



Golden Gate Regional Center
Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 13th, 2021 3:45pm-5:30pm
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

SDLAC MEMBERS
PRESENT: Sascha Bittner Alex Gastelum
Jennifer Walsh
Alyson Sinclair

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christine Kantor
Elizabeth Grigsby
Connie Johnson

GGRC ADVISOR: Eric Zigman
Juliet Sousa
Lisa Rosene
Aria Alokozai (Recording Secretary)

SCDD ADVISOR: Sheraden Nicholau

OTHER
PRESENTERS/GUESTS: Will Stanford
Sabrina Kappe Ramos
Susan Simpkin
Huyen Tran
Bill Fricker
Maxine Paula
Gaby & Su Tribu

Welcome/Call to order (Bittner and All)

- Intro/Opening Round
- Statement that the meeting is public and sharing private health information should be refrained.

ACTION Record of March 09th, 2021 Meeting
The Record of Meeting of March 09th, 2021 was approved.
M/S/C (Alyson Sinclair motioned/ Alex Gastelum seconded)

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ACTION Record of April 13th, 2021 Meeting

The Record of Meeting of April 13th, 2021 was approved.

M/S/C (Alyson Sinclair motioned/ Alex Gastelum seconded)

ACTION Record of June 08th, 2021 Meeting

The Record of Meeting of June 08th, 2021 was approved.

M/S/C (Alyson Sinclair motioned/ Alex Gastelum seconded)

I. Participant/Family of participant/Public Feedback on SDP

Bill Frickers, a member of the community, requested information about the timeline of the Self-Determination Program service processes for families and individuals.

Lisa responded to Mr. Frickers question and highlighted that Mr. Fricker should be able to onboard by September 1st. Lisa also offered to connect with Mr. Fricker to discuss further.

Juliet Sousa addressed that the assigned social worker has been prompted of the conversation and that she will follow up and schedule a meeting to discuss Mr. Fricker's concern.

II. SCDD Update

Sheraden shared below update on SCDD:

- Several information sessions have been offered for providers, executive leadership teams, board of directors and management teams on Self- Determination program. For providers, particularly, the discussions revolved around what SDP may look like for their business and how they can support the families and individuals they serve.
- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities office continue to received requests for Self-determination overviews for people with IDD and their families, parent groups or special interest organizations. Some of the trends and questions within these groups include budget and spending plan processes, and enquires concerning ways to troubleshoot. The groups have also been informed of support from Self- Determination local committees in their catchment area.
- On July 12, 2021, an overview and Q and A session was held with Self-Determination Advisory Committee in the East bay where 110 people attended. The group discussed spending plan, how to move towards SPD implementation and how to provide support for families.
- As usual, technical assistance requests have been received from individuals and family members regarding self-determination program.

III. Disability Rights of California

Alex had no reports.

III. Independent Facilitator Training (Sabrina Kappe Ramos)

97% of the program has been completed; 59 people trained in-person in English and Spanish; 215 people have signed up for self-paced IF training (10% signed up for training in Spanish)

- Efforts are being made to continue to work on Spanish self-paced online modules.
- There are not many concerns and blockers – people are asked to sign up for the modules [here](#) - available in English and Spanish is coming soon.
- 8 Self-paced mini-lessons' phase 1(plan and film) and phase 2 (build and publish) have been completed, while phase 3 (iterate using feedback) is in progress.
- Drop-in coaching sessions through SARC are offered every Thursday 4-5PM for anyone who may need more information/assistance, both in English and Spanish.
- Sabrina shared that this is the last report on IF Training unless there is a discussion around funding.

Sheraden Nicholau proposed that information on IF, the coaching sessions and the process should be shared and promoted among Self-Determination Program participants.

The committee is to add a language in the monthly letter to SDP participants sharing information and resources about IF opportunity.

IV. Report Back from the Statewide Self-determination Advisory Committee

Sascha Bittner shared that the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting was held about three weeks ago; some of the trends discussed in GGRC SDLAC were also reflected elsewhere. The committee members were hoping to learn more about the budget and current updates from the State Department of Developmental Services.

- Some of the trend lines and discussions were around people not being able to move forward while working on their spending plans.
- The committee heard from Regional Center representatives regarding additional help and more resources that they need from the State.
- The committee still has some questions that they were hoping to get responses for, from the State Department of Developmental Services.

Q and A followed.

Changes to the SD Program as a result of the New California Budget and how We Can Use that to Improve the Program

Sascha shared that some important components concerning changes to the SDP as a result of the New California budget were finalized about an hour before this meeting, hence, a through analysis of the components are unfortunately not available to share with the committee at the moment.

DDS Funds for SDP

Eric reported the Department of Healthcare Services released that the American rescue plan proposal will be submitted to the federal government. Eric shared that we lost out on some key investments for this year, including a reduction of caseload ratios that was proposed in the American Rescue plan and the legislature's budget, but are negotiated away at least until July 2022. The American Rescue plan also eliminated a proposal for a housing plan to provide affordable and accessible housing for the individual we serve.

Eric shared that the American Rescue fund is very close to a billion dollars of additional fund. For Self-Determination Program, the CA Budget allocation may be proportionally distributed based on the size of the regional center; we hope that GGRC being a smaller agency will be able to add 2 to 2.5 positions for SDP. GGRC will also consider integrating "Participant Choice Specialist" role noted by the Department.

GGRC Update:

Juliet Sousa reported work in-progress on vendor/service provider training, staff training and SPD orientation (23 new families and individuals participated in the orientation, and two new participants onboard into the SDP). Juliet also shared that there had been a lot of interest from individuals and families in joining the orientations.

Efforts are being made to work on Spanish and Cantonese SDP orientation. (Alex and Juliet will collaborate on creating orientation in Spanish language).

Juliet reported the number of PCP's completed/ in-progress, individual budget progress, spending plan progress, the number of actively using SDP funds, dis-enrolled individuals and total participants.

Budget Update:

Eric reported that he met with committee co-chairs, Sheraden, Lisa and Juliet yesterday to ensure the committee fully utilizes the dollars that DDS grants to the committee. All the funds from the first year of allocation should be expended by the March 2022 deadline.

The second-year allocation from the DDS to the committee needs to be spent by March 2023. Some cost will be spent around a Communication's Coordinator which will lend greater working capacity for the committee including interacting, communicating and hearing concerns and questions of SDP participants.

Eric shared that Co-Chairs have been meeting with leaders of Self-Determination Local Advisory committees of East Bay Regional Center and San Andreas Regional Center concerning potential collaboration on a website.

Q and A followed.

Meeting adjourned to SDLAC meeting at 5:25PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai
Interim Executive Assistant