



# Golden Gate Regional Center

*Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity*

## **Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 3:45pm-5:30pm

### **MEETING NOTICE**

#### **AGENDA**

**\*Meeting is open to the public – all are welcome to attend\***

#### **SDLAC Members:**

Sascha Bittner (Co-Chair/Self-Advocate)

Jennifer Walsh (Co-Chair/SelfAdvocate)

Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)

Alex Gastelum (OCRA-Attorney/Clients' Rights Advocate)

Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate)

Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate)

Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate)

Gaby Choy, (Parent Advocate)

David Nguyen (Parent Advocate)

#### **SCDD Advisor:**

Sheraden Nicholau (SCDD-Regional Manager, Bay Area Office)

#### **GGRC Advisors:**

Eric Zigman (Executive Director)

Lisa Rosene (Director, RCS Services)

Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker)

Noelia Corzo (Participant Choice Specialist)

Israel Pichardo (Participant Choice Specialist)

Aria Alokozai (Executive Assistant)

Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary)

#### **Others:**

Sophia Agafonow, DDS for Maxine

Joe Hernandez, SCDD

Johnny Granados, Participant Choice Specialist, Harbor Regional Center

Kim Schreiber, NeuroNav

Brooke Ganz, Parent Advocate

Amanda Trice

Welcome/Call to order (Bittner and All) – 5 minutes 3:47PM

- Introductions/Opening Round
  - Approval of Agenda (Bittner) M/Jennifer, S/Alyson, approved
  - Approval of minutes (Bittner/All)
- I. Updates on virtual meetings (Bittner/Walsh/Zigman) – 5 minutes  
Sascha and Sheraden gave an overview of the status of virtual meetings for the SDLAC. The SDLAC is a committee of the regional center, but half members are appointed by SCDD. DDS interpreted Bagley-Keene open meeting that these advisory committees should be adhering to the law. Sheraden offered to send out details about the law to interested parties. Governor Newsom suspended through Executive Order certain aspects of Bagley-Keene during the pandemic to allow for virtual meetings which provided more flexibility. Legislation has been introduced and going through the legislative process to that would allow for flexibility and make updates to BK more permanent. Until that passes, all SDLACs would need to return to traditional meetings. SCDD, DDS and regional centers are working on helping ensure open meeting rules but also flexibility to have meetings in a way that encourage participation. Sascha talked about the “work around” that allowed for ADA exemptions for family advocates and persons served that afforded people to continue meeting from their own private locations. Sheraden said by next meeting we should have more updates.
- II. Participant/Family/Public Feedback on SDP (All) – 20 minutes
- a. Comments are limited to FOUR minutes per speaker on items not on the agenda, 20 minutes total.
  - b. We welcome critiques and feedback but ask speakers refrain from personal attacks on individuals or the committee.
  - c. The committee will not be responding to comments but may address them further down in the agenda or in future agenda items.

Brooke Ganz: GGRC should do more with outreach on SDP. To her knowledge, there has been no outreach or sharing to special need schools or Matrix family networks or on the GGRC Facebook page.

III. SCDD Update (Bittner/Nicholau) – 10 minutes

A date has not been set for the statewide June Self-Determination meeting. Technical assistance trends hold steady. The SCDD is wanting to work with FMSs and coordinating work with regional centers, family advocates and FMS for smooth transition. People are



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sharing successes and challenges in year two. SCDD keeping an eye on things and asking people start the process early. Last technical assistance trend is for individuals considering themselves in some level of crisis and having to juggle pros and cons to transition to SDP or wait for stability for SDP.

#### IV. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – 10 minutes

##### a. Check in from Noelia and Israel, GGRC Participant Choice Specialists

Eric shared how regional centers are struggling right now trying to hire and retain staff, caseloads are high. GGRC has talked about adding another position in the fiscal department because so much has to happen with participant choice program and tracking all of the spending and purchase of services. *Daphne can help with things.*

Juliet shared a chart of the statistics for implementation of and people coming into the SDP system. Juliet thanked Israel and Noelia for supporting their oversight and responsibility for SDP orientations. More than 32 people completed orientation and in transition to SDP since 7/1/21 rollout. 15 people are actively using their SDP funds.

Jennifer asked how GGRC's turnover is affecting enrollment. Some families don't have an SC and want SDP. Some families may leave the regional center. There has been some impact.

