

# Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

## Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 4:00pm-5:30pm

### MINUTES

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

#### **SDLAC Members:**

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) - present  
Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate)  
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)  
Charlie Fagen (OCRA-Attorney/Clients' Rights Advocate) - present  
Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) - present  
Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present  
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate)  
David Nguyen (Parent Advocate)  
Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate)  
Brenda Bachechi (Community Advocate/Provider) - present  
Sandy Chin (Parent Advocate) - present

#### **SCDD Advisor:**

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

#### **GGRC Advisors:**

Eric Zigman (Executive Director)  
Lisa Rosene (Director, Case Management) - present  
Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present  
Meghan Reynard (Acting SDP Supervisor) - present  
Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist)  
Janika Jamarillo (Participant Choice Specialist)  
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary)

#### **Guests:**

Kim Schreiber – NeuroNav  
Chris Aguire – DDS  
Chisom Ekweume – GGRC  
Erwan Rivet – parent of child with autism

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh)
  - a. Roll call (Nguyen)

- b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) M/S Brenda, Alyson
- c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) M/S Brenda, Alyson

II. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 - (Walsh)

a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan

Jennifer: David Nguyen has stepped down from the committee, but there won't be an update. We'll have updates after the workgroups meet and we'll have a better idea of where the funds are going.

Sheraden: David has time constraints and appreciated the opportunity to serve and learn, "you're all doing such blessed work" and may join as a member of the public when his schedule allows. He didn't want to hold up the committee's progress.

III. Participant/Family/Public Feedback on SDP (All)

- 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.

Alyson: Bay Area Website update is there had been a hiatus in the committee meeting. David Grady had been facilitating the meeting. Sort of had a wait and see between the web development partners and Jennifer connected with getting things going again. The committee has reconvened and we will be putting forth an RFP to find someone who would be effectively the contract manager to oversee the day-to-day operations to the website. Presently, we have the content and the URL is up and running, but we just need to update the information for the website was populated about two years. The information has become stale to incorporate and include changes from DDS, the committee is all volunteer-run and no one really has technical expertise to manage or maintain it, for immediate and long-term needs. We haven't put together the RFP yet but we have the basis for what is required for that position but we haven't sent it out.

Jennifer: We'll work on it next week.

Meghan: We meet quarterly with DDS in groups and meet with RCEB and NBRC to go over processes and would it make sense to have us meet including SARC and we have overlap with NBRC.

Chris: SARC is lumped in with ACRC but there isn't any real reason why, it's kind of the way DDS breaks up their team. Not sure who sets that up, but it could be a suggestion if that could change.

Alyson: When the committee was started, it was the committee chairs who orchestrated who was going to be involved. NBRC has never been involved. We can talk about it next week at the meeting.

Kim: Shared their update.

IV. SDLAC Workgroups (Walsh/Nicholau)

Brenda: We recently just received rosters with committee member information so we haven't had a chance to connect with others yet.

Ken (via email) will try and schedule meetings this week.

Meghan: Met with Chris Kantor and had a quick meeting with the team and wanted to talk to the SDP group about what was needed as far as different workgroups go, but she did connect with us and hopefully set up the first meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Sheraden provided an overview of the SDLAC workgroups and how the groups have access to GGRC staff and SCDD.

V. SCDD Update (Nicholau)

Statewide orientations for February: Farsi, English, Spanish, Tagalog. Booking March orientation dates have some set in Spanish and building out additional ones.

Sheraden shared the orientation schedule in the chat.

Mostly questions have been around outyear technical assistance. Does CA see that we'll have a greater number of FMSs and ones that can accommodate a larger budget so those with larger budgets aren't locked out; in line with capacity building. Concerns in Governor's January budget about not continuing funding for SDP participant choice specialist positions at regional centers. This could potentially have a negative impact on SDP as a program statewide.

Alyson: Curious as to whether or not you know what are the FMSs are able to accommodate larger budgets.

Sheraden: Some have expressed concerns in the local GGRC area that they've had challenges with FMSs accepting their cases.

