



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

RECORD of January 20th, 2026, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS
PRESENT: David DeLira
Kate O'Connor
Shirley Poitier
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

Aria Alokozai
Sean Galvin
Amanda Pyle
Ihsan Shagiwal

GUESTS: Calene (ASL
Interpreter)
Kate (ASL
Interpreter)
Jennifer Carper
Sheraden Nicholau
Chris Aguire
Edith Arias

Oscar Arteta
(Spanish Interpreter)
Brean Van Slooten
Barclay Lynn
Ami Sullivan

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 (Lynn Pulliam motioned/ Brindicy Alcaraz seconded)

ACTION B. Record of November 18th, 2025, Meeting

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

M/S/C (Kate O’Connor motioned /Lynn Pulliam seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Jacy reminded the Board members that there will be an Executive Session at the end of the board meeting today.

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 November, 30 2025]

Lop reported GGRC’s monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations

After five months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 7.2%. 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 five months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 2.6%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$5.2 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.

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

Sheraden Shared the following updates:

January In-Person Council Meeting - Public Comment Opportunities

The California Department of Education is proposing changes to special education regulations. Families and members of the public are encouraged to review the proposals and submit recommended changes.

The next meeting is **Tuesday, January 27**

Meeting location and details: <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>

Extended School Year (ESY) Regulations

CDE has also proposed changes to Extended School Year (ESY) regulations. Under current rules, ESY services must be provided for at least 20 instructional days. The proposed changes would allow school districts to offer an alternate ESY schedule of at least 15 instructional days, provided required instructional hours are met for each grade level. The proposal would also establish minimum daily instructional minutes by grade. These changes are open to public comment.

Two Ways to Participate:

Virtual Public Hearing

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. (Pacific Time)

Join by Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84587001075>

Meeting ID: 845 8700 1075

Passcode: 672070

Join by phone:

669-900-6833

213-338-8477

669-219-2599

Written comments must be received by Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

Email: regcomments@cde.ca.gov

Fax: 916-322-2549

U.S. Mail:

Lorie Adame, Regulations Coordinator
Administrative Support and Regulations Adoption Unit
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Room 5319
Sacramento, CA 95814

ESY Proposed Rulemaking & Regulations:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/re/lr/rr/extendedschoolyear.asp>

Ed Robert's Day — Friday, January 23

<https://edrobertsandassociates.org/>

Subscribe to the SCDD Annual & Virtual Trainings Calendars!

The SCDD ANNUAL CALENDAR contains monthly SCDD Council, Committee meetings, and self-advocate events.

View the calendar here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>

The SCDD VIRTUAL TRAININGS CALENDAR lists most monthly Regional Office trainings and Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientation trainings.

California Youth Leadership Forum **NCI Family Surveys Are on the Way!**

The **Quality Assurance (QA) Project** is getting ready to mail out thousands of Family Surveys—part of the **National Core Indicators (NCI)** program. This national survey helps measure how well services and supports are working for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

How It Works

Families who get a survey can fill it out on paper or online. Each packet includes an access code and a link to the online survey (available in English).

Why Your Voice Matters

Your feedback helps improve programs and supports for people with disabilities across California. Every response shapes how we strengthen services statewide—so if you get a survey, please take a few minutes to share your experience.

Learn more about the NCI surveys and the QA Project here: scdd.ca.gov/qap

Principles for budget related advocacy: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2025/08/July-2025-SCDD-Budget-Principles.pdf>

National Core Indicators (NCI) Surveys

Families will soon begin receiving NCI surveys by mail. ARCA is working with contractors to distribute the surveys. Please inform your networks that families who choose to participate may receive these surveys.

Budget Proposal Advocacy

Advocacy efforts are underway to engage the Legislature and the Governor regarding budget proposals and HR1. Budget advocacy fact sheets will be provided to support outreach and education efforts.

Federal Policy Impact Portal

A portal is being developed to track the federal impact of policy changes on people with disabilities, including reductions in services and changes in service levels.

Policy Priorities

Our current policy priorities are focused on the California state budget.

Upcoming Workshops

- Social Security workshops for SSI recipients
- Empower Learning workshops focused on meeting your child's educational needs

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Eric Zigman)

Eric reported that ARCA is sponsoring two bills and one Resolution. The first bill focuses on improving access to dental services. It would establish tracking under

Denti-Cal for dental desensitization services and allow billing for these services. The bill would specifically authorize one to four desensitization sessions for individuals who require extended desensitization in order to receive dental care. ARCA is currently seeking legislative authors for this bill.

The second bill addresses Workforce Development. Currently, 22% of youth have dropped out of school due to caregiving responsibilities. This bill would enable individuals, particularly youth who are caregiving for family members, to earn high school credit while developing job skills and building a viable career pathway, potentially as Direct Support Professionals.

