



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

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-
VMRC
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Mary Bonacci (SA) -(VMRC)
Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)
Araceli Espinoza (FA)
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA)-
Statute
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)
Arely Solano (FA) -SCDD
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Guests who identified

Erika M. Acosta
Ana Barragon
Marisol Cardenas
Dora Contreras
Tania Delgado
Elena Diaz
Melanie Gonzales
Monique Guerrero
Alma Janssen
Joe Hernandez
Aleida O.
Karina Obeso
Reyna Rangel-Simon
Maricela Robledo
Maria Solano

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
Angelique Shear-Program Manager
Tara Sisemore-Hester-Director of Consumer
Services-Children
Irene Hernandez-Interpreter

Call Meeting to order- Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

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

Establish Quorum-There was no quorum when the meeting started. Attendance was monitored to determine if/when quorum was met. Quorum was never established for this meeting.

Approval of the Agenda-No quorum.

Approval of the Minutes from August 19, 2021-No quorum.

Public Comment- No public comment.

VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-*Information/ACTION – Dena-* No quorum, so could not vote on the recommendations. Tabled to next meeting.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-*Information-* Mariela shared that the next statewide meeting is scheduled on 11/10/21, from 10am-3:30pm. Because it is an open meeting, anyone is invited to attend.

Self Determination Support Project-*Information-* Melanie Gonzales shared that she has not received any referrals yet. She has developed a referral form, and Liz indicated that VMRC has families to refer to the program for additional support. Melanie will also be setting up weekly coaching calls for anyone who wants to attend for more information.

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

Tara reported that as of 9/30, 63 PCPs have been completed, 18 of those are working on budgets, 20 have signed budgets and are working on spending plans. 47 fully enrolled in Self Determination. Of those who were not part of the soft roll out since 7/1, there have been 18 PCPs, 10 working on budgets, 6 working on spending plans, with 2 people fully enrolled in Self Determination. Tara also reported that there is a planning group working on service standards, including social/recreational activities. Until the standard is approved, requests will go through the VMRC Exceptions Committee. More details to come.

Tony shared that there are new staff titles for Participant Choice Specialists (the three Senior Service Coordinators that have been providing support for Self Determination participants-Michele, Tania & David, and there is funding for three additional positions). Tony recently had a meeting with DDS and reported that DDS is developing a statewide orientation process. DDS is also providing additional directives on further details of Self Determination. He also provided the information on the new position of the SDP Ombudsperson-current interim Ombudsperson is Katie Hornberger (SDP.Ombudsperson@dds.ca.gov), the phone number is 877-658-9731. The Ombudsperson provides information to regional center clients and their families, facilitates solutions to disagreements, investigates complaints regarding implementation of the program, recommends strategies for change to the department and the legislature, and compiles and reports data to the legislature.

Tony indicated that answers to the vaccination mandate question have not been answered at this time for Self-Determination. Tony will provide updates as additional information is available. The vaccination mandate may be relevant depending on what type of service is provided. Joe indicated that if a provider is mandated to be vaccinated under traditional services, they would also be mandated to be vaccinated under Self Determination. The example of a gym trainer was that that person would not be mandated to be vaccinated. All are waiting for additional direction from DDS.

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.

SDAC Membership Update-Information-Dena provided update on membership with members needed from Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. There are currently no applications from those counties.

Self Determination Issues-Discussion-Mariela asked if others were having issues finding providers. She is finding it difficult.

Gricelda asked why, during the budget meetings, are the amounts for items like PPE or other things is being removed? Shouldn't amounts be added to the budget? Liz answered that those were one-time expenditures and are not on-going needs. Also, things like vehicle modifications, OT assessments, etc. would be taken off, as they were one-

time expenditures.

Karen shared the remaining two issues from the last meeting-the Health Advisory needs more information on Self-Determination, not just trainings. VMRC's website also needs additional information.

Jeff suggested that maybe the committee needs to have a Facebook page/group, and he would be willing to take the lead to develop. Dena will check with SCDD legal staff to determine if there are any legal issues to this idea in relation of the committee.

Her last issue is if a parent/family member were unable to support the Self Determination participant, that it would be helpful to have a "help desk" or someone else who could assist the participant.

Next meeting-November 18, 2021, 3:30pm-5:00pm.

Meet & Greet Save-the-date, January 24, 2022, from 5-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:01pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley