

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 - 3:45pm-5:30pm

MINUTES

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

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87601152530?pwd=STJwMHI4YmtJUVlyVnpaL2tMOHROZz09>

SDLAC Members:

Sascha Bittner (Co-Chair/Self-Advocate) – present
Jennifer Walsh (Co-Chair/Self-Advocate) - present
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)
Courtney Magnus (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) – present

SCDD Advisor:

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

GGRC Advisors:

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present
Lisa Rosene (Director, RCS Services)
Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) – present
Meghan Reynard (Participant Choice Specialist) – present
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) – present

Guests:

Heather Mabie, NeuroNav
Jacy Cohen, GGRC Board President
Corinne Sixkiller, DDS
Karen Hammond, parent of SDP applicant and Independent Facilitator
Connie Tabas, parent of SDP participant

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Bittner and All) – 5 minutes
Sascha: Shorter meeting today will consist of mainly reports and we’ll schedule something later this month where we’d be voting on the Strategic Plan and some process steps, also Sascha will formally stepping down as co-chair of the SDLAC.

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of Agenda (Bittner)
- c. Approval of Minutes (Bittner/All)

II. Participant/Family/Public Feedback on SDP (All) – 20 minutes

Connie Tabas: Her son is a brand-new participant and there's been a few problems. She's been working on things since March 2022 and he just started SDP in January 2023. Finding an FMS was a challenge, but then they had to start over with a new FMS due to the devendorization of that FMS. Seems to be a more complicated process than it needs to be.

- 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.

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

Sheraden: The SCDD has looked at challenges statewide with FMS capacity. A good amount of time spent discussing disparities and reports from DDS regarding program directives (spending plan work and SDP extensions and development of standardized vendorization packets).

Statewide orientations in partnership with DDS continue to be hosted. Orientations can be attended by interested parties through SCDD (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, ASL) or through GGRC's orientation. SCDD has updated their orientation page with additional materials in Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, Arabic, Farsi, Hmong, Armenian.

Sascha: We'll have more information at the February meeting about more support for Spanish speaking families.

III. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – 10 minutes

Caseloads are about 95-100. GGRC is doing some strong hiring over the last six weeks of 2022, which is traditionally a challenging time to hire. Seven new staff started yesterday. Entry-level salaries were raised and GGRC has contracted for additional talent acquisition/recruitment help and higher salaries have helped attract additional candidates.

FMS' reimbursement rates should be addressed and there's a recognition that they need more with the additional roles and responsibilities that are being asked of them, waiting lists and delays are an issue.

Sheraden: DDS is having conversations with stakeholders and more information is forthcoming but nothing new since last month.

Corrine will check back in with Maxine about the status of this.

Meghan: with the challenges of FMS and wait lists being longer, many are asking for certified budget.

Sheraden: Families/participants should make a plan to talk to their FMS, get an update on openings to take on new cases. What does each FMS require to get someone on a wait list. How can the regional center be able to educate GGRC staff and the community of persons served that this is the process? Need to update to the flow chart be able to take care of the budget and spending plan before letting people select an FMS.

Karen: Is there any way for onboarding and wait list process to be standardized among FMS? Participants are just given a list of FMSs and it doesn't really help them without any understanding of the process, some centralized, some individual process.

Eric: Early on, there was a lot of flexibility with FMS. Intentionally left that flexibility in place because they wanted smaller FMSs to be part of the landscape. Lots of expertise, customer care and fiscal management experience is required.

Juliet: an interview is being scheduled to fill Noelia's former position for Participant Choice Specialist.

V. GGRC SDP Team Update (Rosene) – 10 minutes

Juliet: SDP Directives mapping team try to operationalize one of them. If a participant is renewing their budget and isn't renewed in time or spending plan isn't completed, there is a directive that GGRC can continue for two more months and paperwork has to be submitted within that 60-day period. Thanks to Meghan for putting together a listing of participants as they enter the program and tracking the progress of each person at each step and stage of the process. The SDP team is trying to work with each FMS and so far, it's been successful and be on the same page with the FMSs. Providers can sometimes drop out if they aren't paid by FMS so trying to avoid those issues.

Connie: Team she was working with didn't have the most current rates. If you're mid-year or rates are changing, this needs to be taken into consideration in the budget. During her time, there were two or three changes in rates and this makes a difference in the budget. The team needs to be aware of this for planning the spending budget.

Meghan: In addition to meeting with FMSs, the SDP team is meeting with NeuroNav and will hopefully be streamlining the process with referrals that are coming their way. No numbers to update on this month, but will be ready for next month.

Sascha: It would be good to have the numbers to update on this when we have the discussion on strategic planning for the upcoming year.

VI. Disability Rights California Update (Mangus) – 5 minutes

VII. SDLAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Bittner/Walsh/Nicholau) – 10 minutes

We'll have this conversation in a separate meeting in the future.

Sheraden: the Strategic Planning subcommittee shared a PowerPoint presentation with the three primary focus areas:

SDP participant onboarding support

Onboarding and Equity support

Data support

Committee members will be taking responsibility for each respective area to work on and discussing how to implement the goals.

Sheraden: committee members could lead each of the working groups and possibly have community partners or advisors providing support and input as needed.

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

IX. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 - (Bittner/Walsh) – 15 minutes

a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan (Nguyen)

David will provide an update on the budget at the next meeting with 2023 information.

X. Bay Area website update (Sinclair, Kantor, Zigman) – 5 minutes

XI. Consultant updates – 10 minutes

XII. Announcement from the SDLAC Co-Chairs

XIII. Adjourn: Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14 – 3:45 PM – 5:30 PM