

**Golden Gate Regional Center**  
**SELF-DETERMINATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes**  
**July 14, 2020**

**Present**

Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate, Co-Chair)  
Jennifer Walsh (Self-Advocate, Co-Chair)  
Rosalia Banta (Assistant to Jennifer Walsh)  
Chris Kantor (Parent Advocate)  
Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate)  
Elizabeth Grigsby (Rights Advocate, GGRC)  
Cassie Olitan (Assistant to Elizabeth Grigsby)  
Alison Sinclair (Parent Advocate)  
Sheraden Nicholau (Regional Manager, Bay Area Office, SCDD)  
Lisa Rosene (RCS Director, GGRC)  
Eric Zigman, (Executive Director, GGRC)  
Breanne Burris, (Guest)  
Talia Lazanite, (Guest)  
Chris Wecks (Guest)

**Welcome/Call to Order**

Committee members introduced themselves.

Statement made that the meeting was being recorded only for the purpose of assisting with the preparation of minutes and that the recording will be destroyed after minutes are approved by the committee.

**Minutes and Agenda**

None.

**Participant/Family of Participant/Public Feedback on SDP**

Lisa reported they need only one more person for the annual Person Centered Gathering (see flyer) conference to get the group rate, so if anyone is interested, please submit your name to Juliet or Kate Russell. The gathering starts next week, beginning July 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Updates

### Covid-19 (Nicholau/Zigman)

Sheraden reported that DDS has extended a handful of directives, all listed on the SCDD website. Some of these directives include participant directed services, and have been extended through the end of August thus far. These directives impact all persons served and their families and providers, including participant-directed services, and allow for continued flexibility and adaptability in response of the COVID. In general, clients are adapting new patterns of supports and services for both non-traditional non-residential services, as well as Self-determination. Legislative advocacy efforts on behalf of and including the IDD community at large has been extremely helpful. Sheraden also reported that today, a letter from local Assemblymember Joaguin Arambula, Chair of Budget Subcommittee of Health and Human Services sent a letter to the Governor, in support of continued funding for providers during the state of emergency. This speaks to the importance of continued support of non-residential providers during these extraordinary times. Assemblymembers Jim Frazier, Autumn Burke, Evan Low, Devon J. Mathis, Chad Mayes, Kevin Mullen, Jim Patterson, Blanca Rubio, Jim Wood and Marie Waldron all signed off on the letter.

Eric reported that our local State Council office has been partnering with GGRC for PPE distribution. Individuals served, families and providers have all been recipients of the PPEs. 35 out of the 10,000 we served have been positive, 2 whom have passed away. In consideration of the numbers we have been very fortunate. In terms of non-residential services, we've been having regular Zoom conferences in terms of a health and safety plan in preparation for face-to-face services.

### GGRC (Rosene/Sousa/Zigman)

- What is status of GGRC SDP individuals?

Lisa reported that Juliet has been working with a number of people on the finalized budget to hook people up with an FMS to address spending plans. All individuals in the program are welcome to proceed at their own pace; there is no set schedule; supporting what suits their current needs and lifestyle, within parameters of SDP.

- Other emerging issues?

Anticipating what people will need in the future can be a challenge, especially during the pandemic.

### Department of Developmental Services (Bittner/Nicholau, 5 Minutes)

Sheraden reported that on the council meeting Zoom call earlier today with Brian Winfield of DDS, and Rick Wood, Chair of the Statewide Committee on Self-Determination, to discuss a report that was put together recently by the committee co-chairs, which lays out the trends that

depict the barriers that the co-chairs face with Phase I of the program. She also reported the HCBS compliance has been extended by CMS for one year, to March, 2023.

#### State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Bittner/Walsh/Nicholau)

Sheraden reported that at the last RAC meeting in late June, it was decided that they will be hosting a listening session on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm - 9:00pm on racial justice. The focus will be to get anecdotal feedback from persons served who are also people of color and their experiences they may have had with law enforcement, specifically for policy implementation. There will be a confidential Survey Monkey for feedback as well for those who would like to submit feedback that way. Liz Grigsby will be hosting the session.

#### Disability Rights of California (Alex)

None

#### Independent Facilitator Training (SDLAC members)

- I.F. Consultant Update

Sheraden reported that the co-chairs and support staff have been interviewing candidates for the independent facilitator position. Once a consultant is selected, their application will be submitted to the committee for input. Parent and family advocates of individuals served will also have input.

#### DDS Funds for SDP (SDLAC members)

- GGRC SDLAC's Spending Plan

Eric reported that for the current fiscal year, GGRC SDLAC will be allocated \$40,000 from DDS, which will be spent on orientations, Person Centered Planning, training a pool of independent facilitators, supporting committee members, and material translation. RCEB and GGRC open to collaboration, to be able to brainstorm on how the different RCs are managing the Self-determination program. Sascha suggested that Melissa Cooper, the SDLAC co-chair from RCEB, attend the next meeting to discuss. The funds will be available until March of 2022, and GGRC will be submitting a general spending plan to DDS.

#### Learning Community' Conference/Gathering (SDLAC members)

Gathering takes place Sunday, July 19 – Wednesday, July 31 (via online)

Members currently enrolled:

Juliet Sousa  
Alyson Sinclair  
Sascha Bittner  
Christine Kantor  
Connie Johnson

Jennifer Walsh

Brainstorming on Outreach to the Community (SDLAC members)

How can we get more people to attend this meeting? Strategies will be discussed in the next meeting.

Closing Thoughts/Adjourn (All/Sascha)

Sascha reported that she is making efforts for community outreach to enlighten people about the Self-Determination program. She encouraged all committee members to participate in recruitment. Sascha thanked everyone for attending.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 (3:30-5:30PM)

Location: TBA

Submitted by Kathryn Carpenter