In addition, ARCA is sponsoring a joint Resolution of the Assembly and Senate and is seeking an author for this bill. The resolution would commemorate the 60th anniversary of the initial pilot project to establish the first two regional centers, GGRC and Lanterman RC. Amanda will be presenting a similar topic at the [Cal-TASH conference](#) in Sacramento in February:

Eric also shared that ARCA's Grassroots Day will take place on March 2nd and 3rd.

Q and A followed.

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

Marta shared that ARCA meetings were held on January 5, 2016, and shared the following updates:

- Board membership policy issues, the state budget status, 2025 ARCA Academy evaluation and updates on legislative policy advocacy were discussed.
- The Little Hoover Commission, a semi-autonomous state agency, has conducted a review of the regional center system. The Commission examines issues of consistency and standardization across regional centers and assesses overall effectiveness, highlighting areas of concern and opportunities for improvement. The Little Hoover Commission will be holding a hearing on January 22, at 2pm to review the implementation of its past recommendations for California's developmental disability system based on the commission's 2023 report.
- San Andreas Regional Center shared updates regarding groundbreaking Dementia Care home, with start-up funded by DDS.

Eric shared that efforts are underway to secure increased reimbursement from the federal government. In ARCA meetings, updates were provided regarding the Public Records Act (AB 1146).

Eric also highlighted that the ARCA Academy, held in November, was highly successful and received positive feedback.

The next ARCA meeting is scheduled for March 19–20.

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 both English and Spanish.

Dental Work Opportunities (2026)

Brenda shared updates on dental-related opportunities planned for 2026. These include expanding access to dental services through key programs, partnerships, and bridge initiatives, as well as continued advocacy to strengthen dental support and services.

GGRC New Website Update:

Amanda thanked the board members who joined us for the photography session today. She added that we are currently anticipating a launch date for the new website at the end of April.

Q and A followed.

Board Education: National Core Indicator Presentation by Eric Zigman and Sheraden Nicholau

Sheraden shared that NCI surveys are being used across the nation to understand satisfaction with and performance of IDD services. The data collected can be used to compare state to state or state to national average. SCDD works with Human Services Resource Institute (HSRI) and DDS, provides outreach and education about the project, and works with the community to collect the data each year. HSRI aggregates data after it is collected and submitted by SCDD and provides statewide reporting. The NCI surveys provide information on how feedback from different parts of the state compares.

NCI is used to assess satisfaction of and performance in services and supports provided to individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD).

The data is used to help guide policy decisions as well as a direct approach for the state to learn from people-served about their experiences with the service system.

Survey targets 8,400 Californians each year (400 surveys per regional center) to collect measurable data on topics such as self-determination, services coordination & access, relationship & community inclusion, rights, choices & decision-making, employment status & goals, and health, welfare & safety.

Types of surveys include in-person surveys, adult family surveys, family guardian surveys and child family surveys in 13 threshold languages.

Data can be explored on [DDS NCI Dashboard](#) and [National Core Indicators](#) websites.

Eric shared that NCI survey facilitates comparison between regional centers and may potentially be used for performance measures in regional centers in the future. He added that the data is directly collected from individuals and families and is statistically valid. He also emphasized on understanding the role of “proxies” in completing the surveys for individual served.

Some of the barriers to using the data in Golden Gate Regional center is lack of staff capacity for data analysis, lagging time from the end of survey to DDS reports and finally reaching and

Eric highlighted the following results from the NCI survey from year-over-year comparisons:

