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the Insurance Schedule that was provided in their Board packets and advised that this is the time to renew with a one million dollar increase to our umbrella policy and with director and officer insurance coverage at two million dollars.

7. HARBOR'S SERVICE AREA expansion:

Mr. Ruppe informed the Board that Harbor's service area has expanded to include the entirety of the City of Carson. This is due to our contract with DDS noting that Harbor covers the Torrance Health District, which is located in the City of Carson. Mr. Ruppe informed that our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) has been updated to reflect this expansion effective July 1st and that new applicants for services or to become a service provider will be directed to Harbor as of that time. Additionally, if an individual or family is in the new Harbor area and wishes to move over to Harbor they can request the change and will process as a normal transfer between centers. Providers, however, will be required to stay with the center that is the original vendoring center.

8. HARBOR'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE change:

Mr. Ruppe announced a change to Harbor's organizational structure, changing the Department of Information and Development to the Department of Strategic Communications and Engagement under Director Thao Mailloux. This change demonstrates Harbor's commitment to improving our information and communications and our community engagement activities, which are two (2) key areas of Harbor's Strategic Plan.

9. HARBOR'S MAIN BUILDING GRAND OPENING recap:

Mr. Ruppe called upon Thao Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement who presented photos and a short video of Harbor's new main building grand opening that occurred on June 24, 2025.

10. PRESENTATION: HARBOR & DDS AS CONSERVATOR, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Ruppe called upon Judy Taimi, Director of Adult Services, who made a presentation to the Board on the roles and responsibilities of Harbor and DDS as conservator.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARCA

Mr. Czarske summarized the key highlights of the June meetings that included an update on ARCA's plan to standardize orientation and onboarding for Board members. Mr. Czarske also provided information on the upcoming ARCA Academy occurring this November 14th and 15th at Alta Regional Center and encouraged Board members to attend if available.

B. BOARD PLANNING

Mr. Ruppe announced that the Board Planning Committee will have a meeting on August 12th via zoom to review Harbor's mission, vision and guiding values in preparation for our October Board Retreat and encouraged all Board members to

attend to provide any recommendations for the full Board's consideration at the September Board meeting.

C. CLIENT ADVISORY

Ms. Jordan, former Chair of the Committee, congratulated Mr. Gauthier, who was elected the new Chair for the coming fiscal year and reported on the May 14th meeting that focused on topics for the new fiscal year, review of committee bylaws and community outreach efforts. Next meeting is schedule for August 13, 2025.

D. CLIENT SERVICES

Ms. Jordan, Chair of the Committee, reported that the Committee met on May 27, 2025, where the Committee reviewed Harbor's current service policy for the Early Childhood Services Policy and Medical/Dental Services Policy. Next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2025.

E. SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY

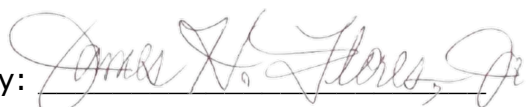
Ms. Perez, Liaison for the Committee, advised the Board that the Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and provided an update on the May and June meetings. The Committee does not meet in July; the next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2025.

F. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY

Ms. Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee, informed that the Committee met on June 3, 2025 and focused primarily on committee members' responsibilities and agreements and SPD updates and success stories. Next meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT 8:04 p.m.

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

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