



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
September 19, 2019**

<p><b><u>VMRC SDAC Members - Present</u></b>          Karen Bonacci (FA)- VMRC          Lisa Culley (FA)-SCDD          Gricelda Estrada (FA)- VMRC          Christine Hager (DRC OCRA)-Statute          Claire Lazaro (FA)-VMRC          Alphonse Mickahail (FA)-SCDD          Dr. Bethany Mickahail (on phone) (FA)-SCDD          Dena Pfeifer(SA)-VMRC          Mariela Ramos (FA)-VMRC          Mohamed Rashid-chair (SA)-SCDD          Nancy Sanchez (FA)-VMRC</p> <p><b><u>VMRC SDAC Members- Absent</u></b>          Mary Bonacci (SA)-VMRC          John Forrest (FA)-VMRC          Roger Goatcher(FA) (stepped down)-VMRC          Phylcia Martinez (FA)-SCDD          Yadira Placsencia (FA)-SCDD          Veronica Segovia (FA)-SCDD          Martha Arely Solano (FA)-SCDD          Kerstin Williams (SA)-SCDD          Liz Zastrow-SCDD</p> <p><b><u>Guests who signed in</u></b>          Maria Solano          Amy Toy</p>	<p><b><u>SCDD Staff</u></b>          Dena Hernandez- North Valley Hills          Chanel Murray- North Valley Hills</p> <p><b><u>VMRC Staff</u></b>          Doug Bonnett – Director’s Assistant          Cindy Mix- Director of Consumer Services          Elizabeth Diaz- SD Manager          Carlos Hernandez- Cultural Specialist          Tania Candelaria- SD Service Coordinator</p> <p><b><u>Translator</u></b>          Miryam Enriquez</p> <p><b><u>Counties Represented on committee:</u></b>          San Joaquin=16 SA= 3 FA=13 O=1          Stanislaus= 3 SA= 1 FA= 2          Amador=0 NEED A REP          Calaveras=0 NEED A REP          Tuolumne= 0 NEED A REP          DRC/OCRA on committee by statute</p> <p><b>SA= Self Advocate</b>  <b>FA= Family Advocate</b>          Appointed by: <b>VMRC=9 or SCDD=10</b></p>
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**Call Meeting to order-** Mohamed Rashid-chair- called to order at 3:41pm

**Introductions-** Committee Members and audience- all introduced themselves. Miryam Enriquez provided translator services for Spanish speaking families.

**Establish Quorum-** Mohamed-chair established a quorum.

**Approval of the Agenda-** Motion: to approve the agenda by Dena Pfeifer and seconded by Claire Lazaro. Vote taken –motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the minutes from August 15, 2019** – Motion to approve the minutes Dena Pfeifer– made the motion and it was seconded by Alphonse Mikhail. Vote taken -motion passed. Claire Lazaro abstained.

- Discussion: minutes go to the committee members from SCDD. They are posted on the VMRC website at least 10 days prior to the meetings due to the Bagley Keene Open Meeting Act.

**Public Comment-**

- Alphonse Mikhail - Request Sacramento headquarters to move faster with the program. It was suggested that they learn from Colorado.
- Dora Contreras – moving in a very slow motion. She met with parents in the Sonora area and noticed some leadership there. She wants to submit names to fill the seats, the empty seats.
  - The chair requested that the names be submitted to the chairperson for follow up.
- Maria Solano – how can my two children be added to the lottery for participation in self-determination.
- Alphonse Mikhail – as a parent who tried to hire PA’s prior to self-determination, they are competing with a lot of competition like Amazon and Google. They are hiring with salaries comparable to PA. Those who are looking for jobs are going to the corporations because of the benefits they offer. We cannot compete with them because of the benefits. Sacramento headquarters should consider raising the base pay for PA so that they can be covered by some benefits. It’s very frustrating trying to find the right people, unless you can find a student hungry for money.

Others accept our position and then they go. This is very serious. They are not part of the self-determination program so they cannot compete with the other wages and benefits.

- This can be done through self-determination. You discuss it in the IPP and with FMS.
- Griselda Estrada – she finds a person who can work with her and they charge her \$20/hr and it comes out of the budget and she can decide how much to pay them. FMS is already giving her options about benefits and that the cost is part of the budget. FMS does all of the work for benefits. Why are they putting limitations?
- Tony Anderson – there seems to be a misunderstanding. Alphonse was talking about what he was dealing with outside of the self-determination program.
- Tony Anderson - This is the public time to do their comments at the public comment table. This isn't the committee time to dialogue. It is the public's time to talk.
- Dena Hernandez – the person from an FMS agency who was attending our meetings is no longer with his agency.

### **Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation- *Information***

Cindy Mix Director of Case Management –

- VMRC reports our progress on the Self Determination components monthly to DDS, including the number of participants. Last week we added 101 names to the original submission list. The original list was 187. Next week we add 439 more names to the list.
- ARCA is requesting that more RC staff and parents get involved in the planning workgroup. VMRC wants to know exactly what's going on, so our staff will be attending the next meeting.
- We have one FMS vendorized and 5 others are willing to be vendorized in our area. Resource Development have been in contact with them. We could have 6 FMS vendors to work with self-determination so families would have a choice of 1 of 6.
- Total we have 727 people who have been submitted to DDS for this random drawing. DDS has a goal of October 1 for the next selection. They may draw an additional 400 names so that if people drop out we will already have the names of people to contact to fill in the vacant slots. They

are looking at the age group of 42+ since they are lacking the population in this group for the self-determination group.

