

# Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, March 14, 2023 3:45pm-5:30pm

### MINUTES

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

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86876537091?pwd=TIVJRIV5WHhvR0FDY2d3cjQ5VGIxQT09>

#### **SDLAC Members:**

Jennifer Walsh (Co-Chair/Self-Advocate) - present

Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) - present

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

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

Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) - present

Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present

Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate)

Gaby Choy, (Parent Advocate)

David Nguyen (Parent Advocate)

#### **SCDD Advisor:**

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

#### **GGRC Advisors:**

Eric Zigman (Executive Director)

Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present

Meghan Reynard (Participant Choice Specialist) - present

Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) – present

#### **Guests:**

Tanya Hernandez, GT Independence

Alyssa DiFilippo, parent of SDP participant

Angelica Phillips

Galacia Frisby, IF Manager, NeuroNav

Diana Blank, GGRC parent advocate

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh and All) – 5 minutes
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh)
  - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) – M/S, Sascha and Connie
  
- II. Participant/Family/Public Feedback on SDP (All) – 20 minutes
  - 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: With Alyssa's most recent positive experience with SDP, would she be willing to share her experience for us to capture it.

Alyssa: Grace will be 25 on March 28<sup>th</sup> and started PCP January 2021, by March 2022 had spending plan approved and began SDP. During that time, Grace has hired her own staff with support from family, arranges schedules with them through text, exercising her flexibility, which is huge. She's blossomed and flourished in a way that makes her family so happy. She has a weekly schedule that includes going to the gym, working at a surf shop, has a dog-walking service and recently has a PIP (paid internship) within SDP at a ranch where she also rides horses. Grace loves what she's doing and feels in control and responsible for her own life. Jennifer invited Grace to the meeting and Alyssa will check with her about attending another month.

Alyson: How much of Grace's weekly schedule and her own feelings related to being in control of the things in her life could be attributed to SDP?

Alyssa: At least 75%, because the only thing she had going on before was the job at the surf shop where she had parents serving as a "job coach". Employment support from SDP has been very helpful. The last staff they hired, Grace put an ad on Nextdoor and hired someone on her own.

Alyssa: I was with Matrix for twelve years, but instead Parents Helping Parents transition to adulthood family resource center is now the opportunity where I'm serving. E-learning library and lots of transition-related events. Facilitates SARC facilitates SDP cohorts. Happy to share information and spread the word about SDP and help with sharing through Matrix newsletter and other spaces.

### III. SCDD Update (Nicholau) – 10 minutes

Technical assistance remains fairly flat, mostly what FMSs are asking for. The more we can do as a community and committee, making sure our community knows what's going on with FMS requirements, more people will have access to faster access to the correct FMS supports and services.

Sheraden met with chairs of the three Bay Area SDLACs to hear updates and work on the Bay Area SDP website.

Orientations continue on the SCDD website. SDP manager is starting to see people repeating the orientations.

One of the conversations that the Leadership team has had one of the items in previous year's trailer bill language stated that a representative from the Family

Resource Center so this committee will be actively reaching out and recruiting for that new member.

IV. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – 10 minutes

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

Everyone has renewed, even with challenges, with multiple changes. SDP team is doing their best to be optimistic and let the social workers know it's a good program and a good thing. There's been progress and satisfaction from families. SDP team has done a "refresher" training for ongoing social work staff regarding budgets and how to put together a budget, about 1.5-2 hours. It is a step-by-step process and manual being developed to share with the supervisory groups. SDP team will continue to do this every month to review the whole process. Also have staff do practice sessions, selecting someone on their caseload and practice doing their budget and spending plan. Hiring Participant Choice Specialists, interviewed two people and hopefully one prospective candidate will accept the position. FMSs, Aveanna specifically, processes are different and things are changing, trying to figure out how each FMS is doing things. Taking a little longer to onboard, but can be attributed to overwhelming demand for SDP and FMSs, a few FMSs have indicated they'll cap budgets at a certain amount. Renewals are good, people are entering their second and third years in SDP. Want to have data but the team has been slammed with

Meghan: no data to present, but with the FMS issues, going into third month of meeting with FMSs on a monthly basis.

Tanya from GT Independence: GT doesn't have a budget cap, but ask for some specific details on spending plans for reference and records and matches agreements between providers and participants. We ask that vendors are onboarded ahead of time to ensure access to services once the transition to SDP happens. GT has a spending plan generator that's shared with families to help them develop the plan when the time comes. There's not a waitlist, per se, but the items needed to schedule meeting are a certified budget, recent copy of IPP and draft spending plan and GT has consultation meeting to go into more detail on spending plan then projected start date can be put in place. There are regional differences.

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

OCRA hasn't received any new SDP intakes and a relatively small area of inquiry to OCRA, also a trend statewide. The inquiries and outreach is major when they do happen, people are left outside of being onboarded for a long time. "Think Outside of the Box" manual is supposed to be coming out soon. It is available for purchase on the DVU website.

Sheraden: DVU hosted the conference and received a copy of the manual. Looks like it has advocacy bits as well as conference materials.

- VII. SDLAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Walsh/Nicholau) – 10 minutes
- 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 - (Walsh) – 15 minutes
  - a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan (Nguyen)  
Approve draft spending plan, M/S Sascha, Elizabeth
- X. Bay Area website update (Sinclair, Kantor, Zigman) – 5 minutes
- XI. Consultant updates – 10 minutes
- XII. Adjourn: Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 11 – 3:45 PM – 5:30 PM