



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
February 17, 2022**

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-
VMRC
Mary Bonacci (FA)-VMRC
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC
Sandra Graham (DRC OCRA)-
Statute
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)
Araceli Espinoza (FA)
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)
Arely Solano (FA) -SCDD
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

SA=Self Advocate
FA=Family Advocate

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

Guests who identified

Erika M Acosta
James Ford
Nancy Millan
Maricela
Dalyla
Verenise Esquivel Torres

Huyen Tran
Tania Delgado
Monique Guerrero
Maria Elena Diaz
Rubi Saldana
Faviola Cruz
Dora Contreras
Aleida O
Josefina Romo

VMRC Staff

Tony Anderson-Executive Director
Jordan Bettencourt-Participant
Choice Specialist
Tania Candelaria-Participant Choice
Specialist
Christine Couch-Director of
Consumer Services-Adult
Elizabeth Diaz-Program Manager
Gabriela Lopez- Cultural Specialist
Xinh Nguyen-Participant Choice
Specialist
Michele Poaster-Participant Choice
Specialist
Angelique Sheer-Program Manager
Tara Sisemore-Hester-Director of
Consumer Services-Children
Deanna Wagenman-Participant Choice
Specialist
Irene Hernandez-Interpreter

Call Meeting to order- Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37pm.

Introductions- Committee members and guests introduced themselves in chat. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services for committee members & guests who speak Spanish.

Establish Quorum-Quorum was established

Approval of the Agenda-Motion made by John (2nd by Sandra) to approve the agenda, passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from December 16, 2021 & January 20, 2022-Motion made by John (2nd by Jeff) to approve the minutes from both months, passed with 1 abstention (Mary).

VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-*Information/ACTION – Dena-* The workgroup brought the following recommendations to the full committee:

- 1.** Purchase jackets for the VMRC SDAC Members-for recognition at outreach events-to be included in the allocation already approved for participant shirts. Motion by Jeff (2nd Mary)-passed with five yes votes (Karen, Mary, Lisa, John, Jeff), one no vote (Gricelda), and two abstentions (Sandra, Mariela).
- 2.** Host Meet & Greet on Monday, April 25, 2022, from 6:30pm-8pm. The topic will be Independent Facilitators, their role and what support they can provide. Motion made by Karen (2nd by John)-passed unanimously.
- 3.** Double the previously authorized allotment for Self Determination shirts up to \$10,000. This total includes the jacket cost from #1. Motion made by Karen (2nd by John)-passed with six yes votes (Karen, Mary, Lisa, John, Sandra, Mariela), one no vote (Gricelda), one abstention (Jeff).
- 4.** Purchase 100 additional Self Determination books-approved purchase at a prior meeting- (Tri Counties workbook/DVU books) in English & Spanish- Motion made by Jeff (2nd by Karen)-passed unanimously.

Gricelda asked for a further explanation of what the purpose of the funds allocated from DDS were to be used for. It was explained that these funds were allotted for the local Self Determination Advisory Committees to further the program in their areas. Gricelda requested it be noted that the jackets were not necessary to promote Self Determination.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-*Information-* Mariela reported that Joe Hernandez was working on the Self

Determination Orientation module. Dena reported that the \$3,000 previously requested from each local advisory committee to support the statewide committee will not be needed. There is a new coach for the SSDAC-Harold Fujira. Other local advisory committees reported that their funding allotments were spent on: books, hand-over-hand support projects, T-shirts, Meet & Greet outreach events, leadership training, videos, and resource fairs and events.

Self Determination Support Project-*Information*-Melanie was unable to attend the meeting today but submitted her report via email: Weekly Coaching Meetings – Due to attendance, will be reducing to 1x per month beginning March. We will hold these meetings the 4th Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm. Meetings are open to anyone interested in additional support with SDP. She will get updated flyers out for distribution.

- Individual referrals – Total of 15 referrals as of 2/17/22. Of those, actively working with 6, waiting for responses from 8 (will continue to make attempts to reach them), and haven't contacted the most recent referral received this week. They have been working on the following areas with individuals:
 - questions about SDP
 - understanding budget
 - ?'s about what can be funded
 - Starting to develop spending plan
 - Connecting with FMS agencies
 - How to obtain support staff
 - Looking at resources available, securing staff/services, etc...
- New Individual Referrals – Not yet contacted: 1

Self Determination Support Project for Spanish speaking families/consumers-*Information*-There was some discussion started regarding the RFP, however, it had not been translated or added to the meeting packet, so committee members were unable to review the document prior to the meeting. For the March meeting the DRAFT Request for Proposal (RFP) will be discussed and will be translated into Spanish. Time will be set aside to complete the RFP during the meeting.

Public Comment-The following public comment was received:

**Please note-unfortunately, there were technical difficulties during this time with interpretation and sound quality and unstable internet connection, therefore, all of the public comment was not captured for the notes.

*Tania Delgado-has two daughters transitioning into Self Determination. She was frustrated that her daughters had to wait until their birth month to start since her

daughters have completed person centered plans. She was encouraged to contact the service coordinator and that she did not have to wait until the birth month to start the process.

*Maria Elena Diaz-audio & interpretation were cutting out-not able to document

*Nancy Millan-Asks that budget be used in a responsible manner

*Alejandra Lugardo-audio & interpretation were cutting out-not able to document

*Erika M Acosta-Money should be used to provide services to families.

Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- *Information*-Tony Anderson, Executive Director

Upcoming VMRC self-determination orientation dates:

Orientation:

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 9am-12pm, in Spanish

Thursday, June 16, 2022, 1-4pm, English with Spanish Interpretation

Monday, August 8, 2022, 1-4pm, English with Spanish Interpretation

Find the links to register on the VMRC website, here: <https://www.vmrc.net/self-determination/>

SDAC Membership Update-*Information*-Dena-Dena had to leave for another meeting but provided membership information through chat: members are needed from Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. Future appointments need to come from SCDD, and we should also look to fill positions with self-advocates.

Next meeting-March 17, 2022, 3:30pm-5:00pm, on Zoom

Meet & Greet Save-the-date, April 25, 2022, from 6:30-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley