

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL
CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING
Tuesday, March 21st, 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 (A)
- ACTION** B. Record of February 21, 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
- ACTION** 2. Approval of CPP Multi-Family Housing Contract – Housing Choices
- V. **State Council on Developmental Disabilities**
- 6:05 pm VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**
- C. Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)
1. *Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (Lisa Rosene, GGRC’s Director of RC Services; Abby Yim, ICS; Sam Offenber, YAI)*
- D. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
1. Potential Board Member Interviews in Process
2. ARCA Academy

E. Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)

1. ARCA's Grassroots Day (March 29th)

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

1. Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee Formed

2. Board Letter to CA Budget Chairs

ACTION

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

1. Advocacy for Modernization of Core Staffing Formula (RC Funding)

2. GGRC Hiring Update

7:15 pm **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION** (if necessary)

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 Alokozai at aalokozai@ggrc.org, or call 415-832-5792.



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of MARCH 21ST, 2023, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Michael Bernick Lynn Pulliam
Hank London Tracy Bullock
Nini Aye Abby Yim
Michael LoBue Edith Arias
Andrea Fuentes

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Eric Zigman Ihsan Shagiwal
Lop Hou Aria Alokozai
Brenda Gonzales Lisa Rosene
Kara Longenecker

GUESTS: Corinne Sixkiller Lisa Ann Carbone
Erika Gonzalez Kenneth Frank
Jill Peron Sam Offenber

CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. *Welcoming remarks and introductions followed.*

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Jacy Cohen)

ACTION A. Agenda
M/S/C (Michael Bernick motioned/ Michael LoBue seconded)

ACTION B. Record of February 21st, 2023, Meeting
The Record of Meeting of February 21st, 2023 was approved.
M/S/C (Hank London motioned/ Michael LoBue seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Jill Peron, a member of the public, shared her concerns regarding her son's challenges in getting into a Behavioral Health facility. Ms. Peron added that her son needs a job coach and a Personal Assistant to help him with integrated leisure activities and for daily support in independent living.

Lisa Rosene shared her contact information with Ms. Peron and invited her to contact her tomorrow in order to discuss her concerns in a separate meeting.

Edith Arias shared that she attended the Cal-TASH conference on March 3rd and 4th. At the conference there were discussions about the Lanterman Act, regional center history and the isolation that has been caused by the pandemic. Some new ideas were brought up about outreach to the community, how to better serve as a regional center and find a better quality of life for the people served. There were also discussions about ways to stay connected with the people we serve.

Jacy Cohen encouraged Board members to attend any conferences, workshops or any educational programs related to Board work. Jacy added that Board members can be reimbursed for expenses incurred in participating in things like CAL TASH Conference or the ARCA Academy that are costs related to their being a board member of GGRC. It's important to discuss these opportunities with Jacy beforehand, so you can get approval for your expense reimbursement ahead of time.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of 12/31/22]

Michael Bernick and Lop Hou reported on the current monthly financial statement.

Operations:

After seven months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 14.8%. Expenditures will begin to increase as hiring of staff continues. 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 seven months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 11.1%. The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$55 million for the fiscal year. Budget projections will fluctuate as provision of services continue 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.

ACTION – Approval of CPP Multi-Family Housing contract – Housing Choices

Lop Hou reported that the Finance Committee recommends approval of CPP Multi-Family Housing contract with Housing Choices. The Baden Station Apartments in South San Francisco is a 36-unit 100% affordable housing development, with 18 apartments subject to a preference for people with developmental disabilities who will benefit from coordinated onsite services from Housing Choices and Golden Gate Regional Center, as described in a Memorandum of Understanding between For the Future Housing, Golden Gate Regional Center, and Housing Choices.

These DDS-approved CRDP funds would be used at construction close which is expected in April 2023. Jacy asked for a motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation. Michael Bernick made the motion and Lynn Pulliam seconded. The board unanimously agreed to approve this contract.

M/S/C (Michael Bernick motioned/ Lynn Pulliam seconded)

Q & A followed.

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (SCDD), BAY AREA OFFICE UPDATE

There were no presentations from SCDD this month.

Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen reported that the Services Committee has been making progress with regards to gathering surveys for the listening sessions. The Committee sent out letters and surveys to the families who are interested in participating in the listening sessions earlier today. The families have until April 15th to respond to the surveys and share their preferences. The Committee is hoping to have the listening sessions in May.

Board Education Presentation: *Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (Lisa Rosene, GGRC's Director of RC Services; Abby Yim, ICS; Sam Offenberg, YAI)*

Eric Zigman briefly shared background on the Board presentations and introduced tonight's presenters.

Lisa Rosene shared highlights on how far we have come in the past forty years in making sure that people with developmental disabilities and mental health challenges receive the kind of treatment that they truly need. Lisa added that the Lanterman Act relies on generic resources and in this context the generic resources would be mental health. Each country has an organization and department that is designed to manage mental health issues and behavioral health concerns. There are some historical and current challenges to acquire proper services for people in this area of mental health.

