

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL
CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING
Tuesday, June 20th, 2023- 5:30 PM**

**Via Zoom Video Conference (see below)
and
In-Person at GGRC, 1355 Market Street, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA
94103**

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- 5:30 pm **I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS** (Jacy Cohen)
- II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** (Jacy Cohen)
- ACTION** A. Agenda
- ACTION** B. Record of May 16, 2023, Meeting
- 5:40 pm **III. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Jacy Cohen)
- 5:45 pm **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Jacy Cohen)
- A. Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)
1. Monthly Financial Statement
- 6:05 pm **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**
- C. Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)
1. *Board Presentation: Self- Determination, SDLAC Chair, Jennifer Walsh, SCDD Regional Manager, Sheraden Nickolau, GGRC Regional Center Services Director, Lisa Rosene and SDP Acting Supervisor, Meghan Reynard.*
2. Future Planning Project
- D. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
1. Board Summer Retreat
2. Election of Officers and ARCA Delegate
- ACTION** 3. Re-election of Current Board Member, Andrea Fuentes
- ACTION** 4. Bylaws Review Process Update

E. Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)

1. SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act
2. AB 1147 (Proposed Resolution to the Lanterman Act)

G. Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report (Jacy Cohen)

6:40 pm **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Eric Zigman)

1. Strategic Plan Update (Community Living Focus Area)

7:15 pm **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Personnel Issue)

You must RSVP to attend in-person or to receive the Zoom meeting information. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please contact Aria Alokzai at aalokzai@ggrc.org, or call 415-832-5792.



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

**BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of June 20th, 2023, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Michael Bernick
Hank London
Nini Aye
Andrea Fuentes
Edith Arias

Lynn Pulliam
Tracy Bullock
Abby Yim
Michael LoBue
JJ Khin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Eric Zigman
Brenda Gonzales
Lop Hou
Amanda Pyle

Ihsan Shagiwal
Aria Alokozai
Lisa Rosene

GUESTS: Rachel Kripke-Ludwig
Tania Tour-Sarkissian
Anh Nguyen
Sophia Agafonow

Sheraden Nicholau
Moria Walsh
Jenn Ignacio
Jennifer Walsh

CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed. Jacy shared that this meeting will be GGRC’s last Board meeting until September this year.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Jacy Cohen)

ACTION A. Agenda
M/S/C (Michael Bernick / Lynn Pulliam seconded)

ACTION B. Record of May 16th, 2023, Meeting
The Record of Meeting of May 16th, 2023 was approved.
M/S/C (Hank Lond motioned/ Michael Bernick seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Michael McQuaid shared his concerns with regards to barriers with moving forward with the Self-Determination Program due to lack of responsiveness and quality of Fiscal Management Services.

Eric commented and shared that in tonight’s Services Committee presentation we will hear more about the challenges with regards to the Self-Determination Program (SDP), Fiscal Management Services (FMS) and you will hear descriptions of a lot of reasons why FMS organizations do not have the capacity to serve people in SDP effectively. We are hoping that will change soon.

Rachel Kripke-Ludwig's, a person served by GGRC and Leader of The Other Option, a Self-Advocacy organization for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users, commented that the needs of AAC users are complex and need more attention from the regional centers. AAC users are a new generation who want to direct their lives but don't have services and support to live independently. Ms. Kripke-Ludwig asked for more attention be paid to working with AAC users' community and asked for more representation on the Board. Ms. Kripke-Ludwig shared a powerful poem from a nine-year-old AAC user about her experience in education.

Jacy Cohen thanked Ms. Kripke-Ludwig.

Jacy announced that Nini Aye, GGRC Board Member, will be departing from the GGRC Board at the end of June. Jacy thanked Nini for her seven years of service, her dedication to the organization and her abundant enthusiasm. Jacy also thanked Nini for her commitment and active participation on the People's Caucus Committee.

Eric also thanked Nini for the years of service at the GGRC Board and presented an Honorary Award to her.

