



E. Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

F. Legislative Committee (Edith Arias)

1. New Speaker Pro Tem of Senate (McGuire)

<https://sd02.senate.ca.gov/news/2023-08-28-senate-leader-atkins-announces-agreement-reached-pro-tem-designee-transition-be>

2. AB 1147

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB1147](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1147)

3. AB 649

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240AB649](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB649)

4. SB 805

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202320240SB805](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB805)

G. ARCA Update (Edith Arias)

1. Board Delegates August Meeting

2. Board of Directors August Meeting

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

1. Board Summer Retreat Recap

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

1. Presentation: *Strengthening our Commitment— The History of the Regional Centers in California*

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](mailto:aalokozai@ggrc.org), or call 415-832-5792.**



# Golden Gate Regional Center

*Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity*

**BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING  
RECORD of September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:30 PM  
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

**PRESIDING:** Jacy Cohen

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Michael Bernick  
Andrea Fuentes  
Edith Arias  
David DeLira

Lynn Pulliam  
Tracy Bullock  
Abby Yim  
Michael LoBue

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** JJ Khin

**STAFF:** Eric Zigman  
Brenda Gonzales  
Lop Hou  
Amanda Pyle

Lisa Rosene  
Susan Pirnes

**GUESTS:** Rachel Kripke-Ludwig  
Gail Ludwig & Family  
Sophia Agafonow  
Sharon Jones

Sheraden Nicholau  
Erika Gonzalez  
Shirley Poitier  
Philip Roadmaier

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CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Ms. Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 /Lynn Pulliam seconded)*

**ACTION B. Record of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Meeting**  
*The Record of Meeting of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was approved.*  
*M/S/C (Lynn Pulliam motioned/Michael Bernick seconded)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT**

Edith Arias spoke about AdvoCats description that is included in Board packet and relayed to the Board that CAL-TASH, a statewide advocacy organization, is asking for proposals for presentations at its annual conference in March - deadline for proposals is Sept. 20th.

Rachel Kripke-Ludwig provided public comments by using the Chat feature of Zoom. She wrote: “First, I want to say that I support the strategic plan, especially the focus on reducing staff caseloads and increasing SLS and ILS. When increasing SLS and ILS, don’t forget people with aging parents who need more help. Also, remember those of us with high support needs and AAC users who want to live independently. We are coming of age and need new models that don’t yet exist. The SLS and ILS models need to incorporate the consultants (home care medical, skilled nursing, dietician, behavioral supports, home based mental health, PT, OT, speech, podiatry, RDHAP) and staffing stability that group homes offer, but in an SLS or ILS model.” Jacy, Eric, and others thanked Rachel for her important comments.

Eric shared that he will be presenting at the upcoming Neurodiversity Employment conference on September 21<sup>st</sup> and will provide summary to Board.

#### **Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)**

##### Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 23]

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

##### Operations:

Fiscal year 2022-2023 year to date operations expenditures are under budget by 9.4%, however, 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:

Fiscal year 2022-2023 year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 14.5%. The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$52.7 million for the fiscal year.

#### **Services Committee (Jacy Cohen)**

Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD Regional Manager shared updates on SCDD activities including the following points:

- The role of the State Council, vision, and mission.
  - The Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act).
  - Council Members from the CA agencies, and the State Council’s Regional Offices and services.
  - The State Council’s Council Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and its services.
  - The State Council’s Work: advocacy, capacity building and system change.
  - Example of the State Council’s CA contracts – National Core Indicators, Client’s Rights Advocacy (CRA) and Voluntary Advocacy Services (VAS).
- (see attached presentation)

##### Future Planning Project/Listening Session Report: Jacy shared the following updates:

- All three listening sessions have been conducted.
- Spanish speakers’ session was held in July, Cantonese in August, and English last week.

- The intent of the sessions was to hear from families how regional centers can best support consumers/families wherever they are in the process of thinking about consumers including when caregivers can no longer manage supporting consumer.
- Information gathered will help decide next steps including a presentation of findings. The presentation is planned for the October Board meeting.

### POS Guideline Revisions

Lisa Rosene, GGRC's Director of Regional Center Services, referring Board members to the POS Guideline Document on page 13 of their materials packet, reviewed some changes to the POS Guidelines that were reviewed and approved by DDS at the end of July,

At that time DDS let GGRC know of some statutory changes concerning Socialization/Recreation programs in the community that became effective on July 1st, 2023, that needed to be addressed in our Guidelines.

Eric screen shared the sections in questions, and Lisa went through the explanation of the changes. After an opportunity to discuss and ask questions, a motion was made to accept these changes and submit them to DDS for their review. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **ACTION** - Purchase of Services Guidelines

*M/S/C (David DeLira motioned/Edith Arias seconded)*

## **Board Operations Committee (Lynn Pulliam)**

### Update on GGRC BOD Candidate Recruitment:

The Operations Committee has interviewed two Board of Director's candidates. The Committee wants to consider the ethnic and language demographics, increasing the numbers of persons-served on the board and finding more representations that are from San Mateo and Marin Counties.

### Bylaws Review Process Update

The Bylaws are under review and the committee is working on having a formal version of the Bylaws in the next few months.

Jacy provided a one-pager Board of Directors Introductory letter to the Operations Committee Chair, Lynn Pulliam, and hopes to have a Committee-approved version soon.

Once finished by the committee, Eric plans to have the Introductory letter translated into the Spanish and Cantonese to invite those groups as well.

Q and A followed.

## **Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)**

### SPAC Update

Abby reported that the Service Provider Advisory Committee met this month and discussed the legislative changes, the challenges regarding re-starting in-person services and how the operations have changed and need to continue to change. A small work group discussed this matter and brainstormed

ideas. Jacy also commented that an issue for providing services is also a lack of transportation services which is a lack of safety.

Eric suggested that the GGRC’s Legislative Committee may want to meet to explore the possibility of some kind of local legislative event with local representatives.

Edith added that AdvoCats are very excited about the idea. She suggests having a collaboration in the Spring.

Q and A followed.

### **Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Edith Arias)**

Edith Arias shared the following points:

- Summarized numerous bills included in the packet materials and links provided in the agenda for further information.
- Discussed ARCA involvement in proposed legislation and other bills.

Eric added that A649 appears now to have been defeated by being held in suspense by the Senate Appropriations Committee. As Edith explained, this bill was a way to return to pre-2008 cost saving measures by no longer requiring every individual and family appeal denials from “generic” service entities like IHSS and Medical. AB 649 was a great bill and ARCA, Disability Rights California and GGRC will continue to advocate for it in future legislative cycles.

### **ARCA Updates:**

The following updates from meetings of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) were shared with the Board:

- Edith, GGRC’s Board Delegate to ARCA, shared that the ARCA Board Delegates met on 8/17 and discussed homelessness; housing for people served; service provider rates and other current issues for regional center board members.
- Eric added that ARCA consists of 42 members – 21 “delegate” Board members and 21 Executive Directors from each of the regional centers.
- Edith related that there were discussions on what positions to be taken on legislation representing all 21 centers.

Eric mentioned that big topic in August was how all regional centers can work together to have greater consistency and impact for those we serve and – at the same time- maintain the community-facing identity that a 501c3 public benefit non-profit can have. This was the intentional design of the formers and founders of the Lanterman Act in 1966 – and has been a defining characteristic of the support system for the past 57 years.

### **Executive Committee/Chairperson’s Report (Jacy Cohen)**

Board Summer Retreat Recap:

Jacy shared that 10 Board Members attended the Board Summer Retreat on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Retreat was an excellent opportunity for the Board to reconnect with each other and dedicated time for discussions that are not possible in the Board meeting. Annual compliance training was also conducted on GGRC's Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest Policies and also included a very good training regarding Diversity and Cultural Humility by Arianna Cruz-Sellu, GGRC's former Cultural Diversity Specialist.

Lynn shared that the attendees paired off and learned more about each other including what each member brings to the Board and had further discussions regarding what is important to each individual member.

David shared that the Cultural Humility training was excellent.

Andrea and Tracey commented about the discussions regarding how each member impacts others and how the Board impacts the people we serve. They added that it was wonderful to meet in-person and have emotional, human interaction which helps with thinking outside the box.

Eric reminded the Board that the Board of Directors do not have power to make decisions individually but only as a group. As a group they have the ultimate authority in the agency, so their ability to work together is of the utmost importance.

Everyone, including Eric, praised Aria for all the work she put in to make the Retreat a really enjoyable and effective day for the board members.

**Director's Report (Eric Zigman)**

Presentation: Strengthening our Commitment— The History of the Regional Centers in California

Eric shared the following points on 50 years + History of the Lanterman Act:

Eric covered the development of CA's Lanterman Act civil rights entitlement system for people with developmental disabilities. He talked about how GGRC was one of the two pilot project centers that led the way to the statewide system in the late 1960s. He traced the development of the system, highlighting milestones throughout the decades – these included the accomplishments made - and challenges faced- by this resilient and unique human service system.

See attached presentation.

Michael LoBue asked how best to impact what GGRC does to assist the most.

Eric commented that GGRC is investigating how to educate the general public and public policy decision makers to the needs and aspirations of the people we serve. Board Members will need to play a role as “ambassadors” to the community, championing the agency and the people we support.

Q and A followed.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER  
RECORD of MEETING –  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Pirnes & Aria Alokozai