

**GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER BOARD of DIRECTORS  
MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 PM**

**Via Zoom Video Conference  
and**

**In-Person at GGRC,1355 Market Street, # 220, San Francisco, CA 94103\***

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5:30pm     **I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS** (Jacy Cohen)

5:35pm     **II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** (Jacy Cohen)

**ACTION**             A. Agenda

**ACTION**             B. Record of March 18<sup>th</sup>,2025 Meeting

5:40pm     **III. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Jacy Cohen)

5:45pm     **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

                  A. Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

                    1. Monthly Financial Statement

**ACTION**                             2. Consideration of GGRC Line of Credit

6:00pm     **V. STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

                  A. Update on SCDD Activities (Sheraden Nicholau)

6:10pm     **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Continued)

                  A. Services Committee (David DeLira)

                    1. Board Education: *Mental Health and Forensic Issues* (Panel Members: Julie Jumisko- Stein, Jeff Kellar, Alvaro Tapia, Sulma Chavez and Stephanie Parker) Moderated by Lisa Rosene, Director of Social Work Services, GGRC

                  B. Board Operations Updates (Lynn Pulliam)

                    1. Call for Nominations of Board Officers (Due by April 30<sup>th</sup>)

                    2. Need for a Board Delegate to ARCA

                    3. Recruitment

                  C. Service Provider Advisory Committee Updates (Kate O'Connor)

                    1. Legislative Breakfast Marin Recap

                  D. Legislative Committee/ARCA Update (Edith Arias)

                    1. Legislative Breakfast San Mateo/San Francisco

                    2. Master Plan Update

                    3. ARCA's Three Bills & a Resolution

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

- A. Federal Updates
- B. State Budget 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](mailto:aalokozai@ggrc.org)



# Golden Gate Regional Center

*Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity*

RECORD of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Lynn Pulliam

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David DeLira  
Marta Guzman  
Kate O'Connor  
Shirley Poitier  
Tracy Bullock

Lynn Pulliam  
Michael Bernick  
Brindicy Alcaraz  
Jacy Cohen

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Sharon Jones  
Edith Arias  
JJ Khin

STAFF: Eric Zigman  
Lisa Rosene  
Brenda Gonzales  
Amanda Pyle  
Julie Jumikso- Stein  
Alvaro Tapia

Aria Alokozai  
Ihsan Shagiwal  
Lop Hou  
Sean Galvin  
Jeff Kellar  
Sulma Chavez

GUESTS: Sheraden Nicholau  
Corinna (ASL Interpreter)  
Brielle (ASL Interpreter)  
Jenica Hadley  
Chris Aguire  
Stephanie Parker

Oscar Arteta  
Jane Diaz  
Kuky Nelson  
Mariana Abballo  
Lilian Piruzan  
Ansari

## CALL TO ORDER (Lynn Pulliam)

Ms. Pulliam called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m and shared that she will Chair the Board tonight. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed. Spanish and American Sign Language translations were provided.

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Lynn Pulliam)

**ACTION A. Agenda**

*The agenda for today's meeting was approved.*

*M/S/C (Kate O'Connor motioned /Brindicy Alcaraz seconded)*

**ACTION B. Record of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Meeting**

*Lynn sent her edits to the minutes to Aria. The minutes were approved by the Board.*

*M/S/C (Kate O'Connor motioned/ Brindicy Alcaraz seconded)*

**PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT**

Amanda shared that Elizabeth Grigsby, a longtime advocate with GGRC for 26 years, was recently awarded the Advocacy Award from Cal-TASH. Liz was selected from Northern California, which is especially meaningful given the Southern California location of the conference. Her nomination reflects her lifelong dedication to advocacy for people with disabilities, both through her work with GGRC and her involvement with the State Council and other community groups. We celebrated her achievement by sharing the news on our social media and with all staff and board members. We are proud of Liz and commend her for her outstanding contributions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance Committee (Lop Hou for Michael Bernick)**

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of February 28, 2025]

Lop reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations

After eight months of operations, year-to-day expenditures are under budget by 9.5%. 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 eight months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 11.3%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$46.3 million for this fiscal year.

Community Resource Development Plan (CRDP) Funding

Placement funds and Start-Up funds have been allocated but have yet to be expensed.

**ACTION: Consideration of GGRC Line of Credit**

Lop shared that each year between May and July, we secure a Line of Credit as a safeguard to cover monthly payments if funds run short.