Jacy and Eric also announced that Hank London will be stepping down from the board on June 30th. Jacy and Eric both thank Hank for his 3 years of excellent service on the board. Eric also presented Hank with an Honorary Award for his volunteer service to GGRC.

Jacy announced that there will be an Executive Session after the Board meeting tonight regarding a personnel issue.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of April 30th, 23]

At the request of Treasurer Michael Bernick, Lop Hou shared that most recent GGRC financial statement as follows:

Operations:

After ten months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 21.6%. All operations funds are expected to be fully expensed for the fiscal year over the normal course of operations.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CPP:

After ten months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 14.1%. The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$55 million for the fiscal year. Budget projections will fluctuate as provision of services continues to revert from payments of alternative service rates back to provision of traditional services and payments of traditional service rates in addition to accounting for rate increases.

Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)

Board Presentation: Self- Determination

Sheraden Nickolau, SCDD Regional Manager, Jennifer Walsh SDLAC Chair, and Lisa Rosene GGRC Regional Center Services Director shared the following points:

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- Over 2,600 individuals across California are enrolled in the Self-Determination Program as of Spring 2023.
- The first step to transitioning to the SDP is to receive orientation offered online in various languages.
- Statewide Update and Trends indicate over-representation of White and Asian individuals, under-representation of Hispanic and African American/Black individuals in the program.
- Weekly payment to FMS providers, updated billing process, vendorization process for Pre-Enrollment Supports and revised rates for FMS providers are some of the recent directives from the Department of Developmental Services.

Jennifer Walsh, Self- Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) Chair shared the following points:

- SDP is open to all GGRC individuals served who are three years old or older.
- The GGRC SDLAC Committee consists of volunteers from all GGRC catchment areas who meet monthly. One seat is dedicated to Disability Rights California's Office of Clients Right Advocacy.
- SDLAC meets monthly and includes representation and advisory support from GGRC, SCDD, DDS and FMS.
- The SDLAC Strategic Planning workgroup reviewed the work of the committee over the last couple of years, identified the strengths and challenges of SDP implementation, reflected on feedback from the stakeholders and focused on future goals for the committee which includes support in SDP Participant Onboarding, Outreach & Equity Coordination and Data Coordination.

Lisa Rosene shared the following points:

- To rollout and expand Self-Determination program in the region, GGRC provides training for Social Workers, hires Participant Choice Specialists, partners with the SDLAC, develops ways to access timely data and helps people-served and families overcome barriers.
- GGRC's current strength and successes with SDP includes having an internal SDP support team, collaboration with FMS/DDS and enabling individuals to have access to personalized solutions to meet their needs.
- GGRC's challenges include limited resources, changes to FMS, and continuous improvements to the processes as the program evolves.
- More information on [GGRC SDLAC Committee can be found here](#) and on the [Department of Developmental Services website via this link](#).

Eric highlighted that SDP was awaiting federal approval for the first five years of this program. In 2018 it was approved, and a pilot program was started. There was no funding for staff from the DDS due to the "cost neutrality" interpretation of the law by DDS. GGRC received funding for two-thirds of one staff for the next three years. Finally, we now have four staff on our SDP team who are supporting people through their SDP process. Even with this staffing support the ability of GGRC social workers to maintain caseloads with SDP situations is challenging. If caseloads were not 50% over the statutory requirements, social workers could more effectively serve those in SDP.

Q & A followed.

Future Planning Listening Session:

Jacy Cohen reported that there will be three, 2-hour Future Planning listening sessions in Spanish (in-person), Chinese (in-person) and English with possible ASL interpretation (virtual). There will be a maximum of 15 attendees per session and a \$50 stipend for attending.

Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)

Board Summer Retreat:

Lynn reported that the Board Summer Retreat will be on August 12th from 10am-3:30pm. More information will be shared soon.

Eric added that some Board training and activities have been planned for the Board Retreat.