- Customer experience in GGRC was 93% in FY 17/18; 95% in FY 20/21 and 92% in FY 22/23, these data indicate that GGRC had been above statewide average, which was 89% in FY 17/18; 92% in FY 20/21 and 90% in FY 22/23.
- GGRC Individuals Have Met Or Spoken With Their Service Coordinator, which was 94% in FY 17/18; 91% in FY 20/21 and 86% in FY 22/23, compared to statewide average which was 93% in FY 17/18; 89% in FY 20/21 and 84% in FY 22/23.
- GGRC Individuals Do Not Often Feel Lonely was 93% in FY 17/18; 90% in FY 20/21 and 90% in FY 22/23, these data indicate that GGRC had been above statewide average, which was 89% in FY 17/18; 89% in FY 20/21 and 87% in FY 22/23.
- GGRC Individuals Like Working at their Job was 97% in FY 17/18; and 84% in FY 22/23, compared to statewide average which was 89% in FY 17/18; and 88% in FY 22/23.
- GGRC Families Participate in Family-to-Family Networks in Community was 32% in FY 18/19; 21% in FY 21/22 and 27% in FY 23/24. These data indicate that GGRC had been above statewide average which was 23% in FY 18/19; 18% in FY 21/22 and 21% in FY 23/24.
- GGRC Families are Satisfied Overall With Current Services and Supports 69% in FY 18/19; 65% in FY 21/22 and 64% in FY 23/24, compared to statewide average which was 73% in FY 18/19; 70% in FY 21/22 and 69% in FY 23/24.
- GGRC Individuals Have an Individual Program Plan (IPP) was 73% in FY 19/20; 76% in FY 21/22 and 77% in FY 23/24, compared to statewide average which was 80% in FY 19/20; 80% in FY 21/22 and 80% in FY 23/24.
- GGRC Families Feel Regional Center Services are Making a Positive Difference in their Family Member's Life was 95% in FY 19/20; 94% in FY 21/22 and 92% in FY 23/24, compared to statewide average which was 93% in FY 19/20; 93% in FY 21/22 and 92% in FY 23/24.
- GGRC Families Get a Copy of IPP in Their Preferred Language was 97% in FY 19/20; 91% in FY 21/22 and 89% in FY 23/24, these data indicate that GGRC had been above statewide average, which was 91% in FY 19/20; 86% in FY 21/22 and 88% in FY 23/24.
- GGRC Services and Supports Help the Individual Live a Good Life was 98% in FY 19/20; 96% in FY 21/22 and 94% in FY 23/24. These data indicate that GGRC had been above statewide average (except for 23/24), which was 96% in FY 19/20; 95% in FY 21/22 and 95% in FY 23/24.

Eric concluded that NCI data can be utilized to support performance measure development, strategic planning, community resource development, and in prioritizing strengths and needs in specific areas of the state and numerous other areas. Regional centers need additional staff capacity to use the NCI to make the data more “actionable”. Regional centers and the communities they serve need NCI data to be released in a timely way, for effectiveness.

Public Inputs:

- Looking at NCI data, how do we differentiate from other states? Can we talk about incentives? (*Lynn Pulliam*)

- California has not only a much larger population with more dynamic service options (in general), but we also have a much more diverse population demographically and topographically which makes CA's service delivery much more complex with more demands. This also impacts our comparability to other states. *(Ami Sullivan)*
- Staff retention has a direct impact on satisfaction, as sustained engagement and continuity tends to improve overall experience and perception. *(Jacy Cohen)*

Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)

Lynn requested Board members to complete the mandatory Board trainings. Aria will resend links to the recorded trainings.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

Kate the following updates from SPAC meeting:

- SPAC is discussing holding another Legislative Breakfast this year. Once a date is confirmed, we will begin outreach.
- Advocacy efforts will focus on connecting with legislators and advocacy partners.
- The organization's 60th anniversary will include fundraising efforts and forming a planning team for the Legislative Breakfast.
- A Provider Survey in the Quality Incentive Program, which is part of rate reform, has been extended through February 27.
- HCBS (Home and Community-Based Services) will be monitoring services; RFPs are expected to be released soon.

Voting to Confirm New SPAC Member

Kate shared some background and information regarding Alisha Krupinsky, potential SPAC members who was introduced to the Board last month. Jacy asked the Board for a motion to confirm Alisha's Krupinsky SPAC membership by the recommendation of the SPAC committee. David Delira made a motion and Brindicy Alcaraz seconded. All Board members unanimously approved Alisha as the New SPAC member. There were no further discussions.

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned/Brindicy Alcaraz seconded)

Executive Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

Governor's FY 26-27 Budget Summary/Update

Eric reported that the Governor released the proposed budget in January, followed by advocacy and stakeholder input. A May Revision is then issued to reflect updated revenue and expenditure projections. This January's budget, commonly referred to as a "workload budget", generally avoids major new investments or deep cuts. Any significant reductions or adjustments typically appear in the May Revision.

Eric added that system growth is predicting a 7% population growth (to over 500,000 people served next year), and that the overall DDS budget has increased from \$18.7 billion to \$21 million.

Eric highlighted includes some DDS staff transfers across program areas such as, employment services, autism services, development of a new statewide information system for all Regional

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER

RECORD OF MEETING –

January 20th, 2025

Centers and implementation of the federal Access Rule.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) estimates an \$18 billion deficit in the proposed budget. The Governor’s Office and Department of Finance estimate that \$2.7 billion of the deficit is accounted for. Despite differing figures, both agree that revenues are stronger this year, allowing the state to enter FY 2026–27 in relatively stable condition. And both agree that in over years, California is likely to have larger budget deficits.

Jacy thanked all Board members and adjourned the Board meeting to an Executive Session at 7:15pm to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,
Aria Alokozai

GGRC Executive Assistant