

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

Tuesday, May 20th, 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 April 15th, 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. Legislative Committee/ARCA Update (Edith Arias)
1. Legislative Breakfast San Mateo/San Francisco Recap
2. AB 49
- B. Services Committee (David DeLira)
1. Board Education: *Service Access and Equity Efforts at GGRC, Sean Galvin, GGRC Director Community Services*
- C. Board Operations Updates (Lynn Pulliam)
1. Need for a Board Delegate to ARCA
2. Presentation of Board Candidates
3. Presentation of Slate of Officers & ARCA Delegate
4. Mandatory Trainings for the Board Members
- D. Service Provider Advisory Committee Updates (Kate O'Connor)
- E. Executive Committee Summary (Jacy Cohen)
- 6:40 pm **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (Eric Zigman)
- A. Advocacy Efforts and Monitoring the Medicaid Issue

B. Governor's May Revision of CA's Budget

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 May 20th, 2025, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Edith Arias and Lynn Pulliam

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David DeLira
Marta Guzman
Kate O'Connor
Shirley Poitier
Tracy Bullock

Lynn Pulliam
Michael Bernick
Brindicy Alcaraz
JJ Khin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jacy Cohen

STAFF: Eric Zigman
Lisa Rosene
Brenda Gonzales
Lop Hou

Aria Alokozai
Ihsan Shagiwal
Sean Galvin
Frances Biderman

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

Oscar Arteta (Spanish Interpreter)
Jane Diaz
Mariana Abballo
Lilian Piruzan
Ansari
Joanne Lau

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 (Lynn Pulliam motioned /Kate O'Connor seconded)

ACTION B. Record of April 15th, 2025, Meeting

The minutes were approved by the Board.

M/S/C (Michael Bernick motioned/ Brindicyn Lynn seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

There were no public comments.

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 March 31, 2025]

Lop reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

Operations

After nine months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 11.5%. 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 nine months of operations, year to date POS expenditures are under budget by 11.8%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$44.7 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.

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

Sharaden shared the following updates:

A new federal proposal includes \$9 billion in reductions to Medicaid and \$197 billion from other programs, potentially causing over 10 million Americans to lose health coverage. Though framed as policy changes rather than cuts, measures like work requirements, reduced federal matching funds, and stricter eligibility checks would lead to the largest Medicaid cuts in history. Over 1,000 Californians have submitted personal stories in response, with strong advocacy efforts underway.

Locally, the [Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee will meet on June 25th](#) in hybrid format (Zoom and San Francisco City Hall). Community participation is encouraged.

SCDD is also working on:

- A health equity pilot project in emergency departments of local hospitals (potential partners: Sutter Health, Stanford, UCSF).
- A new working group addressing intergenerational trauma in families with autism.
- Statewide Self-Determination Program orientations (in English, Spanish, and Arabic): to

register for the [Statewide Self-Determination \(SDP\) Orientation Trainings Click HERE.](#)

Sheraden shared the following resources:

- State Council Policy Priorities for 2025-26: https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2025/04/FINAL_Council-Policy-Priorities_25-26_SCDD-Mar_2025.pdf

State Council 2025-26 Bill Positions currently: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2025/04/2025-04-23-Council-Legislation.pdf>

- Meetings: <https://scdd.ca.gov/scddcalendar/>
- [Click here to Tell Your Medicaid Story.](#)

Q and A followed.

Services Committee (David DeLira)

David Delira shared that the Services Committee discussed Community Services needs survey updates, social recreation activities reimbursement process, vendored and non vendored options for recreation and autism spectrum community.

Board Presentation: Service Access and Equity Work 2024-2025, Sean Galvin, GGRC's Director of Community Services

GGRC Service Data & Equity Efforts Overview

- Service Access: As of FY 2023–24, GGRC is serving 11,576 individuals—an increase of 365 from the previous year. The largest ethnic group is White (27.7%), closely followed by Hispanic (26.7%), Asian (24.5%), Black/African American (7%), and Multiracial/Other (13%). A small group remains unidentified for confidentiality.
- Languages: English is the primary language (8,004 individuals), followed by Spanish (2,117), Chinese (759), Vietnamese (67), and other languages grouped together (579).
- Why Equity Work Matters: Both statewide and GGRC data show that White communities receive more services and funding than communities of color. Many individuals in communities of color or immigrant families live at home (which incurs less purchase of service dollars than out of home placement) and may have unmet needs not reflected in spending.

Actions Taken to Improve Equity and Access

- Language Access: Our website now features a translation tool; Key materials, IPPs, and social media posts are translated (Spanish, Chinese); interpretation services provided in ASL and Spanish for public meetings and CART transcription used during key events.
- Our education/orientation program has a unique focus on educating and orienting individuals from underserved communities on what GGRC has to offer. There are now four caseloads of 40 individuals for primarily Spanish and Cantonese speakers. Our Social Worker team grew from 2 to 4, with advocacy underway to add a Black/African American caseload.

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- Hiring and Training: continued hiring of bilingual staff; staff completed implicit bias training.

Upcoming Initiatives for FY 2024–25 and Beyond

- LGBTQIA+ Support: New “Rainbow Club” meets twice monthly for LGBTQIA+ individuals served.
- Community Engagement:
 - Staff attend community events, including sensory sensitive and international food events.
 - Planning underway for second Deaf Plus Conference (Sept. 13, 2025, Fremont Event Center).
- Future Events:
 - Early Start Family & Vendor Resource Fair featuring children’s book authors and early literacy promotion.
 - “Coffee with GGRC Leaders” meet-and-greet sessions across all three counties.
 - Spanish-language conference focused on services by age group.

Website and Advisory Board Updates

- New website is in development. A draft site map has been reviewed and approved. Content creation is underway with department collaboration.
- Recruiting for a multilingual Community Advisory Board (CAB) and a Community Partner Advisory Board (CPAB).
- Ongoing work to finalize and launch the new web platform.

Joanne Lau, Program Manager at Diversity and Health Training Institute, shared that Diversity in Health Training Institute (DHTI), founded in 2011, partners with Golden Gate Regional Center and Regional Center of the East Bay to support outreach and education for monolingual and bilingual Asian communities. Funded by a DDS Service Access and Equity Grant, their efforts include:

- Multilingual Intro Video: A short video about GGRC services, featuring a Cantonese-speaking social worker and family member, to be translated into Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.
- Parent Workshops: Held in families’ native languages; the first Cantonese sessions had full attendance (17/17). Future workshops will be offered in Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Tagalog.
- Workforce Development: DHTI trained over 20 bilingual Asian-language community members to become Direct Support Professionals, with job placements already underway. They aim to expand this program with future funding.

Q and A followed. Vice Chair Arias turned over chairing the board meeting to Board Secretary Lynn Pulliam at this point in the meeting.

Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)

Board Delegate to ARCA

Lynn Pulliam shared that we're pleased to announce that Marta Guzman has agreed to serve as our representative and will attend the ARCA meetings via Zoom. We sincerely appreciate Marta

for stepping into this important role.

Presentation of Board Candidates

Lynn shared that she and the Operations Committee met and interviewed Board Candidates, Mariana Abballo, Jane Diaz and Gita Gupta who will be voted on in the next meeting

Presentation of Slate of Officers

Lynn shared that the Operations Committee received the following nomination for the Board Officers and are recommending them for election. The election will be held next month in the June Board meeting:

Jacy Cohen - Chair

Lynn Pulliam - Vice Chair

Shirley Poitier - Secretary

Michael Bernick - Treasurer

Mandatory Trainings:

Lynn shared that DDS-required Board trainings often take up significant time at our regular Board meetings and retreats, therefore, the Executive Committee has asked GGRC staff to offer live webinars and recorded sessions for the mandatory trainings which will allow all Board members to complete training at their own pace.

Q and A followed.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

Kate shared that the Service Provider Advisory Committee continues to meet twice a month with steady attendance of around 40–50 people. Their focus is ongoing advocacy around the state and federal budgets, especially following the Governor’s revised budget. Key upcoming events include a “Keep the Promise” rally on May 22 at the State Capitol and a recent 24-hour vigil organized by The Arc of the U.S. They are also monitoring rate reform and authorization processes, with budget advocacy as the top priority.

Q and A followed.

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

Legislative Breakfast in San Mateo/ San Francisco

Edith shared that we held our Legislative Breakfasts in South San Francisco at the end of April, Sheraden Nicolau spoke on the topic of the federal budget process and the potential for cuts to Medicaid. Sheraden’s call to action was inspiring and emphasized the critical importance of advocacy for Medicaid. The events included representatives from local and federal offices, city councils, and self-advocates. Edith highlighted that key staff from Kevin Mullin’s office were present and actively engaged.

Edith expressed gratitude and appreciation for Sheraden’s remarkable efforts and advocacy. Tracy Bullock attended the Breakfast and added that it was great to see strong representation from Golden Gate Regional Center staff and Board members.

Master Plan

Eric thanked GGRC advocate and National Council on Disability member, Sascha Bittner, for speaking powerfully about her experience in the Master Plan on Developmental Services Committee process, emphasizing the importance of hearing voices of individuals served by the system directly. Sascha also spoke eloquently about the vital role of Medicaid in the lives of many people, including her own life.

AB 49

Eric shared information about AB 49, the California Safe Haven Schools and Child Care Act, that seeks to protect children and immigrant families by restricting immigration enforcement on school and childcare premises. The bill prohibits school or childcare staff from allowing immigration officials to enter without valid identification, a warrant, and approval from the appropriate authority.

The Board acknowledged that although this bill does not directly impact individuals with developmental disabilities, nonetheless, it remains significant as it touches on important issues of intersectionality and can affect those who are not currently receiving services through the system. As the ARCA Board Delegate, Edith said that she would take GGRC’s board comments back to the ARCA Board when they discussed the bill again in their June Board meeting.

Q and A followed.

Executive Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

Restart of People’s Caucus Committee:

The Executive Committee is working on the restart of the People’s Caucus Committee, which aims to provide more individualized support to each Board member who is served by GGRC. Eric relayed that Jacy is looking at a possible consultant contract to help with this support. GGRC Board members have emphasized the importance of being strong ambassadors for the agency, so Jacy and Eric are investing ways to enhance those efforts.

Advocacy Efforts and Monitor the Medical Issue:

Eric provided an update on Medicaid advocacy aimed at federal legislators and the California state budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26. While some Medicaid cuts are possible, strong advocacy continues as the federal budget is finalized over this summer. The California Governor’s May Revision of the budget is provisional due to delayed tax revenue and unknown federal funding changes. Developmental services avoided major cuts, and thankfully efforts and investments in critical service provider rate reform were maintained. Eric related that the May Revision did, however, contain some proposed cuts. They include proposed suspending the Direct Support Professional University program; ARCA has advocated for this program to be only suspended until state funds are available, as the training of direct support professionals is an important effort. In addition, there are savings proposed by making the ongoing Self-Determination Program more sustainable.

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Overall, Eric spoke to the fact that the biggest impact to those we serve may come not from the proposed saving in our system but from the May Revise’s proposed cuts to Medicaid and In-Home Supportive Services – reductions revolving around proposed eligibility and funding changes. The final budget will be decided by the California Legislature and Governor in June.

To wrap up the meeting Lynn underscored the importance of attending next month’s June Board meeting in person as the Board will have several elections to vote upon (the election of new board members, the re-election of current members and the election of Board Officers) that are essential to the success of GGRC..

The Board Meeting adjourned tat 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Aria Alokzai
