



Minutes for VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

12/13/2023 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

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

Board Members Present: Dr. Suzanne Devitt, Brandy de Alba, Lisa Utsey, Alicia Schott, Robert Balderama, Crystal Enyeart, Jose Lara, Margaret Heinz, Linda Collins, Emily Grunder, Erria Kaaland, Gabriela Castillo, Tom Toomey, Jeff Turner

Board Members not Present: Dr. Jody Burriss (informed absence), Liz Herrera Knapp (informed absence), Lynda Mendoza (informed absence), Dr. Steve Russell (informed absence), Anthony Owens (informed absence), Dr. Yan Li, Jessica Quesada

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

Dr. Suzanne Devitt called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Doug Bonnet took roll. A quorum was established. The board read the Mission Statement.

B. Review of the Meeting Agenda

The board reviewed the agenda with no recommended changes.

C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 10/25/23

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 10/25/23. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. Robert Balderama abstained. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved.

D. Presentation - National Core Indicators (NCI)

George Lewis of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and Angie Shear, VMRC Project Manager, presented the NCI survey and results and answered any questions that the board members had.

1. Public Comment on the National Core Indicators (NCI) Presentation

None.

E. Public Comment

Tumboura Hill – Today I just wanted to identify something that I've witnessed and give some kudos. I work at St. Mary's Community Services. What I've witnessed since we started to identify individuals that may have developmental disabilities. Since November 27th we have identified 8 individuals, and we notified the regional center. I'm happy to report that of those 8, 3 were identified with services. Kudos to Karen Jensen, Rena Ing, Florence Kikuby, Julie de Diego, Christina Syzmanski, Brenda Bardo, Jaslyn and Corina. Within 3 days they had Emergency IPP meetings. One individual was placed in a home, got evicted, and was homeless, and Karen and Florence set up an emergency IPP meeting and he was placed in a home the next day.

Dena Hernandez – Good evening. I'm with SCDD North Valley Hills. Thanks to George and Angie for the NCI report. Our CHOICES conference is April 12, 2024 at SJCOE. Thanks to VMRC for becoming a sponsor. We have 4 sponsors to date. Will help offset costs and help with scholarships. CHOICES is for people with disabilities over the age of 18. All speakers are people from our area. This year we have Chrissy Franzone, Bev Legault, and Cheyenne Anderson from Turlock. The conference is going to be very exciting. Right now, we have a vide contest and a t-shirt contest going on. The videos are due on January 16. Doug has put it in the newsletter each week. Also, the Self-Determination Program, on Monday will have their first town hall all on the Fiscal Management Services. December 18 on Zoom. It will be recorded. Thanks to the SD team in the back corner.

F. Consent Calendar Items

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Alica Schott seconded the motion. The consent calendar items were approved unanimously. Robert Balderama abstained.

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2023
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2023
3. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of November 2023

G. Committee Reports

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

No report as Liz Herrera Knapp is absent.

Doug Bonnet reported that the last membership meeting of the year is 12/18/24 at 10:00 AM.

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

Updated directives re: SDP from DDS:

- a. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Remote-Services.pdf>

This Directive provides consumers the ability to continue to voluntarily choose remote delivery of the following services through June 30, 2025, as described in the Department's November 23, 2022 and February 28, 2023 directives.

- Day programs
- Look-a-like day programs
- Independent living services
- Behavioral therapy services
- Clinical assessment activities for Lanterman Act eligibility

- b. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023.11.28-Coordinated-Family-Support-Services-in-the-Self-Determination-Program.pdf>

Effective December 1, 2023, the CFS Services Pilot Program is available to participants in the SDP. Regional centers should refer to the January 27, 2023 guidance for SDP participants who request CFS as a needed

service. When authorizing the service, regional centers shall fund it outside of the SDP participant's individual budget.

