

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL
CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS
MEETING
Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, 4- 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 November 14th, 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

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
2. *Board Presentation: The Evolution of Day Programs – Successes and Challenges Panel (Lisa Markey, Founder and Executive Director, People with Disabilities Succeeding; Shirley Rodriguez, Executive Director, Annette Vitali-Thompson, Program Coordinator, Community Employment Services (CES); and Madison Blanton Chief Executive Officer, One Step Beyond, Inc.)*

- ACTION**
- D. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
 - 1. Update on GGRC BOD Candidates Recruitment
 - 2. Election of Prospect Board Candidate (Shirley Poiter)
 - 3. Presentation of Sharon Jones

E. Service Provider Advisory Committee

- F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)
 - 1. Update on Legislative Event in the Spring
 - 2. ARCAs Grassroots Day

G. Comments from the Board Chair (Jacy Cohen)

- 6:40 pm **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Eric Zigman)
- 1. California's January Budget FY 24-25
- ACTION**
- 2. ARCA Membership Agreement

7:15 pm **VIII. 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 Alokozai at aalokozai@ggrc.org, or call 415-832-5792.



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

RECORD of January 16th, 2024, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Edith Arias
 David DeLira
 Michael LoBue
 Kate O'Connor

Lynn Pulliam
 Tracy Bullock
 JJ Khin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Andrea Fuentes
 Michael Bernick

STAFF: Eric Zigman
 Brenda Gonzales
 Lop Hou
 Lisa Rosene

Aria Alokozai
 Ihsan Shagiwal
 Amanda Pyle
 Maria Santos

GUESTS: Brindicy Alcaraz
 Ami Sullivan
 Chris Aguire
 Aparna Kommineni
 Sean Galvin
 Lisa Markey
 Annette Vital-Thompson

Sheraden Nicholau
 Shirley Poitier
 Shirley Rodriguez
 Jarrod Allen
 Moushumi Kabir
 Madison Blanton

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

The Agenda for today's meeting was approved.

M/S/C (Lynn Pulliam motioned /Edith Arias seconded)

ACTION B. Record of November 14th, 2023, Meeting

The Record of Meeting of November 14th, 2023 was approved.

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned/Michael LoBue seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Jacy Cohen reminded the Board members that there will be an Executive Session after the Board meeting tonight and the Board will discuss a personnel matter.

Eric and Jacy spoke about Alice Gibeau's services and advocacy for people with developmental disabilities and the history of the Alice Gibeau Award.

Jacy added:

“Congratulations Maria as the 2023 recipient of the Alice Gibeau Award nominated by your peers!

The GGRC Board established this award to recognize staff, who by their behavior embodies the spirit of advocacy, achievement and commitment to social justice for the individuals and families we serve and who have gone above and beyond to support colleagues, the individuals and families we serve and the organization.

Alice Gibeau served as the second Board President of the Arc San Francisco in 1953 and served on GGRC's Board in the early to mid 1980's.

Alice was part of that group of pioneering parents who, with their grass roots work and fierce determination, proceeded federal law and state laws granting equal rights to education and entitlement to services for children and adults with developmental and other disabilities.

These pioneering parents along with professionals proposed creating a network of regional community based agencies rather than build more institutions.

Their efforts led to legislation passed in 1965 authorizing the establishment of two pilot regional centers, one in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles and the passage of the 1969 Lanterman Act.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for your excellent service!”

Eric introduced Maria Santos, Alice Gibeau award winner, and spoke about her remarkable dedication to both our community and GGRC staff, and her advocacy for the people she serves.

Edith shared information about a 2- day [Cal-Tash conference](#) that will take place in Sacramento on March 1st and 2nd.