Board Slate of Officers/ ARCA Delegate Sample Ballot

Lynn asked the Board members to fill out their official, written Ballots to vote for the Board Officers and the ARCA Delegate - and return the form to Lynn and Aria either during this meeting or soon after. Results will be tallied by Aria and Lynn and the results of this election will be emailed to board members soon.

ACTION: Re-election of Current Board Member, Andrea Fuentes

Lynn shared that Andrea Fuentes has completed her initial, one-year term as a GGRC Board Member and she should now be considered to be re-elected for a three-year term. Michael LoBue made a motion to that effect and Edith Arias seconded. There were no further discussions and the Board unanimously voted to re-elect Andrea Fuentes for a three-year term.

MSC (Michael LoBue motioned/ Edith Arias seconded)

Bylaws Review Process Update:

Lynn shared that the Bylaws Ad hoc committee has completed their review of the GGRC Board Bylaws and presented their recommendations to the Operations Committee for review. The Operations Committee has received the Ad hoc Committee's recommendation and will consider them in the Fall of 2023.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

SPAC Update

Abby reported that the Service Provider Advisory Committee met this month and discussed the updates with regards to the legislative, system changes and services and received useful information regarding changes in staff at GGRC.

Q and A followed.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Edith Arias)

SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act:

Edith spoke about the federal SSI Savings Elimination Act that is currently before Congress. The savings limits accepted by Social Security have not been updated since 1989. There is a need for [SSI advocacy](#) to increase the asset limits for people with disabilities.

AB 1147 (Proposed Revisions to the Lanterman Act)

Edith and Eric reported that the bill passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee and entire assembly and moved to consideration in the senate.

Two areas of significant concern of this bill are:

- It will affect the Board structure and will change the maximum Board terms from 7-years to 6-year terms and it will require a 5-year waiting period of termed-off board members before they can rejoin the board.
- Subject Regional centers to the California Public Records Act – a government Act. Eric expressed concerns that this will make regional centers more like government-operated human service systems, reducing flexibility and innovation. He emphasized that regional centers are non-profit, public benefit, community facing human services, not local offices of a state agency.

Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen shared the Executive Committee met this month and discussed AB1147 and SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, reviewed Board demographics and current status of potential Board members and set the agenda for today's meeting.

ARCA Meeting:

Michael LoBue reported highlights of the ARCA meetings, for example creation of an online multi-use, Service Providers directory that is beginning to be created at Tri Counties Regional Center, ARCA Strategic Plan update and updates on AB 1147.

Edith, who also attended, shared highlights about ARCA's Annual Dinner and recognition of the Board Delegates that were departing and spoke about the Dream Achievers who were members of the music band whose members are all served by regional centers.

Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

Strategic Plan Update (Community Living Focus Area)

Amanda Pyle, GGRC's Director of Community Services, gave the board of directors an overview of accomplishments and challenges of the Community Living Focus area of GGRC's Strategic Plan.

These updates included:

- Encouraging residential providers to support expression of personal identity and choice and looking into any training needs for providers to enhance their knowledge and understanding in terms of how to support the individual choice.
- Completing our HCBS compliance review, and it indicated that 99% of our providers that are required to be HCBS compliant are in compliance with their policies across the board.
- Efforts to successfully include opportunities for set-aside, extremely low rent apartments for the people we serve in affordable and accessible housing developments.

Some of the challenges Amanda reported are the lack of housing options in our high-cost area and Direct Support staff turnover rate which has increased since the pandemic and adds to challenges for our Service Providers (in terms of support to individuals in various residential support models)

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Amanda also let the board know that we are working on creating greater capacity for supported living options to help people living on their own. Some of the projects that we are working on are Future Planning and expanding the current housing through advocacy and collaboration with housing developers and DDS, and ensuring people are prepared and supported during disaster and emergencies.

Q and A followed.

The Board Meeting adjourned to an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aria Alokozai
Executive Assistant