



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

10/25/2023 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

**Board Members Present:** Jody Burriss, Liz Herrera Knapp, Lynda Mendoza, Margaret Heinz, Crystal Enyeart, Brandy De Alba, Suzanne Devitt, Jeff Turner, Jose Lara, Lisa Utsey, Erria Kaalund, Steve Russell, Jessica Quesada, Anthony Owens, Dr. Li, Gabriela Castillo, Tom Toomey

**Board Members Not Present:** Linda Collins (informed absence), Emily Grunder, Alicia Schott (informed absence), Robert Balderama

**VMRC Staff Present:** Doug Bonnet, Angie Shear, Claire Lazaro, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Melissa Stiles, Tony Anderson, Bud Mullanix, Mark Crear, Jason Toepel

**Public:** Isela Bingham, Dena Hernandez, Tumboura Hill, Erick Thurmond, James Ford, Vivian David-Nichols, Irene Hernandez

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

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm. Suzanne Devitt led the reading of the Mission Statement. Doug Bonnet took the roll. A quorum was established.

### **B. Review of the Meeting Agenda**

Suzanne Devitt reviewed the agenda.

### **C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 08/23/23 - Action**

Lynda Mendoza made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 08/23/23. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 08/23/23 was approved.

### **D. Presentation - 2024 Board Training Plan**

Tony Anderson presented the board training plan/curriculum 2024.

Board Comments: Brandy suggested seeing the services and getting to know what is offered in our area, as part of the training. Suzanne appreciates the trainings and agrees that this is a complex training plan.

### **E. Public Comment**

Tumboura Hill; Asked a question about the presentation regarding the competency for the board. The board should know the power they possess. They have been kept separate from the regional center. They stay in this room eating and looking at a packet. They don't know what's going on. They represent the budget and consumers. Anything that happens goes through the board. The question is how will they show you that you have competency in managing an institution this large. Second question: the RC is an ecosystem. We all have a role. Roles are changing. New things are emerging. SDP is not getting enough resources, respect and support. Mr. Thurmond is an IF. He provided services and submitted an invoice for \$1000. He hasn't received payment. This is happening and the board is not aware. You are asking to visit a place that you run. All of the final decisions are coming from you. You need to conduct yourself like a boss and not have someone else tell you what your job is.

Dena Hernandez: The SCDD, North Valley Hills office. At the CLASP conference and part of the planning team. It was a lot of work and energy. Hats off to the CLASP team. My hats off to VMRC for the 10-07 event in Modesto. SCDD was on the planning team. Thank you to VMRC for your collaborative spirit in getting information out to those we serve. Thank you to the board members who attended. Thank you to Doug and team for your work on the event. Shared NDEAM is this month. Robert Balderama is a member of the statewide self-advocacy network. Oct 30 webinar talking about journey to employment. Please share the flyers with others. Supported Decision Making

community conversations, alternatives to conservatorship is happening this week. Please share the flyers.

Erick Thurmond: I am the IF Mr. Hill was talking about. Thank you to Mr Hill for trying to move this process forward. As an IF there are things that don't make sense to me. I've been self employed. I've gone 90+ days without an explanation for services already rendered. This leaves me puzzled. Is there a plan for transparency to tell me what needs to be done to be paid? I should be paid since the services were completed. I can see how people get frustrated and give up on the program. We need to figure this out as a team.

ICC, Fernando Gomez: Congratulating every member of the board for your volunteering and hard work. Your participation is very important. Tony thank you for sharing the information about the board training plan. I am a former member of my regional centers board. One of the key elements not seen captured is how the board interfaces with the community. You are the voice and represent as effectively as possible. It's prudent to include the elements of interfacing. The other important things is the voting and approving is significant budgets, why is there not a measurement, some kind of rating, that will give us an idea of how the entity performed in the last year. It would be beneficial to see how well they did. The third, is we are a community partner. We are very happy to have been the last 5 years in collaboration. We don't have a voice with you. We haven't presented who we are. We welcome this at some point. Look at your collaborators and engage with you, and present who they are. Thank you for the event in Modesto, the resource fair. It was amazing. It was refreshing to see the community, vendors, staff, and ICC. We were very grateful for the hard work.