Lynn asked for a motion to approve the Line of Credit. Marta Guzman made a motion and Kate O'Connor seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board. There were no further discussions.

*M/S/C (Marta Guzman motioned/ Kate O'Connor seconded)*

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities Update on SCDD Activities (Sharaden Nicholau)**

Sharaden shared the following updates:

- As of April 10, Congress passed the budget resolution—the first step toward major federal budget cuts. The resolution outlines \$5.3 trillion in tax cuts, a \$5 trillion debt ceiling increase, and a minimum of \$4 billion in federal spending cuts to states, though legislators are targeting \$1.5 trillion in cuts over the next 10 years. The detailed reconciliation bill is expected by May.
- We encourage everyone to contact their congressional representatives about the importance of Medicaid and related services like regional centers, IHSS, WIC, and foster youth programs. To support this, we have [postcards \(English and Spanish\) with QR codes](#) linking to an easy letter-writing tool on the State Council website. Tell Your Medicaid Story postcards in English and Spanish. Please distribute widely.
- [State Council Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee meeting](#) is Wed, 4/30/25, from 530p – 8p, in hybrid form (over Zoom, and in person this month in Marin County). We encourage everyone to attend and consider giving public comments to legislative offices and other leaders in attendance who want to hear from you! We'll also be working on health equity work in emergency departments, as another agenda item.
- FALL 2025 Leadership Institute - Hosted by the National Leadership Consortium: These intensive programs are designed for emerging and current leaders in the field of developmental disabilities. Participants will develop the skills necessary to lead transformational change, promote person-centered values, and build organizational cultures that inspire success.  
When: Sunday, November 9, 2025, to Friday, November 14, 2025  
Location: San Diego

To register for the Statewide Self-Determination (SDP) Orientation

Trainings: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>.

Over the next few weeks, we will hold these in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

About: <https://natleadership.org/week-long-institute3.html>

Application: <https://redcap.vumc.org/surveys/?s=L7CJ89FMLLMCMN4Y>

Q and A followed.

**Services Committee (David DeLira)**

David thanked Shirely Poitier for chairing the committee in his absence and expressed his appreciation for her.

Website Update

Amanda shared that a Listening Session for the Board Members is scheduled for May 3rd. More details to follow.

Amanda also mentioned that the website project timeline has been adjusted to allow contracting

to occur across multiple fiscal years. The team is actively working on finalizing the contracts and aims to have them completed by the next board meeting.

Board Education *Mental Health and Forensic Issues (Panel Members: Julie Jumisko- Stein, Jeff Kellar, Alvaro Tapia, Sulma Chavez from GGRC and Stephanie Parker from START) - Moderated by Lisa Rosene, Director, Regional Center Services, GGRC*

Stephanie Parker shared that a key challenge is the lack of integrated mental health systems for neurodivergent individuals, as mental health and developmental disability services often operate separately. Standard interventions and professionals frequently misinterpret the behaviors of people with IDD, and support is often only provided once a person is in crisis. To improve outcomes, we need to shift from crisis response to prevention, and design services that truly address unmet needs rather than mislabeling them as behavioral or criminal issues.

Sulma Chavez shared the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face major barriers in accessing appropriate mental health services due to systemic misunderstandings and poor coordination across systems. Key issues include:

- Lack of awareness and implementation of laws that guarantee equal access to services.
- Medical and public systems often deny care based on IDD diagnoses.
- Standard interventions frequently misinterpret behaviors, leading to misdiagnosis or neglect.
- Environments (schools, hospitals) often lack basic functional supports like sensory tools.
- Services are reactive rather than proactive and collaborative.
- Individuals are vulnerable to criminal influence due to unmet needs and lack of preventative support.
- Legal and treatment systems often restrict necessary accommodation, such as personal assistants.

Sulma recommends that the systems need to shift toward inclusive, collaborative, and proactive care models that recognize and respond to the unique needs of individuals with IDD, especially around communication, behavioral interpretation, and access to ongoing support.

Jeff Kellar shared that some individuals with developmental disabilities also struggle with substance use and serious mental health conditions, sometimes leading to incarceration. A major gap exists in services that address all three areas—developmental disability, substance abuse, and mental illness—together. Programs frequently deny support due to a lack of understanding or capacity. There is an urgent need for integrated, specialized services to prevent incarceration and provide effective care in both custody and community settings.

Alvaro Tapia shared that their team works to prevent individuals from reoffending by setting up community support systems. Alvaro underscored that while there are some successes with available resources, many individuals lack access to critical services, particularly substance abuse treatment. As a result, we are often seen as the solution to gaps in probation and court-mandated programs, but these services are inconsistent. Addressing substance abuse is essential before other services can be effective, as some individuals struggle with addiction and lack natural support systems.

Julie Jumisko shared that a major barrier is the misconception that individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) cannot also have mental health diagnoses. Crisis units and probation or drug treatment programs often refuse to serve individuals with ID, as they feel unprepared to support them. Lack of impulse control and emotional regulation are key factors leading to forensic involvement, highlighting the need for more training for professionals.

Sheraden shared that there are specialized trainings for addressing intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including Learning Domain 37 and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which are offered to law enforcement and related personnel. These trainings focus on recognizing IDD and mental health needs. While essential, training alone is not enough—legislation, community collaboration, and accountability are also needed to effectively support individuals with IDD in crisis.

Lisa thanked and deeply appreciated the panel for their remarkable work in supporting individuals served by GGRC who also have mental health and forensic-related needs.

Q and A followed.

### **Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)**

#### Call for Nominations of Board Officers – Due by April 30th

Lynn Pulliam shared that following this meeting, Aria will send out a notice to the Board Members inviting nominations for Board Officers and the ARCA Delegate position.

#### ARCA Delegate Vacancy

We are still in need of a Board Delegate to ARCA and will be reaching out again for nominations.

#### Recruitment Update:

Recruitment is progressing smoothly, with several strong applicants, and efforts are ongoing.

Q and A followed.

### **Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)**

Kate shared that on April 11th, we held a Legislative Breakfast event at Homeward Bound in Hamilton, Nevada, with over 100 attendees. Congressman Jared Huffman, Assemblymember Damon Connolly, and local officials were present and engaged in a Q&A session. Speakers included advocates, parents, board members, and social workers, who shared their concerns about issues like Medicaid waivers. Kate and Eric thanked Lynn Pulliam for speaking at the Breakfast Event.

Q and A followed.

### **Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Eric Zigman for Edith Arias)**

#### Legislative Breakfast in San Mateo/ San Francisco

Eric shared that there's still time to register for the legislative breakfast in South San Francisco

on April 25th. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard and engage in advocacy work. The event will start at 9:00 AM at the South San Francisco Rec Center.

Mater Plan Update:

Eric shared that the Master Plan, released on March 28th, includes 167 recommendations focused on perceived improvements to the systems that serve individuals with IDD. Particularly encouraging is the Plan's focus on uplifting the voices of individuals with developmental disabilities. It highlights the intersectionality of identities and includes input from those served. While the results are still being reviewed, the state appears committed to addressing the recommendations over the next decade, which recommendations that extend beyond regional centers and DDS, but also include education, IHSS, and other systems.

ARCA Three bills and a Resolution

Eric shared that the Seizure Rescue Medication Bill is still progressing but has been slowed by concerns from Assembly members about expanding it to include more populations beyond just those with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, SB 664 (Blue Envelope Bill), sponsored by the Association and law enforcement, aims to allow individuals to voluntarily self-identify by presenting a blue envelope to first responders in a vehicle or pedestrian stop. This envelope would inform responders of potential issues, helping to clarify that certain behaviors may be part of the individual's condition rather than resistance.

Eric highlighted that the concurrent resolution celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Lanterman Act, which made California the only state where individuals with developmental disabilities have an entitlement to services. This resolution emphasizes the Individual Program Plan (IPP) as a right to individualized support, preventing service cuts by category. While fiscal challenges from Medicaid or federal funding cuts still exist, the Lanterman Act provides stronger protection for individuals with developmental disabilities compared to other systems.

Eric also briefly spoke about AB 49, which prohibits ICE from being able to go onto school grounds in California. Eric highlighted that ARCA is monitoring the progress of this bill.

Q and A followed.

**Executive Director's Report (Eric Zigman)**

State Budget Update

Eric stated that the state budget update includes ongoing hearings in the Assembly and Senate on key issues such as the Master Plan, efforts to increase equity, rate reform, and data system improvements for better access to regional center information. The Senate Budget Subcommittee on Human Services will meet on April 24th, and Sasha Bittner, a local advocate, will speak about the Master Plan. The governor's budget will be revised in May, reflecting updated revenue forecasts and federal changes.

The Board Meeting adjourned to an Executive Session regarding personnel matters at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aria Alokozai