

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 - 4:00pm-5:30pm

MEETING NOTICE

DRAFT AGENDA

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

[Zoom Link for June Meeting](#)

SDLAC Members:

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) – present

Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) - absent

Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate) - absent

Courtney Mangus (OCRA-Attorney/Clients' Rights Advocate) - present

Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) - absent

Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - absent

Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate) - absent

Gaby Choy (Parent Advocate) - absent

David Nguyen (Parent Advocate) – present via phone

SCDD Advisor:

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

GGRC Advisors:

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present

Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) – extended leave

Meghan Reynard (Acting SDP Supervisor) - present

Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist)

Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) – present

Guests:

Karen Phan, parent, son with autism

Moira Walsh/Michael McQuaid, parents

Sarah Wernikoff, parent, 19-year old daughter, Tay with Down Syndrome

Tanya Hernandez, Field Service Representative, GT Independence (FMS)

Debra Alder, parent

James Ford, Department of Developmental Services

Galacia Frisby, NeuroNav

Paulina Kiro

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

- b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh)
- c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All)

Absent a quorum, Sheraden provided the committee and new guests with an overview of the role of the SDLAC. She also shared the next statewide Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting will be held tomorrow, June 14.

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

a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan (Nguyen)

The budget 2020-21 has been fully expended, 2021-22 with about \$50,000 to be encumbered. According to David, these are based on Lop's numbers (Lop Hou is the GGRC Chief Financial Officer) but they may not include all expenditures. David has a different figure than what Lop is presenting at this point in time. Perhaps Jennifer, David and Lop or someone from Accounting can meet once a month to ensure expenditures are current and reconcile the budget. Eric will schedule this and have someone from Accounting designated to meet with SDLAC. As well as clarity on the joint Bay Area website.

One of the projects this committee has worked on with RCEB and SARC is a joint regional Bay Area website that has resources and information on Self Determination Program.

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.

Sarah Wernikoff: In January 2022 the SDP process was initiated for Tay. It took about 8 months and working with NeuroNav and had a spending plan in place by August 2022. Since then, there was a POS that was working, but then that fell through the cracks. There's so many steps to the process that she doesn't know what happened or when, they were approved through GTI and they paid a number of invoices, but then they stopped. Sarah doesn't know why, even after following up with GTI and GGRC. Tay's been out of the state, she's now back and will be living independently, everything she initiated back in March is still in limbo. Tay might be unassigned status for a social worker at this point. There are outstanding invoices at this point because she's waiting on a new budget.

Meghan: There might have been a POS correction that was needed and GTI should be the current FMS and should be able to see the new authorization (they're created every Friday). Meghan can follow up with the supervisor on this case, she thinks they have an updated budget, Sarah said there's errors. Trying to reconcile things between GTI, GGRC and other entities.

Eric: Social worker shortage has impacted things both in SDP and caseloads in general. Sheraden encouraged everyone to engage with and advocate state policymakers, especially those who are assigned to health-related/IDD-related budget and policy committees.

Moira Walsh: Seven weeks since GTI canceled Patrick's FMS and still don't know why and they still don't have an FMS. She's invested over 200 hours. She's contacted all FMSs in the state and one was open to the possibility of being courtesy vendored. FactFamily(?) agreed and May 16th had the information/case passed along to GGRC. He's currently in independent living without services from GGRC. If courtesy vendorization takes too long, Moira will try reducing Patrick's budget by 25% to meet a lower threshold for him to qualify for another FMS. As drastic as that sounds, it would still result in Patrick receiving something rather than nothing right now. Meghan has asked Community Services to look at the timeline for courtesy vendorization because paperwork for the original vendoring regional center and that paperwork needs to be redone. Acumen has the highest budget threshold, another FMS that doesn't work with GGRC said they'd be willing to do a courtesy vendorization but hasn't heard back.

Eric: FMS rates set in 2018 weren't sufficient and the increase in May should help a little with FMSs feeling more comfortable opening up the threshold a bit.

Sheraden: Considering capacity issues with FMSs and May rate increases, could we explore larger budgets being split between two FMSs as a troubleshooting measure until we can find other issues. The message for families and prospective participants could be that larger budgets cannot be handled. Sheraden is suggesting the Department review options such as this one while DDS is working with other community partners and FMSs for long-term solutions.

Moira: It's not just budget capacity, there's an FMS shortage. Some don't want to work with some SDP participants.

Meghan: It's not just budget thresholds, it's complexity of services. Working with the regional center on how things could work, we need more conversation and creativity about FMS criteria. Community Resource Development does reach out to Fiscal Management Services, which happens outside of SDP. Rates have been a disincentive, rates are significantly higher now, but maybe now we'll have better luck getting more FMSs. The idea of vendoring a service provider has been in the system for decades. With regular RC services, there are availability issues, when one vendor declines there are others. With SDP, when an FMS declines to serve a participant, there's not a lot of wiggle room and is insufficient.

GTI doesn't have a threshold so everything is case by case and they don't have a budget cap. GTI is current accepting new clients but reviewing to make sure everyone is a good fit.

IV. GGRC SDP Participant invitation (Walsh)

V. SCDD Update (Nicholau)

SCDD continues to hold statewide SDP orientations. There's eight for June and July, in English, Spanish and other languages as requested and other resources on the SDP Orientation web page in about seven or eight languages. June 14th is the next Statewide SDLAC meeting. They'll be covering a number of issues – statewide reporting tool and individual information from all RCs, update from SDP Ombudsperson office, best practices platform update, priorities around reducing disparities in SDP.

Eric: 2021 interim report on SDP from SCDD, what's the update on that?
www.scdd.ca.gov/ssdac

VI. GGRC SDP Team Update (Reynard)

Welcome to Kori and Janika, the new Participant Choice Specialists. Meghan remains the point person on all SDP-related issues and supporting participants.

May – one new participant start and one renewal, several extensions the past few months and budget cycles, so next spending plans are ten months so if the reports from IT can capture those.

a. Participant data points: number of persons currently enrolled, number of participants in the process, how long participants have been enrolled GGRC Updates (Zigman)

About 70 active participants and 30 in the pipeline

Meghan: multiple individuals and families that have identified FMSs or in the middle of transitioning/changing FMSs. Even with one new “start”, there's a lot of work continuing with onboarding and continuing to support the existing families.

Courtney: of the 70, are people waiting for FMS?

Meghan: the 70 participants have a purchase of service in place.

VII. GGRC Updates (Zigman)

Beginning to hire expansion positions to cover caseloads, last three months have been good. Hiring has been more robust and the HR recruiting firm has been helpful.

Bagley-Keene public policy updates overseeing SDLAC meetings has been introduced by Senator Laird. It's currently in the Assembly.

VIII. Consultant updates

IX. Disability Rights California Update (Mangus)

Courtney has accepted a position for a statewide Clients Rights Advocate and will be continuing to work with GGRC until a replacement can be identified. OCRA has hired an assistant OCRA Giovanna Rojo (bilingual Spanish).

X. SDLAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Walsh/Nicholau)

XI. Outreach to the community – Communication/Correspondence (All)

XII. Bay Area website update (Sinclair/Kantor)

XIII. Discussion on changes in SDLAC meeting day/time – (Walsh)

Proposed 1.5 hour blocks for future meetings:

- a. Tuesdays, 4PM – 5:30PM
- b. Wednesdays, 9AM – 11AM
- c. Wednesdays, 4PM – 6PM
- d. Thursdays, 5PM – 7PM

XIV. Adjourn: Next Meeting: **Tuesday, July 11 – TBD**