Lourdes Gomez: Good afternoon. I am an IF. What my concern is right now is that the governor signed an authorization for people to go from 20 hours of sick time to 40 hours. This will effect every staff member in SDP. It's for people working under your vendors. Be proactive and don't wait until this becomes a crisis. Nobody was prepared to add 16 more hours for every staff member. You guys should lead this conversation. So we don't have to do every single budget allocation for everyone in SDP. Help us in making this a smooth transition.

Maribel Falcon, via interpreter Isela Bingham: I am Maribel. There is still a delay in response from my service coordinators. I received my plan and it is incorrect. I would like to see a solution because I call and leave a voicemail and an email and I don't get a

response. I want something to be implemented because there is no answer and no response to our questions.

Mary Ann Estrada: My name is Mary Ann Estrada. My comment is about the long waiting periods. We have heard that from parents who were clients of VMRC. But they are no longer and they wait over two months to be assigned a SC or to get a response. It's too long to wait.

Griselda Estrada, via interpreter Isela Bingham: Good afternoon. There are no vendors at VMRC for socialization. Yesterday I was in a mediation and there were no vendors. All the services offered to family were respite and socialization is a need for the little one. Even the principal recognized that even VMRC doesn't have that for the little ones. In that mediation the family only had respite services and they were taken away during the mediation. The family was asking at the mediation what other socialization services were available so the son could socialize. And it was determined that there was nothing else. If you would please or seek and find someone in the community, offer them vendorization so they can provide that to the community. Thank you.

Vivian David-Nichols: I brought this up as a comment in the LVAC meeting last week. VMRC should have a Q&A session with the Independent Facilitators and have them work together to trouble shoot the questions that come up. There is a lot of trouble shooting I've been able to successfully get through that I can share with others. Something to maybe think about with the barriers in SDP.

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

### **1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of September and October 2023**

### **2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September and October 2023**

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Steve Russell seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

## **G. Committee Reports**

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Liz Herrera Knapp

2 meetings since last Board Meeting:

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> & October 23<sup>rd</sup>

-Sept 25<sup>th</sup> Presenter: KC Shadman presented about HCBS Remediation Program, Info sent out through CLASP and from Ana Simms.

Visit [campbellsolutions.info](http://campbellsolutions.info) for more information.

-Provider Conference was yesterday October 24<sup>th</sup> 8:30-4:30 at the AG Center in Stockton.

-We had 132 people register, including presenters and the Conference Committee. It was a wonderful event with a lot of positive feedback. Providers earned 6 CE Hours by attending the event. We will be holding a recap meeting to discuss our next conference and improvements for the future.

-Discussed Remote Services with the potential of ending on 12/31/23, however, an extension may be granted.

-Discussed Uniform Holiday schedule. CLASP Leadership will review schedule at our Leadership meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and then put it up for a vote at our November meeting.

-CLASP has a public page in FB & IG, if you want to post something there, send to Kirsten via email: [ksea9@aol.com](mailto:ksea9@aol.com)

-Instagram: @CLASP.VMRC

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CLASP.VMRC>

-Our private member group: "CLASP - VMRC (MEMBER GROUP)"

-<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2310077552557091>

When joining our private member group, please be sure to answer the membership questions to be approved into the group.

- LinkTree: <https://linktr.ee/claspprovidernetwork>

-Next Meeting is Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> hybrid via TEAMS:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDY1OTRmYmQtY2NjNC00YjNmLWE5NWItNDkxMTZlZjFmMjRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220a72eae7-a3b6-4b19-8f86-4acf328bbd15%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f33af51d-6531-415e-883e-8115301a1310%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDY1OTRmYmQtY2NjNC00YjNmLWE5NWItNDkxMTZlZjFmMjRk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220a72eae7-a3b6-4b19-8f86-4acf328bbd15%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f33af51d-6531-415e-883e-8115301a1310%22%7d)

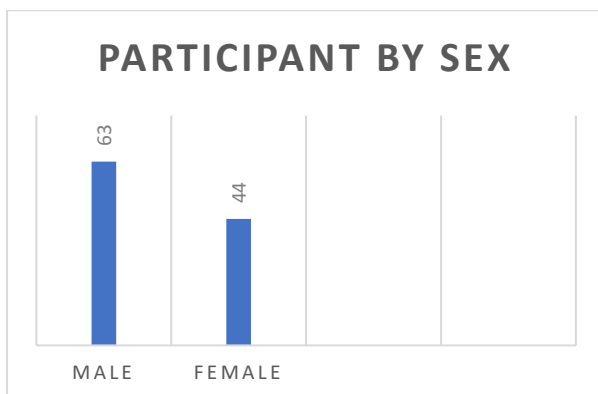
2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Vivian Nicolas :

## October 2023 LVAC Report

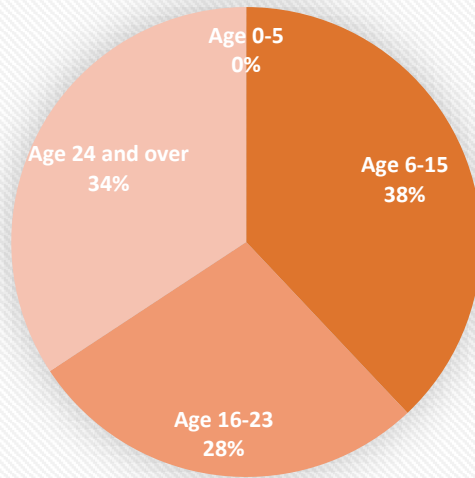
### 106 Participant

As of 10/19/2023 and includes people starting in November

Any category with a count of 0-4 will be reported as “other” to ensure confidentiality

