

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL
CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING
Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, 5:30 PM**

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

5:30 pm I. **CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS** (Jacy Cohen)

ACTION II. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** (Jacy Cohen)
ACTION A. Agenda
B. Record of March 19th, 2024, 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

V. **State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Update on SCDD Activities**

6:05 pm VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**
C. Services Committee (David DeLira)
1. Future Planning Project Update
2. Board Presentation: *“Supporting Individuals who Communicate in Different Ways”* (Amanda Pyle, Rachel Kripke-Ludwig, and Amy Brooks)
D. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
1. Board Officers Nominations (April 30th deadline)
ACTION 2. Election of Board Candidates, Brindicy Alcaraz and Marta Guzman

- ACTION** 3. Board Resolutions:
 - a. Setting the principal office address for the organization in San Francisco.
 - ACTION** b. Setting the authorized number of Directors within the range specified.

E. Service Provider Advisory Committee

F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)

- 1. Update on Legislative Breakfast Events in the Spring
- 2. Senate Budget Hearing Experience / Budget Update
- 3. Assembly Bill 3291 (Committee Bill)
- 4. Blue Envelope Bill Update
- 5. Assembly Member, Stephanie Nguyen's Advocacy Letter Update
- 6. GGRC Participation in Partners in Policymaking program

6:35 pm **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Eric Zigman)

- 1. Update on Caseload Ratios at GGRC

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.

Jacy also shared that she is hoping to hold the May Board meeting in-person to share a light dinner and to have the opportunity to meet some of the new Board members. More detailed information will be shared soon.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of February 29, 24]

In Lop's absence, Eric reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations:

After eight months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 11.2%. 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 eight months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 5.3%. While this will fluctuate as caseloads increase and as services are provided throughout the year, the current estimated projected surplus is approximately \$6.2 million for the fiscal year.

Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Funding

Placement funds have been allocated and are being used, however, funds related to any start-up projects have been approved, but not yet allocated by DDS.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Update on SCDD Activities:

Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD Regional Manager shared SCDD updates and timely information on events, trainings and opportunities including the following:

A reminder that you can subscribe to our SCDD Annual & Trainings calendars:

- The SCDD Annual Calendar contains monthly SCDD Council, Committee meetings, and self-advocate events.
- The SCDD Virtual Trainings Calendar lists all monthly Regional Office trainings and Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientation trainings.

Upcoming statewide trainings for April/English and other languages upon request: Fair Housing Rights for Californians with Disabilities, Tiger Talks: on [Self-Advocacy & Independent Living, and Healthy U series.](#)

[A bit more on the statewide 2-part webinar on fair housing rights for Californians with Disabilities \(a State Council Partnership with CA Civil Rights Dept.\):](#)

This free two-part webinar will have a general discussion of California and federal fair housing laws that protect people with disabilities from housing discrimination and common fair housing issues. Registration links for both parts are below. ([Event Flyer](#))

Part II

When: Thursday, April 25, 2024, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Common fair housing issues, including source of income discrimination / Section 8 discrimination, harassment, reasonable modifications, criminal history, tenant disputes, and updates on new fair housing rights and resources. **[Registration:](#)**

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GHskv3zdTIG-DnV92EOSZg#/registration

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This 2-part webinar features live English captioning and Spanish-language interpretation / *traducción en español disponible*. Questions or other access needs? (510) 286-0439 or bayarea@scdd.ca.gov

Upcoming SCDD Council and Committee Meetings: On Zoom unless otherwise stated.

<https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>

The next Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 24th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Featured in this meeting: Health and Healthcare Equity Work Panel. This will be a hybrid meeting. You can Join In-Person at the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council, Public Health Dept. Creekside Plaza @ 1100 San Leandro Blvd. San Leandro CA 94577 in the Oak Conference Room or Join by Zoom or by Telephone

<https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2024/04/RAC-Packet-4.24.2024.pdf>

State Council Cycle 47 Grants—Proposals Due May 10th

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, in alignment with the goals of its 5-year strategic state plan and under the direction of the State Plan Committee, issues requests for proposals (RFP) through Program Development Grants (PDG) on a yearly basis. SCDD's successful grant projects are implemented by community-based organizations that research, develop and/or implement innovative programs and promising or best practices in local communities throughout the state and its diverse regions.

