

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

Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, 5:30 PM

**Via Zoom Video Conference
and**

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

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

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

ACTION A. Agenda

ACTION B. Record of May 20th,2025 Meeting

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

5:45pm IV. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

1. Monthly Financial Statement

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)

B. Board Operations Updates (Lynn Pulliam)

1. Board Delegate Update

2. Vote on Board Candidates

3. Re-election of Current Board Members

4. Election of Board Officers

ACTION

ACTION

ACTION

C. Legislative Committee/ARCA Update (Edith Arias)

1. AB 1172 (Nguyen) – Inhalable Emergency Seizure Medication Bill

2. AB49 (Muratsuchi)- school site visits

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

E. Executive Committee Updates (Jacy Cohen)

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

ACTION A. Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

B. Advocacy Efforts and Monitoring the Changes in Washington, DC

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



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

RECORD of June 17th, 2025, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Edith Arias

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David DeLira
Marta Guzman
Kate O'Connor
Shirley Poitier
Jacy Cohen

Lynn Pulliam
Michael Bernick
Brindicy Alcaraz

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Tracy Bullock
JJ Khin

STAFF: Eric Zigman
Lisa Rosene
Brenda Gonzales
Lop Hou
Maya Domingo

Aria Alokozai
Ihsan Shagiwal
Sean Galvin
Amanda Pyle

GUESTS: Sheraden Nicholau
Corinna (ASL Interpreter)
Juan (ASL Interpreter)
Jenica Hadley
Chris Aguire

Oscar Arteta
Jane Diaz
Mariana Abballo
Lilian P. Ansari
Anthony
Connie Chu

CALL TO ORDER (Edith Arias)

Vice Chair, Edith Arias called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed. Spanish and American Sign Language translations were provided.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Edith Arias)

ACTION A. Agenda

The agenda for today's meeting was approved.

M/S/C (Jacy Cohen motioned/ Lynn Pulliam seconded)

ACTION B. Record of May 20, 2025, Meeting

The minutes were approved.

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned /Lynn Pulliam seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Eric shared that tonight marks the final Board meeting for Edith Arias and Tracey Bullock, who have each completed seven years of dedicated service on the GGRC Board. Eric added that Tracey was unable to attend the meeting and had asked him to read her farewell message to the Board, which he graciously did. Following the message, Eric presented Tracey with an honorary trophy in recognition of her contributions and service on GGRC Board.

Lynn Pulliam and Jacy Cohen shared that Tracy is a strong and passionate advocate—for both the system and her family. They emphasized her unwavering commitment and effectiveness in advocacy. Edith Arias added that Tracey provided meaningful support when she first joined the Board and has continued to be a source of guidance within the system.

Eric took a moment to recognize Edith Arias for her remarkable journey, particularly her impactful work with the GGRC Board and in state-level advocacy. Edith has represented the agency as the Board Delegate to ARCA, served as a state-appointed member of the Master Plan on Developmental Services Workgroup, and has been a powerful voice in advancing services in her local community of South San Francisco through DDS and across the broader system. Following the message, Eric presented Edith with an honorary trophy in recognition of her contributions and service on GGRC Board.

Lynn Pulliam, Marta Guzman and Shirley Poitier expressed their appreciation for working with Edith, highlighting her remarkable efforts and consistent kindness.

Amanda Pyle shared how meaningful it was to work with Edith, noting that their professional relationship was instrumental in deepening her understanding of underserved communities. She especially acknowledged Edith’s impact in amplifying the voices of Spanish-speaking individuals and ensuring they are heard and supported.

Jacy Cohen expressed her gratitude for Edith’s friendship, as well as the inspirational effort and legacy she leaves on the Board. Kate O’Connor shared that through working with Edith, she came to truly appreciate the depth of Edith's experience and how remarkable it has been.

Edith expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the opportunities she’s had through GGRC and within the community. She emphasized that any Board Member has the power to do what she has done—to uplift and amplify voices that are not always heard. She urged others to “get outside your comfort zone” and never underestimate the power you have to change things for the better. She also assured everyone that her advocacy efforts will continue beyond her time on the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Treasurer Bernick asked CFO Lop Hou to go over the financial report.

