



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
September 16, 2021**

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-
VMRC
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA)-
Statute
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Mary Bonacci (SA) -(VMRC)
Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)
Araceli Espinoza (FA)
Arelly Solano (FA) -SCDD

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Guests who identified

Ernesto Diaz
Dora Contreras
Melanie Gonzales
Alma Janssen
Joe Hernandez
Monique Guerrero
Nancy Millan
Nancy Avila
Tania Delgado

VMRC Staff

Tony Anderson-Executive Director
Doug Bonnet-Special Assistant to
Executive Director
Christine Couch-Director of
Consumer Services-Adult
Elizabeth Diaz-Program Manager
Gaby Lopez-Cultural Specialist
Michele Poaster-Service
Coordinator
David Narbona-Service Coordinator
Tania Candelaria-Service Coordinator
Tara Sisemore-Hester-Director of Consumer
Services-Children

Irène Hernandez-Interpreter

Call Meeting to order- Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

Introductions- Roll call was taken. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services for committee members & guests who speak Spanish.

Establish Quorum-There was no quorum at the start of the meeting. Attendance was monitored to determine if/when quorum was met. Quorum was established part way through the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda-Agenda was approved once quorum was established. Al made a motion to approve the agenda, with second from John. The vote was seven in favor of the agenda, and two no votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes from August 19, 2021-There was a correction made by Lisa to add Gricelda to the attendance for the meeting. Also, Gricelda opposed the minutes because the arguments she and Mariela presented regarding the bylaw discussion were not written specifically into the minutes. The statement that “Mariela and Gricelda opposed the creation of bylaws for the SDAC committee” will be added to the minutes for 8/19/21. Motion was made by Jeff with 2nd by John to approve the minutes with the above corrections and amendment. Motion passed for approval.

Public Comment- Dora asked the committee how we are informing families know there is \$2500 to use for Person Centered Plans? Is the Self Determination team discussing this with families during meetings. Michele indicated that she is sharing information with the families on her caseload. Tony indicated that plans are in process to add additional staff to the SD team.

Dena shared the following concerns that were presented by Maritza Ochoa at the SDAC Event workgroup meeting-Families have little idea of how self-determination works, and there is difficulty learning about events. Service Coordinators are talking with families and should be notifying families about the choice between traditional services and self-determination; but families feel it’s complicated and are scared to participate in the program. There are accessibility issues and awareness of trainings on the website.

Karen shared the following on behalf of families she is working with-1. There are barriers with the FMS-FMS are asking regional centers for approval for expenses-this should not happen, because the spending plan/budgets were approved. The FMS should be paying the bills without this additional approval, which is delaying

payment to providers, staff, and for services. 2. Attending meetings with VMRC staff is intimidating-why are there so many VMRC staff at the SDAC meetings? 3. Can contracted resource person help those already in self-determination, or only those who have not entered the program (the \$2500 to transition into the program)?

VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-Information/ACTION – Dena-

Dena presented a draft agenda for the Meet & Greet. Karen asked to have the VMRC Fiscal Manager added to the agenda. Lisa made a motion to approve the agenda, with a second by Jeff. The draft agenda was approved. The next workgroup meeting is on Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 1-3pm.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-Information-

Mariela shared that no date had been announced for the next meeting.

Self Determination Support Project-Information- Melanie Gonzales shared an additional resource www.thecasdnetwork.org for independent facilitators and other service providers. She is currently developing information for families, and shared flyers for her services. She has not received any referrals to support anyone from our area.

Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Information-

There are 45 people currently in Self-Determination. At this time, meetings are being scheduled into November. Tony reported there will hopefully be three additional members added to the SD team/staff. Agency wide, staff are receiving training on Self Determination, to allow for even more support for consumers. Tony will share the self-determination specific budget information with the group at a future meeting. Michele reported that there are consumers of all ages that are interested/entering the program.

Future orientations: 11/4 (9am-12pm) in English with Spanish interpretation
11/5 (9am-12pm) in Spanish

The information for registration for future orientation trainings will be in the Friday Health Advisories, will be on VMRCs website & will be given to Service Coordinators to provide to families.

By-Laws/Ground Rules-ACTION-Advisory Committee members-There was discussion during the August meeting to start the process of creating by-laws for SDAC. A motion was made by Karen, with second by Lisa to start the process of creating by-laws. Mariela and Gricelda continued to share

their view in disagreement of by-laws, as they feel that by-laws will make the process more bureaucratic. The results of the vote: approval-Jeff, Lisa, Karen, Alphonse; disagreement-Mariela, Gricelda, John. Motion passed, with the Event Workgroup to take the next step to begin the development of by-laws.

SDAC Membership Update-*Information*-Dena provided update on membership with members-the representatives from Tuolumne County have resigned. There are representatives needed from Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. SCDD has 7 representatives, and VMRC has 5 representatives on the SDAC.

Self Determination Issues-*Discussion*-Tabled to the next meeting.

Next meeting-October 21, 2021, 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Meet & Greet scheduled for Monday, October 25, from 5-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:23pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley