



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2024 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE HARBOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FOUNDATION**

**BOARD PRESENT:**

Mr. Eber Bayona, Board Member  
Mr. Gordon Cardona, Board Member  
Dr. James Flores, *Secretary*  
Mr. LaVelle Gates, *Vice-President*  
Mr. Jeffrey Herrera, Board Member  
Ms. Patricia Jordan, Board Member  
Ms. Ann Lee, Ph.D, Board Member  
Mr. Chris Patay, Board Advisor  
Ms. Laurie Zaleski, Board Member

**BOARD ABSENT:**

Mr. Ron Bergmann, Board Member  
Mr. Fu-Tien Chiou, Treasurer  
Mr. Joe Czarske, Board Advisor  
Mr. Ramon Gonzalez, Board Member  
Ms. Jacquelyn Solorio, Board Member  
Ms. Angela Rodriguez, Board Member

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Patrick Ruppe, Executive Director  
Ms. Elizabeth Garcia-Moya, Director of Community Services  
Ms. Patricia Piceno, Manager of Vendorization & Resource Development  
Ms. Eun Kim, Director of Intake & Clinical Services  
Ms. Thao Mailloux, Director of Information & Development  
Ms. Judy Samana Taimi, Director of Adult Services  
Ms. Judy Wada, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Jennifer Lauro, Executive Assistant  
Mr. Jesus Jimenez, Executive Office Department Assistant

**STAFF ABSENT:**

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

**INTERPRETER:**

Mr. Fernando Nunez, LRA Spanish Interpreter

**GUESTS:**

Ms. Monserrat Palacios, DDS  
Mr. Paul Quiroz, Service Provider  
Mr. Brian Carrillo, HRC Staff  
Mr. Barry Finley, Aide to Patricia Jordan

**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 Ann Lee, Ph.D. who read Harbor Regional Center's Mission and Vision Statements.

Mr. Patay reminded the Board that we do not meet in December. Our next regular business meeting will be on January 21, 2025 at the Torrance location in conference rooms A1&2.

**CLOSED SESSION – OPEN 6:10 pm**

Mr. Patay announced that we will have a Closed Session tonight to discuss ‘Real Estate Negotiations’. At this time, Mr. Patay made a motion to ask the Board to close the public board meeting and go into closed session.

**Mr. Cardona moved to close the public board meeting and go into closed session and Dr. Lee seconded the motion.**

**CLOSED SESSION – ADJOURN 6:20 pm**

Mr. Patay made a motion to ask the Board to conclude closed session on ‘Real Estate Negotiations’ and return to the public board meeting.

**Mr. Gates moved to conclude the closed session and return to the public meeting and Mr. Cardona seconded the motion.**

**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 zero (0) Public Comment Request forms.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

Dr. Flores presented the draft minutes of the September 17, 2024 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 SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 BOARD MEETING were received and filed.**

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIALS**

**In Mr. Chiou’s absence, Ms. Wada reviewed the following financial statements, which were received and filed:**

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

**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**1. HARBOR’s 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENTS:**

Mr. Ruppe presented the Board with a short video of highlights of Harbor’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Carnival and thanked all those who attended!

**2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

Mr. Ruppe summarized the key points of the following four bills:

- AB 1147 – formally passed this year and introduced significant changes affecting regional centers regarding the Public Records Act Compliance, Access to Records and Gift Restrictions.
- AB 2493 – will introduce statutory guidance for updating service provider rates.
- AB 3291 – mandates Caregiver Succession Planning and broadens Expansion of Rent Support Criteria
- SB 1197 – enables regional centers to provide funding for respite services for children living with non-relative foster families.

**3. HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:**

Mr. Ruppe provided updates to the Board on the overall status of the strategic plan progress for the agency, including status of goals pertaining to Individual and Family Experience and Satisfaction, Enhanced Service Coordination, Resource Development and Community Engagement.

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

Mr. Ruppe called the Board’s attention to the revised Whistleblower Policy provided in their board packets and informed that the policy had been updated to reflect person-centered language. Mr. Patay asked the Board for a vote to approve the revised Harbor Operations Whistleblower policy.