Eric responded in the chat: Good question, Jennifer, I'll let others from GGRC answer, but from my perspective Social Worker turnover harms SDP in at least two ways: 1) new Social Workers have to learn an enormous amount about their role, the system, what resources are available, what legal rules we have to abide by etc.. so understanding Self Determination is on top of all that (because they have to have some grounding in the regular services to understand how SDP works and 2) every time a Social Worker position is vacant (by either someone leaving or being on a leave of absence) you can estimate that about 100 individuals don't have an assigned Social Worker. Those individuals contact the Officer of the Day... that makes SDP enrollment super challenging. Sorry for the long post. How the SDLAC can help is advocate for updates to the core staffing formula.

Sheraden asked how can the committee best help with individuals are currently in SDP (outreach, education, support, DDS projects) to address needs, second population especially with staffing limitations – outreach and education that aren't in SDP that need more information, need to be invited to meetings? How do we leverage support and community support with GGRC's current staffing

and resource limitations.

Sascha suggested convening a small subcommittee to help guide issues and a communications subcommittee to advocate for more things.

Israel shared that staff trainings are occurring on a monthly basis. It's a 2.5 hour training, 120 staff and everyone was really open and engaged in trainings. He and the SDP team are looking at software for a family/participant portal so they can track spending. They're working on increasing response rate to interested families. Consistent, standing orientations have been scheduled the third Tuesday of every month from 4PM-6PM also to educate the public, this is where most support is needed. There have been hiccups with the FMS and opportunities to learn.

Noelia shared how people are still recovering from the impacts of COVID, social workers are still catching up and are excited but trying to find the bandwidth to work on a much more involved process. SDP takes multiple meetings so to reduce the amount of meetings and streamline the process, it does take time where they have more families participating.

Eric shared ARCA advocacy/talking points paper in the chat.

Gaby shared comments around learning more about SDP and Eric provided a general overview of the Self-Determination Pilot, waiver and program as it has grown into today.

V. Disability Rights California Update (Alex) – 2 minutes

VI. Statewide Updates, Statewide Meeting, Explanation of New Directives (Bittner/Walsh) – 10 minutes

The statewide Self-Determination Committee is planning to meet in late June and will be developing priorities based on the big workgroup meeting last week.

They are restructuring the agendas making them more educational and informative for people to participate in general, get a good chunk of information in SDP.

VII. Outreach to the community – Communication/Correspondence (All) – 10 minutes

Sheraden suggested having the orientation materials/flyers/notices available on the SDP webpage as well, not just the events calendar. She also requested to have them in multiple languages; Juliet and team are working on translation into other languages.

Brooke would like more activity on the Facebook page and for SCs to have conversations during IPPs/quarterlies about SDP. David suggested sharing information with special ed teachers.



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## VIII. DDS Funds for SDP (SDLAC members) – 10 minutes

### a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan

Nothing has changed this last month. Eric requested to form a budget subcommittee so the committee can start to move direct funds towards more targeted priorities. There's plenty of opportunities to have a finance perspective and support the co-chairs about what dollars can align with priorities. David Nguyen agreed to help provide support to this subcommittee and will meet with Eric and staff.

## IX. Bay Area website update (Sinclair, Kantor, Zigman) – 10 minutes

Christine said there's great collaboration with the team and committee. There's a logo to share as well.

## X. NeuroNav Coaching – 10 minutes

Kim and Juliet have been creating a routine of outreach. Kim shared a PowerPoint presentation that included information about their coaching cohorts. NN is looking for more ways to do outreach and to help families be successfully served. Hearing back from families who sign up has been a challenge, but outreach and education is going to be a priority. Kim shared different ways they're working with GGRC to get information out to interested families for transition. Weekly office hours and low barrier to entry who knows a lot about SDP in English AND Spanish even prior to orientation. She shared how there are many ways for families to engage. Juliet shared that Accounting will be including information about SDP in the annual statement to all persons served. Kim offered to provide support to SDLAC team and Juliet on communications (letter to families from Accounting, social media posts and Liberty newsletter copy.)

## XI. Upcoming events

David and Gaby shared a bit about their families and their connection to both GGRC and SDP. Sascha expressed gratitude for them both being on the committee.

## XII. Adjourn

**Next meeting: June 14, 2022 – 3:45pm**