

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING AGENDA**

Tuesday, March 17th, 5:30 PM

**Via Zoom Video Conference
and
In-Person at GGRC, 1355 Market Street, # 220, San Francisco, CA 94103***

- 5:30pm **I. CALL TO ORDER /INTERPRETATION ANNOUCEMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS** (Jacy Cohen)
- 5:35pm **II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** (Jacy Cohen)
- ACTION** A. Agenda
- ACTION** B. Record of February 17th ,2025 Meeting
- 5:40pm **III. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Jacy Cohen)
- 5:45pm **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- A. Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)
1. Monthly Financial Statement
- 6:00pm **V. STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILTIES**
- A. Update on SCDD Activities (Sheraden Nicholau)
- 6:10pm **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Continued)
- B. Legislative Committee (Kate O’Connor)
- a. ARCA Grassroots Day
- C. ARCA Update (Marta Guzman)
- D. Services Committee (David DeLira)
- a. Services Committee Meeting update
- b. Board Education: *Legislative Advocacy and the Role of Board Members in the Community*
- E. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)
- a. Board Retreat – April 25th
- F. Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O’Connor)
- G. Executive Committee (Jacy Cohen)

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

a. Human Resources and Staffing Update

7:00 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 email Aria Alokozai at aalokozai@ggrc.org



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

RECORD of March 17th, 2026, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David DeLira
Kate O'Connor
Gita Gupta
Sharon Jones
Marta Guzman
Lynn Pulliam
Michael Bernick
Brindicy Alcaraz
Jane Diaz
Mariana Abballo

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Eric Zigman
Brenda Gonzales
Lop Hou
Lisa Rosene
Aria Alokozai
Sean Galvin
Amanda Pyle
Ihsan Shagiwal

GUESTS: Calene (ASL Interpreter)
Corinna (ASL Interpreter)
Sheraden Nicholau
Chris Aguire
Edith Arias
Audrey deChadenedes
Oscar Arteta (Spanish Interpreter)
Barclay Lynn
Karen Pace
Vlad Mysla
Greg Gonzalez
Janica Hadley

CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed. Instructions regarding Spanish Language and American Sign Language interpretations were provided.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Jacy Cohen)

ACTION A. Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was approved.

M/S/C (David Delira motioned/ Kate O'Connor seconded)

ACTION B. Record of February 17th, 2026, Meeting

Kate O'Conner requested correction to name of the voting SPAC Member. The minutes were approved as amended.

M/S/C (Lynn Pulliam motioned /Gita Gupta seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

David shared that he is affiliated with a school in South San Francisco that serves students enrolled in a transition program (school to adult services). He informed the Board that students (week before they turn 22 years of age) who are participating in or eligible for a transition program should pursue adult service and program options at their earliest opportunity.

Lynn and Jacy discussed the significant challenges faced by some individuals and their families, particularly the long waiting lists for access to day programs and employment opportunities. These issues are pressing and will be addressed in greater detail, along with other challenges and opportunities in our system, during the Board Retreat in April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee (Lop Hou for Michael Bernick)

Michael Bernick asked CFO Lop Hou to go over the financial report.

Lop shared the following financial report:

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of January 31, 2026]

Lop reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations

After seven months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 9.2%. All operations funds are expected to be fully expensed for the fiscal year over the normal course of operations.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CRDP

After seven months of operations, year-to-day expenditures are under budget by 2.6%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$2.8 million for this fiscal year.

Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Funding

Placement funds and Start-Up funds have been approved but have yet to be allocated. These are expected to be allocated and fully expensed.

B4 Contract

Lop reported that we have recently signed the B4 Contract and are awaiting for execution of the contract for \$37 million an additional allocation in Purchase of Services.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Update on SCDD Activities (Sheraden Nicholau)

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Sheraden Shared the following updates:

Sheraden introduced Greg Gonzalez, the newly appointed Manager of the Bay Area Office of the State Council, and briefly shared Greg's background, experience and work in the community.

Advocacy Updates

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2026:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/dd-awareness-month/>

Two important opportunities to share your comments to U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development:

1. HUD Releases Proposed Rule on Mixed-Status Households

Today, [HUD published a proposed rule](#) that would prohibit mixed-status households from living together in HUD-assisted housing. This proposal would also impose new documentation requirements for older adults age 62 and over to verify their citizenship and immigration status.

Comments on HUD's proposed rule are due on April 21, 2026.

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/HUD-2026-0199-0001>

2. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a rule that changes how much notice tenants receive before eviction for unpaid rent in HUD-assisted housing. In 2024, HUD created a rule that required Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and housing providers in HUD-assisted housing to give tenants at least 30 days' notice before ending a lease for unpaid rent. The rule also gave tenants 30 days to catch up on rent before an eviction could move forward, even in states with shorter timelines.

HUD has now issued a new rule that removes these protections. Starting March 30, 2026, the federal rule will no longer require housing providers in HUD-assisted housing to give tenants 30 days' notice or 30 days to pay past-due rent.

