



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

**BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of Oct 19th, 2021, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS: Erika Gonzales Sheraden Nicholau
Maxine Paula Milam Eng Nottingham
Kate O'Connor Merrell Guzman
Salome Speight

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 (Nini Aye motioned/ Edith Arias seconded)

ACTION B. Record of Sept 21st, 2021, Meeting

The Record of Meeting of Sept 21st, 2021 was approved.

M/S/C (Alex Madrid motioned/ Hank London seconded)

PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT

Eric Zigman shared that next week is the 25th anniversary of the annual Golden Gate self-advocacy two-day conference having webinar on day one and celebration on day two of the conference. Information is on GGRC's homepage. Eric says it's one of his very favorite conferences of the year and thanked the planning team for their efforts each year on this empowering event.

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 what ‘generic services’ are and why they matter. IDD services system and generic systems of support work together; California IDD services system was built to carry out the promise of the Lanterman Act. However, it’s the ‘payer of last resort’ while generic system of care should first be attempted by people served.
2. Know where to look to find out what generic services you may qualify for. Disability benefits 101 or the CA department of Social Services (CDSS) and local State Council on Developmental Disabilities are some resources that can support in finding some generic system of care.
3. Keep organized record of your work to get the support and services you need; any decision about funding including denial or approval of a support or service should be documented for future reference.
4. Advocate for funding the type of services and support you and your community need (generic, or IDD-services system specific).
5. Join forces with other advocates, and sign up for information and advocacy opportunities to make sure people with IDD and other disabilities represented in all systems.

Sheraden’s presentation was very well received.

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Contract Amendment Allocations:

To date GGRC has received preliminary notification of its C-1 Contract Budget Allocation for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Operations:

As the preliminary C-1 Contract Amendment has not yet included the operations budget portion for CRDP ongoing services, the operations budget only show the projected operations expenditures compared to the expected budget amount to be received from DDS. After two months of operations, year to date expenditures are under budget by 2.5%.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CPP:

After two months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 3.2%. The initial estimate based upon preliminary allocations is an approximate projected surplus of \$19.7 million for the fiscal year.

People’s Caucus (Alex Madrid)

Alex Madrid shared that the committee discussed topics around generic services, including what they are, how to ask for those services, and the importance of having simplified, plain and accessible language explaining generic services and strategies to use in order to disseminate this information to individuals.

Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey deChadenedes shared that the Services Committee format has slightly been altered in order to enable board members to bring in any concerns to the committee. The following two issues were discussed during this month's meeting:

- The lack of programs for people who need one to one services, particularly day programs.
- The issue of aging caregiver and parents.

Board Presentation – Issues Spotlight: “Generic Services – What are they and why do they matter?”

Lisa Rosene highlighted and discussed the wide range of what are referred to as “generic services” that are critically important to the people we serve (and the IPP process). She focused on the following points regarding Generic Services:

- Generic resources are available to members of the community in general, and include in-home support services, educational services through school district and Head Start Program, public libraries, Section 8 housing, social security programs, MediCal/Medicare and Insurance.
- It is important to support individuals' rights to access services from these entities as they are qualified for these supports – and the generic services have a legal responsibility to provide them.
- The Lanterman Act compels regional centers to explore all possible sources of funding and to fully utilize generic resources before using Purchase of Service dollars. It is a statutory requirement of regional centers.
- The Lanterman act was designed to help people become as self-sufficient as possible. The law also makes the regional centers the ‘payer of last resort’.

Q and A followed.

Board Operations Committee (Alex Madrid)

Election of Board Member Candidate (Jacy Cohen)

A Motion was requested to elect Jacy Cohen; she was recommended by the Operations Committee to the full board, after going through the recruitment process outlined in GGRC's Bylaws.

Audrey deChadenedes motioned/ Hank London seconded. The board voted unanimously to elect Jacy and she was welcomed aboard as a new GGRC Board Member.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Kate O'Connor)

SPAC & COVID Update

Kate shared that SPAC is still meeting weekly. GGRC representation is on every first and third Tuesdays of the month. The topics of discussion had been focused on workforce issues, COVID, resuming in-person services, the mandatory vaccine order, and the booster shots. Kate shared that SPAC feel much supported and are delighted to work with GGRC staff.

Kate also shared that Sheraden delivered a self-determination program presentation on Sept 28th, talking about the macro perspective of self-determination, the financial management services and what to expect from social workers; this training was very well received and much appreciated.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey informed the board that ARCA will be sponsoring a bill that will roll back the approach to generic services; this bill will remove the requirement to appeal a denial before services are authorized.

Audrey shared that the AdvoCats group meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month via Zoom; and board members connect with Audrey if they are interested to join these meetings.

Acknowledgement of Key Legislators

The Lanterman Coalition (a coalition of many entities throughout the state, including ARCA and the AdvoCats) has run a strong public awareness campaign thanking key legislators for thanking “The First Step” in investing in I/DD services and supports for our community. The newspaper ads and billboard have been well received by those key legislators and their staff.

Executive Committee/Chairperson’s Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Strategic Plan Project Update:

Audrey shared that strategic plan will be reviewed in early-mid November; an updated plan will be formed as an extension and expansion of what we already have in our previous plan. Audrey prompted interested board members to join the Strategic Planning committee in the next couple of weeks to begin working on the strategic plan for 2022-2025.

Eric shared that he will be doing a presentation on the full three year result of the initial strategic plan in the January meeting and the board of directors will have a chance to hear about the results of the plan that had been devised in 2018.

Executive Director’s Performance Evaluation Process:

Audrey urged the Board Members to fill the anonymous survey of the Executive Director’s Performance Evaluations and send their feedback/input using the link shared.

Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

GGRC COVID-19 Update on Response Activities

Eric Zigman shared that the Department of Public Health issued a broad directive around (broadly-defined) “healthcare worker” vaccine requirements and the Department of Developmental Services specified in a directive that it applies to all regional employees as well as service provider workers (with limited exceptions. The staff and services provider workers must be either vaccinated or ask for a medical or religious waiver (and, if the waiver is approved by their company, they obtain COVID tests on a regular basis).

GOLDEN GATE REGIONAL CENTER
RECORD of MEETING –
October 19st, 2021

Eric reported that the numbers of people in our Early Start program have increased by 25% between August 2020 and August 2021.

Eric highlighted the data from the department of developmental services that shows 21 Regional Centers list, GGRC holds the second highest position of the percentage of individuals served reporting that they are vaccinated.

Eric Shared a Federal update – A U.S. Senate subcommittee hearing called “Toxic Conservatorships – The Need for Reform” was held on Sept 28th by a subcommittee of the U.S Senate Judiciary Committee. Eric also spoke about supportive decision making, an alternative method of clarifying and support decision making of the people we serve (without the need for a conservatorship). This method supports people with disabilities in specifically identifying the decisions they need and want help with, and who the supporters will be. In Supported Decision Making, an individual retains their rights that may be lost if they were to be conserved. At both a state and national level the conversation of the process of conservatorships as well as the benefits and dangers of this system are being discussed by policy makers and the public.

Q & A followed

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai
Executive Assistant