

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2023 4:00pm-5:30pm

MEETING NOTICE

DRAFT AGENDA

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

[Zoom Link for May Meeting](#)

SDLAC Members:

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) – present
Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) – present
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)
Courtney Mangus (OCRA-Attorney/Clients’ Rights Advocate) – present
Connie Johnson (Parent Advocate) – present
Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate) - present
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
Juliet Sousa (SDP Supervising Social Worker) – extended leave
Meghan Reynard (Acting SDP Supervisor) – present
Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist) – present
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) - present

Guests:

Galacia Frisby, Service Navigator Manager, NeuroNav
James Ford, RC Liaison, DDS
Kim Schreiber, NeuroNav
Michael McQuaid, Parent of Patrick McQuaid
Moir Walsh, Parent of Patrick McQuaid
Tanya Hernandez, Field Services Representative, GT Independence

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh)
 - a. Roll call (Nguyen)
 - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) M/S Sascha, Connie
 - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) M/S

II. 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.

Meghan introduced Moira and Michael as Patrick's parents who are interested in SDP. They've been working with GGRC for a few months and have encountered a variety of challenges.

Moira: Started with SDP in October 2022 and have been working with Amanda Nixon from NeuroNav, did Patrick's PCP. Finding the FMS can have delays, so they reached out to GT Independence because there are three vendors in Patrick's spending plan and all have worked with GT. Had the first meeting with GT in December and told they had to have certified budget and spending plan and got that done in mid-March. Second meeting with GT was held then with a May 1 start date and moving out of the family home for the first time. Was asked by GT to push their start date back to June 1 and finish paperwork by May 1. GT sent 2 of 3 purchase agreements. On April 25, GT said they couldn't meet the June 1 start date and didn't know if they could commit to a start date. Meghan was notified and hasn't received info or feedback from GT. Both Moira and Michael are attorneys and good advocates. On May 4, all DocuSign documents were voided. Yesterday, Moira contacted all of the remaining FMSs and none are available to the McQuaids. Fully certified and have an approved spending plan but can't find an FMS.

Meghan: During this time, GTI was asking for document with residential provider for Home and Community-Based Services compliance. GGRC's HCBS Specialist, Brooke Haarland worked with the provider and sent GTI the certification. GT denied moving forward and providing services to the McQuaids. Patrick as a larger budget so there are some challenges.

Jennifer: Where is Patrick's Home?

Moira: Shupin Homes, part of a network of homes in San Francisco. Patrick currently lives at home. Hoping that he can move in, it's really difficult to get a placement and been a huge frustration, if they don't move him, they would lose Patrick's placement.

Jennifer: What is the complaint process for FMSs?

Meghan: Formal complaint has been filed?

Moira: 4731 complaint has been filed.

Meghan: Sounds like the regional center has been received.

Eric: 20 working days to get back, understand the urgency of the nature and is a statewide issue of concern. FMSs is not the only issue within SDP. Rates are an ongoing issue.

Sheraden: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/general/appeals-complaints-comments/>

People should keep the Ombudsperson office in the loop as well, they're track trending issues: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/office-of-the-self-determination-ombudsperson/>

Moira: Leslie Garcia from Ombudsperson's office is in the loop.

Tanya: Not in the position of authority to discuss the details of the case at this time. As far as challenges experienced by FMSs, is it beginning enrollment process? GTI has guidelines in place to begin enrollment process, things have changed as new directives have come out. Everything is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Sheraden: Can Tanya provide contact info for someone at GTI?

Tanya: They're in contact with leadership.

Moira: Tanya did reply to our contact immediately with leadership contact information, but we just haven't heard from them.

Christine Kantor: Can some sort of exception be made to manage or support the McQuaids until an authorized/approved FMS can help them?

Eric: FMS has to be a vendored service so there would have to be a change in law or make that something that's possible. Perhaps DDS SDP group or James from take it back to the Department for consideration and review.

Jennifer: Do FMS be vendored by GGRC or can they be vendored by the state?

Meghan: It's a state approved list and also vendored by GGRC.

Sheraden: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/financial-management-service-contact-list/>

Might there be another FMS from another RC that could do courtesy vendorization to support the McQuaids.

Moira: Bill payer model, which might make it easier but we shall see.

III. GGRC SDP Participant invitation (Walsh)

IV. SCDD Update (Nicholau)

Thanks to Moira and Michael and families for coming and sharing with the committee to provide feedback. It's valuable to the SCDD, OCRA, GGRC and in general.

Spoke on Self-Determination for AAC users from all over the state but mostly from main Bay Area centers.

Trending for technical assistance this month has been finding an FMS or individuals signing on with FMS and having them pull out. Payment delays, timeliness of payments to vendors are also issues. Individuals are starting year two and social worker has presented them with budgets that are significantly less than first year (30% cut for no discernable reason). Trying to reassure people budgets can change, IPPs are updated to meet that, but budgets aren't automatically reduced in the second year.

SCDD statewide orientations in English, Spanish, Farsi and Hmong this month, not in Korean this month. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

Regional Advisory Committee Meeting June 28th at 6:30 pm via Zoom – GGRC SDLAC committee members can connect with Sheraden if they'd like to provide input

Next Statewide SDP advisory committee June 14th at 10:30 am via Zoom on the SCDD website

Statewide Best Practices Platform for SDLACs to provide summary sharing of best practices from around the state. Sheraden recommends GGRC's SDLAC forms a small working group or agendaize this for discussion and would love to see GGRC's SDLAC contribute to the best practices. https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/04/2023.Apr-BPP_Announcement.Final_.pdf

Moira Walsh moira_walsh@sbcglobal.net (415) 350-5610

V. GGRC SDP Team Update (Reynard)

Juliet Sousa is still on leave as noted. Kori has started and glad to have her join us. Mid-May will bring another Participant Choice Specialist currently an ongoing social worker at SFO (Janeeka sp?)

Meghan with Anh on outreach project and data collecting and what demographics the committee would be interested in seeing.

Outreach project: All contact information has been provided to Anh who are fully transitioned in SDP. We have 14 email addresses out of 75 participants, but also phone and mailing addresses for others. We have physical mailing addresses for everyone.

Meghan working with GGRC IT department to generate a monthly report to show all SDP participants.

We had three renewals for April and three new enrollments.

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

VI. GGRC Updates (Zigman)

Question for Sheraden: Senator Laird has a bill to amend Bagley-Keene, looks like the bill is moving ahead. Sheraden will look into it but only knows of the Brown Act changes, unless the language has changed recently but will look into it. As of July 1, unless there's legislative efforts that go into effect immediately, the expectation is that any bodies that fall under Bagley-Keene must return to in-person meetings or hosting remote sites. Sheraden hopes to put together a simple cheat sheet to share with SDLACs.

Sascha: What about immunocompromised or people with health issues? It wouldn't work for everyone

Eric: SDLAC can meet at GGRC's offices.

Christine: As directives come out, we're all figuring out how to implement. With 099 service code, what is the cut off? Some RCs say it's tied to when you have your engagement/agreement contract. Is it when POS is entered? Was pushed out from February to July 1, sometimes the infrastructure isn't there with implementation with the directive.

Meghan: from what I understand, we haven't implemented yet because we haven't finalized it yet. Some other regional centers have had it available to bill, but teased out the PCP from the transitional bridging services. Starting July 1, will only fund \$1000 and up to 40 hours?

Christine: What is the process? Is it split between IF and FMSs and FMSs are impacted and scrambling, how are we supposed to progress with that?

Eric: Will work with CSU and email the team for clarification and will push that to the social workers.

Meghan: Clarification needed on what is required, what documentation is needed from when the service is being provided.

VII. Consultant updates

Kim Schrieber, NeuroNav: there is no coaching contract to extend beyond March 31, so they are unable to continue providing those services for 2023-24.

Eric: March 31 was the state deadline to extend the contract.

Kim: I will give a quick update and recap on the end-of-the-year activity and provide a snapshot of what next year could look like for ongoing services. They need an allocation and vote for the next year. We've extended as far as we could and utilized all of those funds. Unfortunately, there is a pause on coaching until a new contract is in place. We are currently still receiving in-bound requests, so there is urgency if we want to continue services uninterrupted.

Jennifer/Sascha: The thought was extend the contract through the end of December 2023 and have NN continue it.

Kim provided the committee with a proposal of what is currently provided and what could be provided in the future for consideration of renewal.

There's new outreach efforts for email templates for social workers to send on a monthly basis, social media and blog posts. Has resulted in double and triple inbound from GGRC and other regional centers. Coaching is provided to GGRC, SARC and TCRC. Top three areas on coaching spending plans, what service codes, enrollment, payment methodologies and FMS/wait list status and what different models are. 30 of NN's 200 clients are GGRC. People do use the weekly drop in

Eric: Yes, the committee would need to approve a new contract through December 2023, with 1-1 coaching and about \$22,500 without eliminating drop in weekly drop-ins. Lisa Rosene has seen value in NN and also from Meghan.

Alyson: positive experiences from a friend and also Moira Walsh's feedback about NN and beneficial and helpful.

Courtney: does NN have agreements with other regional centers that are different than just coaching? Are there other arrangements for additional services?

Kim: Every regional center identifies different needs and NN does offer training for IFs to learn and understand SDP. The value we see is 1-1 coaching, but here to respond to proposals for needs on the local community.

Christine: The focus is transition age and adults, not really to children. So do you provide a bridge later?

Kim: NN provides coaching services for all ages. For PCP mostly to teens and adults, mostly at age 22 and not having the preparation, this is more of the ongoing services. We also refer to SDP Connect for IFs and other services.

NN bills post-services and could be redeposited if they are not fully expended.

Jennifer: Wanted to put it out to other agencies and after December/into January to put an RFP out for services.

If we continue this now, we won't lose time or services, families are being served through them.

Christine: Is there an option for early termination?

Eric: you can have the contract go through December and extend or go the full year and end early.

Motion for approval of the proposal as presented by NeuroNav for full year (today's date to May 1, 2024) is \$36,100 for full coaching services. M/S Alyson, Christine 😊
Courtney abstains

VIII. Disability Rights California Update (Mangus)

Has been a challenge for a couple of their clients with FMS

OCRA has been doing trainings for RC fair hearing processes with changes from March 1.

No major new SDP cases, OCRA ACRA is still vacant, bilingual position

IX. SDLAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Walsh/Nicholau)

- X. Outreach to the community – Communication/Correspondence (All)
- XI. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2021-22 - (Walsh)
 - a. GGRC's SDLAC spending plan (Nguyen)
- 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, June 13 – TBD**