Prior to START coming on board, we had previously worked to create three specialized Mental Health Clinics for the people we serve to access, one in each county. The first one that was developed in the late 1990s was called the "Anchor program" in San Francisco and was based in one of the mental health clinics. The Anchor program has been strongly advocated for and still continues to operate primarily providing medication management. Based on the Anchor Program model, San Mateo County developed Puente Clinical project| continue to advocate and make sure that the clinics remain viable, and those resources don't get repurposed for another county program. We continue to remind the leadership in San Mateo County that they have an obligation to serve people with developmental disabilities as members of the San Mateo community.

Lisa relayed that in Marin County we have a dedicated provider that does medication monitoring and referrals to the psychiatrists. We are working on a memorandum of understanding with the Marin County on services and how those services will be provided.

Abby Yim delivered a presentation on Integrated Community Services and shared the following points:

- Integrated Community Services (ICS) finds housing and community for people with disabilities in Marin County. Since 2018 ICS has been consulting and collaborating with GGRC to improve access to mental health services for people with intellectual disabilities. There has been a lot of work done in advocating for changes, educating and informing systems as well as people who experience co-occurring conditions with regards to what they are entitled to in terms of care and services.
- In 2021, ICS received DDS grant to continue their work and improve access for mental health services for people with intellectual disabilities who speak Spanish. ICS took on this project due to the disparities in services access in Marin County, particularly due to the 23% (440) Spanish speaking people who were eligible for GGRC services but did not receive services in Marin

County. ICS interviewed the system and found out that there was a need for communication improvement between the systems.

- “Educate Yourself, Empower Yourself” is a multi-year project that was funded by the DDS, and it focuses on people who experience co-occurring conditions or people who have intellectual disabilities, experience behavioral healthcare needs and also speak Spanish.
- There are a lot of challenges for the people served by GGRC who have behavioral healthcare needs to get services and there is an additional challenge if those individuals’ primary language is other than English.
- A memo of understanding is being developed in order to help GGRC and Marin County’s Behavioral Healthcare Services better understand providers and recipients of services and to make sure that people are experiencing good care.
- Why language justice matters – Language justice is the right to communicate in whichever language we feel the most comfortable in. ICS created a workgroup to improve access and reduce language barriers for the people who have three different co-occurring identities.
- “Educate Yourself, Empower Yourself” – Project structure and timeline: the project was designed to improve service access needs, inclusivity in the process, technical support and overall approachable process for the families and people served.
 - Lesson learned:
 1. People with lived experiences are the experts on their own lives.
 2. Create a diverse workgroup.
 3. Building trust between community-based organizations is important to make systemwide change.
 4. Bringing other experts from different social justice areas to help disability justice work.

Abby’s presentation was very well received, and Q and A followed.

Sam Offenbergl from Youth Adult Institute (YAI) shared background on Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources and Treatment (START) services, delivered a presentation on services and shared the following points on:

- START vendored with GGRC in October 2022 and began accepting referrals in San Mateo County soon after that. They recently will begin taking referrals in San Francisco soon. START Works with people who are 6+ years old with IDD and have behavioral health concerns such as physical health, social system issues, self-injurious behavior, or transition difficulties.
- In national studies, START were able to increase caregiver satisfaction, mental health stability of the individuals, overall user/client satisfaction, community awareness/support, and appropriateness of services.
- In addition to their experience across the county, the START program was able to decrease the number and length of psychiatric hospitalizations and support with the change of placements and emergency services usage.

- The START program is systemic in nature, reinforces the system around the individual served, provides 24/7 in-person crisis response for the people we serve and provides services for 12-18 months in duration.
- The Program provides Tertiary Care Model which is a response to crises model, education tertiary intervention, primary and secondary interventions, and de-escalating crises.
- Core Components are:
 - Biopsychosocial – provides support based on biological, psychological, and social component of an individual.
 - Positive Psychology- emphasizes the strength of an individual rather than worrying about the weakness.
 - Three As – considering access, appropriateness, and accountability in the process.
 - Evidence Informed –START model is a research and evidence-based model.

Sam shared data on total people served, active cases, age range, gender, crises response and top reasons for referrals. Sam also shared a success story about how START services were able to create understanding and collaboration for a person served by GGRC with ASD, ADHD, and OCD with complex behavioral history.

The presentation was well received, and Q and A followed.

Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)

Lynn Pulliam reported that the Board Operations Committee currently has several applicants and several interviews conducted and scheduled. The committee is considering representation from San Mateo and Marin Counties as well as adding persons-served to the Board. Lynn added that the Committee will potentially present a few new Board members to the Board in the next two Board meetings.

