

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL
CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING
Tuesday, February 20th, 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 January 16th, 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 (Jacy Cohen)
1. Future Planning Project – Next Steps

ACTION D. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
1. Update on GGRC BOD Candidates Recruitment
2. Election of Prospect Board Candidate (Sharon Jones)
3. Bylaws Review and Restatement

E. Service Provider Advisory Committee

F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)

1. Update on Legislative Event in the Spring
2. Proposed Legislation – “Blue Envelope” Bill

G. Comments from the Board Chair (Jacy Cohen)

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

1. ARCA Budget Letter/Budget Hearings
2. System Structure - Flow of Funding
3. Board Presentation: “*GGRC’s Workforce Development Efforts: Hiring and Training.*”(Ihsan Shagiwal, GGRC’s HR Director)

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

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

RECORD of February 20th, 2024, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David DeLira
Michael LoBue
Kate O'Connor
Michael Bernick

Lynn Pulliam
Tracy Bullock
JJ Khin
Andrea Fuentes
Shirely Poitier

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Edith Arias

STAFF: Eric Zigman
Brenda Gonzales
Lop Hou
Lisa Rosene

Aria Alokozai
Ihsan Shagiwal

GUESTS: Brindicy Alcaraz
Chris Aguire
Sheraden Nicholau
Lilian Ansari

Marta Guzman
Erika Gonzalez

CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Jacy Cohen)

ACTION A. Agenda

The Agenda for today's meeting was approved.

M/S/C (Michael Bernick motioned /Kate O'Connor seconded)

ACTION B. Record of January 16th, 2024, Meeting

The Record of Meeting of January 16th, 2024 was approved.

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned/Lynn Pulliam seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Jacy Cohen thanked Andrea Fuentes, a departing Board Member, as valued member for her service and contribution to the GGRC Board. Jacy appreciated Ms. Fuentes for her leadership, knowledge, skills, contributions on the Services Committee, leadership role in the Spanish Speakers' Future Planning Listening session, her participation in the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Legislative Committees and a perspective that she shared as an educator and as a parent who has navigated the developmental

disability system. Ms. Fuentes was presented with an honorary award for her service on the GGRC Board.

Eric also thanked Ms. Fuentes's contribution and service on the Board.

Eric shared information about Partners in Policymaking, a program that invites people to come together and prepare for legislative advocacy for policy change to defend the Lanterman Act. ARCA, in collaboration with Tri-County Regional Center are putting a session on Partners in Policymaking in English with ASL interpretation and in Spanish. We are looking for advocates, especially family members who have had some experience and self-advocates who want to learn more, become more educated and connected to a larger group of families who advocate for change in policy or legislative areas. The sessions are from February 28th to June 16th. More information and details about the sessions will be shared in an email with the Board. Interested Board members or community members can contact Eric Zigman and Aria Alokozai for more information.

Finance Committee (Lop Hou for Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of December 31, 23]

Lop Hou reported that GGRC has received its E-1 Contract Budget Allocations.

Operations:

After six months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 9.0%. 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 six months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 4.7%. While this will fluctuate as caseloads increase and as services are provided throughout the year, the current estimated projected surplus is approximately \$7.2 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 yet to be approved and 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:

- Upcoming statewide trainings in English and Spanish: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-trainings/>
Trainings this month include CalABLE, IEP Strategies, Healthy U, Supported Decision Making, and more.
- Upcoming SCDD Council and Committee Meetings: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
 - 02/28-02/29 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Wednesday & Thursday @ 10:30-2 p.m.
 - Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting (also known as the RAC) on Wednesday, February 28th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. In this meeting, we will vote on Bay Area RAC priorities, RAC member updates, community partner updates, and more. You can attend this meeting in-person or on zoom.