Finance Committee (Lop Hou for Michael Bernick)

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

Lop Hou reported that GGRC has received its E-1 Contract Budget Allocations which, in sum, provide the following DDS funding for Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

Operations:

After five months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 7.0%. 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 five months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 4.5%. While this will fluctuate as caseloads increase and as services are provided throughout the year, the current estimated projected surplus is approximately \$5.0 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:

- **NCI update:** National Core Indicators® - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI®-IDD) is a national effort to measure and improve the performance of public developmental disabilities agencies.
- California and other states use the datasets from NCI surveys to assess performance in services and support provided to people with IDD. California is looking at how additional survey sections / types of surveys could help provide additional information about how CA is doing.
- The NCI surveys ask questions about the following topics:
 - a. Access and delivery of IDD related services
 - b. Choice and decision-making
 - c. Community involvement (this includes employment and relationships)
 - d. Satisfaction with IDD related services
 - e. Information access and Planning
 - f. Health and Welfare (including a section specific to COVID-19 questions)
 - g. Respect for and Rights of the person-served
- Surveys are hitting mailboxes later this month. Approx 25k being mailed to Bay Area households.
- **Child Family Survey** – to be completed by families of a child (3-17 years old) who lives with them and receives at least one service from the regional center, in addition to case management.
- **Adult Family Survey** – to be completed by families of an adult (age 18 and over) who lives with them and receives at least one service from the regional center, in addition to case management.
- **Family Guardian Survey** – to be completed by families and conservators of individuals (age 18 and over) who live in a community placement setting, and receives at least one service from the regional center, in addition to case management.
- National Core Indicators (NCI) national website: <https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>
- CA’s Department of Developmental Services’ (DDS) National Core Indicators Project homepage: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/>
- Quality Assessment Project homepage, State Council on Developmental Disabilities: <https://scdd.ca.gov/qap/>
- DDS’ NCI Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/quality-assessment-faq/>

SCDD Events and committee meetings coming up:

- 01/22 @ 1:30 p.m. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Meeting - advises the Council on policies, programs and other matters which affect self-advocates in California. Made up of SA members of the council.
- 01/23 @ 10:30 a.m. Council Meeting – Join to hear more about the Council’s impact and the stories and significance behind the numbers.
- 02/8 CA Employment First Meeting
- 02/28 -- Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee Meeting, 530p, hybrid

SCDD Upcoming Trainings, open Statewide:

- **IEP Strategies**
- Learn strategies to maximize success and respond to statements frequently made in IEP meetings. **January 17 @ 6 - 8:30p — English**
- **State Education Compliance & Complaints** Overview of what state compliance complaints are and how to use them strategically. **January 24 @ 6 - 8:30p — English**
- **Understanding Ed Evaluations** Learn the legal requirements of evaluations, what they say about the student, and how to use them strategically to get needed services. **January 31 @ 6 - 8:30p — English**
- **Direct Link for above trainings** :<https://tinyurl.com/z7tfvr4p> Meeting ID# **845-3482-7319**
Password 123456

SCDD's NEW Storytellers' Blog:

- We have a new blog on our website that community members and especially leaders with IDD can submit ideas or stories to: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-communications-blog/>
- This blog is a platform for storytellers to share their experiences, insights, and lessons learned through first-person perspectives, interviews, articles, spotlights, and videos.
- In this space, each person is the author of their story. Whether you're a person with lived experience, a family member, caregiver, friend, or someone navigating the unique journey of intellectual and developmental disabilities, we hope that you find community here. [SCDD Communications Blog | SCDD](#)
- Individuals can submit their information along with a short synopsis of their story by following the link underneath the “[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)” button located on the right side margin of the blog's main page.
- **Self-Determination Statewide Orientations** (this month offered in English, Spanish, and Arabic): <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- **A reminder, we can offer PPE and antigen tests for orgs and community groups.** Email to make a request: Sheraden.nicholau@scdd.ca.gov. The antigen test program will end in Feb 2024.
- **SCDD Annual Calendar**, you can subscribe at the bottom right corner: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
- **SCDD Virtual Trainings Calendar**, you can subscribe at the bottom right corner: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-trainings/>
- **Self-Determination Program Orientation Sign-ups online:** <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- **Share your Bill ideas:** https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0

Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy reported that the Services Committee did not meet this month due to most of the committee members being on holiday. Jacy added that the Committee will be meeting in February to review and

discuss the next steps for the Future Planning Project including decisions regarding holding Listening Sessions for GGRC Social Worker and for persons served. [Caring Futures](#) is offering a free six-week online class series (in English, Spanish and ASL on request) to help families decided on a Future Plan for their family members. Jacy announced that a new class is starting on January 24th at 4pm and that the interested Board members can contact Jacy more for information.

Board Panel: “The Evolution of Day Programs – Successes and Challenges” (Lisa Markey, Founder and Executive Director, People with Disabilities Succeeding; Shirley Rodriguez, Executive Director, Annette Vitali-Thompson, Program Coordinator, Community Employment Services (CES); and Madison Blanton Chief Executive Officer, One Step Beyond, Inc. and Moderated by Eric Zigman, GGRC Executive Director) shared the followings on evolution of Day Programs.

Shirley Rodriguez from Community Employment Services (CES) shared that their success lies in relationships that they developed with individuals served and their families. In addition, CES is a team player and makes sure to provide the best support possible and understand what the individuals and their families’ needs and wants are. Some of the challenges for CES involve inadequate funding. Shirley shared that CES had been very fortunate with staffing. She added that all the CES Direct Support staff have second jobs which helps them stay with CES with lower pay, however, staff retirement is an issue as they approach retirement age. CES have been advocating and sharing their staffing concerns and issues that their staff face with the DDS. In terms of getting the voices of people served heard, CES have two individuals that provide feedback and support on their Board. In addition, Annette and Shirley are visible and available - they support their staff and provide direct support to individuals served.

Lisa Markey shared that People with Disabilities Succeeding (PDS) focuses on employment and community inclusion. PDS had always been able to have a great employment rate, low turnover, and good relationships with the employers. PDS adapted well during the pandemic when offered services on Zoom and redefined/redesigned the services. The Paid internship program has been a great opportunity. Some of the challenges for PDS are lack of funding, transportation, and strict regulation with regards to age of vehicles. Lisa shared that as cost-of-living increases and PDS’s rate stays stagnant, staffing will become an issue. PDS has an open-door policy, supports their individuals achieve their goals and welcomes people to share their thoughts. Lisa added that the individuals served are very vocal and share what their wants and needs are.

Madison Blanton from One Step Beyond shared they operate within the employment services and community day program sphere. They have added a Social Recreation program as a unique offering of One Step Beyond. Madison added their successes include 1) expanding new day program which is inclusion and strategic partnership with the community and creating opportunities with other businesses. 2) expanding current day programs which includes Social Recreation and independent living skills. Some of the challenges for One Step Beyond are transportation, its regulations and staffing shortages which causes inadequate services provision to the individuals served. Madison shared that One Step Beyond hired 51% more staff over the course of last year, however had 83% turnover mainly due to lower pay rates. One Step Beyond continues to offer internal incentive and rewards programs, retention and hiring bonuses and training career growth opportunities. Madison shared that One Step Beyond provides opportunities for individuals to converse with their program management and share what they like and who they want to receive support from throughout the day/year. In addition, a group of individual advocates meet once a week and discuss their likes and dislikes, and then one of the advocates has a chance to sit a on the Board meeting.

Q & A followed.

Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)

Presentation of Board Candidate, Sharon Jones

Lynn introduced Sharon Jones, a GGRC Board candidate, who has been formally interviewed by the Board Operations Committee. Ms. Jones had been with the Family Home Agency and member of Board of Directors at the Arc San Francisco and is currently working with Warrior's.

Election of Prospect Board Candidate, Shirley Poitier:

Lynn shared that Ms. Shirley Poitier, a prospect Board member, was introduced to the Board in the last meeting for consideration. Lynn asked for a motion to elect Ms. Poitier as a new Board Member. Edith Arias made a motion and David DeLira seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve of Ms. Poitier's election as the new Board member. There were no further discussions.

