



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of January 18th, 2022, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Nini Aye Alex Madrid
Edith Arias Lynn Pulliam
Michael Bernick Tracy Bullock
Hank London Jacy Cohen
Abby Yim

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Dillon York
Tiger Yorke

STAFF: Eric Zigman Lisa Rosene
Lop Hou Ingrid Lin
Ingrid Lin Aria Alokozai
Emily Hood Marcie Soslau Johnson
Joe Medici Amanda Pyle
Sulma Chaves Arianna Cruz-Sellu
Jennifer Maxwell

GUESTS: Maxine Paula Milam Sheraden Nicholau
Ami Sullivan Joseph Asaro
Andrea Fuentes Erika Gonzalez
Donna Judy Elkan

CALL TO ORDER (Audrey deChadenedes)

Ms. deChadenedes called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 (Jacy Cohen motioned/ Lynn Pulliam seconded)

ACTION B. Record of Nov 16st, 2021, Meeting

The Record of Meeting of Nov 16st, 2021 was approved.

M/S/C (Alex Madrid motioned/ Lynn Pulliam seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Judy Elkan, member of public, and a support person to an individual served by GGRC, shared her story about supporting an individual in the fall of 2021. She wanted the board to know about her experience and her struggles to move from volunteer support of her friend, to a paid support person.

Eric Zigman and Audrey deChadendes appreciated Ms. Elkan's services and added that she will be connected with Eric to further discuss her needs.

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

Sheraden Nicholau delivered a presentation on “The State Council on Developmental Disabilities’ 5-Year State Plan”: Impact and Partnership in Golden Gate Regional center Catchment Area.

Sheraden shared how the State Council developed the new 5-year state plan required by federal law for CA. She added that the State Council worked with twelve Regional Advisory Committees across the state, held twelve public State plan Committee meetings, and provided a community feedback survey in 18 languages which resulted in a 5-years State Plan that has three overarching goals and nine objectives pointed out as follows:

- Self-Advocacy Goal: Looking to support people with IDD to become strong self-advocates. Provide information, trainings and resources to strengthen self-advocates in becoming and serving as peer trainers, developing skills and opportunities to engage as strong activists and providing support in peer networks.
- System Change/Advocacy Goal: develop, change, and improve policies, regulations, and practices with system in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and or emerging issues, and engage in statewide and regional center special projects in those areas. Collaborate with four CA partners to improve the generic services system that impacts people with IDD and that will result in reports, recommendations and legislative or administrative changes to policy or practice.
- Capacity-Building/Advocacy Goal: provide training and technical assistance/advocacy clinics to people throughout the state. Engage in the areas of employment, education, housing, health/safety, and/or emerging issues to enhance their knowledge and increase their capacity to obtain services and support. Work with Spanish-speaking self-advocates and family advocates to reduce the disparity in obtaining a free, appropriate public education.

Sheraden also shared that resources and flexibilities will be offered to regional centers to address emerging needs, cross-regional center community, or statewide requests that aren't related to one of these objectives. She also spoke about how community members and regional partners can get involved.

Sheraden's presentation was very well received.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement:

Operations:

As the C-1 Contract Amendment does not yet include the operations budget for CRDP ongoing services, the operations budget only shows the projected expenditures compared to the expected budget

amount to be received from DDS. The budget shortfall is expected to be received in the next contract amendment. After five month of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 4.7%. All operations funds are expected to be expended throughout the fiscal year.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CPP:

After five months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 6.7%. The initial estimate based upon preliminary allocations is an approximate projected surplus of \$20 million for the fiscal year. As we progress back to normal operations in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, budget projections will fluctuate as provision of services revert from payments of alternative services rates back to actual provision of services and payments of traditional services rates.

Lop Hou reported that GGRC has received preliminary C-2 Contract amendment the details which will be reported in next month's meeting.

People's Caucus (Alex Madrid/Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen reported that the People's Caucus Committee talked about the purpose and role of the committee including current and future plans in terms of what the committee would like to bring to the Board. The committee went over the board packet and what we are hoping to see on state council and GGRC strategic planning, issues around mental health, COVID related social isolation, input from person-served, aging parents and end of life plans, and public benefits.

Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey deChadenedes reported that the Services Committee discussed priorities to focus on and agreed that a big issue was individuals served by aging caregivers. The committee spent time brainstorming possibilities, including future-planning discussions initiated by caseworkers, which could be triggered by the age of the person served.

The committee acknowledged that this is a broad issue, inclusive of other services necessary to ensure a positive future, such as Housing, Day Programs, Employment, and consistent caregivers.

Audrey added that the committee shared resources, and came up with a few ideas to continue exploring, as well as plans to share ideas with other Regional Centers. The committee identified Public Benefits as another area where a great deal of help is needed, both for people served and for caseworkers. The committee is looking at the possibility of training sessions and better ways to share information.

Board Operations Committee (Alex Madrid)

Alex Madrid reported that the Board Operations Committee met last week and discussed two different trainings – 1) roles and responsibilities and 2) diversity and inclusion. Alex also shared that we are recruiting for three more board member seats.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

SPAC & COVID Update

Abby Yim reported that SPAC meets every Tuesday and discusses COVID new variant, communication, staying connected and up-to-date regarding any guidelines of the regional center. SPAC has been doing training around workforce issues, recruiting, and peer- to peer support.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey reported that the Governor’s budget was released last week. The gains we made in the last cycle were included, as well as some new proposed additional investments to our system. We’re looking forward to the promised increases to provider rates, set to begin in April, and to the increase in Regional Center Operations budgets later this year to reduce caseload ratios.

Among the new proposals are:

- Increased funding to further lowering caseload ratios for children through age 5.
- Funding to establish IDEA Specialists in each RC.
- Expansion of Medi-Cal to include undocumented Californians between ages 27 and 49.
- Conservatorship reform, with details yet unspecified.

ARCA’s priorities for this cycle are Revisions to the Core Staffing Formula, and Elimination of Annual Program Fees. In addition, ARCA will be sponsoring a resolution promoting inclusion (not just acceptance) of people with DD in community life.

The AdvoCats are planning their annual round of visits to local legislators. The group decided to spend these next couple of months focusing on Housing, as local Housing Elements are being worked on through March. We are reaching out to city planners to advocate for inclusion of people with DD in the Housing Elements.

Audrey added that the ARCA Academy took place online on Jan 11th, with a spotlight on Adult Services. She thanked the board members who participated in the event. Among several excellent presentations was one by Alta RC, describing a new program they’re working on - Coordinated Future Planning, to help older caregivers set up future supports for their adult children. We’ll be connecting with Alta to learn how we might do something similar, since this issue has been identified as one we want to work to improve.

Eric shared that some of the discussion from this committee meeting that were powerful to him revolved around disability acceptance resolution and the notion that acceptance is not enough - people with disabilities want to be full members of the community and be included.

Eric also added that the Legislative Committee for the Association of Regional Center Agencies met last week. One of the topics that were discussed is that we are losing a lot of champions in the state Senate and Assembly for various reasons – and we consistently have to renew our work to develop champions in the Legislature to advocate for investments in our system..

Executive Committee/Chairperson’s Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Executive Director’s Performance Evaluation Process:

Audrey reported that the Executive Committee discussed the Executive Directors Performance Evaluation, which the board will be discussing in Executive Session later this evening. In addition, the

Executive Committee has been discussing the agency’s Strategic Plan for the next three years. Audrey added that the previous plan was an ambitious one, and many of our goals may be continued into the next plan. That was before the pandemic, and so, some priorities went a different way, and some of our goals had to be put aside. Audrey highlighted that we will be extending and updating goals, as well as possibly adding new ones. Board Member Abby Yim from our SPAC committee will be spearheading this effort.

Abby shared that she is working with KineticFlow consultant Ami Sullivan on how to simplify the Plan and clarifying our strategic planning process. She highlighted that the goal is to have an inclusive representation of the people we serve, their families, and our key stakeholders as well as make sure that our strategic planning process is accessible and easy to understand for the people we serve. We will be asking individuals served by GGRC to give feedback about the outcomes that we are devising for the new plan, which is anticipated to run from 2022 to 2025. Abby added that the team is working to identify achievable outcomes that take the best of our former strategic plan but also update it with the current learning.

Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

COVID Update, Response, and Activities:

Eric shared that there is a lot of hope on the horizon with regards to transitioning from the pandemic. He added that he meets twice per month with the SPAC service provider group (along with Amanda Pyle and other GGRC staff) to discuss COVID positive reports and COVID response efforts.. He highlighted that the COVID surge is intense compared to October last year; he encourages people to practice social distancing and shelter-in-place as we are in the midst of another COVID variant outbreak.

Dr. Lin shared that the 7-Day average case rates by vaccination status per 100,000 in Marin County showed a much higher rise in COVID cases for unvaccinated people compared to vaccinated people. She highlighted the Department of Public Health is shifting their strategies and looking at weekly count of new cases versus new hospital admissions; although the number of new hospitalization has risen, ICU admission are less compared to Delta variant. Dr. Lin shared that people can now order up to four COVID test kits per household free of charge through USPS.com. She also added that the COVID booster vaccine has been approved for people 12 years old and older.

Q and A followed.

Performance Measures for Providers and Regional Centers:

Eric shared about the two stateside Performance Measures Stakeholder Workgroups are underway from DDS. One is aimed at developing performance measures for service providers and one is focused on performance measures development for regional centers. He pointed that the workgroups for regional centers will tie to some percentage of Operations funding. The project is connected to the proposal to hire appropriate number of social workers, reduce caseloads, and improve our services. Performance measures will also apply to provider rate increases, and the conversations revolve around what should providers and regional centers should be measured on. He highlighted that it’s an opportunity to describe to the general public and legislature what our system is about, what effect that Lanterman Act services have on the lives of those we serve and support. Eric spoke about the budget and investments, and the number of individuals-served, as a State, in this current fiscal year ending June 30th as well as in the next fiscal year.

Presentation: GGRC's Strategic Plan — Year Three (Final Results):

Eric delivered a presentation on GGRC strategic planning outcomes and processes as well as GGRC's mission, vision and values, including the following four goals:

- The four strategic plan goals:
 - Goal #1: Community Living: Housing and living support services and creating affordable and accessible housing in our high cost area.
 - Goal #2: Community Education and Engagement: Moving the work into the community - not just with the people we serve, but also involving other systems that are serving community members with developmental disabilities. This goal also includes helping individuals and families navigate the complex Lanterman Act service system and understand GGRC services/resources.
 - Goal #3: Investing in Staff: Ensure investment in both GGRC and Service Provider agency staff.
 - Goal #4: Organizational Agility and Impact: Having the ability to respond swiftly and effectively to sudden changes, opportunities and threats in the community, and to respond to customers efficiently and effectively.

Eric reported the measures and changes from baseline (FY 17-18) to FY 20-21. Results included discussion on community living;, community education and engagement; investment in staff; and, organizational agility and impact. He also highlighted the number of successes and some challenges with regards the above goals and activities. Eric added that the plan helped us focus on critical needs and areas that our communities wanted us to focus on; and we continue to work on gathering feedback from our community on our strategic plan to incorporate into the new plan.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokzai
Executive Assistant