Instead, eviction timelines may follow state or local laws, which in some places allow shorter notice periods.

Changes to eviction timelines may affect:

- How much time tenants have to catch up on rent
- Work out a payment plan
- Get help that may prevent eviction

With less time, some households may struggle to catch up on rent or fix money problems before eviction starts.

HUD is accepting public comments about this rule until **Monday, April 27, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Public comments allow people and organizations to share their experiences, concerns, or perspectives.

You can submit comments if you want to explain:

- How housing rules affect you or your family
- Challenges related to rent payments or eviction timelines
- Your experience with HUD-assisted housing
- Ideas you want HUD to review

Comments can be submitted through the federal register website here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/26/2026-03921/revocation-of-the-30-day->

Policy Updates

This is an especially active period for policy development. The Public Policy Committee is meeting this week to review several important items.

- [SB 1052](#) (Gonzalez), Authorized Rep Bill: (sponsored by SCDD and The Arc of California) aims to provide greater stability and peace of mind for families caring for loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), particularly as caregivers age. The bill seeks to strengthen existing laws and includes additional support for situations involving unexpected separation, including emergencies such as ICE raids.
- AB 2360 (Arambula) – Plain Language in Government bill ([Bill Text: CA AB2360 | 2025-2026 | Regular Session | Introduced | LegiScan](#)) focuses on plain language requirements. While current law calls for accessible, easy-to-understand communication, it lacks a clear definition and enforcement. This bill establishes a stronger, more explicit standard for plain language across all regional centers and state agencies that provide oversight.

Ongoing Work

- Continued delivery of [Self-Determination Program \(SDP\) orientations](#) in English, with AI-supported interpretation to expand accessibility.
- The 23rd Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee meeting is upcoming.
- March 19th: [Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting](#), starting at 10:30a
- March 23: Self-Advocates Advisory Committee meeting
- March 24: [State Council meeting](#) and [SCDD Trainings](#)
- April 14th 1p - 2p: next Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Education session in a series (monthly from March 2026 - Oct 2026)

This monthly series supports teenagers and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in learning about healthy, safe, and respectful relationships. Each month focuses on a new topic, including friendships, dating, communication, boundaries, consent, and online safety. The series also includes respectful conversations about gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and self-expression.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Kate O'Connor)

Kate reporting the following updates:

Grassroots Day:

- The regional centers had 115 families, advocates and people-served gathered in the Capitol for the ARCA's Grassroots day advocacy on March 3rd.
- GGRC's Grassroots Day group included Kate O'Connor, Jessica Joquea, Diana Conte, Eric Zigman, Anh Nguyen, & Emma Tynan. The GGRC Group talked with Legislators and their staff about AB2324 (Workforce/Career Development); AB1670 (Assembly Member Arambula's bill on Oral health Services and behavior management); concurrent resolution on the 60th anniversary of the two-pilot regional centers; as well as stabilizing regional center funding, and dental cuts. The group also shared Jacy's support letter advocating against cutting MediCal dental benefits with policy makers.

Legislative Breakfast Event

Kate shared that the committee is planning to hold two Legislative Events this year—on May 15 in Marin and on May 29th in South San Francisco. More details will be shared in the upcoming meetings.

Kate reported that Assemblymember Matt Haney is pushing for major reforms in dental insurance in California to reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients and strengthen networks. His bill, AB 371, has received 50 signatures as of now.

Eric shared that an author has been designated for the 60th anniversary Resolution Bill. More details to come, including celebrations plans.

Q and A followed.

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) Update (Marta Guzman)

Marta shared that ARCA meetings are scheduled for this coming Thursday and Friday, March 19th and 20 in Sacramento. She also highlighted updates that were shared with all the regional center delegates.

Marta stated that the Quality Incentive Program (QIP), which is part of the broader rate reform effort, had previously been delayed. Eric is one of the 30 appointed To DDS' QIP Stakeholder Committee and added his perspective on the challenge of defining implementing “performance measures.” Marta added that the process is complex and presents significant challenges for providers. As currently structured, the program places greater emphasis on penalties for not meeting specified performance measures, rather than offering meaningful incentives for success.

Services Committee (David DeLira)

Future Is Now Classes

David shared information about the *Future Is Now* classes, including confirmation that the classes are open to families, caregivers, and individuals receiving services. The classes are offered in English, Cantonese and Spanish. He emphasized raising awareness and informing the community through using the Facebook group and Service Providers Advisory Committee group.

Community Resources Placement Plan

Sean reported that for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, we have identified ten projects with approximately \$1.6 million in startup funding allocation. Sean shared the following reports:

- Works are underway to select Enhanced Behavioral Support Home (EBSH) in San Mateo County Provider by the RFP committee.
- Development of two Level 7 homes: one Specialized Residential Facility designed to support individuals with significant behavioral needs, and one Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) focused on dementia and memory care.
- One Supported Living Services (SLS) project and three Early Start initiatives, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), physical therapy, and early start assessment services are in progress. The committee is actively reviewing proposals, most applicants will be

invited to interview by early April, with final selections and contract execution anticipated by June.