Eric shared information regarding the ARCA Academy event that will be taking place on April 29th in Sacramento and May 6th in Pomona. Jacy and Eric encouraged Board members to attend the ARCA Academies.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

SPAC Update

Abby reported that the Service Provider Advisory Committee is a group of providers that meets twice a month (in the first and third Tuesdays) and discusses the issues related the services that the group provides, share resources, discuss the ever-changing needs that the providers have and to make sure that the group stay connected with GGRC leadership. Abby added the committee has been supporting each other in the group with regards to dealing with COVID-19, how to keep people safe, hire and retain talented staff. The Committee is doing advocacy related to their work by participating in ARCA's Grassroots Day on March 29th which is a day that people from GGRC's area (GGRC staff, families, individuals served and service providers) can meet with elected officials and legislature and share their personal stories about their experiences. Abby shared that she is assisting with coordination this year and working on how to get more providers to participate in Grassroots day. Abby prompted the Board members to contact her if they are interested in participating in Grassroots day.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Edith Arias)

Edith Arias reported that she attended the AdvoCats meetings and was pleased to hear about the advocacy work and information provided in the meeting.

Edith shared she also attended the ARCA Board of Directors meeting last week and reported on the following bills.

Bill AB1147 would make many changes to several parts of regional center services and timelines for service. Eric echoed that AB1147 (Addis) is a wide-ranging proposal that may change significantly through the legislative process. The bill as initially proposed would affect board member terms and training, among other proposals.

Edith also reported that Bill AB 447 (Arambula) requires California State University to establish inclusive college scholarship programs for students who are at least 18 years of age with IDD at 4-year public postsecondary educational institutions. In addition, this program will provide the students with internships and employment opportunities on campus to create a path to future employment.

Eric referred board members again to ARCA's Grassroots Day on March 29th as a way to advocate to policymakers regarding these and other issues.

ARCA Board meeting:

Michael LoBue shared that he was very pleased to have attended the ARCA Board of Directors meeting as an observer and had an opportunity to learn from the meeting. Michael added that he is looking forward to future meetings and discussing more on the progress we have to make.

Q & A followed.

Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report (Jacy Cohen)

Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee Formed:

Jacy Cohen shared that the nonprofit Bylaws serve as the governing document for organizations, and they guide the Board's actions and decisions; the Bylaws are a living document, and the board should regularly review it in order to remain relevant and accurately reflect how we work. Jacy added that she has appointed an Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee to review the Bylaws, make suggestions for revision and return to the full Board with their recommendations for board discussion and ultimate approval.

The appointed Board members for the Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee are as follows:

Michael LoBue, Chair
Edith Arias, Committee member
Andrea Fuentes, Committee member
Eric Zigman, Support Staff to the Committee

Board Letter to CA Budget Charis:

Jacy Cohen shared that she crafted a letter on behalf of the Board (that is included in this meeting packet) in support of Assembly member Arambula's budget request to modernize the DDS-Regional Center

Core Staffing Formula. Assembly Member Arambula addressed his letter to the California Budget Committee Chairs, (Assembly Member Phil Ting, and Senator Nancy Skinner).

Jacy asked for a motion to approve the Board support letter to CA Budget Chairs. Michael LoBue made a motion and Edith Arias seconded. There were no further discussions and the Board unanimously voted to approve and send the letter to the Budget Chairs on behalf of the Board. *M/S/C (Michael LoBue motioned/ Edith Arias seconded).*

Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

Advocacy for Modernization of Core Staffing Formula (RC Funding)

Eric Zigman briefly shared reports on advocacy and development on modernizing the Core Staffing formula. Eric added that it is motivating to see the Core Staffing Formula issue finally gaining more traction with legislators and the Administration after being ignored for decades. Eric stated that the core staffing issue is how GGRC (and other regional centers) are funded at 50% of the necessary funds to hire their staff. This underfunding clearly and simply results in regional centers' not being able to have the necessary number of staff to complete their work and be responsive to the individuals and the families. This harms our performance as a Center and erodes the promise of the Lanterman Act. Getting the core staffing formula funded at current 2023 (rather than 1991) levels would make an enormous difference in the lives of the people we serve.

GGRC Hiring Update:

Eric shared that we are very pleased with GGRC's successful hiring progress, excellent work done by GGRC Human Resources Department led by Ihsan Shagiwal and his staff, as well as some contracted consultant efforts. Eric shared data that indicated significant numbers of new hires have started – and, importantly, staff resignations have been reduced in the first three months of this year. Eric also highlighted Lisa Rosene's role and efforts with the Human Resources Department and in creating a Bootcamp for new Social Workers (and other staff) which provides training to them before they start working with families and individuals served.

Eric highlighted that caseload ratio data (collected twice per year by DDS) has shown recent improvement at GGRC. Initial data as of March 1st showed caseloads have decreased by approximately 10% (from 95 to 85 individuals served per Social Worker). We are hoping that the caseload ratio will further decrease by the next measurement period (October 2023) which will help us be more responsive to the people we serve. Targets (enshrined in statute) for these ratios range from 1:40 (for children 0-5 years old) and 1:62 or 1:66 from most other caseloads.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aria Alokozai
Executive Assistant