



# Golden Gate Regional Center

*Supporting Lives of Liberty and Opportunity*

BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING **DRAFT**  
RECORD of APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5:30 PM  
**VIA ZOOM CONFERENCING**

PRESIDING: Audrey deChadenedes

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Eric Zigman Ingrid Lin  
Lop Hou Aria Alokozai  
Ingrid Lin Amanda Pyle  
Joe Medici

GUESTS: Maxine Paula Milam Sheraden Nicholau  
Andrea Fuentes Joseph Asaro  
Victor Lam Erika Gonzalez  
Benjamin McMullan Kellie Hanson  
Vincent Lope

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 (Tiger Yorke motioned/ Jacy Cohen seconded)*

**ACTION B. Record of March 15<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Meeting**

*The Record of Meeting of March 15<sup>st</sup>, 2022 was approved.*

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENT**

There were no public comments.

**Finance Committee (Michael Bernick)**

Monthly Financial Statement: as of Feb 28, 2022

Operations:

After eight months of operation, year to date expenditures are under budget by 9.8%. We have also received funding for START program in the C-2 Contract Amendment. All operations funds are expected to be fully expensed for the fiscal year over the normal course of operations.

Purchase of Services (POS) Excluding CPP:

The estimated projected surplus is approximately \$25 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.

Three Contracts for Board Approval:

The Board Operations Committee has reviewed and recommended three contract from board consideration and approval. They are:

- i. The Kelsey Civic Center Project in San Francisco– Affordable and Accessible Housing Development with reserved units for the people we serve – for the amount of \$1,000,000
- ii. Joshua Tree Group – Funding for Renovations of an Enhanced Behavioral Support Home in East Palo Alto for the amount of \$400,000. Split the funding between two fiscal years
- iii. Joshua Tree Group – Funding for Renovations of a Specialized Residential Home for Children with behavioral challenges for the amount of \$400,000

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

The Board unanimously agreed to approve the above three contracts.

**People’s Caucus (Alex Madrid/Jacy Cohen)**

Alex Madrid reported that the People’s Caucus Committee met today and discussed the committee’s status and reviewing/revising the bylaws. The Caucus voted to recommend that the People’s Caucus be included in the bylaws as a standing committee. Jacy Cohen shared that the committee had a robust discussion on a letter that was received from People First of California, Inc. to the People’s Caucus committee to apply to the People’s First of California Board of Directors. Jacy added that the Caucus decided to invite People’s First of California, Inc.’s President to one of the People’s Caucus Committee meetings to continue this discussion and use the opportunity to ask questions and obtain further information.

**Services Committee (Audrey deChadenedes)**

Audrey deChadenedes reported that the Services Committee continues its work on Futures Planning. The committee is in the information-gathering stages of this project - next week will be meeting with the members of our Service Providers Advisory Committee to hear about their experiences with families and the ideas they have.

Audrey added that next; the committee will be holding listening-sessions with families and people served. The committee has identified their initial groups and will begin scheduling sessions in May.

As a next step, the committee may develop recommendations for trainings for caseworkers, and resource guides for families. The committee will also be learning from other regional centers who are working on similar projects.

Audrey highlighted that the committee is very excited to be working in partnership with Lisa Rosene and GGRC staff to address this long-standing concern, and will keep the Board informed as they move along.

**Board Education Presentation – Emergency Preparedness**

Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities (CID), San Mateo County and GGRC’s Emergency Coordinator, Joe Medici

Benjamin McMullan, Kellie Hanson, and Vincent Lopez from Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities (CID) shared the following points on emergency preparedness and their agency:

- CID is a nonprofit agency run by and for people with disabilities to help individuals live more independently and provides supports such as assistive technology, counseling and peer supports, home accessibility modification, independent living skills, information and referral and emergency preparedness.
- CID collaborates with local Fire Department, Local Red Cross Chapters, San Mateo County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Disability Disaster Access, and Resources Program (DDAR).
- CID provides response to past emergencies during pandemic by distributing PPE, food, Chromebook distribution, and emergency backpacks; and supporting during Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) in San Mateo County, working with partners to deliver batteries and relocating.
- PG&E public safety power shut-offs: CID has planned power safety shut-off program battery back-up-relocation service where people can sign up for PG&E medical baseline program and register consumers with disabilities on power and early notification of power shut-offs.
- CID also offers starter Emergency kit and virtual, “Individualized emergency plan” consultation.