A project is underway to preserve a home through our housing development partner, which involves the purchase of a home from the City of Belmont. We continue to receive interest from organizations for Day Programs' expansion or development new programs We are continuing to explore and support future expansion opportunities.

Purchase of Services Streamlining Process:

Lisa shared that our Consultant Lorna is actively exploring ways to improve the Purchase of Services (POS) process.

Lorna brings a strong track record of success working with other regional centers and will help identify opportunities to streamline workflows, ensure timely payments, and better leverage technology to improve overall efficiency.

Board Education: Legislative Advocacy and the Role of Board Members in the Community

Eric introduced all the panelists and asked them about what type of legislative advocacy they found most effective, why do they feel that it's important, and how participating in legislative advocacy has affected them personally. Below is a summary of what they shared:

Audrey Dechandeneds

Audrey shared that she values in-person meetings due to fostering genuine human connection, helping her better understand and respond to real issues. She reflected on her early advocacy during the time of proposed budget cuts, when she helped organize a rally with others who shared a common purpose. Audrey also noted that, over time, she became more confident and less fearful of the legislative process through active advocacy. She emphasized that human connection is critical and that legislators face many issues and rely on advocates to educate them on how budget decisions impact real people in their communities. Audrey encourages everyone to engage in advocacy as much as possible to help drive meaningful change.

Edith Arias

Edith shared that she has served GGRC Board for seven years, around same time she was teaching at the San Francisco Unified School as a Special Education teacher. Edith participates in meetings to support families and values being part of the board and legislative advocacy. She emphasizes the importance of discussing issues and advocating within the community, city council, legislators, and other relevant agencies. Edith shared that the GGRC board provided her first exposure to legislative advocacy, which later expanded through ARCA and Cal-TASH. She highlighted that funding directly impacts the scope and quality of services provided. Edith noted that sharing personal stories as a parent helps humanize experiences, capturing legislators' attention and influencing policy. She stressed that advocating for budget and funding is a crucial part of this work.

Elizabeth (Liz) Grigsby

Liz began her advocacy journey through her work with the State Council Committee (SCDD). Earlier in her advocacy journey, Liz engaged directly with gubernatorial candidates, asking about plans for the community—specifically addressing affordable housing in high-cost areas like San Francisco. Liz's advocacy helps legislators recognize people with IDD as real individuals with

authentic questions. Liz emphasized the fundamental right to live and thrive in the community of one's choice, motivating advocates like Liz. She also highlighted the importance of understanding disabilities: they are not always congenital and can occur at any point in life, therefore interactions with people with IDD require awareness and respect. Living in supported housing, Liz spoke candidly about the physical challenges associated with her disability, underscoring the need for inclusive policies as well as funding for services and support.

Kate O'Connor

Kate has worked in the service provider field, supporting individuals with high behavioral needs for decades. She emphasized that while she enjoys all aspects of advocacy, the most impactful experiences are in-person meetings, such as legislative breakfasts and rallies. These events allow constituents to meet legislators, share their stories, and influence change directly. Kate also highlighted her work supporting people with very high needs who cannot advocate for themselves. Building relationships and actively participating in committees is essential. She stressed that everyone must show up and have their voices heard, especially in the current budget climate and amid concerns about the possibility of cuts.

Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)

Lynn shared that we will have our first Board Retreat (exclusively in-person) on April 25th, from 10:00 AM-2:00PM at the Disability Cultural Center in San Francisco. Lynn highly encouraged all Board members to attend the Board Retreat.

Website Update

Amanda shared that we are hoping to launch our new website on May 4th. The Board will receive a survey link to order new business cards, and Board members' bios will also be reviewed and finalized.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

Kate shared that the La Tusa Symposium is being held in collaboration with the regional center to focus on fostering "right connections," emphasizing meaningful relationships and engagement within the community. GGRC and SPAC continue to collaborate on service provider issues such as Rate Reform and the Quality Incentive Program.

Executive Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

Human Resources and Staffing Updates

Ihsan Shagiwal, GGRC's Director of Human Resources and Organizational Development, highlighted the remarkable growth in staffing since 2022, moving from 227 staff in 2022 to 329 in 2025. GGRC turnover rate has also significantly declined. The report indicated a 22% turnover rate in 2022, compared to a 9% turnover rate in 2025.

Expansion Positions (2024-2025)

Ihsan shared that the large portion of expansion positions in this period were dedicated to Regional Center Services (i.e. Social Work and Social Work Supervisory positions), followed by Intake, Early Start and Assessment, followed by Admin/Finance and the Community Services departments.

Jacy thanked all Board members and adjourned the Board meeting at 7:10pm.

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Respectfully submitted,
Aria Alokozai

GGRC Executive Assistant