Cycle 47 Grant Guidelines- <https://scdd.ca.gov/grantinformation/>

Online Application - Cycle 47 Bidder's Conference Call (March 28, 2024) – [Recording]

Focus Areas

- [Health and Safety \(Tribal Health\) Project Flyer](#)
- [Self-Advocacy \(Plain-Language\) Project Flyer](#)
- [Self-Advocacy \(Isolation\) Project Flyer](#)

Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Grants and Contracts - Proposals for Grants Due April 22 Proposals for Contracts due April 19th.

[April Updates to Contracts and Grants](#) | [Grant Guidelines](#) | [Online Application](#)

SDM-TAP Bidder's Conference Call

March 13, 2024 – 2:00pm – [\[PowerPoint\]](#) [\[Recording\]](#)

Focus Areas

- [Professional Implementation Flyer](#)
- [Family/Individual Implementation Flyer](#)

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap-grants-and-contracts/>

State Council’s Year-round Sponsorship Opportunity:

SCDD supports events that promote self-advocacy, leadership and education, thereby enabling people with developmental disabilities and their family members to expand their knowledge and skills. Toward that goal, organizations may apply for Council sponsorships for events that promote self-advocacy and family-advocacy. The Council will give special consideration to entities that provide free or discounted services or event registration fees to people with IDD and their families or offer other help so that people with IDD and their families can fully participate. The Council especially seeks to support events where people with IDD participate as panelists and presenters. Submit a request at least 90 days before your event. \$2500 limit per sponsorship. Read more about the request process:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sponsorships/>

Self-Determination Statewide Orientations (this month offered in English, & Spanish):

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

A reminder, we can offer PPE for orgs and community groups. Email to make a request:

Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov.

Services Committee (David DeLira)

David DeLira shared the following report from the Services Committee:

Future Planning Projects

- Caring Futures Now Update: The Services Committee continue to explore ways to get feedback and determine the effectiveness of the program by offering possible stipends. People served, families or care givers will take the six-week course responsive to the culture values of participants, information you wish was included, information you never thought about and any success stories. The committee is currently working on scheduling a meeting with Julia Ballantine and deciding on the next steps.
- Listening Sessions: first session for persons served was given by the Arc to persons served in English today. The Spanish and Cantonese sessions for persons served are still to be scheduled.
- IEP Process: The Little Hoover Commission previously had suggestions to DDS concerning a lack of consistency across regional center and requested specific standardization. Standard policy tools for Day Care, respite and personal assistance would be consistent across state and at all regional centers to determine the number of hours families receive services.
- Standardized Individual Program Plan (IPP) Template: Lisa Rosene shared that there will be a virtual public webinar on standardization of IPP given by DDS on April 25th.

Board Presentation: “Supporting Individuals who Communicate in Different Ways” – Amanda Pyle, Rachel Kripke – Ludwig and Amy Brooks

The presenters shared the following points:

Amanda Pyle spoke about Alternative Augmented Communication (AAC)’s background and challenges of finding service providers that serve people in this area especially the lack of AAC providers and support for postschool age. Amanda introduced Rachel Kripke – Ludwig who has been a

strong advocate for support with communication for providers, understanding the importance of communication and knowing how to effectively support people so that people can manage their lives – and have their voices heard. Amanda also introduced Amy Brooks from MKRD Consulting who presented on GGRC’s “AAC Community Needs Assessment.”

Rachel Kripke – Ludwig shared a [Video Presentation](#) on supporting individuals who communicate in different ways and shared the following:

“A third of autistics are nonspeaking or unreliably speaking. Unreliably speaking means that what we say may be triggered automatically and isn’t what we intended to say. Those with other developmental disabilities can also have difficulty producing clear speech but have normal intelligence. Too often, the difficulty with our motor control that we have from our neurological differences is confused with cognitive or behavioral problems. I am not speaking, but I am thinking—two completely different parts of the brain.

Augmentative and alternative communication is all of the ways that people communicate other than speech because of disability. Sometimes behavior or body language is communication. Sometimes it is not purposeful. I often repeat the last thing said or choose something suggested that I don’t want. I want to show you a few quick examples.

As you can see, high tech isn’t always better than low tech. Technology is great, but it is bulky, expensive, and fails. It takes maintenance and when broken, people are cut off of communication. Also, you can see the behavior and training of listeners is as important to successful communication as the behavior of the person expressing themselves.