Joe Medici shared about his work prior to joining GGRC as the Emergency Coordinator, working with Law enforcement in addition to emergency, non-emergency and disaster types of situations including wildfires and evacuations. Joe also took various collateral duties such as Homeless Liaison Officer (assisting individuals in need of livelihood essentials and connecting them with resources); and Community Outreach Officer (building partnership with the community and the Police Department and crime prevention).

Joe added that his work at GGRC focuses on disaster preparedness projects, future trainings and Everbridge, emergency alert system used in order to notify GGRC’s community regarding disaster situations, training exercises, and upcoming events. Joe highlighted that as the next steps, his work in GGRC will involve building a consistent framework of emergency preparedness and response by

conducting ongoing training and exercises and partnering with the community and first responders. He is working in partnership with DDS and the Emergency Coordinators at several other regional centers.

Q and A followed.

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

Sheraden Nicholau delivered a presentation on “The Top 5: Partnerships in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response”

Sheraden shared the following points:

1. Know your unique needs and risks, and create/update your Emergency Response Plan, Go-Kit, and Shelter-in-place supplies accordingly. Consider your unique needs, risk, and necessities to stay safe during an emergency, disaster or shelter-in place.
2. You can sign up for emergency alert notification system updates for your area ([San Francisco](#), [San Mateo County](#), [Marin County](#)) and help others sign up for theirs. Make sure your contact information is up-to-date with your regional center.
3. You can get trained in emergency preparedness and in disaster response, so that you can better help yourself and others. Take emergency preparedness training offered by trusted sources, watch preparation videos and training through Cal OES office of Access and Functional Needs AFN Library and Listos CA. Learn about your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and get certified in First Aid and CPR through the American Red Cross.
4. Know what local organizations and partnerships are able to assist with emergency preparedness and disaster response. Learn more on [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#), Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERTs) and [volunteer organizations Active in Disaster \(VOADs\)](#). Reach out to your Independent Living Centers, regional center, State Council on Developmental Disability Offices for supplies and special programs.
5. You can let your local government, policy makers, regional center, State Council Office, or Independent Living Center know what emergency preparedness and disaster response resources are needed for your community.

Sheraden’s presentation was very well received.

### **Board Operations Committee (Alex Madrid)**

Alex Madrid presented and introduced Andrea Fuentes to the Board of Directors as a potential GGRC Board Member that is recommended by the Board Operations Committee.

Eric shared that the Board Retreat will be on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and will include Board Roles and Responsibilities, lunch and Culture Diversity/ Humility Trainings. This training for all GGRC board members will have in person or on Zoom attendance options.

Alex added that the Board Operations Committee plans to review and revise GGRC's board bylaws in the next few months.

Board Officers Nomination:

The Board was notified to send their nominations for Board Officers to the Board Operations Chairperson (Alex) by April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board Operations Committee will collect the nominations and present a recommended Slate of Officers at the Board meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>. As per our bylaws, the election of officers will then be held in the June Board meeting.

Q and A followed.

**Service Provider Advisory Committee (Abby Yim)**

SPAC & COVID Update

Abby Yim reported that the SPAC committee had the Grass Roots day on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Abby added that the committee is working together with the AbilityPath to do some advocacy around rate acceleration and its inclusion in the May revise.

Abby thanked Eric Zigman, Amanda Pyle, Ingrid Lin, and Sean Galvin for their efforts on sharing information and resources as well as GGRC's presence in the SPAC meetings.

**Legislative Committee/ARCA Report (Audrey deChadenedes)**

Audrey also reported on ARCA's Grassroots' Day, which took place on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Audrey added that advocates from all 21 RC's around the state met with their elected representatives to discuss their system's needs. Our GGRC groups met with the senators and assembly members from the three counties we cover; our priorities were modernizing the Core Staffing Formula, and accelerating increases to provider rates.

In addition, the group worked to promote the following bills:

SB 882 - addresses ways to improve interactions between law enforcement and people with developmental disabilities.

AB 2378- creates tax incentives for employers who hire workers with developmental disability.

Our AdvoCats group is continuing this push by holding separate meetings with our legislators to go into these issues in greater depth, and meetings are scheduled into May.

Other bills of interest include:

AB1663 - one of the biggest of the many bills addressing Conservatorship reform. This one talks about Supported Decision Making.

AB1810 – this bill would allow school employees to volunteer for trainings to let them assist students during a seizure.

AB 2069 - CA Caregivers Training Scholarship Act

The policy deadline for fiscal bills is April 28<sup>th</sup>, and the bills keep coming. The Governor’s revision of his proposed budget and further hearings will take place in May. Audrey highlighted that there is still time for stakeholders to speak up, and the folks at ARCA, and we in the AdvoCats will keep speaking. Audrey prompted the Board to get in touch with her if they are interested to participate in advocating for these bills.

Q & A followed.

**Executive Committee/Chairperson’s Report (Audrey deChadenedes/Abby Yim)**

**Strategic Plan Revision Project Update:**

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 learning’s of the past two years. The new plan will focus on greater accessibility, and present a more manageable format that invites collaboration from our regional center community— and seeks to uplift and highlight the voices of the people we serve.

Abby shared that we are now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Have a Steering Committee Review, revise the draft, and draft the outcomes. Abby added that the group has went through a process to gather input from focus groups leaders and received feedback from other staff involved in the daily operations and implementation of the previous strategic plan. Abby highlighted that the Strategic Plan draft will be presented to the more general stakeholder group for feedback before moving forward with the process.

July 2022 has been targeted for finalizing the Strategic Plan draft.

Q and A followed.

**Director’s Report (Eric Zigman)**

**Caseload Ratio at GGRC:**

Eric highlighted GGRC’s caseload ratio and shared data on the statutorily required Caseload Ratio. Within the five categories where caseload ratio is measured, Eric focused on the GGRC and statewide regional center numbers in two categories, those we serve (over 3 years old) on the Medicaid Waiver and those we serve (over 3 years old) who are not on the Waiver. Here are the results:

| <b>Category of Individual Served</b> | <b>GGRC Ratio</b> | <b>Statewide RC Average Ratio</b> | <b>Ratio Required in Statute</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| On Waiver (over 3 yrs. old)          | 1:92              | 1:79                              | 1:62                             |
| Not on Waiver (over 3 years old)     | 1:97              | 1:82                              | 1:66                             |

Eric underscored the challenges of extremely high caseload ratios at GGRC, the importance of reducing the number of people each Social Worker supports and the need to advocate for regional center staffing to the legislature. Because of the antiquated budget allocation methodology used by the state (called the “Core Staffing Formula”) which is frozen at 1991 funding levels, GGRC is unable to

hire and compensate the number of social workers we need to be in ratio – and to give our community the attention that the Lanterman Act entitlement promises.

Golden Gate Regional Center- Need for Modernizing Operations Funding:

Eric spoke about Modernizing Core Staffing Formula and underscored the importance of advocating for it. Eric added that on a promising note, there is an assembly budget proposal that five assembly members have signed on to which adopts ARCA's proposal to modernize (revise) the Core Staffing Formula. The letter is addressed to the Assembly's Budget Committee and states that the regional centers are woefully underfunded and that we must modernize the budget methodology called the Core Staffing Formula.

Eric also shared that the National Core Indicator Public Meeting presentation will be included in the GGRC Board meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> and will have Spanish, English, and Cantonese channels on Zoom. In addition, ASL language interpretation will also be present at the board meeting on 5/17.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Aria Alokozai  
Executive Assistant