



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

11/01/2023 | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Jose Lara, Margaret Heinz, Lisa Utsey, Sarah Howard, Erria Kaalund, Dora Contreras, Crystal Enyeart, Anthony Owens, Liz Herrera Knapp, Daime Hoornaert

Committee Members Not Present: Susan Devitt (informed absence)

VMRC Staff Present: Brian Bennett, Tony Anderson, Doug Bonnet, Mark Crear, Christine Couch, Evelyn Ledesma Solis, Katina Richison, Devon Homme, Tara Sisemore Hester, Claire Lazaro, Jason Toepel

Public Present: Isela Bingham Interpreter, Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Anel Renteria (R&D)

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda

Jose Lara, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

B. Review and Approval of Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2023

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the minutes of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting of 09-06-2023. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. The Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 09-06-2023 were approved unanimously.

C. Presentation - San Joaquin Council of Governments, Unmet Transit Needs

Joel Campos from the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) gave the presentation of the Unmet Transit Needs Assessment, FY 24-25. Annually, SJCOG must identify any unmet transit needs that may exist in San Joaquin County before funds are expended for non-transit uses, such as street and roads. Mr. Campos answered questions from the committee members.

D. Public Comment

Dena Hernandez, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North Valley Hills Office: The Statewide Self Advocacy Network held their employment is for everyone this week. There were over 300 attendees. They shared their experiences about employment. It has been recorded and they will share a link to check it out. There will be more webinars on a variety of topics in 2024.

Gricelda Estrada: Good afternoon. She stated she wanted to discuss Floor Time. The Chair told her that we would listen to Floor Time public comments later in the agenda. She said she would change her comment to socialization services. So I understand that VMRC does not have any vendors for socialization so I want the committee to make offers for socialization/social skills. Thank you.

Maria Elena Diaz: Good afternoon. My comment is about requesting more providers for ILS because there's several who are not receiving that service. There is a long wait list so without providers, how will those needs be met? I would just like for you to consider that. That is my comment. Thank you.

Dora Contreras: She is removing her role as the Committee Member during public comments. She is speaking as a community member. She is really concerned about the ILS services that is lacking, as well as Encore is now gone as BIS services. The community is concerned about that and there has been no replacement for those services for adult clients.

E. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Tara Sisemore Hester, Director of Consumer Services (Children) presented the intake reports through September 2023 for Early Start and Lanterman Intake. Christine Couch, Director of Consumer Services (Adults) presented the Transfer Status report through 10/18/2023 and the POS exceptions report for May-August 2023. They answered any questions the committee had.

F. Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Update

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 11am to 3pm.

October 11th, - 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.

October 25, 2023, Lisa attended the Popplewell Committee meeting via zoom. Lisa, Jessica and I attended the VMRC Board training followed by the VMRC Board Meeting.

October 30, 2023, Sac 6 Members meet on zoom to practice for the Area meeting, for our script practice.

G. Resource Development Update

Brian Bennett, Director of Community Services, reported that the team continues to provide training on the first Friday of each month. They have two community placement projects in the acquisition phase. This means there is a search for the home to provide the service. One home closed in Acampo, in north San Joaquin County. It's a beautiful rural home. Brilliant Corners will renovate it for the adult community crisis home. The second property in Stanislaus County is being considered in Ceres. This will be an Enhanced Behavioral Support home for females. There are 6 vendors in process for Coordinated Family Support Services. We anticipate having two of them running around January 1, 2024. The Housing

Specialist, Jennifer Stone, started today in her new position. Brian answered questions the committee members had.

H. Quality Assurance Update

Katina Richison, Division Manager, presented the attached Quality Assurance Incoming Alert report and answered any questions that the committee members had. Katina announced the changes in the staffing of the team as well.

I. Transportation Update

Anel Renteria from R&D Transportation gave an update.

Unmet service needs have slightly increased. 83 individuals on the unmet service needs list. The area that is highest is San Joaquin County and then followed by Stanislaus County. They are working on minimizing ride times for all individuals in all counties.

J. Fair Hearing Update

Jason Toepel, VMRC Compliance Manager, presented the attached Fair Hearing report and answered any questions that the committee members had.

K. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Update

- 1) CLASP Provider Conference “Moving Forward 2023” on October 23, 2023 was a huge success thanks to the planning team. The Planning team included CLASP Member: Candice Bright (Chair), Liz Herrera Knapp (Co-Chair), KC Shadman, Karen Gregorius, Rita Redondo, Melanie Gonzalez, Tamra Hernandez, Chris Martin, Dena Hernandez, SCDD NVHO, and Tony Anderson and Doug Bonnet VMRC.

Sessions Included:

- Person Centered Planning and Practice with Carol Blessing from Cornell University
- DSP 's Core Competence and Ethics with John Raffaele and Joe MacBeth National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals
- Moving From Programs to Supports and The Nuts and Bolts of Change with Lynne Seagle from The Hope House Foundation
- DDS updated with Nancy Bargmann, Director of DDS and DSP University with Vicki Smith
- Wage Order and Labor Law updates with Jamie Bossuat
- Nuts and Bolts of VMRC Quality Assurance with the QA Team,
- Updates on Developing the DSP Workforce with the DSP Collaborative
- Updates for Employment with EJ Edmerson

