



Golden Gate Regional Center

Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING
RECORD of June 21, 2022, 5:30 PM
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Edith Arias Hank London
Nini Aye Alex Madrid
Michael Bernick Lynn Pulliam
Tracey Bullock Abby Yim
Jacy Cohen Dillon York
Andrea Fuentes Tiger Yorke

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Eric Zigman Lop Hou
Lisa Rosene Israel Pichardo
Amanda Pyle

GUESTS: Maxine Milam (DDS) Anh Nguyen
Sheridan Nicholau Sasha Bittner
Gaya Deak Kristina Rizo
Carl Yorke Gilda Giron
Lulu A Erika Gonzales
Kyungshil Choi Miguel Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER - Audrey deChadenedes

Ms. deChadenedes called the meeting to order at 5:33p.m. Welcoming remarks and introductions followed.

II. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - Audrey deChadenedes

ACTION A. Agenda
The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.
M/S/C (Nini Aye motioned/Hank London seconded)

ACTION B. Record of May 17, 2022 Meeting
The Record of Meeting for May 17, 2022 was approved.
M/S/C (Tiger Yorke motioned/Nini Aye seconded)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no public comments.

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IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Finance Committee - Michael Bernick

i. Monthly Financial Statements - Lop Hou

Operations – After ten months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 12.3%. All operations funds are expected to be fully expensed for the fiscal year over the normal course of operations.

Purchase of Services (POS) – After ten months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 11.4%. The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$27 million for the fiscal year. As the fiscal year progresses payment of services are anticipated to transition from “alternative services” rates back to the traditional service rates. April 2022 was also the beginning of provider service rate increases. The allocated funds in the “C-3” contract amendment includes the projected increase in rates.

CRDP Funding – Funds related to start up projects approved by DDS were provided in the “C-2” contract amendment, but have yet to be expended.

ACTION

ii. Contract for a Housing Development Organization to purchase and renovate a Children’s Specialized Residential Facility (Behavior Support). Amount: \$400,000.00 (Acquisition Funds)

DDS has reviewed and approved this request and GGRC’s Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended approval to the full board. Discussion followed.

M/S/C (Michael Bernick motioned/Audrey deChadenedes seconded)

B. PEOPLE’S CAUCUS - Alex Madrid/Jacy Cohen

Alex discussed the Ballot for Board Officers, language logistics and clarification, and write-in example. He also reported that for the People First Statewide Committee, no one on the GGRC board was able to attend. He asked for board applicants. Unfortunately, no one has the bandwidth to participate on the Statewide People First Board. They are keeping invites on the table. Jacy asked to contact People’s First Committee to let them know. Alex reminded the board that the People’s Caucus discussed becoming a standing committee of the GGRC Board, and the Caucus ask the Bylaws Review Committee to consider this in the revisions to the bylaws. .

C. SERVICES COMMITTEE - Audrey deChadenedes

Audrey deChadenedes reported that the committee met on June 7, 2022 and that it is an on-going project that continues with listening sessions. Jacy mentioned the ARC National Association has a future planning center with a lot of resources that may be helpful in this project.

Self Determination at GGRC Presentation - an Update and Look to the Future. GGRC Staff: Lisa Rosene, Israel Pichardo and Sascha Bitner, Co-Chair of GGRC’s Self Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC).

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Sascha Bittner: I am the Co-Chair of GGRC's SDLACC, along with Jennifer Walsh. Basics, we meet 2nd Tuesday of each month from 3:45-5:30p except in August. We are currently leading the strategic planning efforts of the Committee, which includes goals around outreach, communication, and support of people both in the Self Determination Program (SDP) and those considering joining SDP. We have certain amount of funds each year allocated by DDS and we intend to use the Strategic Planning sessions to decide priorities for spending the funds. One project already underway is getting a Bay Area website for SDP (in collaboration with the SDLAC's at RCEB and SARC) and it should be up and running in a couple months. We work in collaboration with GGRC and we also try to hold them accountable. We would really like more people and public coming to our meeting. If you're a participant and have barriers, we want to hear from you. Committee is trying to provide more resources to those with language barriers. Hopes to see some at their meetings.

EZ: The Committee has 9 member volunteers appointed by the State Council and GGRC. Sascha and Jennifer are excellent leaders, and we work closely with them and the whole committee. Over the years, GGRC's SDLAC has presented Information Meetings, assisted with Orientations, contracted for services to develop Independent Facilitators and started individual and group coaching services, among other activities. As Sascha said, the Committee and GGRC staff collaborate and work together, but the SDLAC also holds GGRC accountable to continuing to improve in SDP.

Lisa R: SDP is one of the most exciting programs encountered in the regional center system.. So empowering to Individuals. Individuals in SDP are using their own budgets to meet their needs and pursue their goas. (Lisa Introduces Israel Pichardo, one of GGRC's Participant Choice Specialist)

Israel described the process for both Person Centered Planning and Self Determination at GGRC. The steps include Orientation to SDP, creating that person centered plan, having an IPP, creating a budget and spending plan, and hiring a Fiscal Management Service. Israel described the internal process of training social workers and others on SDP

Board Members asked several questions concerning the SDLAC Budget, the individual SDP Budgets and what Self Determination looks like when it is going well. The group discussed some of the barriers to implementing the program including the high caseloads for social workers and the state's lack of funding to make SDP work (until this fiscal year).

V. STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, BAY AREA OFFICE UPDATE – Sheraden Nicholau

Sheraden Nicholau delivered a presentation on “Top Five Things You Should Know about Self Determination in California”.

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1. While the expansion of Self Determination Program (SDP) in CA is new, SDP isn't new, SDP is an alternative to 'traditional services. It provides more choice, control and responsibility for a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities to use their regional center budget to purchase services and support their way. It upholds and is in alignment with CA's Lanterman Act, the federal Home and Community-Based Settings Final Rule and the US Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.
2. Person Centered Thinking & Planning is the foundation for both 'traditional' regional center funded services, and for the SDP. Person Centered planning helps individuals determine what services and supports work best for them. That may mean using vendored service providers, non-vendored service providers, or a blend of both.
3. Your Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee wants you to get involved. Committee members include people-served, clients' rights advocates, family members of people-served, and community leaders. The committee reflects the multi-cultural and geographic diversity of the region.
4. Everyone has a role to play in helping Self-Determination expand successfully in CA. The State Council has a volunteer committee, the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC). DDS set up an Office of the Ombudsperson for SDP, providing information to regional center people-served and their families. Participant Choice Specialists positions were created to support the expansion and success of SDP.
5. It takes teamwork and persistence to address barriers and bottlenecks that arise when a dynamic program like SDO is scaled across a large and diverse state like CA.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued)

D. BOARD OPERATIONS – Alex Madrid

ACTION i. Re-election of New Terms for Current Board Members

Eric informed everyone that two GGRC Board Members, Board Chair Audrey deChadenedes and Tiger Yorke, have finished seven years of service on the board, much now, by state law, end their tenure on the board.

To Tiger Yorke, Eric stated "I wanted to personally say I enjoyed having you as a Board of Directors member, how thoughtful you are, how you remind us about acronyms (perspective refreshing and valuable).

And to Audrey deChadenedes, Eric said. "You have my deepest appreciation for all your leadership and service on the GGRC Board. You play a lot of roles– with the Board, with ARCA's Legislative Committee, with Support for Families and with the AdvoCats—that make a great, positive impact on our community and those we support.. You have been, and continue to be, a remarkable leader and partner in this work."

EZ thanks both.

Tiger stated that he still wants to connect with everyone even if he's not a board member. He will participate as a member of the public and will continue to learn from his own experience from being on the board. He hopes we continue share his perspective and what he is learning with others.

The board then discussed current board members who are up for re-election to new terms Alex Madrid mentioned that these board members will have another three years of service in their next terms. The votes to renew board members terms were taken as follows:

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Re-election of Board Members:

- a. Arias, Edith, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Jacy Cohen motioned/Lynn Pulliam seconded
- b. Bullock, Tracey, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Alex Madrid motioned/Jacy Cohen seconded
- c. London, Hank, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Alex Madrid motioned/Jacy Cohen seconded
- d. Madrid, Alex, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Lynn Pulliam motioned/ Hank London seconded
- e. Pulliam, Lynn, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Jacy Cohen motioned/Alex Madrid seconded
- f. Yim, Abigail, 3 year term - **M/S/C** Alex Madrid motioned/Lynn Pulliam seconded
- g. York, Dillon – 3 year term - **M/S/C** Hank London motioned/Tiger York seconded
- h. Cohen, Jacy – 3 year term - **M/S/C** Alex Madrid motioned/Lynn Pulliam seconded
- i.

ACTION ii. Election of Board Officers for FY 2022-2023

Board Members were asked by Eric Zigman to fill out their ballots and return these written ballots after or during the Board meeting. Ballots will be tabulated and the Board Officers who are elected for Fiscal Year 2022 -2023 will be announced when all ballots have been received.

VII. SERVICE PROVIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Abby Yim

SPAC & COVID Update:

Abby Yim reported that SPAC meets every week. She spoke about the DDS survey on Staffing and Staff Stability. The SPAC group of providers is still in discussions about the impact of COVID and how to return to more in-person service delivery. SPAC members continue to support each other around the hiring and retention of Direct Support Staff. GGRC Directors and staff are still joining these meetings consistently and helping providers by answering questions and listening to their experiences.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE/ARCA REPORTS – Audrey deChadenedes

LEGISLATIVE/BUDGET Update:

Last week, on June 13th, the state Senate and Assembly both passed their versions of the 2022-23 State budget. Their combined budget included most of what we asked for - funds to modernize the core staffing formula, and to accelerate implementation of the rate study, as well as the elimination of RC family fees. It's a testament to the great advocacy work done around the state that legislators understand these needs.

However, we still need the Governor to agree. He has indicated his disapproval of some Legislative spending proposals in general, and negotiations continue between the legislature and the Governor. Our advocacy now moves to him, and our groups are awaiting direction from ARCA for a coordinated message this week.

Our AdvoCats group is geared up to reach the Governor, and to spread the message through our networks; if you'd like to participate, please contact me. My email is in the chat.

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The legislature is in session until the end of June, then they recess for the month of July, and return in August. All the details of the budget must be completed by August 31st.

There are a few interesting bills that ARCA is looking at and providing input on, including:

SB 870, which would raise the age of RC eligibility

SB 882, which would create a DD Council to partner with and advise Law Enforcement

AB 1663, about supported decision making, part of the move to reform Conservatorship.

ARCA REPORT

ARCA is planning to make Future Planning, especially housing, a strategic priority this year. This is great news, since our Services Committee has been working on a Future Planning system for GGRC, and the need is tremendous. DDS is also planning some projects around Future Planning, including partnerships with the Department of Aging. We're looking forward to developments in this area.

IX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Audrey deChadenedes

STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION PROJECT UPDATE:

Audrey reported that the Strategic Plan is moving along. Focus groups continue to meet. The team is doing great job. Thanks to Abby Yim and Amy Sullivan (of KineticFlow). The Board should see a close to final draft of the new plan in the September Board Meeting.

Audrey then spoke to the board about how much she has valued her experience at GGRC, as a parent, as a board member and, for the past two years as the GGRC Board Chairperson. "I've learned so much from GGRC staff and other board members. Eric's leadership, MAC, staff, fellow BOD members, I want to thank you all for what you do. I feel confident that I am leaving the board in a good place, that you all will be able to continue to pursue our goals and serve our community."

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Eric Zigman

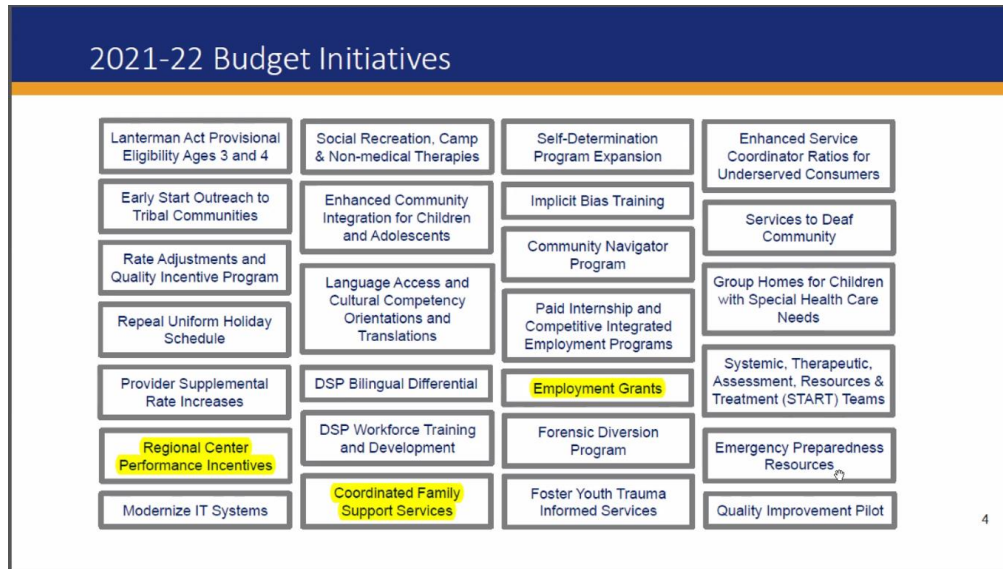
HIRING and PLANS for FY 22-23:

The California Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 has passed by both houses in the legislature and includes funding for many new social work positions at GGRC (and throughout the state). It's now in Governor's hands to sign and make it official. At GGRC we are looking at funding for between 35 and 45 additional Social Work positions, which will help with caseload and workload immensely. Hiring and retention remain challenging. The Budget included a proposal to address the Core Staffing Formula, which continues to allocate about half the funds we need to hire existing staff positions and run the agency in the way the Lanterman Act has promised those with developmental disabilities in our state. That proposal was cut from the budget toward the end of the budget process, so it will not be included this year. ARCA and GGRC will continue to fight for the modernization of the Core Staffing Formula as it is, along with provider rate increases, CRITICALLY important to the future of our services to our community.

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Eric ended by sharing some comments on DDS initiatives from the current year’s budget.

He focused on summaries of the process for DDS Employment Grants (they have \$10M to spend on these grants), the Coordinated Family Support Services demonstration project funding and the Regional Center Performance Measure development. He included the following chart for information purposes:



XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session following the board meeting.

Submitted by: Grace Soriano-Smith, Interim Executive Assistant