



Golden Gate Regional Center

Serving people with developmental disabilities since 1966

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED – JUNE 16, 2009

BOARD of DIRECTORS
RECORD of MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009
6:30 PM

Golden Gate Regional Center
3130 La Selva Street
San Mateo, CA 94403

PRESIDING: Laura Bliss

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Daisy Ambia
Yukari Baba
Hal Belmont
Kauai DeMarzo
Alice Elliott
Jim Engvall
Allan Farrar
Alexandra Joulibert
Nancy Dow Moody
Steve Sazegari
John Weber

NOT PRESENT: Sarah Hoffman

STAFF: Judy Leonard
Felice Parisi, M.D.
Lisa Rosene
Jim Shorter

GUESTS: Barry Benda
Bob DeFea
Karla Ferruffino
Della Gremillion
Phillip Hays
Cheryle Matteo
Maria Pena
Nora Ryan
Mele Sekona
Walt Slater
Rocio Smith
Ami Sullivan

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bliss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Welcoming remarks and self-introductions followed. Mr. Weber introduced and nominated five Board applicants who were present (Karla Ferruffino, Phillip Hays, Cheryle Matteo, Nora Ryan) and two who were not present (Deanita Gray, Caroline Loewy).

CONSENT AGENDA

Hearing no objections, the agenda and the Record of Meeting of April 21, 2009, were approved.

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PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Shorter introduced Ms. Sullivan, Director of Human Services Research at the Kinetic Flow Corporation, a consultant firm that develops and manages research studies. This past year Kinetic Flow conducted two studies for GGRC, one on autism services, the second on employment services. Ms. Sullivan presented reports on power point. (Copies of the presentation are available through Judy Leonard.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report – Laura Bliss

Ms. Bliss directed attention to a proposed meeting calendar for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Business meetings and committee meetings will move to Mondays starting with the July 7th committee meetings.

Ms. Bliss announced that at 5:30 pm on June 16th, the Board will be hosting an informal reception for Steve Sazegari and Alice Elliott whose membership terms end on June 30th.

Client Services Committee – Yukari Baba

On behalf of the Client Services Committee, Ms. Baba presented the 637 proposal for relief from certain federal and state requirements for Early Start services. The floor was opened for discussion.

Ms. Smith expressed concern on behalf of Area Board 5 based on four areas: 1) The proposed changes are not covered under the changes to the Lanterman Act (WIC 4669.2) implementing AB 637. 2) The process under WIC 4669.2(b) has not been followed. 3) Many of the proposed changes require changes in federal law, something DDS does not have the authority to do. 4) The proposed changes will have a detrimental effect on children and families.

Ms. Smith addressed each of the proposals: 1) Assessment - 45-Day Timeline: The 45-day timeline should not be extended. Families should receive services as soon as possible. Requiring the family to provide a written referral will delay services and is unreasonable due to the stress they are experiencing. 2) Natural Environments: The federal and state laws give sufficient flexibility to provider services in the most appropriate setting. 3) Parental Financial Responsibility: The proposal to implement a parental fee schedule does not constitute relief from law or regulation but rather a change in law which should follow the legislative process. 4) Relief from Parental Signature Requirement for ANY Change to IFSP Services: Signature is required under Title 34 Code of Federal Regulations Section 303.342(e). DDS does not have authority to grant relief from federal regulations. 5) Audits: This is a request for a change in practice, not relief from law or regulation. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shorter addressed each of the proposals: 1) GGRC does not have the resources to complete assessments in 45 days. Either this requirement must change or the State must give us the funds we need to comply. 2) GGRC does not agree with the State's current interpretation of the federal definition of "natural environments" for Early Start. Either the State follows the federal definition or the State will need to seek relief from the Federal government for the justification requirement for the purchase of services that are not provided in the "natural environment." 3) In California, parents are provided mandated early intervention services at no cost and no means testing. They are not required to tap into their private insurance. Beyond the current proposal from DDS to the legislature regarding use of private insurance, GGRC is requesting consideration of a second tier of payment for services consistent with federal law. 4) GGRC is requesting relief from the parental signature requirement except

in the case of a decrease in the amount of service or the cessation of the service. 5) Mr. Shorter was in agreement that the audit proposal does not belong in the 637 proposal. Discussion followed.

M/C To move forward on all five issues presented. (9 ayes 2 nays)

At the next committee meeting on June 2nd, the GGRC POS Guidelines will be reviewed. All of the membership are welcomed to attend to give comment. Written comment will also be accepted.

