President, Lisa M. Sanchez opened the May 27, 2014 Board Meeting with roll call:

Members Present:

Lisa M. Sanchez  Michelle Rappino  Diana Ugalde
Ana DaSilva  Teyanna Williams  Lara Okunubi
Alfredo Farfan  Dora Evans  Casandra Casado
Mireya Romero  Veronica Moser  Karen Washington
Alyssa Jackson

Members Absent:

Mark Grimes
Jocelyn Baber-Gant

Staff Present:

Dexter Henderson  Reuben Lee  Roy Doronila
Marsha Mitchell  Deanna Corbin

President Lisa M. Sanchez requested the board’s approval of the March 25, 2014 Board Minutes as presented.

BOARD ACTION:
To Approve SCLARC Board Minutes of March 25, 2014
M/S/C: K. Washington/A. Farfan/Unanimous

SCLARC BOARD MEMBERSHIP - Dexter Henderson

Mr. Henderson welcomed to SCLARC New Board Member Dora Evans approved at the January 28, 2014 Board of Directors meeting. Ms. Evans shared a brief overview of her background and work experience. Mr. Henderson also presented the board with the letter of resignation of former board member Claudia Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez accepted a position as a service coordinator at West Side Regional Center, this being the reason for her resignation from SCLARC’s Board of Directors. Mr. Henderson asked the board to continue to seek potential board members for recruitment.
AGENCY DIRECTORS REPORTS

BUDGET UPDATE & FINANCE REPORT – Roy Doronila

Roy Doronila presented the POS Expenditure Projection Report, the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, and the Balance Sheet. The following financial highlights were reported to the board:

The POS Expenditure Projection Report is a report that we send to the State every month. It tells the State how much we expect our Purchase of Services (POS) Expenditures to be, at the end of fiscal year. In this report we are projecting a total of $133,033,156 in POS which is a reduction of $123,740 from the previous months report. The reason for the reduction is we are reducing our estimated growth from $400,846 to $240,787 totaling $160,059 in reduction.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenditure Report show the agency is projecting $23,370,962 in Operation (OPS) Expenditures. On the other hand, in Purchase of Services (POS) we are currently projecting $133,033,156. This represents a short fall of $2,177,306 when compared to our most current allocation. We expect an additional allocation in POS in the near future to fund the estimated shortfall.

The Balance Sheet shows we have $14,152,659 in cash which is twice the amount that we had last year. We anticipate we are going to have enough cash to pay our bills throughout the fiscal year. As you know we have two lines of credit: one of the credit lines we can borrow funds from if there are delays and the budget is not signed on time, second credit line is in case the monthly reimbursement from the state is late.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FAMILY SUPPORTS REPORT – Marsha Mitchell

Ms. Mitchell recapped the three Town Hall meetings SCLARC help in 2014 related to differences in services. The Leadership Team has met with one parent group that had been very vocal at all three Town Hall meetings. One of the outcomes of these meetings is that SCLARC is are currently developing a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). We want to make sure we are collaborating with our parents regarding: service needs, issues in the community as they see it, and program development. In order to do that, SCLARC’s PAC will have a representative from each parent group. An established parent group must at least have 20 members that meet monthly, every other month, or quarterly. The PAC will pick a chair and that person will serve on SCLARC’s Board of Directors. Each parent group will receive a stipend of support from the Regional Center to help pay for guest speakers, rental space, office supplies, and copying. The amount of the stipend is still to be determined.

CONSUMER AND SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT – Reuben Lee

Mr. Lee presented the board with an update on the 2014 Case Load Ratios. The Case Load Ratios were suspended from 7/1/2010 to 6/30/2013 due to the budget crisis. Effective 7/1/2013 the case load department became effective again. Contracts between the department and
Regional Centers require Regional Centers to have service coordinator-to-consumer ratios, as follows:

(1) An average service coordinator-to-consumer ratio of 1 to 62 for all consumers who have not moved from the developmental centers to the community since April 14, 1993. In no case shall a service coordinator for these consumers have an assigned caseload in excess of 79 consumers for more than 60 days.

(2) An average service coordinator-to-consumer ratio of 1 to 45 for all consumers who have moved from a developmental center to the community since April 14, 1993. In no case shall a service coordinator for these consumers have an assigned caseload in excess of 59 consumers for more than 60 days.

(3) Commencing January 1, 2004, the following coordinator-to-consumer ratios shall apply:

(A) All consumers three years of age and younger and for consumers enrolled in the Home and Community-based Services Waiver program for persons with developmental disabilities, an average service coordinator-to-consumer ratio of 1 to 62.

(B) All consumers who have moved from a developmental center to the community since April 14, 1993, and have lived continuously in the community for at least 12 months, an average service coordinator-to-consumer ratio of 1 to 62.

(C) All consumers who have not moved from the developmental centers to the community since April 14, 1993, and who are not described in subparagraph (A), an average service coordinator-to-consumer ratio of 1 to 66.

(4) For purposes of paragraph (3), service coordinators may have a mixed caseload of consumers three years of age and younger, consumers enrolled in the Home and Community-based Services Waiver program for persons with developmental disabilities, and other consumers if the overall average caseload is weighted proportionately to ensure that overall regional center average service coordinator-to-consumer ratios as specified in paragraph (3) are met. For purposes of paragraph (3), in no case shall a service coordinator have an assigned caseload in excess of 84 for more than 60 days.

(D) For purposes of this section, "service coordinator" means a regional center employee whose primary responsibility includes preparing, implementing, and monitoring consumers' individual program plans, securing and coordinating consumer services and supports, and providing placement and monitoring activities.
VENDOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT - Lara Okunubi

Ms. Okunubi reported the VAC is having a challenge with attendance since less than 1% of vendors are attending VAC meetings. The purpose of the VAC is to be an exchange forum where the VAC brings issues that need action to the board, Mr. Henderson, and staff to move our businesses forward. The VAC is setting up a Providers Workshop on July 16, 2014 at the Radisson Hotel in Los Angeles, the fee will be $99, and the VAC invites SCLARC to support us. Hopefully the workshop will enhance the communication, understanding of what is needed. As vendors we want the consumers to whom we are providing services, to have a higher level of satisfaction.

CONSUMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT - Desiree Boykin/Alyssa Jackson

Ms. Boykin first thanked SCLARC for their support with the CAC’s first job fair. She also thanked CAC members Alyssa, Karen, Eugene, and Diana for doing a wonderful job. Ms. Boykin reported on the ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee. ARCA CAC continues to build effort to restore Early Start funding. She also informed the board that she has been elected to represent ARCA CAC on a state wide advocacy level and she will be going to Sacramento next month to represent all the Regional Centers on June 23rd and 24th.

Ms. Jackson gave an overview on both Advisory Committee meetings held April 28th and May 19th. She also reported on the CAC Job Fair held on May 22nd being a total success with 189 people in attendance.

Ms. Mitchell thanked Ms. Phyllis McClean for her hard work with the CAC she will be retiring on June 30th.

Executive Directors Report - Dexter Henderson

Mr. Henderson reiterated on some items reported to the board by staff. SCLARC plans on supporting the stipend for the Parent Advisory Committee by going to our FoS Board and asking them for the dollars to support this effort. Roy also mentioned that this is the beginning of the new fiscal year, this is when we go to our bank and say, “Will you loan us some money in the event that the Legislature does not approve the budget in time for us to keep business going during July and maybe August.” One of the items that has occurred in this new budget is the fact that DDS at the urging of our association has gone to the legislature, to all of the budget hearings saying for the department to increase their cash flow. DDS will have more money available and be able to get money out to us quicker than in prior years. It is our hope that we do not have to access our line of credit, or the dollars that we receive. We hope this to be one way of reducing that expenditure on our part. That was one of the key items that were approved by both the Assembly and the Senate to increase the Loan Authority of the Regional Center System so that there is more cash available within our system. Also there is a growing trend with Regional Centers Directors to discontinue our use of the word “Disparity” and use the word “Variances” instead. Nothing in literature, data, or practice has shown that there is a specific “Disparity” as is
normally considered. What we will be doing in the near future is trying to change the mind set of people by saying, “Yes they are differences in how we spend money from Regional Center to another but Disparity has not been shown with respect to services.” That is one of the items we are going to try to change over a period of time.