- 3/14 Legislative and Public Policy Committee 3/14 (usually 1030a)
- BAY AREA PEOPLE FIRST Meetings: The Bay Area People First (BAPF) chapter is made up of self-advocates and members of local People First chapters from Alameda County People First, San Francisco People First, Marin County People First, and San Mateo People First. The BAPF meetings are held every two months, on the third Wednesday of that month. These meetings are on Zoom, and you can join from any location. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024, Networking from 4:00 PM to 4:15 PM, Meeting from 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM **Meeting Link Meeting ID:** 858 4539 6905 **Password:** 581404 Contact information for questions and/or accommodations: (510) 286-0430.
- BART accessibility taskforce is looking for members. Want to help make BART more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities? The BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) is recruiting new members! The BATF is a public committee comprised of BART riders to advise the BART Board of Directors and staff on disability-related issues and advocate on behalf of people with disabilities and seniors to make the BART system accessible to all. The BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The BATF meetings are open to the public and are located at the East Bay Paratransit Office in Oakland, which is adjacent to the 19th Street BART station street level elevator. **Learn more Current 2024 Schedule** If you are interested or if you have any questions, please contact Elena Van Loo at 510-874-7366 or by email at **evanloo@bart.gov**
- Supported Decision Making, Technical Assistant Program Contracts - Available Contracts Invitation to Bid Open Now! Closing 2/23/2024 at 12p PST
 - **SDM-TAP Warmline Services** (no-cost, non-emergency phone services) Create and operate a warmline assistance center to answer questions and connect users with resources to assist with implementation of Supported Decision-Making.
 - **SDM-TAP Evaluation Services** Identify analysis methods, gather qualitative data from SDM-TAP funding recipients, analyze data, evaluate the implementation of SDM-TAP, and identify measurable outcomes of Supported Decision-Making success for individuals/families and professionals in California through written reports.
 - **SDM-TAP Branding & Advertising Coordination Services** Create a branding guide for SDM-TAP and manage usage by SDM-TAP partners and funding recipients in all public communication. Coordinate marketing efforts for all SDM-TAP funding recipients.

SDM-TAP contractors will be expected to work closely with one another and future SDM-TAP grantees. Additionally, each applicant can apply for multiple SDM-TAP contracts and/or upcoming grants but can only receive one (1) award. This means each applicant can only be awarded either one (1) contract OR one (1) grant.

All responses to the listed invitations for bids must be submitted electronically to the SDM-TAP team at sdmtap@scdd.ca.gov.

- SCDD Self-Determination Statewide Orientations (this month offered in English, Spanish, & Tagalog): <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- A reminder, SCDD offers PPE and antigen tests for orgs and community groups. Email to make a request: Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov. Note that the antigen test program will wrap up at the end of Feb, so please get your orders in now if your group or a group you know could use antigen tests at no cost.

Services Committee (David DeLira)

Future Planning Project

David DeLira shared that Alex Madrid, former Board Member and now GGRC staff, will work with Amanda Pyle on a future planning listening session for the persons served and will map out a plan and send it to the Services Committee for review. Amanda and her team are working on hosting a Future Planning Listening session for GGRC Social Workers.

David DeLira also shared the following updates from the Services Committee meeting:

- Lisa Rosene is working on revising the IPP template and has asked the committee for feedback on Section F, Life Planning.
- Amanda provided a GGRC website redesign update. They are getting feedback (holding sessions) from various stakeholders about “branding” and have asked committee members for help with outreach.
- Jacy has been in communication with Caring Futures, a collaboration between The Arc of California and the University of Chicago, Illinois. They were to send outreach information to all three GGRC offices promoting their classes for families on future planning, self-care, and other resources for dissemination.

Lisa shared that Purchase of Services Guidelines will be shared with the Board to review and approve at the next meeting in March.

Q and A followed.

Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)

Update on GGRC Board of Directors Candidate Recruitment

Lynn shared that the Board Operations Committee is looking for Board members from different demographics, geographic locations, skills, parents of individuals served, individuals served and candidates who are familiar with the developmental disability system. The Committee currently has some candidates that are being considered for interview, especially focusing on candidates who are individuals served by GGRC.

Jacy shared that the Committee is also looking for candidates who are parents or guardians of people served who are under 21 years old.

Election of Prospect Board Candidate, Sharon Jones:

Lynn shared Sharon Jones was presented in the last Board meeting. Lynn asked for a motion to elect Sharon Jones as a new Board member. David DeLira made a motioned and Shirely Poitier seconded. There was no further discussions and the Board unanimously approved to elect Sharon Jones as a new Board Member.

(MCS David DeLira motioned/ Shirley Poitier seconded)

Bylaws Review and Restatement:

Lynn presented the Board Bylaws Restatement and reported that the Operations Committee had been reviewing the Bylaws with Erin Bradrick, GGRC's Board Attorney a number of times and presented it to the Board for review. Some of the changes include the following:

1. It updates the bylaws to current nonprofit and corporations code laws.
2. It sets the range of the number of Board Members at GGRC to be between seven and fifteen members (the current minimum is nine board members and maximum is fifteen).
3. Board member terms are formally restricted to be one-year terms starting on July 1st, unless elected during the year to fill a vacant board "seat". This will make it easier and clearer to track the seven-year statutory maximum of board service.
4. There is more clarity on the Committee structure of standing committees (one Board Committee and the Advisory Committees). These committees are named and briefly described, but Committees will now have "charters" (purpose statements) that stand outside of the bylaws (so they can be modified if needed by the board without having to amend the bylaws).
5. The current Bylaws required a Board member who has served their seven-year maximum service to be off the GGRC board for two years before being considered for another term on the board. The new restated bylaws make this required time off the board one year, which is what is required by the Lanterman Act statute and will provide more flexibility for consideration of former board members interested in returning to board service.

