



**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION**

**BOARD PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD ABSENT:**

Mr. Gordon Cardona, Board Member  
Mr. Jeffrey Herrera, Board Member  
Ms. Patricia Jordan, Board Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director  
Ms. Judy Wada, Chief Financial Officer  
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. Jennifer Lauro, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Jesus Jimenez, Executive Office Department Assistant

**STAFF ABSENT:**

Ms. Elizabeth Garcia-Moya, Director of Community Services  
Ms. Antoinette Perez, Director of Children's Services

**INTERPRETER:**

Mr. Fernando Nunez, LRA Spanish Interpreter

**GUESTS:**

Ms. Monserrat Palacios, DDS  
Mr. Paul Quiroz, Service Provider  
Ms. Shari Daisy, Behavior Analyst  
Ms. Sofia Garcia, HRC Staff

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Gates called the Board to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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

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

Mr. Gates reminded the Board that our next regular business meeting will be on November 18, 2025.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Gates advised that public input was next on the agenda. Mr. Gates 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. Gates indicated that we had received one (1) Public Comment Request form.

### **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

Dr. Flores presented the draft minutes of the July 15, 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 JULY 15, 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 June 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Functional Expense Summary, dated June 2025
- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated June 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Line-Item Report, dated June 2025
- Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation Harbor Help Fund Statement of Activities Fiscal Year 2024-2025

### **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

#### **1. 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.

#### **2. STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS report:**

Mr. Ruppe called the Board's attention to the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter strategic plan summary and annual progress report. Mr. Ruppe reviewed the current status and informed the board steady progress continues to be made in all four focus areas. Mr. Ruppe summarized how Harbor is making strong progress on its three-year Strategic Plan and indicated that most initiatives are on track with important groundwork being laid for ongoing improvement in service, engagement and resource development.

#### **3. FOR BOARD APPROVAL | HARBOR HELP FUND DONATION | HEARTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS:**

Mr. Ruppe announced that Harbor will continue its Holiday tradition with Harbor's Holiday Giving Campaign and with Harbor's Hearts for the Holidays by requesting a \$45,000 donation from the Board. Of the \$45,000, \$35,000 will be donated to

the Holiday Giving Campaign for the purchase of gift cards and \$10,000 will be donated to the Hearts for the Holidays Campaign for the purchase of items for distribution to our families. Mr. Ruppe thanked the Board in advance for their continued support for our Holiday Giving Campaign.

**Mr. Gauthier moved to approve a donation of \$45,000 for Harbor's Help Fund Donation, with \$35,000 donated to Harbor's Holiday Giving Campaign and \$10,000 to Harbor's Hearts for the Holiday Campaign, and Mr. Chiou seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.**

**4. HARBOR EVENTS:**

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to Thao Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, who shared that Harbor will host an event celebrating 'Dia De Los Muertos' on October 17, 2025 at the Norwalk Cultural Arts Center from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Ms. Mailloux encouraged the Board to attend and celebrate with Harbor staff in community engagement.

**5. ARCA ACADEMY NOVEMBER 2025:**

Mr. Ruppe reminded the Board about the ARCA Academy occurring at the Alta Regional Center on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and encouraged Board members to attend if possible.

**6. PRESENTATION: "NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS (NCI) & OTHER HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER SURVEYS/INDICADORES BASICOS NACIONALES & OTRAS ENCUESTAS DEL CENTRO REGIONAL HARBOR"**

Mr. Ruppe called upon Thao Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement, who made a presentation to the Board on National Core Indicators (NCI) and other Harbor Regional Center Surveys. The presentation was given in English with Spanish Language interpretation available. The presentation and data shown on screen was provided in English and Spanish. Meeting attendees were provided with time to ask questions or comment at the conclusion of the presentation. There were no questions or comments from the public. There were some questions about data during the presentation. Several members of the Board commented on the presentation, the data presented and shared input about Harbor's current strategies to collect information from the individuals and families served and Harbor's current progress.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. ARCA**

Mr. Czarske summarized the key highlights of the August meetings that included an update on ARCA's plan to standardize orientation and onboarding for Board members.

**B. BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Czarske reported that the Board Development Committee met virtually on September 10, 2025 and were provided an update on board composition, board terms and recruiting. The Committee also discussed various board presentation and training topics for the upcoming 2026 calendar year. The next meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2025.

**C. BOARD PLANNING**

Mr. Ruppe informed that the Board Planning Committee meeting reviewed Harbor's mission, vision and guiding values in preparation for our October Board Retreat and then called upon Chair, David Gauthier to discuss the outcome.

Mr. Gauthier recalled that Harbor's Mission, Vision and Guiding Values was originally adopted by the Board in 2022 as part of preparing for Harbor's new strategic planning process beginning in October 2025. Mr. Gauthier reported that in the committee's review, they considered feedback from individuals and families we serve, from community partners and from Harbor's leadership team. Mr. Gauthier informed that an agreement was reached on revised statements that was also reviewed by the Executive/Finance Committee. Mr. Gauthier then presented the revised Mission, Vision and Guiding Values to the Board and requested a motion to approved them as presented.

**Mr. Chiou moved to approve the revised Mision, Vision and Guiding Values and Mr. Czarske seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.**

**D. CLIENT ADVISORY**

Ms. Taimi informed that the Committee met on August 13, 2025 and discussed Supported Employment Services and Transportation Services. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025.

**E. CLIENT SERVICES**

Ms. Taimi reported that the Committee met on July 22, 2025 and reviewed Harbor's current service policy for the In-Home Nursing Services Policy and Adult Supports Service Policy. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2025.

**F. RETIREMENT**

Mr. Chiou, Committee Chair, reported on the Retirement Plan Balances as of June 30, 2025.

**G. SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY**

Ms. Taimi advised the Board that the Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and provided an update on the August 6, 2025 meeting.

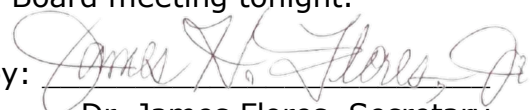
**H. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY**

Ms. Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee, informed that the Committee met on August 5, 2025 and were updated on sub-committee activities, HCBS, the budget, rate reform and the DSP Internship Program. The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT 7:36 p.m.**

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

Submitted by:

  
Dr. James Flores, Secretary

