



## **Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting**

08/25/2021 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM - (GMT-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Via Zoom Video

**Board Members Present:** Margaret Heinz, President, Crystal Enyeart, Erria Kaalund, Lynda Mendoza, Vice-President, Candice Bright, Dr Yan Li, Tom Toomey, Ken Britter, Linda Collins, Secretary, Jessica Quesada, Lisa Utsey, Anthony Owens, Robert Balderama, Tina Vera

**Board Members Not Present: Informed absences:** Alicia Schott, Steve Russell, Suzanne Devitt, Gabriella Castillo, Emily Grunder

**VMRC Staff Present:** Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Bud Mullanix, Tony Anderson, Gabriela Lopez, Brian Bennet, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Irene Hernandez, interpreter, Rachelle Munoz, facilitator, Enos Edmerson, Jason Toepel, Melissa Stiles, Libby Contreras

**Public Present:** Dena Hernandez/SCDD, Alma Janssen/DDS, Irene Hernandez (Interpreter), Rachelle Munoz (Facilitator), Gricelda Estrada, Tania Delgado, Marisol Cardenas, Karina Obeso, Nancy Avila, Ana Barragan, Maria Elena Diaz

**Meeting Called to Order at 6:02pm by Margaret Heinz, President.**

### **A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Reading of the Mission Statement**

The Mission Statement was read together. We do have a quorum tonight based on roll call.

### **B. Review and Approval of the Meeting Agenda – Action Item**

Lynda Mendoza made a motion to approve, Anthony Owens seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

**C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 07/27/21  
– Action Item**

Tom Toomey made a motion to approve the minutes of 7.27.21. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

**D. Board Presentation - Community Placement Plan (CPP)/Community  
Resource Development Plan (CRDP) 2021-2022 – Briant Bennett, VMRC  
Director of Community Services – see presentation in packet**

**E. Public Comment**

Gricelda Estrada – Gabriela Lopez interpreted: She wants to participate and comment on the policy that VMRC has about ABA with children and Early Start. I would like to again ask and request that the policy be open again. The policy was done with the regional center and SELPA and nonpublic agencies were invited. I would like for it to be discussed again and invite the parents to discuss the benefits of their children receiving ABA. And only a few children receive ABA services from the regional center. And from the district and the nonpublic agencies. That would be it. thank you very much.

Dena Hernandez, SCDD, North Valley Hills Office – Good evening. Welcome to the new board members. So exciting with the new faces and high-quality board members. Second, the SCDD is willing to partner with VMRC moving forward as Covid is rising. We are receiving requests for PPE and will submit another order for more supplies. We are happy to assist with any PPE and vaccination clinics. SAC6 has been talked about a lot throughout the state. Easter Seals from S. Cal called to see if they were willing to share the collaborative leadership put people at the table that receive services and supports. There is an event, Disability Thrive Initiative. The Event is September 8. It's on zoom. As board members it would benefit for you to hear about the wonderful collaboration. SAC6 is a jewel for our region. September 8 it's happening.

**F. Consent Calendar Items – Action Item**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of August 2021
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of August 2021

Robert Balderama made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar items. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. NO discussion. The consent calendar items were approved unanimously.

## G. Committee Reports

**1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Area Service Providers (CLASP)**

**Candice Bright, CLASP Appointee** CLASP met on July 26, 2021. The minutes are attached. [https://vmrcmy.sharepoint.com/personal/ccouch\\_vmrc\\_net/Documents/Desktop/6-28-21%20CLASP%20meeting%20minutes%20#1.pdf](https://vmrcmy.sharepoint.com/personal/ccouch_vmrc_net/Documents/Desktop/6-28-21%20CLASP%20meeting%20minutes%20#1.pdf). The next meeting was August 23, 2021, but the minutes are not available yet. September 27, 2021, is the following meeting.

## 2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)

Mariela our SDAC chair was not present. Tony Anderson shared that it began on July 1, 2021, for everyone. We have 45 people in the program. Our team is booked up through October with meetings to prepare for self-determination. This is significant. There is interest. Our team is very supportive and dedicated to self-determination. DDS did just tell us that we will be getting 3 participant-choice specialists. They help with transition from regular case management to self-determination activities. This team will do the self-determination parts and regular case management will do that part. People will get to keep their regular SC. Very exciting. There will also be an Ombudsman for the state to support this program. There will be processes and benchmarks developed and shared in the future.

**3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6)**

Self-Advocacy Council 6 September 2021

## Report to the VMRC Consumer Services Committee

**Sac 6 mission is to help start and support local chapters.**

We will learn, inform, discover and keep lines of communication open between people who make decisions that impact the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

The SAC6 serves as the consumer advocate for Valley Mountain Regional Center. We have a contract with VMRC that talks about the self-advocacy goals we work on. We are on VMRC Committees, Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee, SCDD North Valley Hills Regional Advisory Committee, Statewide Self Advocacy Network, CHOICES Institute, and many other county specific agencies. Nothing About Us without US!

When COVID hit and we were on to stay home, we needed to have a way to stay informed and get information to others safety. So, we started having weekly Friday Zoom Chats. This was a great way for us to keep the lines of communication open. On August 4th, Sac 6 members had their weekly practice zoom meeting to prepare for that Fridays Chat. During the practice zoom chat we decide who is going to have what part in the script such as introduction of the guest speaker or thanking the guest speaker. We rotate so everyone gets a turn to do each item.

On August 6th we had our Area meeting / Chat via zoom. At this Area meeting, we had Claire Lazaro VMRC Clinical Director give a presentation update on Covid then and now. An Area Meeting is held every three months were self-advocates for all 6 counties get together and we talk about import issues that are currently going on in our communities. For example, this Area Meeting topic was "Covid then and now" as we are all dealing with COVID.

On August 11th, Sac 6 Chair Catrina C. attended the CAC-DDS (Consumer Advisory Community- Development Disability Services). DDS ensures that people with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to lead independent, productive lives in their community of choice. The meetings are done via Zoom and at this meeting we discussed the new bills and how they could impact those receiving services.

Lisa U. also attended the VMRC Finance Committee meeting. At these meeting we review the VMRC budget to ensure its staying on track with spending. Sac 6 members also had their weekly practice zoom meeting to prepare for Fridays zoom chat.

August 13th Sac 6 Zoom meeting topic was on meeting the new VMRC Compliance manager Jason Toepel. This was a great way for other advocates to meet Jason and ask him questions.

Sac 6 is also collaborating with DTI Rights and Advocacy. DTI is Disability Thrive Inclusion, with Easter seals. Easter seals is on the ground in communities throughout Southern California, committed to responding to the ever-increasing demands for services during the COVID-19 pandemic. They continue to deliver critical services and supports needed by people with disabilities. During these uncertain times for all of us, especially for people who find themselves even more isolated. Help assure that people who need Easter seals get the services they need in their communities. We had our first zoom meeting on August 17th via zoom. Sac 6 presentation is scheduled September 8th. The presentation will be Sac 6 members telling a little about ourselves and what committees and Boards we are apart of and

how we got started in advocacy, any advice we have for others. The purpose of this presentation is to let others know and encourage them to use their voice, as a person with a disability.

August 18th Sac 6 members attended the Planning meeting for Consumer Services. Sac 6 will have three members sitting on this board and we are super excited. Also, Sac 6 had their quarterly Finance meeting.

August 19th Sac 6 provided a Clients Rights training to individuals who live and work at St. Paul's Home in San Joaquin County. Sac 6 provided individuals' presentations to ensure their rights are being respected and to also teach providers how to respect their rights. We are currently providing these trainings via zoom.

August 20th Sac 6 consultant and VMRC Board member Lisa U. attended the ARCA (Association of Regional Center Agencies) meeting via zoom. (ARCA) represents California's network of 21 independent, non-profit regional centers that advocate on behalf of and coordinate services for California's over 350,000 people with developmental disabilities. ARCA functions as a leader and advocate in promoting the continuing entitlement of individuals with developmental disabilities to all services that enable full community inclusion. They also participate in the development of public legislative policy and serves as a focal point for communication, education, training, and prevention services.

Also, on August 20th Sac 6 had their zoom meeting and this topic was collaborated with Person Centered Services DJ for the RAP Dance, "Hot August Dance".

August 24th Sac 6 had a meeting with Rhodes Care home self-Advocacy group, as they are starting a new self-advocacy group. Their representative who will represent them on the Sac 6 Board is Lindsey R. we are so excited to have new self-advocacy groups join us.