- c. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SDP-23-24-Funding-to-Support-Implementation-of-SDP.pdf> In accordance with Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4685.8(f), funds have been allocated to regional centers to support implementation of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) for fiscal year 2023-24. The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance on the use of these funds, including required collaboration with local volunteer advisory committees (LVAC) in determining local priorities for the funding. W&I Code section 4685.8(f) specifies these funds shall be used to maximize the ability of SDP participants to direct their own lives and to ensure the department and regional centers successfully implement the program. The statute further requires that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in consultation with community engagement groups, including a statewide self-determination advisory workgroup, shall prioritize the use of the funds to meet the need of participants, increase service access and equity, and reduce disparities, and to implement the program, including costs associated with all the following:
- Recruitment and training of person-centered planning and Self-Directed (SD) Supports providers and independent facilitators with a focus on increasing the number of bilingual, bicultural providers;
 - Joint training for participants, families, regional centers, LVAC members and others with a focus on training self-advocates and families from diverse communities that are under-represented in the SDP;
 - Assistance with spending plan development; and,
 - Collaborative groups/workshops to foster ongoing, shared learning and problem-solving opportunities. DDS will provide funding separately to the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee, which plays a key role in providing advice and guidance on successful implementation of the SDP.
- d. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/TBL-for-Restored-Services-and-New-Participant-Directed-Services.pdf> The purpose of this correspondence is to provide information related to a statutory change effective July 1, 2023, which added Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code section 4688.22 and 4519.5(a)(8), affecting

camping services; social recreation activities; educational services for children; and nonmedical therapies, including, but not limited to, specialized recreation, art, dance, and music (herein referred to as restored services). Statutory changes include the prioritization and expedition of policies that may increase access, collect data, or track expenditures pertaining to these services. The Department of Developmental Services (Department) previously provided guidance to regional centers on implementation and funding of restored services. The October 7, 2021 correspondence required regional centers to develop or update purchase of service (POS) policies related to restored services and develop and conduct outreach to communities about the available services. On February 8, 2022, regional centers were informed of a new sub-code for billing and claiming associated with restored services. The November 16, 2022 correspondence provided clarification about the timing of payments for restored services to align with typical processes used by non-regional center payors under certain circumstances.

- e. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Self-Determination-Program-Meetings-of-the-Local-Volunteer-Advisory-Committees.pdf> Guidelines for Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory Committees

-VMRC supported parent conferences for families in traditional and those seeking this conference in SDP by funding attendance to DVU. Our Participant Choice Specialist, Michele Poaster, spoke on a panel about SDP myths, and there was be a breakout session on barriers to SDP.

-Officers will be meeting with leadership at VMRC every other month to help advise and provide feedback from committee on supporting efforts in improving SDP access within our VMRC community as well as help address barriers in SDP. Our next meeting is scheduled January 4th, 2024.

-Dena-announced that the CHOICES conference will be Friday, April 12, 2024, at SJCOE. She invited the SDAC to have a table at the conference.

-We had a good turnout at the Resource Fair as many families and vendors were interested in learning more about SDP. Discussed possible workgroups (TBD) that help conference from committee members. Any information on number of attendees from VMRC?

Next meeting for the workgroup committee is January 25, 2024.

-Join the VMRC SDAC on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/401810838352575/?ref=share&mibextid=DcJ9fc>

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee is holding a virtual Townhall event on December 18, 2023 from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

The SSDAC wants to hear about SDP participants' experiences with Financial Management Services (FMS), and their ideas for improvement. (see attached flyer)

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

3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Crystal Enyeart

November 1, 2023, Crystal, and Lisa attended the VMRC Consumer Services Committee and gave a report on the things Sac6 has been doing.

November 2, Sac6 had their monthly Leadership meeting via Hybrid.

November 3- Sac6 had their Area meeting in Turlock at Cornerstone Covenant Church.

November 7, Sac6 had their Party Committee Planning meeting.

November 8, Sac6 Consultant Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance meeting at 5:30pm followed by the Executive meeting at 6:30pm.

November 13, Sac6 party Planning Committee meet again via zoom.

November 14th, Lisa, and Crystal had a meeting to develop and practice their PowerPoint for the Southeastern Asian Presentation.

November 15th Sac6 members attended the CHOICES meeting via zoom. Also, Sac6 member Catrina attended the DDSCAC meeting via zoom.

On November 15th Lisa U also attended the Executive interviews 1st batch.

November 16, Lisa attended the Executive interviews 2nd batch.

November 17th Sac6 had their quarterly Finance meeting via zoom.

On November 17th, Lisa presented at Day Program in Modesto telling them about Self Advocacy. Also, on this day Lisa and Crystal presented at the Southeastern Asian Presentation.