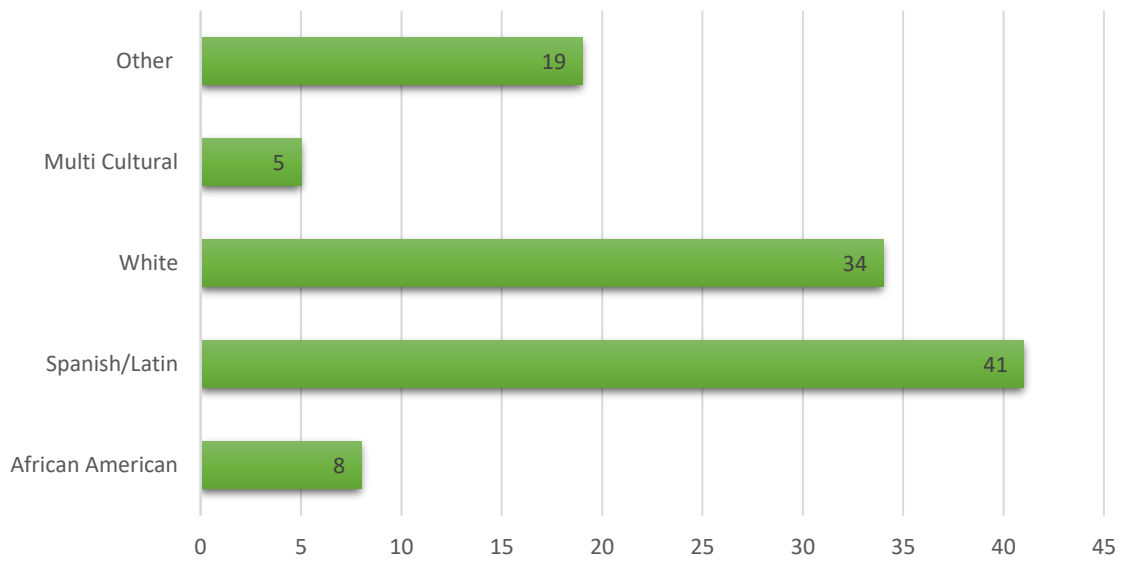


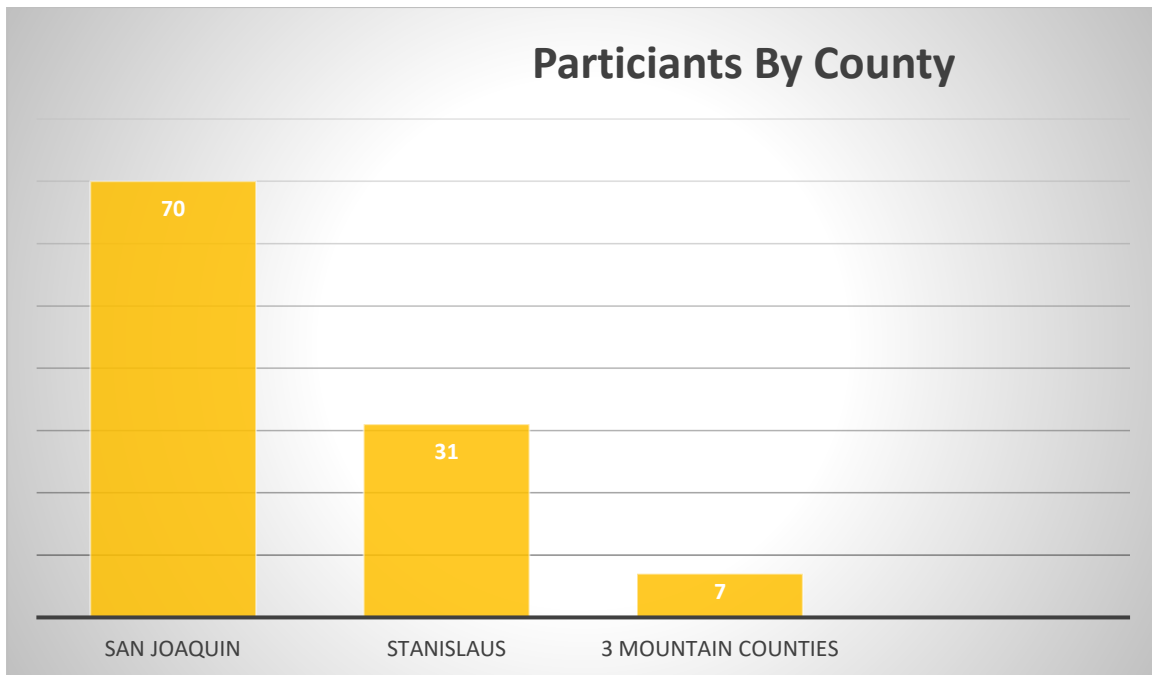
### Participants By Age



■ Age 0-5 ■ Age 6-15 ■ Age 16-23 ■ Age 24 and over

### Participant by Ethnicity





3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Crystal Enyeart  
September 1, Sac6 had their Friday Zoom Chat.

September 6th, Lisa, and I attended the Consumer services meeting.

September 13<sup>th</sup>, - Lisa attended the VMRC Finance meeting in person.  
Followed by the VMRC Executive meeting.

September 16<sup>th</sup>, - Sac6 had their quarterly board meeting we have 6 new  
Board members that have joined us, and we are super excited to have new  
self-advocates.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Lisa attended the ARCA CAC meeting via zoom.

October 4, 2023, Sac 6 members had a Zoom chat practice.



October 5, 2023- Lisa worked in the VMRC Modesto office for the Sac6 hours.

October 6, 2023- Sac 6 had their Friday Zoom Chat, the topic was on Financial Rights, “Hands off my Money.”

October 7, 2023- SAC6 members attended the VMRC Disability Awareness Fair at the Modesto VMRC parking lot from 11 am to 3pm.

October 11<sup>th</sup>, - Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance meeting in person. Followed by the VMRC Executive meeting.

October 16, 2023- Sac6 member Catrina attended the DDSCAC zoom meeting.

October 18, 2023- Sac6 member Catrina attended the CHOICES committee meeting via zoom.

4. Finance Committee Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles – Melissa Stiles presented the Contract Status Report.

a. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for September and October 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles **Action**

Jose Lara seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Doug Bonnet shared the contract summary of the contracts over \$250,000.

b. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for September and October 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles **Action**

Tom Toomey seconded the motion.

Liz Herrera Knapp asked why the board has to approve these particular contracts. Doug responded that it is in the Lanterman Act. Steve Russell asked what services we purchased from Kadiant that was formerly Central Valley Autism Project. 048 is behavior intervention services training/client parent support, aged 4-18;805 is early intervention services, infant development program. Steve Russell is questioning that this is a non-public school that

VMRC may be purchasing services from. Brian Bennett confirmed we do not purchase non public school services from Kadiant. Claire Lazaro and Doug Bonnett explained the early intervention services provided.