- 2) CLASP members are working on the 2023 Uniform Holiday Schedule and will finalize it at the next meeting.
- 3) Transportation continues to be an unmet need. Vendors/people receiving services will continue to inform R&D when there is an issue with a route starting services/cancellation due to staffing/getting picked up earlier than scheduled or later than scheduled due to staffing.
- 4) Day Program Workgroup continues to meet regularly and has been discussing the DSP Training Stipend process with VMRC.
- 5) Discussions:
 - Remote Services Ending 12/31/23, possibility of extension since about 10% of people using services want remote services to continue.
 - Rate Implementation and the increase of minimum wage and the Impact of the Fast-Food & Medical Field Wage Increases-DDS is aware and working on it.
- 6) Workforce Collaboration Update- Asking Vendors to sign up on the website <https://dspcollaborative.org> to advertise open positions.
- 7) CLASP continues to appreciate VMRC staff reports on:
 - HCBS News-
 - Resource Development Projects
 - Quality Assurance Updates
 - Early Start
 - Employment
 - Consumer Services
 - Clinical
 - Ex. Director updates
- 8) CLASP continues to appreciate the State Council on Developmental Disabilities/North Valley Hills Office reports and information on SAC 6, Self Determination, and their Regional Advisory Committee.
- 9) Please visit CLASP on Facebook (<https://facebok.com/CLASP.VMRC>) & Instagram (@CLASP.VMRC)

Next CLASP meeting will be held hybrid-VMRC Conference Room and via Teams: November 27th, 2023 @ 10AM.

L. Clinical Update

Dr. Claire Lazaro, Director of Clinical Services gave the update.

They had a few presentations made/coordinated by staff: medi-cal/denti-cal, family wellness with SJCOE (San Joaquin County Office of Education) and Escuchan Mi Voz, a vendor fair at St. Joseph's Medical Center. There is a beginning partnership with Tori University Medical Group. This will be a pediatric psychiatry fellowship. At the Disability Resource Fair in October, there was a vaccination clinic with Safeway. There wre about 60 vaccines given. There was also dental screenings offered. The University of the Pacific School of Pharmacy

health fair was recently held at the Stockton office. Claire answered questions from the committee members.

1. Discussion on Floor Time: Dora Contreras shared that the community has been talking about this for awhile now. Los Angeles partners have Floor Time available. Dora knows that this a children's program with an adult component. She can testify to the success of the program. It is an approach that is more social/emotional connection based on interests. She wants it to be looked at. She is very concerned that we don't have a lot right now for adults who are in need. Either BIS, Floor Time or ABA. She wants Rubi to talk about Floor Time.

Public Comment:

Rubi Saladana, Integrated Community Collaborative: Floor Time is very important because her daughter was approved from SCLARC, 14 years old. Also her niece was approved. WRC and ELARC approve Floor Time. She is pro-ABA. She never knew about Floor Time. She is learning about Floor Time. She didn't know it would help her 17 year old son. It is a component. It is so important to bring Floor Time to this area. VMRC has limited services. This is very, very important to the community.

Dora Contreras responded that VMRC is saying it is not research based. Rubi shared that it was won in a court hearing. Parents have sued a regional center and they won the therapy. How did it happen if this is not based on research?

Daime Hoornaert asked what is Floor Time?

Dora responded that Elizabeth has Floor Time for her 14 year old. She is very interested in this service because it is social/emotional connection. It's about interests to build upon and to regulate himself through the connection they get in their therapy. It's a therapy. Floor Time is a therapy.

Rubi concurred it is a therapy.

Liz Herrera Knapp shared that there are unmet needs in our region for behavioral services. In order to have the discussion about this topic, we need a presentation about the service and regulations, as it is a non-evidenced based service. We need to hear from a clinician about it.

Dora responded and said the board said it is not researched based. She doesn't know why. Research is research. Can someone please say why they are saying this? Who is the expert in this room?

Tony Anderson responded that it is not about research, it is about evidence based. Floor Time does not meet that standard as far as we know.

Claire Lazaro asked if there is something for her to clarify. She said that VMRC did not say that Floor Time is not research based. What VMRC has said previously is that Floor Time is not evidence based practice intervention for autism. We only offer evidence based practice for autism. It is in the regulations.

Maria Elena Diaz said that she is in favor of bringing Floor Time to regional center. Who better than you to seek a provider to give us complete information, since it is being requested by the community. And it would be beneficial to the clients. And since we do lack services for behavioral needs, this would complement. And there is also a waiting list in Early Start. And this would cover a lot of needs in the Early Start. I also want to say a comment for the adults that they lack services for behavioral. That should also be considered. That is my comment, thank you.

Gricelda Estrada said that the State Council page has a list where there appears to be common services under behavioral support, there's behavioral services such as ABA, Floor Time, etc. behavior analyst. There is the logo for SCDD. Common services funded by Regional Center for kids from 3 – 18. My other argument is VMRC has a policy regarding recreational services. The policy states that recreational services will be offered and non-medical therapies. I would like to ask Dr. Lazaro, when you refer to non-medical therapies, what therapies do you refer? They were arguing that VMRC was not providing Floor Time because it is not evidenced based practice. Floor Time is not in that category, then non-medical therapy could be Floor Time under that category. I have known that VMRC does not provide the service of social skills. The only thing they offer is respite for the Early Start. And personal assistant is only reserved for 12 and under. Her time ended.

Jose Lara, Chairperson asked Dora if she had anything else she wanted to express. Dora said yes, she would like to bring someone in to talk about Floor Time. Mr. Lara asked if that is a motion.

Dora said, yes I move we bring someone in to give us information regarding Floor Time. Daime Hoornaert seconded the motion to bring in a presenter on Floor Time. Erria Kaalund abstained. The motion passes.

M. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 24, 2023, 5:00 PM

Doug Bonnet asked the committee to consider changing the date of the January meeting to either the 17 or 24. Margaret made a motion to move the Consumer Services Meeting to January 24. Anthony Owens seconded the motion. Dora Contreras opposed. The motion passes.

N. Adjournment at 6:48pm.