Finance Committee – Kauai DeMarzo

After eight months of operation, GGRC year-to-date Operations expenditures are over budget by .83% which is a significant improvement compared to the 2.97% deficit reported last month. Significant cost-savings measures, including staff reductions, unpaid furlough days and reduced retirement plan contributions, have been taken to ensure the GGRC Operations expenditures do not exceed the DDS allocation for this fiscal year.

After eight months of operation, GGRC year-to-date total POS expenditures are below budget by 1.97% which is an improvement compared to the 0.87% deficit reported last month. Current expenditure projections indicate that POS services may be underfunded by as much as \$4,200,000 for this fiscal year.

Personnel and Bylaws Committee – John Weber

Mr. Weber reiterated the nominees for offices for fiscal year 2009-2010. Ms. Bliss and Mr. Weber were nominated for Chairperson; Mr. Belmont and Mr. Weber were nominated for Vice Chairperson; Ms. Ambia was nominated for Secretary; and Ms. DeMarzo was nominated for Treasurer. All have agreed to serve if elected.

Mr. Weber requested the following be placed on the agenda for the June meeting: That the Board adopt an advisory committee made up of members of the community (in particular, some of the many applicants who indicated interest in serving on the Board but for whatever reason are unable to make the commitment) to advise the Board on various issues.

Ms. Bliss suggested that this item be moved to the Executive Committee to consider for placement on the June Board agenda. Mr. Weber insisted that discussion be opened to the full membership at the moment. Discussion followed. Ms. Bliss directed attention to the bylaws Article 5(a)(4). The fourth duty of the Executive Committee is, "To set Board meeting agendas," and reiterated that this item would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

As Mr. Weber had presented the nominees for membership earlier in the meeting, Ms. Bliss opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Weber objected. Ms. Joulibert nominated former Board member Mark Klein for membership. In response, Mr. Weber again objected and resigned from the Board effective immediately. Hearing no further nominations, Ms. Bliss closed the floor for nominations.

Consumer Advisory Committee – James Engvall

Mr. Engvall reported that the CAC discussed the DDS budget proposals and the upcoming hearings in Sacramento and the recently released WE magazine, a magazine exclusively for everyone created by parent Terry Kozloff through a contract with GGRC. The group decided on June 12th as the day that Roy, Joseph, Elizabeth, Connie and Jim would go to Toolworks to make a presentation. Lastly, the list of CAC members was reviewed and updated.

Service Provider Advisory Committee – Nancy Dow Moody

Ms. Moody reported that in an effort to reduce costs, the providers agreed to two additional transportation holidays (Cesar Chavez Day and Columbus Day), consistent with the DDS proposal for 14 transportation/day program holidays.

Disability Capitol Action Day is scheduled for May 27th in Sacramento.

DDS is eliminating the 1:66 caseload ratio for non-waiver and non-Early Start. An internal group is working with the current framework under the law: 1:62 for Early Start, 1:45 for people who have moved from developmental centers, 1:52 for individuals on the Medicaid Waiver, and no ratio for the remaining 3500 clients. The group will be meeting for six weeks to develop a proposal which should be presented to the Board in July. At the meeting Ms. Smith reported that the Annual Life Quality Assessment has been eliminated and she has laid off 20 contract staff. PG&E is offering emergency-efficiency assessments to group homes. PG&E is also willing to pick up the costs where minor changes are required.

ARCA REPORT – Laura Bliss

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

In 1999, in response to a lot of concerns raised by regional centers about what they'd been asked to do and the funds they'd been asked to do it with, the State commissioned a report that concluded that regional centers could not do what they'd been asked to do on the money they'd been asked to do it with.

Mr. Shorter's update last month on the \$100M reduction in our system followed a 3% rate reduction to providers which followed six years of frozen rates effectively reducing the rates to providers about 25%. Regional center operations funding has been reduced as well. Last Thursday, the Governor announced that because of declining revenues, there would be another \$234M cut from our system. In an environment of declining State revenues, this may not be the last reduction in the system.


The Conference Committee of the Legislature will be holding public hearings as early as this Thursday. It is anticipated that DDS will be engaging in a process, similar to the process to develop their proposals for the \$100M cuts, to develop proposals for an additional reduction of \$234M. We should know around June 1st if the cuts will be in Operations, in POS, or both.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be held Tuesday, June 16th, 6:30 pm in our San Francisco office at 875 Stevenson Street, 6th Floor.

Respectfully submitted,


Judy K. Leonard
Executive Assistant


for: Alexandra Joulibert, Secretary
Board of Directors