Meghan: In GGRC's area, there are certain FMSs that are currently vendored but an individual family has the choice of any FMS in the state, courtesy vendorization can always be explored. GTI, generally doesn't have a budget cap and more on a case-by-case basis, perhaps also Cambrian, but not all service models.

Lisa: Mains'I is also available, but you also have a window of opportunity and waitlisted. Once you're in, it's easier but getting in can be time consuming.

Alyson: For participants with larger budgets, either the social worker or case managers have shared with them that there may be delays with getting FMS onboarded so they're setting expectations.

Lisa: Typically in the budget process, one of the SDP team they tell people about the delay with the FMS and out of that whole discussion, Juliet has added that to the GGRC orientation, so Kori and Janika do go through that during orientation.

Brenda: With challenges, it's not just larger budgets, but what are the different plans the FMSs have, you can have the budget accepted but not the employee plan. The vendoring RC for the FMS, you have to go back to that regional center because they have oversight for that FMS. Families should consider this when selecting their FMS, there can also be long waitlists for agencies to provide services. There's still a bottleneck in the system that we need to figure out how we're going to address things.

Sheraden: Even if there's a potential FMS who wants to serve SDP participants in CA, it's not always the most smooth process to get vendored. What we can collectively do when we connect with agencies/entities, talk with them about the process.

Lisa: none of the FMSs are from GGRC area which is important because that means you do need to go back to the original regional center. Asked Sean Galvin to put together resource development for a GGRC FMS vendor so we can have a local one.

Juliet: We also have Aveanna, they're located in Southern California, even though there are barriers around FMS, we're able to work with people remotely pretty well.

Brenda: Also work with out-of-area FMS and if there's a problem, you have to go back to the vendoring regional center and they don't have the same obligation to you as a client who isn't local to their center.

Juliet: Yes, each regional center does things differently.

Lisa: FMSs that cover the country can handle the larger budgets but also aren't as familiar with California laws and things unique to California.

Jennifer: Maybe we can make a cheat sheet of FMSs.

Sheraden: Not updated at the moment, but some RCs also try to make it easier by having a list of FMSs are vendored in their area and local IF list as well. There might be some ways for the committee or the SDP Bay Area website to have the cheat sheets and lists posted.

Lisa: The GGRC website is being worked on and we'll have a new SDP section our website and more user friendly. Deliverable is within 12-18 months.

## VI. GGRC SDP Team Update (Sousa/Reynard)

- a. Participant data points: number of persons currently enrolled, number of participants in the process, how long participants have been enrolled GGRC Updates (Zigman)
- b. GGRC's SDP Orientation post-participation "packet" of information
- c. Update on putting together the GGRC Social Worker SDP resources file

Juliet: 114 persons currently enrolled and growing, 7 starting POSs in February

Meghan: part of the ongoing conversation about hiring a data analyst and a difficult figure to capture, what are they looking for and there's not a mechanism to track that question. What we track is people who are currently enrolled, up for renewal, the list of people who attended a GGRC orientation, we would like to collect more data, we've done what we can to start the work of the bi-monthly survey. The report of the participants from SANDIS, we've tried to accommodate what's been asked of the team. Looking to hire a data analyst perhaps from SDLAC funds. SANDIS is also being adjusted, they're trying to enter more tabs that track SDP information.

Juliet: Given SDP is in its infancy, we used to keep track of how many people going through intake. SDP doesn't have a structured process, just the team fielding requests to get someone "started". It may be hard to capture how many people we work with because of starts/stops, people drop out or discontinue the process. If we have an "intake process" would be easier, we're just taking people through the steps.

Lisa: First SDP participant is going into his fourth year and working on his fourth budget and spending plan.

Juliet: We just had a statewide meeting and participation is over 3,000 and RCs are averaging 146 people per month.

Kori: The post-orientation packet includes: A few enclosures, flowchart/timeline, PowerPoint presentation, SDP service definitions and codes, PCP providers are vendored with GGRC, budget template, spending plan template.

**(Anh to Check for enclosures and add spending and budget plan if not already included.)**

- VII. GGRC Updates (Zigman)  
Anh shared DVU's new bill concept authored by Senator Caroline Menjivar.
- VIII. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA)  
No update this month.
- IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:00pm – 5:30pm