Sac 6 has also been asked by DRC (Disability Rights California) SPACE to collaborate with them on continuing to get the word out to others and bring other advocates to the table, where the decisions are made. Our first Zoom meeting is August 26, 2021.

Also, on August 26th Sac 6 had their monthly Leadership meeting with VMRC Executive Director and VMRC Liaison to Sac 6. At these meetings Sac 6 shares what advocacy work they have done, going to do, and bring back any concerns. The Executive Director shares

ideas and information with Sac 6 on upcoming events, new rules, legislative information and any other updates as needed.

August 27th Sac 6 Zoom chat was on Home & Community base setting by Anna Sims. This was a great topic, and we were presented with lots of information regarding the new changes that will be taking place.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enyeart SAC6 representative to the VMRC board and Consumer Services Committee.

#### **4. Finance Committee**

a. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for August 2021 – **Action Item**

Melissa Stiles gave the report. Action Item Finance Committee/Margaret Heinz made the motion to approve the CSRs. Tom Toomey seconded the motion. NO discussion. The approval of contract status reports was approved unanimously.

b. Purchase of Services (POS) and Operations (OPS) Expenditures for August 2021

Melissa Stiles reviewed the POS and OPS expenditures.

c. Acceptance of Restricted Donations to the Popplewell Fund – **Action Item**

Melissa Stiles presented the balance. Action Item Margaret Heinz/Finance Committee made the motion to approve the acceptance of restricted donations to the Popplewell Fund. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. NO discussion. The balance was approved unanimously.

5. **Legislative Committee** - Tony shared that by mid-October the Governor will be done and the committee will give a report.

6. **Nominating Committee** – Linda Collins shared her thanks for the board dinner welcoming the new members. She thanked the new members for their application and support of the board.

7. **Bylaws Committee** – Lynda Mendoza asked Tony Anderson to report. The committee met last year. They meet once a year to read the bylaws and recommend any needed changes. The committee will need to meet once this year.

8. **Special Events Committee** – Tina Vera will work on a board training in the new year!

#### **H. Executive Director's Report – Tony Anderson, VMRC Executive Director**

1. Caseload Ratio Report – see attached report

2. Public Comment on Caseload Ratio Report – no public comment.

**I. Other Matters – None.**

- J. Board Member Activities and Reports** – Margaret reminded members about the September 14 ARCA training.

- K. President's Report – Margaret Heinz, Board President** shared a warm welcome to the new board members. We appreciate you and are so excited for what you bring to the board. You make us a better board. You are outstanding and fabulous!

A quick thank you to Matthew and Jason for the training before our meeting. DDS sent out an extension of waivers.

Thank you for completing the conflict-of-interest statements.

ARCA board training on Early Start – raffle for all board members that attend – please attend. The ARCA delegates meeting and the ARCA board meeting last week. We discussed the difficulties across the state filling positions – we are thankful for our HR team for filling positions and recruiting.

The Health Advisories are amazing and wonderful. I share them all the time!

Action Items -

1. **Approval of Senior Human Resources Generalist** – Bud described the position. This is an opportunity for Mary Jane to move up, earn more money and help with more duties. Executive Committee made the motion to approve the Senior Human Resources Generalist position, Linda Collins seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carries unanimously.
2. **Approval of Emergency Response Coordinator** – Bud shared that this is a new position from DDS. Executive Committee made the motion to approve the Emergency Response Coordinator position, Linda Collins seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion carries unanimously.

3. **Approval of Deaf and Hard of hearing Community Coordinator** – Tony shared that this is a new position from DDS. Executive Committee made the motion to approve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community Coordinator, Robert Balderama seconded the motion. There was discussion about the requirement from DDS and how it's funded in the budget. There was discussion about the need for deaf and hard of hearing services to help keep people safe and to be able to communicate clearly. There were questions about training materials. The motion passes unanimously.

**L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 6:00 PM, Location TBD**

**M. Adjournment at 7:53pm**



# VMRC CPP/CRDP PLAN 2021-2022

AUGUST 25, 2021

## How Projects are Determined:

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- Unmet Needs
- Stakeholder Survey
- Adult and Children's Residential Screening Teams
- Anticipation of Growth
- Loss of Service Providers (Children's Residential)
- DDS' CPP/CRDP Guidelines

# CPP/CRDP PLAN 2021-2022

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- The Department's goal for the CPP is to enhance the capacity of the community service delivery system and to support individuals moving into the community from a more restrictive environment.
- The Department's goals for the CRDP is to be responsive to the changing needs of individuals currently residing in the community who are receiving services through California's developmental disabilities service system and enhance the capacity for community services.