Liz Herrera Knapp abstained. The motion was approved.

5. Consumer Services Committee Jose Lara no report tonight. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 1 at 5pm.

6. Legislative Committee Lynda Mendoza reported that they did their presentation on June 29. The next meeting is November 6 from 12-2pm. They will review the bills passed on October 15.

7. Bylaws Committee Linda Collins, no report.

8. Nominating Committee Margaret Heinz. There are 5 outgoing board members. They will be busy this year.

9. Popplewell Review Team Erria Kaalund – Doug Bonnet reported on behalf of Erria. The team met today. We reviewed the disbursements from July-September. There have not been any October disbursements. It was used 8 times for \$6,502.07. This is a charity fund we use to pay for things that the Lanterman Act says we cannot pay for. The service coordinators identify needs and submits requests. The requests come to the Directors of Case Management. Then the requests go to the Popplewell Committee for approval. Some funds are given as a loan and some are not. We have \$7,600.

10. Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee Mark Crear reported a brief update. Liz has stepped down as the DEBI chair as of this month. She will remain a part of the committee. We are in a process of replacing Liz. Erria is interested in the position. We had a survey on the days and times to meet. The next meeting is November 21 from 5-6pm.

## **H. Executive Director's Report**

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **Incremental Rate Increases**

10 work groups focused on the rate implementation process

### **Hold Harmless**

For 2 years if a provider is receiving more than the new rate schedule the provider will not receive a cut.

Remote services likely to extend through June 2024

Provider Portal - DDS in contracting phase with an IT/Accounting provider. 1st phase will be registration process then the discussions on the new rate implementation around July.

Looking at standardization for Early Start and Person Centered Process forms.

Vendorization standardization has been completed.

FHAs still working on the 4 person rate but DDS is reporting they are not seeing any growth in this area.

The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act would raise the SSI asset limit to \$10,000 for individuals and index it to inflation moving forward. It would also raise the limit for married couples to \$20,000 to help correct a harmful marriage penalty. The Arc

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. But there is a bill in Congress that asks BLS to recognize DSPs as a profession, ANCOR

### **Standardization:**

- Early Start Intake standardization in the next standardization process to get addressed.
- Person Centered Plans for providers and regional centers will be next.

### **Since we last met we:**

1. Had a successful Disability Resource Fair hosting 900-1000 people and a good time was had by all
2. Special Needs in My City this Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>...VMRC is a sponsor
3. DRAIL Conference, Tuesday, October 17
4. University of Delaware National Leadership Institute at NBRC.
5. CLASP Conference, Tuesday, October 24, Ag Center (our own Brian Bennett and his QA Department and his employment specialist - did an amazing job)
6. We're starting to have our recruitment strategy meetings and will probably begin our internal job fairs starting in January we anticipate hiring another 50+ staff and may reach the 600 mark by the end of the year.
7. We'll be rolling out the internship program in a few months and we met today with providers to discuss our process for the stipend program.
8. Tony doing Supported Life Conference speaking about DSP Collaborative
9. Oct 26-Nov 7th Promotion of a job fair in Alta region on Nov 7th

**I. Closed Session** – during closed session the decision was made for the interim ED to be Doug Bonnet, effective 10/30/23. The internal search for the next ED will led by Tony Anderson.

**J. Other Matters**

**K. Board Member Activities and Reports** – Margaret Heinz shared an event at Stockton Golf and Country Club on Monday, October 30 with transition students.

Suzanne Devitt shared her thanks for the day at the Modesto office.

**L. President's Report**

1. System of Care Coordinator Job Description brought forth as a motion by the Executive Committee Dr. Suzanne Devitt **Action**
2. Community Outreach and Events Manager Job Description brought forth as a motion by the Executive Committee Dr. Suzanne Devitt **Action**
3. Benefits Counselor Job Description brought forth as a motion by the Executive Committee Dr. Suzanne Devitt **Action**  
Margaret Heinz seconded the motion to approve all three job descriptions concurrently. The motion was approved unanimously.

**M. Next Meeting - December 13, 2023, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)**

**N. Adjournment at 8:39pm**