- We have a total of 20 slots possibly open right now.
- We have reviewed the budget tool with our fiscal department. We have had PCP meetings and are discussing budgets with teams. We are making progress. It was reported at a meeting in Sacramento that VMRC has made no progress and is doing nothing about self-determination. This is not true.
- We have completed 5 PCP, 2 IPP and in the next 2 weeks we have 7 PCP scheduled. We are working on rescheduling IPP meetings that were cancelled due to families, due to consumer's choice, due to VMRC because we are still working on budgets, there are a variety of reasons that the meetings get cancelled by the family. Each meeting takes 3-4 hours. The 2 SC's have a full caseload in addition to self-determination so it takes longer. There are numerous people to coordinate the meetings with – people invited by the family, 2 VMRC SC's, a program manager.

#### Comments to Cindy's Report:

- Griselda is worried about the PCP because people from the RC are completing the PCP. The SC does ask the family if they already have a PCP, or if they want to hire someone else, or if they want the SC to complete the PCP. It's up to the family/self-advocate to decide who does the PCP.
- Mariela asked if we have someone outside of the regional center to do the PCP, if parents want to hire someone else. Liz reported that you can select someone else to complete the PCP if you prefer that. Liz shared that having the regional center help with the PCP, has been a benefit because it helps the RC get to know the consumer and the family. Mariela shared that other places have a list of people/companies who can do PCP and she wants to know if VMRC knows of someone. Cindy reported that there are a couple agencies that are interested and as soon as we know, we can share that information. Claire shared that in our area, we don't have pilot programs so we don't have people doing PCP, like in LA they have resources due to their pilot programs. Parents Helping Parents in the bay area can be explored but VMRC has no experience with them.
- Griselda is worried about her first IPP and wants to know if she can pick someone else to do the PCP instead of the regional center. Liz again explained that the family can decide who does the PCP for the consumer.

- Mariela shared that the SC called her about the annual IPP and at the same time she wanted to have the PCP meeting. She didn't know that she had an option of choosing someone else to do the PCP. If it's time for the IPP but she doesn't have the PCP completed yet, should she meet for the IPP meeting or wait until the PCP is done?
- Griselda heard that every SC has 100 traditional consumers on their caseload that they have to serve and besides that they have self-determination consumers, do they have any help to be able to manage all the cases that they have. Liz reported that SC's are transitioning out of self-determination. In October those SC's will be fully with self-determination.
- Nancy wants to know how many cases each SC has? Cindy shared that there are 80 in the self-determination program, so the 2 SC's will have 40 each. For traditional services, they are 1:79. This will allow the self-determination SC's to be experts in the program. Tony shared that only a few RC's are doing it this.

Cindy shared that there will be a significant increase in the workload, per DDS, so our SC's will only work with the self-determination program.

A lot of people are interested in the FMS staff attending the meetings to discuss budget issues, there will be more information coming soon about this.

Background checks for service providers might be delayed which can cause delays in getting the self-determination services implemented. RC's are required to give 30 day notice to current service providers, so RC's are waiting for DDS to give direction on how to give notice. Jim Knight, DDS shared that a parent of an adult child is not prevented from being paid for developing the PCP for the adult child.

They are also looking at sick leave for providers and FMS is exploring this and the labor laws. There is another meeting on October 7.

#### **VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Next Steps-ACTION**

- Mohamed Rashid-chair – Announcement, ELECTION: Mohamed is stepping down in his role as chairperson due to his new employment with DRAIL. He will remain on the committee. Christine Hager is resigning from the committee and the position of Secretary as her employment with OCRA is ending. OCRA will send another person to represent OCRA.

- Mariela Ramos is willing to be the Chairperson.
- Election
  - Vice-Chair: Nancy Sanchez nominated and accepted. The committee voted and 3 abstained. Motion carries, Nancy is the Vice-Chair.
  - Secretary: Lisa Culley nominated and accepted. The committee voted and 1 abstained. Motion carried, Lisa is the Secretary.
- SCDD Statewide Self Determination Meeting October 18, 2019 in Sacramento. We need a representative to attend this meeting on our behalf. Mariela may attend, she will check her calendar and let Dena know. Tony committed to sharing a report for Mariela to use at the meeting.
  - Dena shared that the chairperson typically attends this meeting from each of the 21 advisory committees. We need to let the SCDD know who is attending on behalf of this committee.
- Begin scheduling Meet and Greets in each county

#### **Independent Facilitator (IF) trainings – Information**

Dena Hernandez – SCDD North Valley Hills

- When is IF training? We don't have it scheduled yet, but the plan is to hold it in October. Chris Arroyo from SCDD is the trainer and will coordinate it with Dena Hernandez.

#### **VMRC SDAC Membership Update – Information**

- Dena Hernandez shared that there are several members not in attendance. The members who do not attend the meeting are sent a reminder email about their membership and if they want to continue to attend.
- In 2015 this committee agreed that they do not want by-laws for the committee. Maybe the committee will want to explore by-laws and Mariela can talk with the other chairpersons at the October meeting, to find out how they are managing their committees and if they have membership committee. Tony reminded the committee that Begley-Keene helps manage the meetings but the by-laws would give clear direction on membership and guidance on roles and responsibilities.
- Roger G from the committee is stepping down due to personal issues but hopes to join again in the future.

- Dena reminded the committee that half of the members are appointed by VMRC and half by SCDD. Currently- the committee has too many members from San Joaquin County (16 seats) Stanislaus County has 3 seat and zero seats from the mountain counties. Those seats need to be filled before anymore San Joaquin County/Stanislaus seats are filled. The meetings are open to all so people can attend even if they are not on the committee.
- A committee member contacted Dena to state the time of the meetings is difficult for her to attend and asked that the committee take a look at that moving forward. It will be an agenda item at the October meeting.

**Next Meeting –October 17, 2019 at 3:30pm at VMRC Board Room Stockton.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 4:50pm**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Hager, Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy*

DRAFT