[https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CPP\\_Guidelines\\_FY\\_20-21.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/CPP_Guidelines_FY_20-21.pdf)



# CPP/CRDP PLAN 2021-2022

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- The CPP and CRDP are designed to support two of the Department's strategic goals:
  - **Goal One:** *Expand the availability, accessibility and types of services and supports to meet current and future needs of individuals and their families in the community.*
  - **Goal Two:** *Develop systems to ensure that quality services and supports in the least restrictive environment are provided to individuals in the community.*

# START SERVICES

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- The START service model is a comprehensive approach to crisis prevention and intervention for people with developmental disabilities and co-occurring mental health conditions. The model provides crisis planning and wraparound services that help support individuals at risk for acute crisis or loss of residential placement, and individuals who are currently experiencing crises.

# PROPOSAL #1

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- START SERVICES: VMRC has a high incidence of transient and dually diagnosed male and female consumers who have histories of substance abuse and psychological support needs that would benefit from the services offered by the START Training Model. While our current services begin to address our community's needs, they are at their capacity and our local needs exceed our resources within our region's network of providers.



## PROPOSAL #1 Cont.

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- START SERVICES: VMRC has experienced an increase in the need for mental health support services for children and young adults in the last three years. Our last three CPP/ CRDP plans have included residential support projects specific for children (EBSH , CCH, (2) Specialized Children's Residential Group Homes) due to the high closure rate of licensed children's homes and increase in the need for supports for children ages 12-18 in our five-county catchment area. The START Training program would help us to better support families and children with specialized needs in their homes and reduce the need for such high-level residential support models.

## PROPOSAL #1 Cont.

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- START SERVICES: The Start Training Model will give VMRC consumers the opportunity to remain living in their preferred communities, to learn and receive methods and techniques from the most qualified providers in order to avoid placement in less preferred, restrictive settings due to the nature of their disability. VMRC is excited about the opportunity to offer the Start Training Model to all consumers in our five-county catchment area.
- CRDP: \$835,020



## PROPOSAL #2

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- START TEAM: The START Team will support the development of a Crisis Support Service called "START Team." This program will provide additional services and supports to individuals experiencing challenges, so that they can maintain their community living situation.
- CRDP : \$300,000

# PROPOSAL #3

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## Housing Specialist (CPP-Operations position)

This position would be under the supervision of the Director of Community Services. The housing specialist would support the regional center consumers and case management staff with identifying local , federal and state housing opportunities; work with local housing agencies to develop MOU's and to develop RFP's for multi family housing projects. The Housing Specialist would identify and coordinate the agencies unmet housing needs plan.

CPP Operations: Total Request \$65,000

# PROPOSAL #4

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- Specialized Children's Residential Home
  - 3 Bed
  - 15-18 yrs. old
  - Stanislaus or Tuolumne County

CRDP : \$ 150,000



# PROPOSAL #5

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- Specialized Children's Residential Home
  - 3 Bed
  - 15-18 yrs.
  - San Joaquin or Tuolumne County

CRDP : \$ 150,000

## PROPOSAL #6

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- RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY (RCFE)
  - 4 Bed
  - Calaveras County
  - Non-Ambulatory

CRDP \$ 150,000

# PROPOSAL #7

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- RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY FOR THE ELDERLY (RCFE)
  - 4 Bed
  - Tuolumne County
  - Non-Ambulatory

CRDP \$ 150,000



# PROPOSAL #8 (CONTINUATION)

DUE TO SUBSTANTIAL DELAYS in development due to (COVID-19)

Additional funding is needed for the renovation of the following projects currently in development:

- VMRC CRDP 1920 #5 EBSH Adults/Autism (Enhanced Behavior Supports Home)  
additional \$102,668
- VMRC CRDP 1920 #6 CCH Children (Community Crisis Home) additional \$152,449

(Costs include lease costs, increased materials, well, asbestos removal\* full itemized reports provided by HDO (Housing Development Organization))