



Golden Gate Regional Center  
Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 3:45pm-5:30pm  
**VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

**SDLAC MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Sascha Bittner  
Jennifer Walsh  
Elizabeth Grigsby  
Christine Kantor  
Connie Johnson

Alex Gastelum  
Alyson Sinclair

**GGRC ADVISOR STAFF:**

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

**SCDD ADVISOR:**

Sheraden Nicholau

**OTHER  
PRESENTERS/GUESTS:**

Will Sanford  
Maxine Paula Milam  
Sabrina Kappe Ramos  
Paco Melgar  
Israel Pichardo  
Erika Gonzalez  
Barclay  
Tim Park  
Brooke Ganz

**Welcome/Call to order (Bittner and All)**

- Intro/Opening Round

**ACTION     Record of October 12th, 2021 Meeting**  
*The Record of Meeting of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 was approved.*  
*M/S/C (Connie Johnson motioned/ Alyson Sinclair seconded)*

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

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[www.ggrc.org](http://www.ggrc.org)

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Ms. Brook Ganz, a community member, expressed her concerns regarding lack of data on SDP progress, SDP awareness through social workers and GGRC website information on Self-Determination Program. Ms. Ganz inquired about a targeted date when the GGRC website will be updated.

Sascha Bittner shared that GGRC is one of the smallest regional centers in the state, and agreed with the need to update the information on the website. GGRC's numbers are better from June, but the regional centers are under-resourced and are thriving to gain more resources.

Juliet Sousa shared that our Self-Determination program has been under-funded and has limited staff working on the program; however, with all the challenges of being under-resourced and under-staffed, we want to provide quality transition from traditional system to the new system of Self-Determination for the individuals served.

Sabrina Kappe shared that three individuals will be finishing up their spending budget and will be ready to move forward. Sabrina also offered assistance for those who need support to move forward with the Self-Determination program.

Allyson Sinclair shared that some SDP participants may not be actively participating in the program which can cause some delays in the program.

Elizabeth shared that she is one of the participants of the program, but has not started her plan yet due to issues around pandemic. She also shared that SDP is fairly new to our region.

### **SCDD Update**

Sheraden Nicholau shared below updates on SCDD:

- There is a statewide advisory committee meeting tomorrow.
- The State Council has recently hired a Manager who would have an exclusive statewide self-determination focus - more information to follow.
- DDS has brought on an Acting Ombudsperson, Katie Hornberger to address self-determination questions and concerns. The Acting Ombudsperson's role is to increase the number of people in the self-determination program, reduce the amount of time it takes to enter the program, and to recommend policy change at regional centers and DDS. The responsibilities include providing information to people served and their families, facilitating solutions to disagreements, investigating complaints regarding implementation of the self-determination program, recommending strategies for change both to DDS and to the legislature, and compiling and reporting data to the legislature.

The committee decided to invite the interim SDP ombudsperson to join the GGRC SDLAC's next meeting in December.

### **Disability Right of California**

Alex had no updates

### **GGRC Updates**

Eric Zigman shared that we are hiring two additional staff for Participant Choice Specialist role for SDP. We need at least six staff and we have been funded for two-thirds of one position only for the last two years.

Eric also shared that GGRC's upcoming All Staff Meeting is themed around self-determination. Our Keynote speaker, Dr. Michi Gate will do a presentation on Self-determination and other opportunities and challenges for Regional centers.

Juliet shared the following updates and data on SDP as of 11/09/2021:

- There are 12 SDP participants from implementation phase - implementing budget (6/2018 – 6/2021). 4 people have renewed their budget, 12 people are still in process but actively interested and working on their budgets.
- There are 3 SDP participants since roll-out implementation budget (7/01/2021 – 11/09/2021) and expected to grow in the next few months.
- One monolingual Spanish speaking individual is implementing their budget.
- 39 people completed orientation since the roll-out (July 1<sup>st</sup>). 9 people have completed their PCP plan, 4 are in progress; 5 people completed their budget and 8 are in progress; 4 people completed their spending plan, and 0 are in progress.

Juliet also shared the following improvements/progress and challenges/barriers in the program:

- There are definite interests in Self-Determination Program from the participants.
- Our first Spanish orientation will be on 11/23 and Chinese orientation is planned for December.
- No one has opted out of the program.
- Most SDP participants have Medicaid Waiver.
- Self-Determination Program Mapping Team meeting monthly are themed around any issues or situations that are in progress.
- SDP & HCBS Final Rule: Juliet and Jackie Lawton, GGRC Community Engagement Specialist, have been meeting almost weekly regarding SDP and HCBS Final Rule discussion.
- More clarity needed in terms of FMS roles and expectation.
- Lisa and Juliet are to operationalize obtaining the intended services providers for SDP participants and develop form letter to service providers reminding them payment questions to the FMS.
- More training/orientations are needed for non-English speaking individuals/families, RCS staff and vendor/service providers. And increase the number of non-English speaking SDP participants.
- PCP providers need to be identified.

Q & A followed

**SDAC Updates/DDS Funds for SDP:**

Website Update:

Alyson Sinclair reported that she participated in the website committee working group with Co-Chair Sascha Bittner. The participants represent three of the different Bay Area regional centers i.e., East Bay Regional center, GGRC and San Andrea regional center. The committee is still looking for representations from other regional centers on the committee, and the idea is to have two representatives from each of Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee. Alyson, Sascha and Christine are representing GGRC SDLA committee.

The committee is currently discussing ways to determine the scope of work for the working group. During the initial meeting some brainstorming activities and a survey were conducted to determine the direction of focus for the committee. The results of the survey indicated that the website should include a forum, a resources area, as well as a hub to other websites related to Self-Determination specific to Bay Area.

Action items for next steps include recruiting additional committee members, creating a timeline for launching the website, posting jobs, hiring a designer, and identifying someone within the SDLAC as the liaison to the designer who could oversee the website. The committee also discusses the contents, languages, and resources that the website should include consideration for budget, and discussions around funding source and providers' access to the website resources.

Meeting adjourned to SDLAC meeting at 5:10PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aria Alokozai  
Executive Administrative Assistant