**Ms. Jordan moved to approve Harbor’s revised Whistleblower Policy and Mr. Gates seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.**

**5. HARBOR OPERATIONS POLICY FOR BOARD APPROVAL | new DELEGATED CONSERVATORSHIP POLICY:**

Mr. Ruppe referred the Board to the new Delegated Conservatorship Policy and advised that statute requires that all regional center develop a policy to address delegated conservatorships. This new policy ensures that a conserved individual has a representative, other than a service coordinator, present at any meeting where services and supports are being discussed. Mr. Ruppe advised that Harbor’s designated representative will be the Manager of Rights and Quality Assurance (MRQA) who reports to the Director of Case Management Support Services to fulfill this critical role. Mr. Patay asked the Board for a vote to approve the new Harbor Operations policy on Delegated Conservatorship.

**Mr. Gates moved to approve Harbor’s new Delegated Conservatorship Operations Policy and Dr. Flores seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board with no opposition or abstention.**

**6. RATE REFORM (EARLY START SERVICES):**

Mr. Ruppe explained to the Board that the rate reform initiative for service providers consists of three phases. In Phases I and II, provider rates were adjusted incrementally: in 2022, rates included 25% of the difference between existing and modeled rates, increasing to 50% by 2023. Phase III introduces full rate model implementation, featuring a base rate of 90% of the modeled rate and a Quality Incentive Program (QIP) accounting for the remaining 0%, contingent on meeting Department-set requirements such as provider directory verification. Mr. Ruppe informed that details on future QIP criteria are yet to be determined.

Mr. Ruppe went on to explain that Phase III also brings significant structural changes, including service code consolidation and the transition of billing units from session-based to hourly rates. Additionally, a DDS hold harmless policy allows providers with higher existing rates to continue billing at those levels until mid-2026. New purchase order practice will require separate entities for different service rolls (e.g., 1:1 support, supervision). Providers are encouraged to stay updated through DDS trainings and information from DDS and Harbor websites.

7. **2025 HDDF BOARD MEETING PRESENTATION & TRAINING SCHEDULE:**

Mr. Ruppe presented the 2025 HDDF Board Presentation and Training Schedule for review and approval. Mr. Ruppe called on the Board for a vote:

**Dr. Lee moved to approved the 2025 Board Presentation & Training Schedule and Ms. Zaleski seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.**

8. **HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER SPONSORED BLOOD DRIVES:**

Mr. Ruppe announced that Harbor Regional Center will once again sponsor a blood drive and referred the Board and public to the flyer in the board packet for information on how to register. The blood drive will occur on Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm at our Torrance location in Conference Room A-4.

9. **'Service Provider Oversight' presentation:**

Ms. Elizabeth Garcia-Moya, Director of Community Services along with Ms. Patricia Piceno, Manager of Vendorization and Resource Development made a presentation to the Board on Service Provider Oversight.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **ARCA**

In Mr. Czarske's absence, Mr. Ruppe summarized the key highlights of the October meetings.

B. **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Patay, Chair of the Committee informed that the Committee met on October 9, 2024 to finalize the 2025 Board Presentation and Training Schedule. Next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2024.

C. **CLIENT SERVICES**

Ms. Jordan, Chair, reported that the Committee met on September 24, 2024 where the Committee reviewed Harbor's current service policy for Supported Adult Day Activity Service focusing on efforts to update the policy to be person-centered. Next meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2024.

D. **RETIREMENT**

In Mr. Chiou's absence, Ms. Wada reported on the retirement plan balances report for the quarter ending September 30, 2024.

E. **SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY**

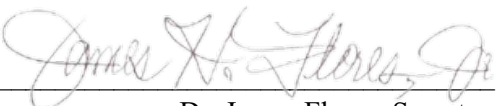
In Ms. Perez's absence, Mr. Ruppe advised the Board that the Self-Determination Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly and provided an update on the October and November meetings.

F. **SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY**

In Ms. Rodriguez's absence, Ms. Garcia-Moya reported that the Committee met on October 15, 2024 and summarized the highlights of the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT 7:59 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