I am very pleased to say that both Assembly and Senate have approved a restoration of the Early Start Program. The Senate and the Assembly agreed restore Early Start to 22 million dollars to this coming year. The next hurdle is to come up before the full Assembly and Senate. Although it is going to be approved and passed because the leadership of both entities have agreed to do so. The only real hurdle right now is going to be our governor: Will the governor approve it? Will he approve without any significant modification? Or will he veto? That is going to be the next push that we are going to have in the next few months. We are hopeful at this point. We do have a person here whose aunt is the key person on the Assembly side, Assembly Member Dr. Shirley Weber who I met for the first time at the hearing. Ms. Weber agreed to hold that one specifically connected to Early Start. She was very helpful and supportive.

Second issue is the down payment on the systems sustainability. ARCA has said that over the last 10 years we have lost a billion dollars due to cuts and reductions, we want to work toward a solution to have those dollars returned to the Regional Center Budgets and Vendor Budgets. One of the reasons this is important is because with the closure of all the Developmental Centers, the importance of community support is even more important than it was in the past and Regional Centers must have a more stable base within the community side of our system. Regional Centers have rates that are old and antiquated. They have frozen Regional Centers rent and they are not increasing new programs services. In fact Self Determination is not likely to be implemented without any new source of income coming in. Although they have approved Self Determination is not funded, and in the law it says we will implement Self Determination if there is money that is sufficient to implement that program.

ARCA and a coalition of 13 different organizations have come together and one of the things that they have agreed to do is come together to say, “The Regional Center System needs to have an increase in dollars.” They are saying that the first down payment on that sustainability effort should be 5% and that is going to cost 160 million dollars. It has been discussed in the Assembly and Senate. In view of the fact that there so many other competing resources right now and request for money. However they said, “We will probably be more minable to a 2% increase rather than a 5% increase.” Again, it did not get into the main revised budget but the leadership of both the Senate and the Assembly are saying is a possibility that during the conference committee that something will get into the budget. A third issue that this group approved was the elimination of rent freeze. Regional Centers have no movement in terms of the rent freeze issue right now either through the main revise or otherwise other than the fact that we are meeting and discussing some strategies around that. Hopefully soon and before we move in to our new location we will have some positive information.

ARCA and Regional Centers are also supporting work initiative. Our first activity 180 people coming to the meeting, focusing on work is fantastic, and even without resources this is
something that we have to continue to be involved with. In the last meeting you also approved removal of Regional Center prohibition against paying co-payments and deductibles. There was some discussion about it on both the Assembly and the Senate and I do believe that they approved the modification to the Trailer Bill Language that will allow us to do that, the hope is that the government will allow it. I think that is good information and good news for us as a system to have that legal authorization to pay for the copayment and/or deductibles that are associated with accessing insurance. It makes sense to help families who are unable to pay a copayment during each visit or higher deductible in that year.

The governor proposed in January the Budget in May, he is providing a revision of that budget based on new expenditures and based on new cost projections for the system. Regional Center’s projections for the number of people it is going to serve increase by 11,000 people. Therefore there is more money towards the budget for us to serve those 11,000 state wide people. That information is given to each of the budget committees on both sides of the legislature and then they approve those budgets based on inputting the communication that comes to them. The last issue is minimum wage there was significant concern by vendors who have some staff who are receiving minimum wage. They wanted to know since California increased the minimum wage number, did it put money in their budget to accommodate that, the answer is it has not been a very resembling yes. The rate increases for minimum wage went through without any major issues. Is my expectation that the Governor will sign the legislation connected to the minimum wage, from there we will go on to the other rates that are connected to vendors. Thus far, those key items, restoration of the Early Start Program, Copay issue, Minimum Wage, all of the items that are in the budget, along with some items normally in the budget, in terms of adjusting it for rates.

Mr. Henderson asked for the boards input regarding dates for the Board’s Retreat. Although no specific date has been specified the board has agreed to meet on a Saturday and Sunday in August or September. Mr. Henderson also asked the board for any topics that they would like to add to the Agenda for the Board’s Retreat. Ms. Romero mentioned Parent Training as parents are not as informed on what programs or services are available for their children after they leave the school district. Ms. Figueroa volunteered to do a presentation for parents on programs and services that are available for their children.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President, Lisa M. Sanchez then adjourned the May 27, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting at 9:00pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next SCLARC Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 22, 2014, at SCLARC, 650 W. Adams Blvd. 4th Flr. Multi-Purpose Room
Submitted by:

_______________________________________  __________________________
Deanna Corbin  
Executive Secretary  

Approved by:

_______________________________________  __________________________
Mark Grimes  
Board Secretary  

Date