Monthly Financial Statement: [Financial Status as of April 30, 2025]

Lop reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations

After ten months of operations, year-to-date expenditures are under budget by 12.4%. 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 ten months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 10.7%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$34.1 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.

Eric shared that the long-awaited rate increase has finally been implemented—marking the most significant rate increase he has seen in his career. He noted that they are now beginning to process the difference between the old and new rates, retroactive to January. While it's not the full new rate yet, the difference between the previous rate and the updated one is starting to be reflected. He emphasized that this rate reform process has been an incredibly heavy lift for both the agency – particularly thus far in GGRC's Community Services Department and Vendor Unit—and for the service providers.

Sean Galvin confirmed that this marks the final phase of the rate model implementation, which closes the remaining 40% of the funding gap. Additionally, 10% is reserved for the Quality Incentive Program (QIP), meaning that effectively 50% of the gap is now being addressed.

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

Sharaden shared the following updates:

Medicaid Advocacy & Letter Portal: Over 2,100 letters have been collected from Californians sharing personal Medicaid stories. These letters are being sent to Congress ahead of upcoming votes. Community groups can request educational sessions to better understand federal Medicaid changes.

California Policy & Budget: State-level progress is limited this fiscal year due to uncertainty at the federal level. Several bills are being tracked and supported, but budget outcomes depend on federal developments.

Upcoming Events:

- Statewide Results Determination Advisory Committee – June 24
- Regional Advisory Committee Meeting – June 25 at San Francisco City Hall and via Zoom (details below)

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER

RECORD OF MEETING –

June 17, 2025

Hosted by the SCDD Bay Area Office

Networking: 5:15–5:30 PM

Meeting: 5:30–8:00 PM

This is a hybrid meeting – join in person or remotely:

In-Person Location:

San Francisco City Hall, Room 305

1 Carlton B Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA

Zoom Link:

Join via Zoom

Meeting ID: 898 9487 4557

Passcode: 926767

Join by Phone (Toll-Free): (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499

Accessible meeting materials: www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/

- SDP Orientations – Ongoing in English and Spanish; additional languages available upon request - Available this month in English, Spanish, and Tagalog
Sign up here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- “There Should Be a Law” Contest: Now in its 5th year. Californians can submit policy ideas to improve the lives of people with ID/DD. Past winners have led to real legislative changes.
Enter the SCDD 5th Annual “There Should Be a Law” Contest!
Have an idea that could improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities?
Anyone can enter! Share a problem and your proposed solution to be considered for future legislation sponsored by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).
Submit here: <https://bit.ly/BillIdeas2025>
Deadline: July 18, 2025
- SCDD 2025–26 Council Policy Priorities
Read the document: [2025–26 Policy Priorities PDF](#)
- Medi-Cal Data Breach: Around 15 million Californians may have had their data improperly shared by CMS with the Department of Homeland Security. DHCS is seeking answers and reaffirmed its commitment to privacy. The situation is ongoing and raises serious concerns for affected communities.
- Medicaid Letter Portal – Tell Your Story
Help shape Medicaid policy by sharing your experience.
Submit your story: <https://bit.ly/scddmedicaid>
Or use the direct form link:
Google Form Submission

Eric shared that there was a conversation earlier today about the importance of protecting personal information and ensuring that resources reach people, especially during this current era of heightened stress and concern. He noted that there will be opportunities to continue this conversation, particularly with service providers, in the near future.

Q and A followed.

Services Committee (David DeLira)

The Services Committee discussed ongoing concerns regarding dental services for the individuals we support. We learned that there is currently a four-year wait to access dental treatment, which highlights a significant gap in service availability.

Lisa shared that our new Dental Services Coordinator will soon provide information and training on how to navigate and access dental care, including through Denti-Cal. Lisa highlighted that Brenda Gozalez, Director of Intake, Early Start and Clinical Services is also actively working on expanding access to dental services.

Eric added that the field of developmental disability dentistry is limited across the state. However, efforts are underway to collaborate with state-level leaders to improve dental care access for people with disabilities. There is hope that progress will be made in our region this year.

Eric stated that it's encouraging to have a new, energetic Dental Coordinator who is not only ready to support individuals and families but also committed to addressing broader system-level challenges in the dental care community.

David asked Amanda to update the board on the development of a new GGRC Website. Amanda updated the board on many aspects of website development and branding implications, including the extensive work underway to ensure accessibility and navigation improvements for our new site. Amanda mentioned that we have a contract with World Institute on Disability to help us with end user testing and accessibility.

Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)

Board Delegate to ARCA

Lynn Pulliam shared that Marta has agreed to be the GGRC Board Delegate to ARCA, and we are excited to welcome her in this new role.

Election of Board Candidates

Lynn shared that we have three Board candidates, Gita Gupta from San Mateo, Mariana Abballo from Marin, and Jane Diaz from San Francisco. Lynn shared that the Board Operations Committee has engaged in careful, deliberate, and strategic efforts to recruit new members on the Board, focusing on targeted outreach to strengthen its diversity and composition. Lynn reminded the Board that there were numerous contacts, interviews and conversations with these candidates and the Board Operations followed the process outlined in GGRC's Board Bylaws for recruiting and vetting potential new members. These three candidates come to the Board for consideration as recommended by the Board Operations Committee.

Election of Gita Gupta as a new Board Members

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned / Jacy Cohen seconded)

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Election of Mariana Abballo as a new Board Members

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

Election of Jane Diaz as a new Board Members

M/S/C (David DeLira motioned / Lynn Pulliam seconded)

All three Board candidates were unanimously voted in by the Board Member to serve on the Board for a one-year term - starting July 1st, 2025 until June 30, 2026.

Re-election of Currently Serving GGRC Board Members:

Edith Arias asked the Board for a motion to re-elect the following Board Members for a one-year term, starting July 1st 2025 until June 30th, 2026.

Jacy Cohen – Chair– Re-election

M/S/C (Brindicy Alcaraz motioned / Sharon Jones seconded)

Lynn Pulliam - Vice Chair– Re-election

M/S/C (Brindicy Alcaraz motioned / Marta Guzman seconded)

Michael Bernick – Treasurer– Re-election

M/S/C (David Delira motioned / Lynn Pulliam seconded)

Shirley Poitier - Secretary– Re-election

M/S/C (Marta Guzman motioned / Jacy Cohen seconded)

David DeLira– Re-election

M/S/C (Marta Guzman motioned / Lynn Pulliam seconded)

Kate O'Connor– Re-election

M/S/C (David Delira motioned / Jacy Cohen seconded)

Sharon Jones– Re-election

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

Brindicy Alcaraz– Re-election

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

Marta Guzman - Re-election

M/S/C (Shriley Poitier motioned / Kate O'Coonor seconded)

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All Board members above were unanimously voted to re-elect above Members for a one-year term, starting July 1st, 2025- June 30th, 2026.

JJ Khin – Re-election

M/S/C (Marta Guzman motioned / Shirley Poitier seconded)

Majority of Board members voted to re-elect JJ Khin for a one-year term, starting July 1st, 2025- June 30th, 2026. Kate O'Connor, Lynn Pulliam, Edith Arias and Jacy Cohen abstained from voting.

Election of Board Officers

Edith Arias asked the Board for a motion to elect the following Board Officers and ARCA Board Delegate for a one-year term, starting July 1st, 2025, until June 30th, 2026.

Jacy Cohen – Chair

Lynn Pulliam - Vice Chair

Michael Bernick – Treasurer

Shirley Poitier – Secretary

Marta Guzman – Board Delegate to ARCA

The above list of Board Officers and ARCA Delegate were all elected unanimously by written ballot during the meeting.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

Kate O'Connor shared that attendees at the SPAC meeting were thankful for the open discussion about protecting people supported (and their private information) and providing clear information on available support resources. She noted that staff, providers, and individuals are feeling anxious about the future, and having accessible, practical tools (like information cards) is crucial for advocacy and reassurance.

Kate also announced some changes in SPAC voting membership: her co-facilitator, Danielle, has stepped down, and two long-time voting members have termed out, leaving the group with eight current members. Recruitment for new members is underway.

Kate acknowledged the hard work by Sean Galvin, the Regional Center team, and providers in completing Rate Reform acknowledgment letters and updating the Service Provider Directory, recognizing it as a difficult but necessary process.

Lastly, she raised concerns about DDS reclassifying Level 3 residential homes to align with Level 4 homes, which requires increased staffing levels. This change, made without community input, is impacting residents' independence and daily life. While there may be some positives, providers and individual support are struggling with the adjustment.

Q and A followed.

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

Edith shared that she was invited to join an ad hoc committee formed by the Delegate Committee to review and improve Regional Center Board member onboarding and competency practices across California. The group developed a 21-page draft informational document, which will be sent to all Board members tomorrow, June 18.

Board members are encouraged to review the document, provide feedback, and complete the accompanying survey within a week. Input on improvements or additions is welcome.

AB 1172 (Nguyen) – Inhalable Emergency Seizure Medication Bill

Eric shared that a California Assembly Bill which supports the use of inhalable seizure medication in licensed facilities, is making progress. The bill includes staff training requirements and would make the medication optional for individuals. It has passed the Assembly with strong support and is now moving to the Senate, likely through the Human Services and Appropriations Committees. The bill is sponsored by ARCA, and advocacy efforts may include speaking with legislators and staff to support its passage. Board Member Brindicy Alcaraz is a strong proponent and advocate for this bill and spoke in support of how important it is.

AB49 (Muratsuchi) – School Site Visits

Eric shared that ARCA initially took a "watch" position on AB49 bill which gives schools more authority to resist federal or state agents questioning students. The bill does not specifically mention individuals with developmental disabilities, so, after much deliberation, ARCA and Golden Gate are not pursuing an official position on it at this time.

Golden Gate has posted a message on its website reaffirming its commitment to protecting the confidentiality of those we serve - and linking that statement resources on the agency website.

Q and A followed.

Executive Committee Updates (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen made an announcement that we will not have formal Board or Committee meeting until September, as is the usual practice with no Board meetings being held in July or August.

Executive Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

GGRC Revised Conflict of Interest Policy

Eric underscored the revision on the GGRC Conflict of Interest policy and added that the policy states that Regional Center Board members must avoid financial gain from their Board service and act solely in the best interest of the agency and the individuals served. This principle, already part of Golden Gate's long-standing policy, aligns with state law and reinforces that Board members represent the community.

A new legal requirement, effective January 2025 (from Assembly Bill 1147), mandated that all regional centers include two additional provisions in their conflict-of-interest policy:

1. No regional center employee may accept gifts over \$15 from service providers, individuals served, or their families.
2. Senior staff (management) may not hire relatives within the organization or any affiliated

foundation.

These updates are now part of the revised policy presented to the Board. The organization is also navigating cultural nuances around gift-giving (e.g., food during site visits) while staying compliant. Overall, the policy update reaffirms our strong commitment to transparency and ethical governance.

Edith Arias asked for a motion to approve the revised Conflict of Interest Policy. Jacy Cohen made a motion and David DeLira seconded. All Board members unanimously voted to approve the revised Conflict of Interest Policy.

M/S/C (Jacy Cohen motioned /David DeLira seconded)

Federal Issues

Eric shared that the Medicaid budget reconciliation bill is still under negotiation in the U.S. Senate, with Senators divided over the extent of the proposed cuts. Since federal funding accounts for a large portion of the system's budget, any major changes could lead to mid-year state budget adjustments, though this is uncommon.

CA Budget Update

Eric highlighted that in California, the Legislature has pushed back against several of the governor's proposed cuts, particularly those impacting undocumented communities and dental benefits. Notably, the Legislature delayed the planned elimination of dental benefits for undocumented individuals by another year and made changes to protect certain dental patients. The final state budget will be signed by the governor by June 30th, with ongoing discussions between the governor's office and the Legislature.

The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aria Alokzai