



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of Sept 21st, 2021, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Nini Aye Alex Madrid
Edith Arias Tiger Yorke
Michael Bernick Tracy Bullock
Hank London Lynn Pulliam
Abby Yim Dillon York

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: Jim Dycus Sheraden Nicholau
Erika Gonzales Jacy Cohen
Maxine Millam Angel
Michael Mayer Andrea Fuentes
Mackenzie Baysinger Michael Fuentes
Sara Desmuala Sonja Petek

CALL TO ORDER (Audrey deChadenedes)

Ms. deChadenedes called the meeting to order at 5:32 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 (Nini Aye motioned/ Tiger Yorke seconded)

ACTION B. Record of June 15th, 2021, Meeting

The Record of Meeting of June 15th, 2021 was approved.

M/S/C (Hank London motioned/ Tiger Yorke seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Andrea Fuentes, parent of an individual served, requested information regarding the availability of in-person adult day programs. Ms. Fuentes further expressed her concern for online-only services and shared the challenges of lack of in-person adult day programs for her son.

Eric Zigman responded to Ms. Fuentes’s question; and offered to connect with her to further address the matter.

Amanda Pyle shared that GGRC is aware of the situation and the hardships on the individuals and families we support. Amanda further shared that Day Program Service Providers have been requested to submit their plans on resuming in-person services, dates they are planning to resume and the nature of service offering method (i.e. in-person, remote or hybrid). Such information is collected on at least on a monthly basis in order to closely monitor the dynamics surrounding in-person services.

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

Sheraden Nicholau delivered a presentation on “The Top 5: Action and Advocacy YOU can Take for CA Budget Equity Supporting Developmental Disabilities Services. She presented the following points:

1. Know how California’s service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is funded. This system was built to carry out what Lanterman Act promised and includes budget equity for fair funding strategy and need based support for people served. Coordination and delivery of services is overseen by DDS and the budget for such services is categorized for community services, State operated facilities and headquarters.
2. Track changes in how many people receive services and what types of services are provided. Each category of support and services, and the population used those services are detailed in the budget and reported in DDS’s fact book.
3. Talk to your personal and professional network about the IDD services system and how this helps people with developmental disabilities live more independent, productive and self-determined lives.
4. Advocate for funding the type of services and support *you and your community need*. Once that is determined using IPP/purchase of services, next step is to plan for level of advocacy: i.e. local, statewide, or federal.
5. Join forces with other advocates to keep notified of budget decision that impact your services system. Have a plan of how you get involved to influence decision.

Sheraden also shared links to a few of resources including , [CA’s DDS budget information](#), [CA’s DDSs’ Fact and Stats Report](#), [GGRC Transparency and Accountability Page](#), and [CA Legislative Analyst’s and Office 2021-22 Budget Publication](#),

Sheraden’s presentation was very well received.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Two Contracts of \$250,000 or more:

Columbus Medical Services, LLC Contract

Columbus Medical Services, LLC – provides professional clinical staffing as needed. Expenditures for this contract is expected to exceed \$250,000

M/S/C (Alex Madrid motioned/ Nini Aye seconded)

START Services Contract

Up to \$835,020 in FY 2021-22 for The Center for START Services to support the development of a Crisis Support Services program:

Amanda shared that this contract would allow us to do training on crises response for regional center as well as a service provider, including helping work with other parts of the community as part of the crises response for individuals with mental health diagnoses and intellectual disabilities.

M/S/C (Alex Madrid motioned/ Nini Aye seconded)

The board unanimously agreed to approve the above contracts.

People’s Caucus (Alex Madrid)

Alex Madrid shared that the committee had a good discussion in the meeting earlier today and talked about the purpose of the People’s Caucus.

Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)

Board Presentation – Issues Spotlight: “Changes to our System from the California Budget Act of Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Beyond” - Sonja Petek, CA’s Legislative Analyst’s Office

Sonja Petek delivered a much appreciated presentation on changes to our System from the California Budget Act; Ms. Petek shared the followings:

- The budget was approved at the end of June and it reached a \$10.9 billion from all fund sources. Ms. Petek further highlighted the total state budget (\$262 billion) for different policy areas such as K12 education, Department of Health care services (which manages state’s Medicaid and Medi-Cal program) and Department of Developmental Services.
- Three “buckets” of the budget changes for Developmental Services:
 - First bucket: Spending for Services Provider Rate Reform; this initiative has been coupled with an effort to improve quality of services and will be implemented over a five year period. Another \$1.2 billion is going to be added to the DDS system for service provider rates. The department will implement a quality incentive program for service providers for meeting metrics and benchmarks and for improved performance, but this will not happen right away.
 - Second Bucket: Improving Individual’s Outcomes and Service Quality; as a performance incentive program, this will allow regional centers to be eligible to receive incentive payments if they achieve certain, yet to be determined, performance benchmarks in future years. This will be accompanied starting next budget year with a

substantial augmentation or increase in funding for regional centers to hire more service coordinators (social workers). Quality initiatives budget included \$10 million for a pilot project that would look at ways to measure outcomes at the individual level. In the next fiscal years some funding will be provided for direct service providers' trainings and certifications. Service providers who undergo those trainings would then be eligible for an incentive in their pay. \$10 million has been allocated related to employment and improving opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities

- Third Bucket: Improving People's Access to Services as well as Equity in Service Provision; including the following initiatives:
 - A funded program to provide implicit bias training for regional center staff.
 - An initiative that would reduce caseload ratios for the social workers.
 - Some funding provided to improve resources for language access and cultural competency to support underserved populations.
 - An initiative to support individuals who are deaf in the system and this includes adding specialists at the regional centers in order to provide higher quality services to those individuals.
 - Incentives pay to service providers who speak other languages.
 - Restored social recreation and camp educational services and non-medical therapies.
 - An initiative that will be funded with this federal funding is a one-time initiative called Coordinated Family Support - a pilot program to provide support services for adults who still live in their family home.
 - Planning process for overhauling Regional Center fiscal and case management information system.

GGRC's Request for Proposal Policy:

Amanda spoke about the changes to the Request for Proposal Policy including new service delivery and development that was related to Community Placement Plan for individuals who had moved out of the development centers into the community. Community Resource Development plan (CRDP) funds are being used to develop new services and proposals are based on feedback received from individuals served by regional center, their families, other community partners and our staff. Amanda further shared details concerning Start-Up funds to supplement a specialized provider, funds for Multi-family and Affordable Housing and collaboration with community based organization to secure specialized homes for individuals.

The board unanimously agreed to approve the Request for Proposal Policy (RFP).

M/S/C (Nini Aye motioned/ Tiger Yorke seconded)

Board Operations Committee (Alex Madrid)

Presentation of Prospective Board Member (J. Cohen):

The Operations Committee recommended Jacy Cohen for consideration.

Jacy Cohen has been working in the field with children and adults with developmental disabilities for an extensive period of time. Ms. Cohen has been working with ARC of San Francisco for 42 years and comes with broad experience in the program and services including experience with working with San Francisco Unified School District. Ms. Cohen has been serving on the Service Provider Advisory Committee (SPAC) for the last eight years and advocates not only for individuals served by regional center but for the system and at a policy level.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

SPAC & COVID Update:

Abby Yim informed that board that SPAC has been meeting on a weekly basis and appreciate GGRC for staying connected to the provider community to support and share latest information from GGRC and DDS. Abby highlighted that SPAC's discussion are around ways to restart services safely, plans for future of services and how services are evolving. There will be a special training hosted by Sheraden next week to guide the services provider community around self-determination program and services changes. Abby further shared that a lot of changes have taken place due to Delta Variant and many providers who were considering to fully resuming in-person services, had to slow down those plans.

Q&A followed.

Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Strategic Plan Project Update:

Audrey deChadenedes shared that the 2018-2021 strategic plan is ending and we are about to start working on the next plan. Audrey shared there were a lot of initiatives in our strategic plan that we had hoped for, but could not achieve due to COVID-19. An updated plan will be formed as an extension and expansion of what we already have in our previous plan.

Audrey prompted the board that interested board members will be asked to join the Strategic Planning committee in the next couple of weeks to begin working on the strategic plan 2022-2025.

Executive Director's Performance Evaluation Process:

Audrey shared that every year the Executive Director's Performance is evaluated using 360 degree feedback approach. This approaches uses feedback from all directions including staff, families, and providers in the community. The Performance Evaluation Survey will go out in October and will be completed by December 2021.

Director's Report (Eric Zigman)

GGRC COVID-19 Update on Response Activities

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Eric Zigman shared that DDS has issued 45 directives to Regional Centers during this pandemic. Eric highlighted the data from the department of developmental services that shows 21 Regional Centers list where GGRC holds the second position with the highest percentage of individuals served reporting they are vaccinated.

Eric informed the board that the data from September from DDS on the number of COVID positive reports shows that we continue to do very well in our efforts to protect the health and safety of those we serve.

An ARCA presentation was shared by Eric that displayed the DDS budget for this year, including provider incentives, Regional Center performance incentives, and provisional eligibility. Eric shared that self-determination program was started by legislation in 2013; however, the program was heavily underfunded and had little resources to dedicate to implementing this new and significantly different approach to supporting individuals. Currently, in this year's budget, has funding to add 2 staff positions to our Self-Determination Program.

Eric also talked about paid internship program and an incentive for providers who support people to get hired with companies in the community.

Q & A followed

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai
Executive Assistant