Board members can send their questions and comments regarding the Restated Bylaws to the Operations Committee, Eric, and Aria by March 8th to be answered by the Board Attorney, Erin Bradrick at the March Board meeting.

Eric shared the announcement about the ARCA Academy that is exclusive for regional center Board members to connect with each other and learn about Effective Board Recruitment and Development on Feb 8th.

Eric spoke about the updated Board Binders Vol I and II for Fiscal year 2023-24 and their contents that were shared with the Board this month.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Conner)

SPAC Update

Kate shared the Services Provider Advisory Committee has been discussing proposed budget rate delay and are trying to involve the Service Providers to advocate and talk to the legislators and involve in Grassroots Day and Legislative Events. Other discussion topics were DDS DSP training stipend, networking with Service Providers, HCBS site visits and making sure they are in compliance with the HCBS rule. SPAC is also working on Legislative Breakfast Events.

Q and A followed.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Eric Zigman for Edith Arias)

Update on Legislative Event in the Spring:

Eric reported updates on Legislative Event that will be on April 19th in Marin and on May 3rd in South San Francisco with speakers from State Legislators, Assembly members and Senators for a 2-hour Breakfast event. The Committee is hoping to host 100-150 participants from staff, Board members, and especially from GGRC family members and people served.

Proposed Legislative – “Blue Envelope” Bill (proposed by Assembly Member Kate Sanchez)

Eric spoke about Blue Envelope Bill that DMV would offer to people with disabilities who would need accommodation during a traffic violation. The use of the envelopes is voluntarily, it gives context to the police about what situations they are encountering, and facilitates ease in communication. Currently the envelopes are being used in San Deigo which has been found very effective and soon to be used statewide.

For more information, flyers will be shared with the Board members.

Comments from the Board Chair (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy shared that it’s important for a board to understand the areas it needs to strengthen, improve, and grow. Jacy added that understanding the gap between where we are now and where we want to be can help us to become more effective.

Furthermore, Jacy stated that soliciting regular feedback will demonstrate a commitment to making the Board the best it can be. Several Board members have shared their suggestions and concerns about the Board and various practices with members of the Executive and Operations Committees. In an effort to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, the Operations Committee, with Lynn as Chair, will be calling for a meeting to look at a process to solicit regular feedback and open discussion. Another Operations Committee meeting may then be called which will be open to all Board Members who want to participate, to discuss and suggest where we can formalize a process and place for soliciting feedback and healthy debate including issues of interest to the Board.

Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

Budget Hearings:

The Assembly Budget Sub Committee on Human Services is meeting on February 28th at 1:30pm (with online broadcast) discussing on Human Services DDS and the Governor budget that proposes for regional center system. The Senate Budget Sub Committee will be meeting on March 21st, at 9:30am.

ARCA Budget Letter

Eric spoke about the ARCA Budget Letter and highlighted the discussion topics such as Provider need for funding and rate increase so that they can hire and retain staff and not delaying the full implementation on July 1st,2024. Eric also discussed the Governor proposed budget for the next year, modernization of technology, staffing the Self-Determination Program, social recreation and camping services and Direct Support Professionals, developing a Master Plan for Developmental Services.

Eric shared that he is very pleased to announce that GGRC Vice Chair, Edith Arias and one of GGRC Self-Advocates and former Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Chair, Shasha Bittner, are members of the State Master Plan for Developmental Services workshop.

System Structure – Flow of Funding

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Eric briefly explained the Proposed Budget 2023-24 which shows the state system for funding for children and adults with developmental disability.

Board Presentation: GGRC Workforce Development efforts” Hiring and Training (Ihsan Shagiwal)

Ihsan shared a graph on the growth of GGRC staff, number of new hires, separations, and net gains. GGRC hired many open and expansion positions during the calendar year 2023. GGRC staff numbers increased from 231 at the end of 2022 to 295 at the end of 2023. During 2023, GGRC has hired 93 people while only 25 separated during the same year. There are number of factors that contributed to filling such a significant number of positions, including the support from BPM consulting and the investment in technology and systems such as Workable, applicant tracking system, CrossChq and investing and utilizing in passive recruitment via LinkedIn and Indeed. There is so much effort that goes into filling the open position. As an example, GGRC recruiter team had to review and contact 4400 candidates in order to fill 83 positions between Feb to Dec 2023. That's about 50+ candidates for each vacancy filled. The employee demographic chart shows diversity of employees from different races, ethnic groups, and their tenure in GGRC. GGRC's turnover ratio dropped from 21.15% in 2022 to 11.41% in 2023. Ihsan covered GGRC staff training opportunities both for new and experienced staff as well as other staff development opportunities.

Q and A followed.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai