

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

**Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 PM**

**Via Zoom Video Conference  
and  
In-Person at GGRC, 1355 Market Street, # 220, San Francisco, CA 94103\***

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- 5:30pm     **I. CALL TO ORDER /INTERPRETATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTRODUCTIONS (Jacy Cohen)**
- 5:35pm     **II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Jacy Cohen)**
- ACTION**         A. Agenda  
**ACTION**         B. Record of June 17<sup>th</sup>, 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)**  
  
                  B. Legislative Committee (Shirley Poitier)  
                  1. AB 1172 Adult Day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications  
                  2. Brief Medicaid/Federal Funds Update  
                  3. Local Advocacy (when Members are “in the district”)
- C. ARCA Update (Marta Guzman)
- D. Services Committee (David DeLira)  
                  1. Board Education: *Developing an Accessible New GGRC Website (Presenters: Amanda Pyle & World Institute on Disability)*
- E. Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)  
                  1. Introduce New Board Members  
                  2. Mandatory Trainings

**ACTION**

F. Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

1. Consideration of Two New SPAC Members

G. Executive Committee (Jacy Cohen)

1. Board Retreat

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

**ACTION**

A. Presentation and Approval of FY 25-26 Proposed GGRC Performance Contract

B. Major Developmental Services System Updates

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](mailto:aalokozai@ggrc.org)



# Golden Gate Regional Center

*Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity*

RECORD of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5:30 PM

PRESIDING: Jacy Cohen

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

Lynn Pulliam  
Michael Bernick  
Brindicy Alcaraz  
JJ Khin  
Jane Diaz

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Gita Gupta

STAFF: Eric Zigman  
Lisa Rosene  
Brenda Gonzales  
Lop Hou

Aria Alokozai  
Ihsan Shagiwal  
Sean Galvin  
Amanda Pyle

GUESTS: Sheraden Nicholau  
Calene (ASL Interpreter)  
Kenton (ASL Interpreter)  
Jennifer Carper  
Jenica Hadley  
Chris Aguire

Oscar Arteta  
Rance Bauman  
Sheraden Nicholau  
Gilda Giron (DVU)  
Dawn Skaggs  
Allysa Rapadas  
Tamara Ranney

## CALL TO ORDER (Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen 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 (Jacy Cohen)

### **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 June 17, 2025, Meeting**

*The minutes were approved.*

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT**

Jacy Cohen announced that JJ Khin has resigned from the Board. Jacy then presented JJ with an honorary award in recognition of her service on GGRC's Board.

JJ shared that she has accepted a position with an organization that serves as a vendor with GGRC, which required her to step down from the Board, but she will continue her advocacy work.

Eric Zigman expressed his gratitude for JJ's contributions to the Board and for her efforts in advocacy with our local legislators, at ARCA's Grassroots Day in Sacramento and at GGRC Legislative Breakfast Events.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)**

Marta Guzman asked CFO Lop Hou to go over the financial report.

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

Lop reported GGRC's monthly financial statements as follows:

#### Operations

Fiscal year 2024-2025 year to date expenditures are under budget by 4.5%. 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

Fiscal year to date POS expenditures are under budget 6.5%. The estimated surplus is projected to be approximately \$19.2 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 fully expensed.

### **State Council on Developmental Disabilities Update on SCDD Activities (Sheraden Nicholau)**

Sheraden highlighted that at the beginning of September, SCDD launched two English and two Spanish emergency preparedness training sessions. These training courses focus on general emergency preparation, as well as sensory considerations and emergency shelter environments.

#### Upcoming Meetings

- [SCDD next State Council Regional Advisory Committee meeting](#) will take place on Tuesday, September 24th, at 5:30 PM. The meeting will be hybrid: you can [join on Zoom](#) or in person at Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Oakland City Hall, 3rd floor Council Chamber, Oakland, CA 94612 (Entrance on 14th Street). Strong attendance is expected—many legislative offices have already RSVP'd to attend both in person and

virtually. Meeting ID: 848 9592 9628 Passcode: 347573 Or by Telephone, U.S. Toll-free: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499

Collaboration is key! We invite members of the community to share input, issues and concerns. All are welcome. Featured: State Council’s 5-yr. State Plan Survey; Intergenerational Trauma in Autistic Families workgroup update; RAC member & Councilmember updates; community partner updates, and more.

- The next State Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 30th, starting at 10:30 AM, also in a hybrid format.

Sheraden shared the following Resources and Updates:

- State Council’s policy priorities, with updates [Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Program updates](#).
- The [Self-Determination Program \(SDP\) statewide orientation calendar](#), which includes upcoming sessions in multiple languages.
- The Council’s [Framework for Inclusive Budget-Related Advocacy](#) guiding principles are intended to support the CA State administration and legislature in approaching Medicaid-related budget adjustments with a focus on equity, transparency, and the preservation of essential services. These create a framework for ethical decision making that emphasizes the need to center the voices of people with IDD and their families, upholds CA’s longstanding commitment to community inclusion, and asserts the rights and wellbeing of individuals who rely on services to fully participate in their communities.
- Last week, the [Statewide Self-Advocacy Network \(resources, packet, and presentation\)](#) held a two-day meeting.
- Information on [State Council Policy Priorities](#).
- [Upcoming State Council meeting](#): September 30, 2025, starting at 1030a. Packet will be posted next week
- [State Council Virtual Statewide Training Calendar](#): Includes weekly Special Ed Advocacy Clinic (Mondays in Sept, in English and Spanish); Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Ed Training Series for Young Adults (Oct 28)
- [State Council Statewide / Committee Meeting Calendar](#)
- [SCDD Emergency Preparedness Training Sessions](#)  
Topic: Let's Get Prepared: Emergency Preparedness Training  
Wednesday, September 17, 2:00p  
821 1376 1151 775187
- [Topic: Sensory Implications in Shelter Environments](#)  
Friday, September 19, 4:00p  
814 6200 1558 074405
- [Tema: Implicaciones sensoriales en entornos de refugio](#)  
Viernes, 19 de septiembre 10:00a  
SOLO EN ESPANOL  
871 8185 1300 058765
- [Tema: Preparandose para Emergencias](#)  
Miércoles, 24 de septiembre 11:00a  
SOLO EN ESPANOL  
881 6246 9882 2025

Your Input Needed – 5-Year State Plan

Right now, the State Council is gathering input for California’s next Five-Year State Plan (2027–

2031) [Access Info and portal here](#). Every five years, SCDD collects feedback from people with I/DD, their families, professionals, and community members to shape priorities for the state.

Here's how you can participate:

- [Complete the survey](#) yourself (available in multiple languages).
- Share the survey link with your networks. Attendees were highly encouraged to share these opportunities widely to receive as many voices as possible contributing to the plan that will guide California's priorities for the next five years.
- Attend a town hall to learn more and provide input.

#### Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

- [Statewide Virtual session](#): Tomorrow, September 17th, at 11:00 AM.
- In-person town hall in Oakland: Oct 9, 1:30p – 3p, Elihu Harris State Building Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland. More info or for access needs: [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov). This is a chance to speak directly with me, Director Aaron Carruthers, and others, and to complete the survey in person.

### **Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Eric Zigman for Shirley Poitier)**

#### AB 1172 Adult Day Program: Administration of Inhalable Emergency Antiseizure Medications

Eric shared that this Bill is an ARCA-sponsored bill, which as of September 11th has been “enrolled,” which means both houses of the CA Legislature have passed the bill and it's now on the Governor's desk for his consideration.

The Board discussed ways to better advertise this development (if this bill becomes a law) and how to ensure outreach to physicians who prescribe anti-seizure medications.

Amanda underscored that it will be important in the future, when a person who has seizures is declined from a day program, that they check with their neurologist to help secure access to the necessary medication.

Jane stressed the need for parents to request prescriptions from doctors, ensure medications are available in all settings (school, programs, etc.), and have trained staff ready to administer them. She emphasized the need for proactive advocacy since doctors may not always raise the issue.

#### Local Advocacy

Eric shared a list of local state and federal legislators who represent the GGRC catchment area. He encouraged members to reach out—whether to thank legislators for passing the AB 1172, to highlight the importance of regional center services, or to emphasize the need to protect Medicaid. The list is now available, and additional talking points will be developed moving forward. Members were also encouraged to contact legislators or their designated representatives with any advocacy they felt is important. Any outreach that took place will be discussed at next month's Board meeting.

Eric emphasized that everyone is also invited to attend the GGRC Legislative Committee meetings, which are on the calendar and typically held on the first Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM. These meetings are an opportunity to share updates on any interactions with legislators and to collaborate on advocacy efforts.

### **ARCA Update (Marta Guzman)**

Marta shared the following updates:

- The “Board Onboarding and Competencies Report” was ratified by the ARCA Board in August will guide future ARCA trainings and assist Boards throughout the state with local board member development.
- Upcoming ARCA Academy - Board Delegates arrive Thursday 11/13/25
- ARCA priorities 2025/26 are (1) Services and support for people with disabilities and their families, (2) support a viable provider network, and (3) regional centers to better support their communities.
- Director Cervinka shared The Department is working to improve and streamline the complaint process.
- Lety Garcia from NLARC shared that Executive Director, Angela Pao-Johnson, has started a [podcast](#). The most recent guest was Senator Menjivar.

Eric underscored the importance of ARCA Academy, which is extremely informative and resourceful as well as providing opportunities for Board members to meet the big community of Board members from other regional centers.

### **Services Committee (David DeLira)**

David DeLira shared that the “Caring Futures” initiative is going well and expressed appreciation to Jacy Cohen, Amanda Pyle, and Alex Madrid for their hard work. In addition, Jacy gave a shout-out to the Arc of California, noting that their collaboration on creating the Cantonese language version of Caring Futures was essential in moving the work forward. She also recognized Amanda for taking the lead as the primary point person and for her strong coordination with the Arc of California.

Lisa Rosene shared updates on the Purchase of Service (POS) guidelines and added that it will be reviewed by the Board Services Committee in October, with approved changes moving to the Board for final approval that same month. Any items requiring additional work will be revisited in November. Once approved by the Board, the guidelines will be submitted to DDS for final approval and then updated on the GGRC’s website.

Lisa explained that Purchase of Service (POS) guidelines define the services and supports funded by regional centers, such as housing, independent and supported living, recreational programs, and therapies. These guidelines are developed through the IPP/ISP process, approved by each regional center’s Board, and then reviewed by DDS for legal compliance. Once approved, they become public records and are posted on the website. The full guidelines will be available for review at the next meeting.

Board Education: Developing an Accessible New GGRC Website (Presenters: Amanda Pyle & World Institute on Disability)

Dawn Skaggs, Chief Program Officer at WID, provided an overview of the organization's history, mission, and current work. Founded in 1983 in Berkeley, WID is one of the first global disability rights organizations, led primarily by people with disabilities. Their mission is to advance the rights and opportunities of over one billion people with disabilities worldwide, with a vision of full inclusion, access, and equity. WID's work focuses on three main areas: emergency preparedness and climate resilience, accessibility and universal design solutions, and employment and benefits access. They support disability-led organizations during disasters, advocate for inclusive healthcare, conduct accessibility research and user testing, and provide training, consulting, and policy development. WID also produces resources such as toolkits and templates to help sustain disability-inclusive practices.

Alyssa Rapadas from WID then shared updates on current projects most relevant to GGRC, including new website collaboration work. The partnership with GGRC involves a two-phase approach: first, integrating user experiences into the website design through advisory groups of service recipients, parents/caregivers, and community partners; and second, conducting user testing with people with disabilities to identify accessibility and usability improvements for future iterations.

Currently in phase one, advisory groups will meet over the next nine months to provide feedback that informs us about the design process, ensuring lived experiences are reflected in the new website. This proactive approach contrasts with many projects where accessibility is only addressed after launch. Feedback from participants has already been positive, highlighting the value of inclusion from the start.

Amanda shared that the new GGRC website remains on track for rollout in February 2026, after which Board feedback and additional end-user testing will be conducted to ensure accessibility and functionality.

### **Board Operations (Lynn Pulliam)**

#### **Introduction of New Board Members**

Lynn introduced and welcomed three new Board members: Mariana Abballo, a person served by GGRC from Marin and strong advocate; Jane Diaz, a former Nurse from San Francisco; and Gita Gupta, from San Mateo, with nonprofit and medical experience. Their diverse backgrounds strengthen Board representation across counties and person-served perspectives. The Board is currently well-balanced but continues to keep a queue of interested candidates.

Mandatory training for new members will now be provided through webinars or recorded sessions instead of during Board meetings. While the format is more flexible, completion of these training courses remains a required responsibility for all members.

Q and A followed.

### **Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)**

#### **Consideration of Two New SPAC Members**

Kate shared that, according to GGRC Board Bylaws, the Service Provider Advisory Committee (SPAC) aims to have 7–13 voting members appointed by the Board, with three-year renewable terms. SPAC Membership has dropped to four members due to recent departures, but with two new recommended candidates—Brie Hornig, an active provider serving over 500 individuals across multiple programs, and Virginia Wan Nogueira from the Arc San Francisco, which supports over 650 people—the committee would rise to six members. Both candidates come with strong recommendations and represent San Mateo and San Francisco. Once approved, efforts will continue to recruit a Marin representative to balance representation across the three counties served by GGRC.

Jacy asked for a motion to elect Brie Hornig as a new SPAC voting member. Lynn Pulliam made a motion and Mariana seconded. All Board members unanimously voted to elect Brie Hornig as the new SPAC voting member. There were no further discussions.

*(M/S/C Lynn Pulliam motioned /Mariana Abballo seconded)*

Jacy asked for motion to elect Virginia Wan Nogueira as a new SPAC voting member. Lynn Pulliam made a motion and Sharon Jones seconded. All Board members unanimously voted to elect Virginia Wan Nogueira as the new SPAC voting member. There were no further discussions.

*(M/S/C Lynn Pulliam motioned / Sharon Jones seconded)*

#### **Executive Committee Updates (Jacy Cohen)**

Jacy Cohen made an announcement that we will have a Board Retreat on Saturday 9/30 in GGRC San Francisco office, and all Board members invited to attend. Tony Anderson, the Associate Director from ARCA, will be a guest speaker.

#### **Executive Director's Report (Eric Zigman)**

##### **Presentation and Approval of FY 25-26 Proposed GGRC Performance Contract**

Eric provided an overview of the FY 25-26 Proposed GGRC Performance Contract, reviewing all the sections and results with the Board. Board members had the board review copy of the contract in their board packets sent previously. Eric also discussed key system-wide initiatives that impact Golden Gate Regional Center, including standardization of intake, self-determination, sustainability, and compliance with state regulations. The performance contract, required by the Department of Developmental Services, tracks measures such as independent and supported living, children in large residential facilities, intake timelines, compliance, and employment outcomes.

GGRC performs strongly in supporting adults in home and supported living settings, reflecting a long-standing focus on independence, and maintains robust employment outcomes, though recovery from the pandemic. In terms of Intake and Eligibility processes, increased demand has created challenges in staffing and intake timeline and capacity. New initiatives, such as coordinated career pathways for transition-age youth, aim to build a pipeline for future employment and early skills development. Staffing for direct support professionals remains a challenge in high-cost areas, requiring competitive wages and strong support for job coaching. Additionally, GGRC monitors service expenditures by ethnicity, language, and residential settings to ensure equitable service delivery, with deeper analysis provided annually at the

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Purchase of Service demographics meetings. Overall, these efforts reflect a focus on continuous improvement, person-centered planning, and long-term sustainability across all areas of service.

Jacy asked for a motion to approve FY 25-26 Proposed GGRC Performance Contract  
Kate O'Connor made a motion and Lynn Pulliam seconded. All Board members unanimously voted to approve the Proposed GGRC Performance Contract. There were no further discussions.

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

The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aria Alokozai

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