



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of June 15th, 2021 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Nini Aye Jay Katz
Edith Arias Alex Madrid
Michael Bernick Tiger Yorke
David De Lira Tracy Bullock
Isaac Haney-Owens
Hank London

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Dillon York
Abby Yim
Ling Kau

STAFF: Lop Hou Lisa Rosene
Ingrid Lin Jennifer Maxwell
Eric Zigman Ingrid Lin
Juliet Sousa Amanda Pyle
Aria Alokozai

GUESTS: Jim Dycus Sheraden Nicholau
Erika Gonzales Jacy Cohen
Lynn Pulliam Chi Vo
Lilian Ansari Jennifer Walsh

CALL TO ORDER (Audrey deChadenedes)

Ms. deChadenedes called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (Audrey deChadenedes)

ACTION A. Agenda

The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

M/S/C (Jay Katz motioned/Nini Aye seconded)

ACTION B. Record of May 18th, 2021 Meeting

www.ggrc.org

*The Record of Meeting of May 18th, 2021 was approved.
M/S/C (David DeLira motioned/ Tiger Yorke seconded)*

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Isaac Haney-Owens reported that he has completed his final term as a Board Member. Isaac expressed his gratification in serving people with disabilities and advocating for underrepresented individuals.

The board appreciated Mr. Haney-Owens's valued service to the board.

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (SCDD), BAY AREA OFFICE UPDATE

Sheraden Nicholau delivered a presentation on "The Top 5: Advocacy for Self-Determination in California":

- Self-Determination program's (SDP) expansion in California is new, however, the concept and the program is not new. California's SDP is part of an international movement that changes the systems; it is an alternative approach to 'traditional' services for individuals served by regional centers to receive the services and support they need to live the lives they choose and according to what matters to them.
- More individuals in California with ID and DD will now have a chance to participate in the self-determination program.
- Person-centered thinking and planning is the foundation for both 'traditional' regional center-funded services, and for the self-determination program.
- GGRC's Self-determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) holds Public meetings every month and provides oversight of the Self-Determination Program. SDLAC also reviews the development and progress of SDP and recommends improvements to the regional center and to the DDS.
- The State Council on developmental disability has specific roles to play helping self-determination expand in California.
 - o The Statewide SDLAC meets to identify best practices, SDP roll-out concerns, effective training materials, approaches to enhance the program and recommendations for outreach and education.
 - o In collaboration with federal partners, the Council works to identify participants' barriers, understand people's experiences in SDP and shares recommendations with individuals served, their families, RCs and DDS.

Presentation was well received, and Q&A followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statements

Operations:

Lop Hou reported that, after ten months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 7.5%. All operations funds have yet to be fully allocated to regional centers which are expected to be

allocated within the next month. All operations funds are expected to be fully expensed for the fiscal year over the normal course of operations.

Purchase of Service (POS) Excluding CPP:

After ten months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 2.5%. Current estimate is an approximate projected surplus of \$8.1 Million for the fiscal year.

Community Resource Development Plan CRDP Funding:

CRDP Start-Up funding of \$150,000 is additional funding for an Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes (EBSH) acquired in 2019-2020. Start-Up funding of \$1.4 Million was approved, but yet allocated for the acquisition of two additional EBSHs.

Approve Contracts over \$250,000 – Two Enhanced Behavior Support Homes

The finance committee recommended the board to approve contracts for two Enhanced Behavior Support Homes, \$700,000 each, for Acquisition and Renovation. As these contracts exceed \$250,000, Audrey asked for a motion to approve the contracts.

M/S/C (Alex Madrid motioned/Michael Bernick seconded)

The board unanimously agreed to approve the two contracts for Enhanced Behavior Support Homes.

People's Caucus (Isaac Haney-Owens/Jay Katz)

Today's People's Committee Meeting was highlighted by a presentation by Juliet Sousa of GGRC regarding Self Determination with many questions and much discussion. Jennifer Walsh and Sheraden Nicholau's presentation at the Board Meeting was a great addition towards our understanding of Self Determination.

Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)

Board Presentation – Issues Spotlight:

The Implementation of the Self Determination Program (SDP) at GGRC (Juliet Sousa, GGRC's Self Determination Supervisor, Lisa Rosene, GGRC's Director of Regional Center Services and Jennifer Walsh, GGRC's Co-Chair of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC)).

Jennifer reported that SDP started its phase-in period three years ago. Currently, SDP is open to all GGRC individuals who are 3 years or older. Individuals who live in licensed health facility are also eligible if they plan to move back to the community within 90 days.

Jennifer reported SDLAC's Activities as following:

- Participation in DDS' "Train the Trainer" SDP orientation training
- SDP welcoming Orientation for all phase-in selectees in three counties through GGRC video conferencing
- Working on creating flyers for the Self-Determination Program
- Working with NeuroNav agency to provide Independent Facilitator training for the participants
- Monthly emails distribution to the SDP participants

The Implementation of the Self-Determination

Juliet Sousa delivered a presentation on GGRC Self-Determination Program and highlighted the following implementation stages:

- Orientation: first step for people to participate in SDP is to receive the orientations delivered by Juliet Sousa and Lisa Rosene.
- Person-Centered Plan (PCP): in this stage the PCP provider is identified, the social worker process PCP purchase of service, the Fiscal Management Service is identified, and PCP provider meets and completes write-up. This stage also provides a good picture of how the person wants to be supported and how to reach their goals and spend their individual budgets.
- Budget Development: the planning team, individual/family and RCS director, review individual budget and approve it.
- Spending Plan: Individual/family meets with Fiscal Management Service to create spending plan spreadsheet and approve it.
- SDP IPP: planning team re-convenes to confirm plan and complete any IPP details including Spending plan and PCP.
- SDP Budget implementation begins.

Presentation was very well received by board members, and Q&A followed.

Board Operations Committee (David DeLira)

Audrey DeChandenodes informed the board that Isaac Haney-Owens, Jay Katz and David DeLira have completed the maximum number of years of board service allowed by the Lanterman Act (7 years). She spoke about how valuable they have been as GGRC board members. The board appreciated the departing members' commitments and remarkable service to the board.

Audrey also informed the board that Yuk Ling Kau has decided not to renew her term as a board member at this time. Ms. Kau was thanked for her service to the GGRC board.

Election of prospective board member candidate (L. Pulliam)

On the recommendation of the Board's Operation Committee, a motion was requested to elect Lynn Pulliam;

M/S/C Alex Madrid motioned/Hank London seconded. The board voted unanimously to elect Ms. Pulliam. Ms. Pulliam was welcomed aboard as a new GGRC Board Member.

Re-election of current board members to new terms:

On the recommendation of the Board's Operation Committee, a motion was requested to re-elect Michael Bernick for the three years term.

M/S/C Alex Madrid motion/Tiger Yorke seconded. The board voted unanimously to re-elect Mr. Bernick for a three year term.

Election of Board Officers:

David DeLira prompted the board to fill out the Officers Election Ballot during the meeting or soon after the meeting to elect Board Officers.

The Slate of Officers form indicates Board Operations Committee recommendations for Officers and ARCA Representative for FY 2021-2022.

Board Operations' Recommended Slate of Officers:

Chairperson	Audrey DeChandenenes
Vice-Chairperson	Edith Arias
Secretary	Alex Madrid
Treasurer	Michael Bernick
ARCA Delegate	Audrey DeChandenenes

The election results will be tallied by the Board Secretary and emailed to the board members later in June.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Jacy Cohen for Abby Yim)

SPAC & COVID Update:

Jacy Cohen reported that SPAC group had been meeting every week on Tuesdays for the past year and four months since the pandemic started. The SPAC meeting structure has changed and the meetings that include GGRC directors and other GGRC staff will now be held every other week. In the off weeks where GGRC is not present, the time will be used for collaborative work to discuss any trainings or work that SPAC will be completing. GGRC staff was praised for attending the meetings, sharing information, continued collaboration with SPAC around COVID related issues, reopening strategies and its implications, legislative advocacy and complex issues that affect providers as well as long term planning.

Jacy also reported that AB128 has been voted on; the legislature proposed a very positive budget which includes \$1.4 Billion investment in provider rate over the next three years.

Q&A followed.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Audrey deChadenenes)

Legislative Update

Audrey DeChandenenes reported that the state legislature and Governor Newsom's office are in the process of negotiating final budget decisions. The Governor's May Revise did not include all the expectation; however, both houses of the legislature proposed a budget that truly recognized the needs of our community. The legislature's proposal included the following recommendations:

- Approves funding, starting in FY2021-22, to incrementally implement the 2019 Rate Study
- Approves funding needed to enhance RC service coordinator caseloads
- Approves funding to restore social recreational, and camping services
- Establishes an ombudsman's office for the Self-Determination program

Advocacy groups continue focusing on Governor Newsom; and GGRC is hopeful to see the aforesaid recommendation approved.

Audrey informed the board that the Governor announced his plan for spending one-time Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan to strengthen Home and Community-Based Services. Some of the key proposals are as following:

- Investment in DSP workforce, including trainings and bonuses

- Investment in funding half of the needed Service Coordinators to reduce the caseload ratios (400 new positions statewide) in the coming fiscal year (21-22)
- Modernizing RC Information Technology, both to replace obsolete fiscal system and to create more robust and accessible software for “Consumer Records” in order for meaningful data to be gathered about the outcomes for persons served.
- Growing the Community Navigator program
- Implicit bias training for RC and service provider staff
- Affordable housing for individuals with I/DD in the form of set-asides and subsidies
- Establishment of a broader, general Ombudsman program for all services, not just Self Determination.

According to the ARC of California, over 10,000 people phoned or wrote to the Governor in support of funding for our system. Audrey prompted the board to connect with Governor’s office and voice their opinion in support of funding for RC.

Budget Update

Eric Zigman reported, that a letter was sent in response to May Revision of the budget by California’s Legislative Analyst that recommends considering provider rates in the budget. Eric mentioned that the budget for provider rate is short by \$1.4 Billion and if the legislature’s budget proposal is accepted, it will close the gap over three years.

Eric reminded the board that reducing caseload ratio is highly important in order for Regional Center to be effective in working with individuals, particularly in underserved communities or communities that use different languages/ have different cultural experiences that make it difficult to access services.

Eric reported that the one-time dollars of the American Rescue Plan could be used for Regional Centers’ data system (designed decades ago) to be replaced with a data system where the individual records could be more consistent and accessible throughout the state, provide better data on services used and the outcomes of those services for individuals and families. The database design will include an “outward facing” feature that will be accessible to families and individuals served (e.g., to access their own records, meetings, schedules, etc.).

Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

GGRC COVID-19 Update on Response Activities

Eric Zigman reported that remarkable efforts have been made by GGRC social workers to contact individuals served and document individuals’ vaccination status. GGRC held the highest percentage in the state of all the 21 Regional Centers, and currently holds the second position in the state, indicating that 51% eligible individuals served have received at least their first dose of the vaccine.

Dr. Ingrid Lin reported that effective June 15th, 2021, California’s Department of Public Health is moving beyond the Blueprint to safely reopen California’s economy and ending some restrictions including physical distancing, capacity limits on businesses and county risk-level tier system. The Department has lifted mask requirement for fully vaccinated individuals in most settings (except when required for all people). Individuals who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated must continue to wear masks indoors in public settings. Business, healthcare centers, shelters and correctional facilities can still require customers to wear masks. Exceptions for individuals who could not wear masks remain in effect. Current guidance for childcare programs and residential facility providers is still in effect.

Amanda Pyle reported that the service providers have been prompted to remain cautious concerning COVID-19 response and follow local DPH orders and take State reopening guidelines into consideration. The providers were also updated regarding local county specific guidelines concerning larger group sizes. Most of the service providers are taking a more cautious approach and offering hybrid of services which includes some in-person day services that accompanies with alternative services at home. Day services are working with GGRC and R&D (GGRC's transportation broker) to gradually return to some in-person services while meeting local public health guidelines (and promoting the health and safety of those they support). In addition GGRC, partnering with R&D transportation, continues to provide PPE to families, individuals, service providers, including some nonresidential service providers interested in gradually returning to some options for in person services.

Amanda also reported that DDS's directive remains in effect that requested to continue remote and alternative services as a means of precaution for the health and safety for individuals who have more complex medical needs, including persons with specialized health needs (or who are at greater risk for respiratory illness).

Q & A followed

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai
Interim Executive Assistant

Jay Katz,
Board Secretary