(MCS Edith Arias motioned/ David DeLira seconded)

Bylaws Review Process Update:

Lynn reported that the Operations Committee has been reviewing the Bylaws with Erin Bradrick, GGRC's Board Attorney, and will hopefully have the bylaws updated in the next month or two.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Conner)

SPAC Update

Kate shared the Services Provider Advisory Committee meets bi-weekly on first and third Tuesday of the month and currently have seven voting members. SPAC now has smaller participation (25 people) then the time of the pandemic (125 people). Kate added that there are 225 people on the SPAC email list. The current topic of discussion is the governor's new Budget proposal. Some of the major concerns for everyone at the SPAC are delaying the rate implementation, staffing issues and wages. The vendors are working on legislative events and Grassroots Day and advocating for individuals to have their voices heard.

Jacy thanked and welcomed Kate to the GGRC Board.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Edith Arias)

Update on Legislative Event in the Spring:

Edith reported that the Spring Legislative Event Planning Committee which includes Eric, Audrey DeChandendes, Edith, and Kate O'Connor, met on January 8th and discussed having two legislative Breakfast events, one in San Mateo/San Francisco and another in Marin on two dates. Edith shared that the Congressman Kevin Mullin will be a speaker at the event. The Committee is still in the planning phase and in the process of arranging a space for May 3rd in a venue San Mateo and for April 19th in a venue in Marin, both event will be from 9am-11am.

Edith added GGRC Legislative Committee did not meet this month. She added that the Governor's budget has been just released and the committee will have updates in the next Board meeting.

ARCA Grassroots Day

Edith shared that she will be participating at the ARCA meeting this week as well as on Grassroots day on April 1st and 2nd in Sacramento and report to the Board after the events.

Comments from the Board Chair (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy shared her thoughts and reflections and the following points on some of the matters that are important to her as the Board Chair and as a Board Member into the new year 2024:

- Strives to create a welcoming and inclusive culture for all of our stakeholders, persons served and their families, staff, community members and fellow board members.
- Encourage board members from diverse backgrounds to share their perspectives and ideas.
- Ask the Executive Director and staff how we can help and support them by focusing on positive actions we can take.
- Our staff carry immense responsibility, and Jacy supports and encourages a work culture and environment where staff feel acknowledged and respected.
- Jacy resolves to be an engaged ambassador, advocate for our organization and reach out to our community in an effort to recruit board members that will support and enhance our cause.

Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

ARCA Membership Agreement:

Eric spoke about the Association of Regional Centers (ARCA) and its new Membership Agreement. The ARCA Board of Directors decided to establish a formal Standards and Practices Committee for Regional Centers which will include Board members and Executive Directors from seven Regional Centers. The duties of the committee will be to investigate, advise, and make recommendations to ARCA's Board in terms of standards and practices for all regional centers.

After discussion, Jacy asked for a motion to approve GGRC's membership in ARCA and to sign the agreement. Michael LoBue made a motion and Lynn Pulliam seconded. The Board unanimously voted to approve GGRC's membership agreement in ARCA.

MSC (Michael LoBue motioned/Lynn Pulliam seconded)

California's January Budget FY 24-25

Eric highlighted the initial budget updates and added its predicted that there will be between \$40-\$60 billion deficit in the budget. Eric added that this is the initial budget and is expected to change. The system is expected to grow by 29000 individuals (7% increase in numbers served statewide). The budget is projected to go to \$15 billion, which is a 12% increase in the budget.

Eric stated that the governor has also proposed to create a Master Plan on Developmental Services in order for system to be more quality driven, more consumer focused, and to have a program management system to have a usable data and make recommendations to DDS regarding quality, equity and outcomes and to improve regional center accountability.

Eric underscored that the funding for our three Participant Choice Specialists positions in Self-Determination will not be renewed. GGRC's discussion has been to keep those positions despite not being funded because the Self-Determination Program is extremely understaffed and is in dire need of these positions to continue serving participants in the self-determination program.

Q and A followed.

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER
RECORD of MEETING –
January 16th, 2024

The Board Meeting adjourned to an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai