

Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)

Monthly Financial Statement:

Operations:

After seven months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 8.8%. We have also received funding for START program in the C-2 Contract Amendment.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CPP:

The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$23 million for the fiscal year. As the fiscal year progresses payment of services are expected to transition from alternative services rates back to traditional services rates. Additionally, an increase in service provider rates will begin to phase in beginning April 2022. The allocated funds in the C-2 include the projected increase in rates.

People’s Caucus (Alex Madrid/Jacy Cohen)

Jacy Cohen reported that the People’s Caucus Committee had a robust and congenial conversation around accessing home healthcare, staffing, and particularly about committee recruitment. The committee also discussed the purpose of People’s Caucus committee and understanding what they do and who they are. Jacy added that the committee will discuss Targeted Intentional Recruitment in the next month’s meeting.

Q & A followed.

Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey deChadenedes reported that the Services Committee continued their work to create a system to facilitate future planning for adults with disabilities and their families as part of the annual IPP.

Audrey added that the committee worked on fine-tuning a letter and brainstorming ways to reach out to families, people served, staff, and providers for listening sessions, which the committee plan to begin in April. Once the committee gathers feedback, they will begin work on a recommendation for a Board Policy in this regard. The Policy may point to training for case managers and additional resources for individuals, families, and case managers.

Presentation: Eligibility Explained: Early Start, Lanterman and Provisional:

Dominique Gallagher and Dr. Ingrid Lin shared the following points:

- Early Start – Birth to age 36 months: to determine a child eligible we look into developmental delay, established risk or high risk.
- Developmental Delay is the criteria for Eligibility; a developmental delay exists if there is a delay of 33% or more in the areas of cognitive, physical, communication (perceptive and expressive), social or emotional and adaptive, and infants and toddlers who have an established risk condition or high risk and requires intervention services.
- A developmental delay shall not be determined based on temporary physical disability, culture economic factors, the normal process of second language acquisition or manifestation, or dialect and socio-linguistic variance.

- High risk includes conditions such as prematurity of less than 32 week gestation, assisted ventilation, asphyxia, central nervous system lesion, genetic disorder, and so forth.
- Assessment for Eligibility: a GGRC social worker will determine the assessment team for the child based on child developmental concerns. If a child is found to be eligible for Early Start Services, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed.
- When the child is around 2 years 6 months, the family is assisted in transitioning process and, is referred to school district and their plan may include community resources. At age 3, a child may be assessed for RC ongoing services through Lanterman Act to receive services.

Referral and Intake for ongoing services – Lanterman:

- According to Lanterman Legislation, a person is eligible for RC services if they have a disability which meets all of the following criteria: disabilities due to Intellectual Disability (ID), Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, conditions found to be closely related to intellectual disability or require treatment similar to that required for individual with ID.
- The disability originates prior to the age of 18, is likely to continue indefinitely, and constitutes a “substantial disability” for the individual
- Upon receipt of a referral, the case is assigned to an Assessment Social Worker to set up a home visit within 15 business days.
- The applicant will be assessed by a team of GGRC staff consisting of a Physician, Psychologist, and Assessment Social Worker to make the eligibility decision. Eligibility must be completed within 120 days.

Dr. Ingrid Lin shared the following points on Presumptive verses Provisional Eligibility and language on Lanterman Act:

- Presumptive Eligibility: Covid-19 pandemic made the Lanterman assessments difficult, therefore, DDS came up with a solution called Presumptive Eligibility effective 3/25/2020; serially extended to at least 4/14/2022. Presumptive Eligibility allows regional centers to determine the individual presumptively eligible if the regional center is unable to make a definitive determination due to the circumstances.
- Provisional Eligibility: Effective 7/16/2021, to be eligible, children age 3 and 4 years old must indicate significant functional limitation in at least two of the following life activity areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, or self-direction.
- Extension of Early start: Effective 6/15/2020; serially extended to at least 4/6/2022, DDS allowed regional centers to continue Early Start (ES) services and waived the requirements that ES services has to end at age three.

Q & A followed.

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 on Early Identification and Early Start Services for Infant and Young Children”

Sheraden shared the following points including history of Early Start Program in California:

1. You can know about Early Start and how Early Start Program is for families with infants and young children experiencing developmental disabilities or delays, and referral can be made by anyone in the young child's life. The infant or young child must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for ES services: a developmental delay of at least 33%, an established risk or a substantial developmental disability.
2. You can get to know what services and supports families can access through ES program: Early intervention services include the followings: service coordination, assistive technology, audiology, family training, counseling, home visits, health services, medical services for diagnostic purposes, nursing services and other services related services based on the assessed needs and family priorities.
3. You can know about and promote resources, tools, and trainings that childcare providers, families, and healthcare providers can access to screen infants and young children.
4. You can learn about a new initiative in response to the pandemic's impact on infants and young children: Lanterman Act Provisional Eligibility for Children ages 3 and 4 will reduce the delay in services for children who may not have had timely assessments by their school district as they approach their third birthday.
5. You can connect with resources and education for Early Start advocacy in terms of ensuring early identification and linkage to intervention. Help Me Grow California, Children Now, Zero to Three and The National association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) are some of the few sites for discovering ways to get involved.

Sheraden's presentation was very well received.

Board Operations Committee (Alex Madrid)

Alex Madrid reported that the Board Operations Committee met last month and interviewed Andrea Fuentes as a potential new Board member. Andrea Fuentes was introduced to the Board.

Alex added that the Operations Committee discussed potential dates for Board Retreat in May which will include Board Roles and Responsibilities, and Culture Diversity/ Humility Trainings. The committee will also be reviewing the bylaws and making their decisions in terms of other revisions to the bylaws.

Q and A followed.

Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)

SPAC & COVID Update

Abby Yim reported that the SPAC committee has been meeting every week over the past two and a half years and the current conversations are around legislative advocacy. Abby added that today's meeting theme was around getting ready for Grassroots' Day on April 5th.

Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Audrey reported that the ARCA Legislative committee met on March 2nd. The Committee looked at almost 100 bills affecting our system (still only a small percentage of total bills).

Of note are a large number of bills addressing conservatorship reform, many of which are placeholders. This means the bill with its' main topic has been entered before the deadline for new bills, but details are still emerging. Audrey highlighted that ARCA will be watching these bills very carefully, and she will report more in the future.

ARCA continues advocacy for reform of the core staffing formula - which would bring more funds to RC operations and reduce caseload ratios, as well as supporting the Lanterman Coalition's priority of advancing rate increases for providers.

The Advocats are also supporting these two measures, and we are in the process of scheduling appointments with our local legislators.

We are sad to be losing one of our champions in the Assembly - Kevin Mullin. He will be running for Jackie Spear's seat in the House of Representatives, so we may be gaining a supporter at Federal level.

Statewide, East Bay Asm, Jim Frazier, another supporter, retired at the end of the year. Possible new champions around the state are Sen. John Laird in the Santa Cruz/ Monterey area, and East Bay Asm. Tim Grayson.

Grass Roots Day will take place on April 5th. This day, coordinated by ARCA, is when teams of staff, providers, family members, and people served from all regional centers around the state meet with their elected representatives.

Audrey prompted Board Members to contact her if members are interested in Grass Roots Day, or in similar sessions that the Advocats will be holding with Legislators and their staff during April, 2022.

Q & A followed.

Executive Committee/Chairperson's Report (Audrey deChadenedes)

Strategic Plan Revision Update:

Audrey shared that currently a major focus is our Strategic Plan; we have been working on the next three-year cycle.

Abby Yim reported that the aim of Strategic Plan is to build on the comprehensive work that already been done in the previous Strategic Plan and incorporate new information and key learnings of the past two years in an accessible and manageable format that invites collaboration from our regional center community, and to uplift and highlight the perspectives and "voices" of the people we serve.

Abby shared the following Strategic Plan focus areas:

- 1st Phase: To review the existing Strategic Plan and conduct listening sessions; Invite feedback on team leads from the four Strategic Plan focus areas; incorporate feedbacks; streamline and simplify the goals in the plan to easily engage staff members, people served, and the providers.
- 2nd Phase: Have a Steering Committee Review, revise the draft, and draft the outcomes.

- 3rd Phase: Gather Stakeholder Input
- 4th Phase: Revise and Review of the Strategic plan
- 5th Phase: Final Internal Reviews; assemble more stakeholders (including GGRC’s senior management) to review the final draft and have the final draft by June 2022.

Eric appreciated and thanked Abby and project consultant Ami Sullivan for their efforts and work on the Strategic plan.

Q and A followed.

Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)

Upcoming GGRC Public Meetings:

Eric Zigman shared that there will be a public meeting on National Core Indicators and Performance Contract meeting in May.

Amanda Pyle shared that there will be a public meeting on the Purchase of Service Disparity demographic & Equity and Access services on March 29th 10am-12pm and March 31st 6-8pm.

ARCA Regional Center Funding Proposal:

Eric briefly highlighted Regional Center funding and Modernization of Regional Center Operations Budgeting Methodology that was included in this month’s board packet. In addition to service providers’ rate relief, the end of drastically underfunding the work of the regional center is of the utmost importance in improving supports, services, and outcomes for the people we serve.

Conservatorship Reform and Supported Decision Making:

Eric shared that there are 12-14 proposed bills to reform conservatorship and make Supported Decision Making accessible and viable in our community. Eric underscored the importance of having access to Supported Decision Making for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and highlighted Association of Regional Center Agencies’ (ARCA’s) Conservatorship Policy Statement (also included in this month’s packet). Eric added that, as policy makers reform conservatorship and emphasize alternatives (such as Supported Decision Making) these supports should not have barriers to accessibility based on the socioeconomic situation, language, or ethnicity of those seeking these methods.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Aria Alokozai
Executive Assistant