Technology and understanding of neurology is rapidly evolving, so just because someone doesn’t have a form of robust communication now, assume they may in the future. I am a prime example. I didn’t have a robust way to communicate beyond simple requests for the first 13 years of my life. Experts diagnosed me with intellectual disability, but you can’t assess intellect in someone who can’t respond purposefully.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you a small bit about my community. We are growing fast. We are doing amazing things, and we need GGRC’s support.”

Amy Brooks, Independent Facilitator from MKRD Consulting, shared about a project funded by GGRC regarding an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Community Needs Assessment. The Goal of this project is to identify, explore and make recommendations about how clients of GGRC can access AAC supports. Data collection process and method which includes online surveys, focus groups, online (with live captioning) in-person interviews and portraits on individual lived experiences. All data collection method will be available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, and American Sign Language. Amy spoke about the final product which will consist of a written report with specific recommendations regarding AAC access, individual portraits, and ongoing support to GGRC as needed.

Both presentations were very well received, and Q & A followed.

Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)

Board Officers Nomination

Lynn announced that Board members must send their nominations for Board Officers and ARCA Delegate by April 30th to her and Aria Alokozai. Lynn also announced that there will be a Special Board Operations Committee meeting on May 9th on Zoom where the members will talk about transparency, elicit board member feedback, and discuss any other topics and questions related to the board member experience.

Lynn spoke about the Board matrix and composition of expertise that is required for electing new Board members.

ACTION: Election of Board Candidates, Ms. Marta Guzman, and Ms. Brindicy Alcaraz
Lynn asked for a motion to elect Ms. Marta Guzman as a new GGRC Board Member. All Board members unanimously voted to approve of Ms. Guzman’s election and there were no further discussions.

M/S/C (Edith Arias motioned/Kate O’Connor seconded)

Lynn asked for a motion to elect Ms. Brindicy Alcaraz as a new GGRC Board Member. All Board members unanimously voted to approve of Ms. Alcaraz’s election and there were no further discussions.

M/S/C (Shirley Poitier motioned/JJ Khin seconded)

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O’Conner)

SPAC Update

Kate reported that the discussion topics at the Service Advisory Committee meetings were advocating to stop the delay on provider rate increase- and how that advocacy was on display from the GGRC contingent (of people served, families, service providers, DSPs and GGRC Staff) at ARCA Grassroots Day on April 2nd. The Legislative Breakfasts in Marin is coming up this Friday, April 19th , and another Breakfast is scheduled on May 3rd in South San Francisco and agenda will be about improving access to services and affordable, accessible housing opportunities.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Edith Arias)

Update on Legislative Breakfast Event in the Spring:

Edith shared that the number of registrants for the Legislative Breakfast Event in South San Francisco have gone up to 110 people and that the event was moved to a larger hall to accommodate the growing participants. Edith added that an email was sent to all Board members regarding registering and participating in the Events.

Senate Budget Hearing Experience

Edith shared her experience from participating and providing public testimony in the Senate Budget Subcommittee Hearing at the State Capitol in March.

Budget / Assembly Member, Stephanie Ngyuen’s Advocacy Letter Update

Eric spoke about the letter from Senator Ngyuen regarding the request for uninterrupted implementation of disability service provider rate increases and added that the signatures have increased from 35 to 51 Senators and Assembly members in support of rejecting the Governor’s proposed one year delay of funding.

Assembly Bill 3291 (Committee Bill)

Edith spoke about the Assembly Bill 3291 and added it has three focus areas: Early Start, Future care givers and rent support for those at imminent risk of homelessness who we support.

Blue Envelope Bill Update

Edith shared that the blue envelope bill (co-sponsored by ARCA) has passed the Transportation Committee and has been moved to the Appropriations Committee.

GGRC Participation in ARCA's Partners in Policymaking Program

Edith shared that she and Marta Guzman are part of the Spanish Speaking group of 20 to participate at the statewide Partners in Policymaking Program. Edith added that this program is an opportunity to learn more to further the advocacy efforts for our system.

Master Plan for Developmental Services Stakeholder Committee

Edith shared that she will be participating at the Master Plan for Developmental Services Stakeholder Committee on April 24th and May 15th. On April 24th members will have an opportunity to identify key guiding principles for the development of the Master Plan and discuss logistics for setting future meetings and establishing the subcommittees. And on May 15th members will engage in an in-depth conversation about defining and achieving equity across all diverse communities with intellectual and developmental disabilities and how equity should inform and anchor the Master Plan.

Jacy thanked and appreciated Edith for her numerous local and statewide advocacy efforts and serving as an excellent spokesperson for the GGRC Board.

Eric shared that, in the Master Plan for Developmental Services Stakeholder Committee, there are 36 appointed members (appointed by the Department of Health and Human Services). Eric added that in addition to Edith Arias we have representation on the Master Plan Committee from GGRC from Shasha Bittner, who is an appointee to the National Council on Disability, a tremendous advocate for the IDD Community and a person served by GGRC. Eric stated that we are very blessed to have such great ambassadors who represent our agency and community.

Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

Community Resources Development Plan:

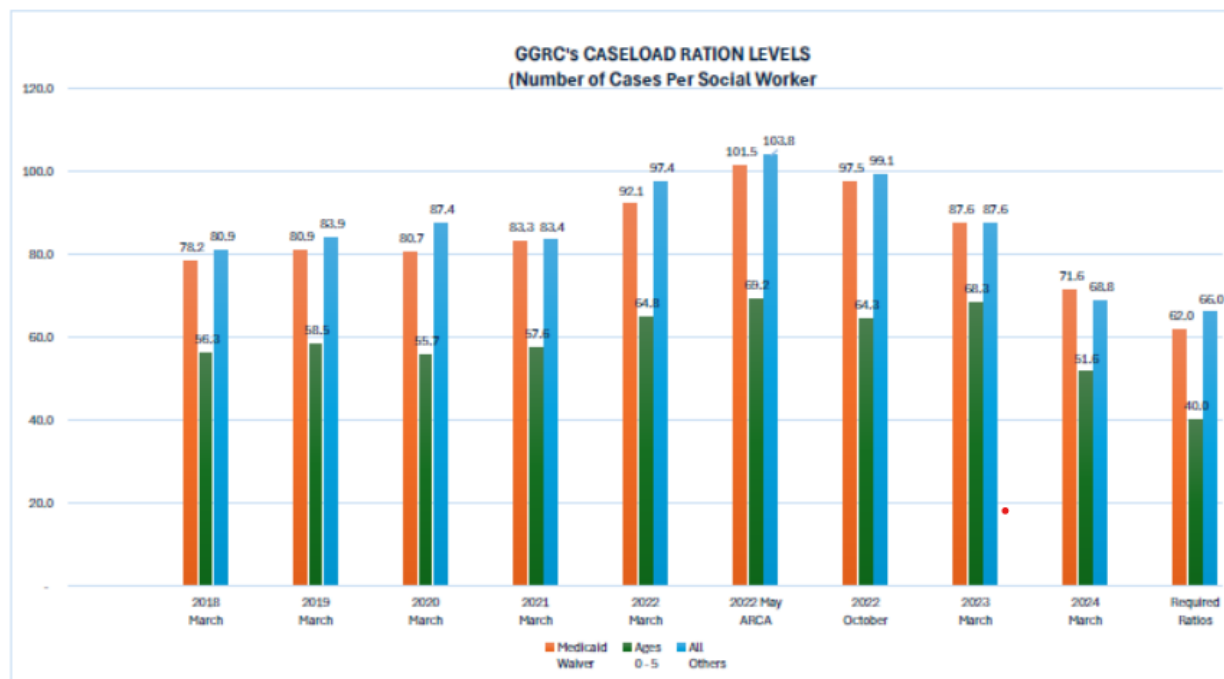
Eric shared that the Community Resources Development plan is one of the major ways of being able to start services. We have different ways to collect data internally and externally on what services to ask DDS for funding. Eric spoke about the current projects such as specialized residential services for children, adult residential facility, and housing development organization that we were able to receive funds from DDS to put out for proposals to be able to start services and that we are looking for providers who would start these services.

Amanda requested Board members and participants to share these opportunities with their contacts so that GGRC can connect with providers who are able to start these services.

Update on Caseload Ration at GGRC

Eric displayed the DDS measures and the following chart on GGRC caseload ratio level. Eric underscored that GGRC was the often the highest or second highest average ratio amongst the 21 regional centers because of GGRC's high cost of living area and the attended hiring challenges. Since October 2022, these percentages have decreased as shown in the chart below.

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Eric underscored the incredible success GGRC has had in the past 18 months of hiring “expansion” social work positions in order to reduce the ratios. There is still a long way to go in getting the ratios to where California has promised they should be, but we are in a much better position than in 2022!

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Aria Alokozai