November 21, Sac6 consultant Lisa U. attended the DEBI meeting via zoom.

November 27 Sac6 members meet for the party Planning Committee

November 28th, Lisa attended the 3rd batch of the Executive Interview

November 29th, Sac6 members: minette, Jessica, Lisa, Catrina, Steven, Kerstin, and Dena attended the RAC meeting.

November 30th Sac 6 meet for the Sac6 Zoom Practice.

4. Finance Committee Melissa Stiles and Alicia Schott

a. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for November 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee. Melissa Stiles and Alicia Schott – Linda Collins seconds the motion brought forth to approve the Contract Status Report of November 2023. Robert Balderama abstained. The November 2023 Contract Status Report was approved.

b. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for December 2023. This report will be fully presented as there is not a Finance Committee Meeting in December 2023. Melissa Stiles and Alicia Schott – Melissa Stiles presented the Contract Status Report for December 2023 and answered any questions that committee members had. Emily Grunder made a motion to approve the Contract Status Report. Jose Lara seconded the motion. Robert Balderama abstained. The Contract Status Report was approved.

1. Purchase of Service (POS) Expenditures for December 2023 – Melissa Stiles presented the POS Expenditures Report for December 2023 and answered any questions that the board had.

2. Operations (OPS) Expenditures for December 2023 – Melissa Stiles presented the OPS Expenditures and answered any questions that the committee members had.

c. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for November 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee. – Emily Grunder seconds the motion brought forth to approve Contracts over \$250,000. The contracts over \$250,000 were approved. Robert Balderama abstained.

d. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for December 2023. This report will be fully presented as there is not a Finance Committee Meeting in December 2023. – Corina Ramirez presented the Contracts over \$250,000 and answered any questions that the board had. Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the Contracts over \$250,000. Erria seconded the motion. The contracts over \$250,000 were approved unanimously.

Myra from R&D Transportation presented the transportation contracts over \$250,000 and answered any questions that the board had. Emily Grunder made a motion to approve the transportation contracts over \$250,000. Robert Balderama seconded the motion. The transportation contracts over \$250,000 were approved unanimously.

5. Consumer Services Committee Jose Lara

At our last meeting, November 1, we had a visitor from transportation, which was very interesting because they were open on hearing about any new routes or increasing routes that the public needs.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 01/17/24 at 5:00 PM.

6. Legislative Committee Lynda Mendoza

The committee met on 12/04/23 and reviewed some of the new bills that passed and we are preparing a presentation for Monday, 12/18/23 at 3:00 PM.

7. Bylaws Committee Linda Collins

The Bylaws Committee has not met since the last board meeting.

8. Nominating Committee Margaret Heinz

Margaret announced that we have a new Executive Director, Leinani Walter, who will be starting on 02/15/24. Thank you to Tony, the committee, Doug, Suzanne, and Mary Jane to assist with the hiring process. I'm excited and I think she will be wonderful. We are sad to see Tony leave.

9. Popplewell Review Team Erria Kaalund

We met just today prior to the board training. In that meeting we decided that we will do five \$50 gift cards per children's team for a Christmas treat for some of our families in need. We have about \$14,000 in the fund right now. We also discussed a loan from the Popplewell Fund.

10. Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee Erria Kaalund

We did a survey to figure out what we can do better, and when they could take place. Next meeting is January 23rd at 5:00 PM, in Modesto.

H. Executive Director's Report

Tony Anderson presented the results of the Performance Contract and answered any questions that the board had.

1. Public Comment on the Performance Contract

None.

I. Other Matters

None.

J. Board Member Activities and Reports

Alicia Schott – I approached Brian Bennett that I want to visit some licensed care homes. Brian is setting me up for some visits and I hope to report on them at the next board meeting.

Linda Collins – I had a positive experience at the mall when I ran into a day program out in the community.

K. President's Report

The selection committee did meet on 12/02 and made a recommendation to the board on the new Executive Director. The board met in closed session to discuss and vote, and Leinani Walter was chosen as the new Executive Director. She will begin on 02/15/24.

The board would like to continue the tradition of gifting 4 hours back to staff for the holidays. Tony has agreed that we can accommodate this.

Margaret made a motion to gift 4 hours of appreciation back to staff. Emily Grunder seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to give each staff member 4 hours of appreciation.

L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)

M. Adjournment