



MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION

BOARD PRESENT:

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

BOARD ABSENT:

Mr. Ron Bergmann, Board Member
Mr. Ramon Gonzalez, Board Member
Mr. Chris Patay, 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. Mary Hernandez, Director of Case Management Support Services
Ms. Eun Kim, Director of Intake & Clinical Services
Ms. LaWanna Blair, Director of Early Childhood Services
Ms. Judy Samana Taimi, Director of Adult Services
Ms. Thao Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications & Engagement
Ms. Jennifer Lauro, Executive Assistant
Mr. Jesus Jimenez, Executive Office Department Assistant

STAFF ABSENT:

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. Victoria Brumfield, Aid to Gordon Cardona
Mr. Barry Finley, Aid to Patricia Jordan
Tom Phillips, Public Pixels Media
Susan Potter, Service Provider

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gates called the Board to order at 6:00 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 Board members that our next meeting will be a training, closed to the public, on April 21, 2026.

Mr. Gates informed the Board that our next regular business meeting will be on May 19, 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Gates referred the Board and guests to Mr. Ruppe who introduced Mr. Tom Phillips of Public Pixels Media who was in attendance to film Board member Gordon Cardona as he read out Harbor's Mission, Vision and Guiding Values Statement. Mr. Ruppe informed that Public Pixels Media has been onsite meeting with Harbor staff and families as part of Harbor's initiative to create service videos for our website.
- Mr. Gates announced that prior to moving on to the regular agenda, we will carry the Board Development Committee minutes of February 11, 2026 forward to have a **Re-Election** of Board members whose terms ends June 30th by referring to the Re-Election Ballot that was provided to each Board member at tonight's meeting. Mr. Gates advised that a vote by each available Board member is required.

Re-Election Ballots were collected by the Executive Assistant and revealed all members were in favor with no opposition or abstention:

Dr. James Flores - 1 yr (07-01-26 - 06-30-27)
Jeffrey Herrera - 2 year (07-01-26 - 06-30-28)
Christopher Patay - 2 yr (07-01-26 - 06-30-28)
Angela Rodriguez - 2 yr (07-01-26 - 06-30-28)
Laurie Zaleski - 2 yr (07-01-26 - 06-30-28)

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 not received and Public Comment Request forms.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

Dr. Flores presented the draft minutes of the January 20, 2026 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 JANUARY 20, 2026 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 2025-26, dated December 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Purchase of Service Line Item Report, dated December 2025
- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated December 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Operations Line Item Report, dated December 2025
- Harbor Regional Center Monthly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2025-26, dated January 2026
- Harbor Regional Center Purchase of Service Line Item Report, dated January 2026

- Harbor Regional Center POS Contract Summary, dated January 2026
- Harbor Regional Center Operations Line Item Report, dated January 2026
- Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation Harbor Help Fund Statement of Activities Fiscal Year 2025-2026

EXECUTIVE REPORT

1. AGENCY UPDATE:

Mr. Ruppe provided the Board and guests with an update on the status to restore network issues that have impacted some of Harbor's internal systems over the past week. Mr. Ruppe assured the Board and guests that Harbor staff have been continually communicating with our individuals and families to ensure there are no disruptions in providing services and supports.

2. STATE BUDGET UPDATE:

Mr. Ruppe informed that the state continues to have hearings on Health and Human Services. Mr. Ruppe provided the Board with the dates of the hearings and links to access should any Board members wish to watch.

3. FISCAL YEAR 2026-27 PROPOSED TRAILER BILL LANGUAGE (TBL) UPDATE:

Mr. Ruppe shared brief updates on the following proposed Trailer Bill Language for Rate Reform/Quality Incentive Program Contract Exemption, Early Intervention Programs Oversight, Life Outcomes Improvement System, Remote Services, Employment Access Alignment and Self-Determination Program Administrative Cost Funding.

4. REGIONAL CENTER PERFORMANCE MEASURES (RCPMs) REPORT CARD:

Mr. Ruppe shared with the Board Harbor's Performance Measurer's report card for fiscal year 2024-25 and praised staff for successfully meeting measures in the areas of Early Start and Equity & Cultural Competency and for meeting the maximum standard of performance in Person-Centered Services Planning of Service Coordinator Facilitation Skills. The Board gave Harbor a round of applause and thanked staff for their efforts in achieving this honorable recognition.

5. FOR BOARD APPROVAL | HARBOR OPERATIONS CONTRACT | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | 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 is for interior improvements at 21231 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503 that will include the 1) remodel of 1,6660 sf previously used as classrooms to office space utilizing a combination of offices, workstations and drop-in stations to accommodate up to a total of ten (10) employees; 2) remodel of 375 sf to create new multi-purpose conference room; and 3) removing walls, updating lighting, replacement of tile flooring and installation of additional exit doors. The cost is estimated at \$445,000 (including soft costs and contingency).

Ms. Jordan moved to approve the Operations Contract for Professional Services with D'Escoto West for interior improvements at 21231 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503 and Ms. Rodriguez seconded

the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.

6. FOR BOARD APPROVAL | HARBOR OPERATIONS CONTRACT | LANDSCAPING SERVICES | GS BROTHERS/GAUDENTI & SONS:

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 is for landscaping services for the Harbor Regional Center Torrance Campus landscaping project covering the area between 21307 and 21311 Hawthorne Boulevard. Mr. Ruppe informed the area is being reimagined to create an outdoor space to be enjoyed by Harbor staff, visitors and the community. The project scope includes demolition of the fountain original to Del Amo Village and surrounding concrete seating area. The new outdoor space will include trees, groundcover, shrubs, lighting and outdoor furniture, irrigation, hardscape and electrical. The cost is estimated at \$295,000 with an anticipated completion date by April, 2026.

Mr. Chiou moved to approve the Operations Contract for Landscaping Services with GS Brothers, Inc. and Gaudenti & Sons for the Harbor Torrance Campus landscaping project area between 21307 and 21311 Hawthorne Boulevard and Ms. Jordan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.

7. FOR BOARD APPROVAL | 2026-2031 STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT:

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the draft 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, which included the four focus areas of (1) Individual & Family Experience, (2) Service Coordination and Service Delivery, (3) Community Engagement and Partnerships and (4) Organizational Excellence and Sustainability. Mr. Ruppe informed that the draft reflects the direction the Board, along with additional staff and stakeholder input, provided during the October 2025 retreat. Mr. Ruppe wished to confirm that the draft 2026-2031 plan captures the priorities and overall direction for Harbor as we look ahead to the next five years. Mr. Ruppe presented the 2026-2031 Strategic Plan draft to the Board for their approval.

Ms. Lee moved to approve Harbor's 2026-2031 Strategic Plan draft and Mr. Czarske seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & FULL PROGRESS REPORT:

Mr. Ruppe provided the Board with a thorough update on Harbor's Strategic Plan Executive Summary and Full Progress Report. Discussion followed.

9. HARBOR ANNUAL PURCHASE OF SERVICE MEETINGS:

Mr. Ruppe reminded the Board to save the date for our annual Purchase of Service Expenditure meetings that will be held on March 25th and 26th via Zoom. The March 25th meeting will be conducted in English with Spanish translation and the March 26th meeting will be held in Spanish with English translation. Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the flyer that was included in their Board packets where they may register to attend and encouraged Board member participation.

10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

Mr. Ruppe called on Ms. Mailloux, Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement who shared photos and information of Harbor's Lunar New Year Cultural Celebration, the 16th Annual Celebration of Children with Special Needs event and Grassroots Day. Special thanks was given to Mr. Chiou and Ms. Rodriguez for attending Grassroots Day.

11. PRESENTATION: BOARD GOVERNANCE & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RELATIONSHIP & CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Mr. Ruppe and Ms. Tammy Carter, Director of Human Resources, provided a brief presentation on Board Governance and the Executive Director Relationship and on Conflict of Interest.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. RETIREMENT

Mr. Chiou, Committee Chair, reported on the Retirement Plan Balances as of December 31, 2025.

B. SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY


In Ms. Perez absence, Ms. Taimi advised the Board that the Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and provided an update on the January and February meetings.

C. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY

Ms. Rodriguez, Chair of the Committee, informed that the Committee met on February 3, 2026 and received updates on HCBS, rate reform, standardized vendorization and the quality incentive program (QIP) for fiscal year 2026-27. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT 7:26 p.m.

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

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