



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

01/31/2024 | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Microsoft Teams (Hybrid)

Committee Members Present: Margaret Heinz, Lisa Utsey, Crystal Enyeart, Daime Hoornaert, Dora Contreras, Anthony Owens

Committee Members Not Present: Suzanne Devitt, Erria Kaalund, Liz Knapp, , Jose Lara, Sarah Howard

VMRC Staff Present: Evelyn Ledesma, Brian Bennett, Aaron McDonald, Gabriela Lopez, Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Cindy Jimenez, Tara Sisemore Hester, Julie de Diego, Erin Martin, Claire Lazaro, Robert Fernandez, Jason Toepel, Katina Richison

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz (facilitator), Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter), Dena Hernandez, Eddie Esquivez, Gricelda Estrada, Miguel Lugo, Anel Renteria, Carolina Arzate

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

Crystal Enyeart, chaired the meeting tonight and called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee

Meeting Minutes of 11/01/23

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the minutes of Consumer Services Committee Meeting of 11/01/23. Anthony Owens seconded the motion. The Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 11/01/23 were approved unanimously.

C. Presentation by Brian Bennett, Community Services Director, VMRC's Approved CPP/CRDP Plan 2023-2024

D. Public Comment

Dena Hernandez, SCDD North Valley Hills Office, CHOICES Conference is April 12, 2024 at SJCOE in Stockton . It is \$30 for anyone to attend, 18 and over. Three keynote speakers are self-advocates from our area. Registration will be released on February 9. It is in-person only this year with a capacity of 500 people. Watch for the registration in the VMRC newsletter.

Gricelda Estrada shared through an interpreter, my comment is about adult ABA and I request this committee to look at ABA services for adults.

Dora Contreras asked for more information about the CHOICES conference. Dena Hernandez shared it is our 38th conference. It's for self-advocates and we hire The Advocates for entertainment at lunch time. Registered attendees receive a t-shirt, lunch and hear 3 keynote speakers. The committee is made up of self-advocates, family members, VMRC, SCDD and others. It's from 10-2pm.

Dora Contreras shared that she heard the legislation about ABA services will be allowed through the medi-cal insurance. They are recognizing ABA and Floor Time as a good choice for parents whose children do not fit in with the ABA approach used. It's off of VMRCs shoulders and now on the medical providers. It really needed to be a choice for us. We are getting that in the community. The sad part is that it won't be for the adults. I support Gricelda and we need something for adults.

Carolina Arzate stated through an interpreter she agreed with the comments of Gricelda and teacher Dora. I think it's very important to bring new services to the Regional Center such as ABA for adults and Floor time.

E. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Christine Couch, Director of Consumer Services (Adults) presented the POS exceptions report for September-December 2023 and the Transfer Status report through 12/31/2023. Tara Sisemore Hester, Director of Consumer Services (Children) presented the intake reports through November 2023 for Early Start and Lanterman Intake. They answered any questions the committee had.

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

Crystal Enyeart, SAC6 representative to the VMRC Board and Consumer Services.

Crystal Sac 6 report to VMRC Consumer Services, January 2024

December 1, 2023, Crystal, Sac 6 Friday Zoom Chat

On December 2, Lisa attended the VMRC Board retreat, where the board had interviews for the Executive Director position. Jessica attended dinner later.

December 7, – Lisa worked the SAC6 office hours in Modesto VMRC office.

December 9, Sac6 had their quarterly Board meeting, at this meeting people gave speeches for council positions they would like to run for.

December 13, Sac6 Consultant Lisa U attended the VMRC Board Training and Board meeting on zoom.

December 19. Sac6 Consultant, Lisa U attended the DEBI committee meeting via zoom.

January 10th – Lisa attended VMRC Finance meeting and VMRC Executive meeting.

January 11th Lisa U attended the VMRC Emergency Board meeting, via zoom.

January 13th Sac6 members attended Tony Goodbye party and presented him with a black of appreciation for all he has done for us during his time at VMRC.

January 16th Lisa attended the DEBI committee via zoom.

January 20th Sac6 Goals committee members meet and reviewed their goals.

January 25, Sac6 had their Monthly Leadership meeting.

January 26th Lisa U attended the ARCA meeting via zoom. January 27, Lisa and Jessica attended the VMRC Board training to prepare for the new Director.

January 30, Sac6 members attended the RAC (Reginal Advisory meeting) with the SCDD North Valley Hills Office, via zoom.

G. Resource Development Update

Robert Fernandez, Division Manager, shared:

Projects

- CRDP-EBSH (Enhanced Behavioral Support Home) Children's Home – Atlantis: renovations are continuing and is planned to start providing services by beginning of 3rd quarter.
- CRDP project of an RCFE, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly – Denali: home in Valley Springs to serve elderly consumers. Renovation is complete and is awaiting Board of Directors approval.
- VMRC recently vendored their very first Financial Management Services – Sisk Financial.
 - Goal to divide CA into 3 North, Central, South
- ARF: Top Valley Care Home – Forensically involved adults is in process of development.
- CRDP project Enhanced SLS projects – We have 2 in development
- CFS – Coordinated Family Support – we have 7 in development all in different development stages.

Rates:

- Resource Development continues to work with providers regarding the Burns and Associates Rate Study and implementation of those who received rate changes
- Also working to update all of the new Care Home Rates for 2024
- Also working on the rates for the minimum wage increase

CPP: Development for consumers from locked settings such as Developmental Centers

CRDP: allow RCs to develop unmet needs in general and are NOT coming from DCs.

ESLS - to persons residing in San Joaquin County who require significant supervision to minimize their risk of self-harm, to minimize any potential harm to community members and to promote independence in the least restrictive setting. will support persons who may court imposed restrictions regarding where they may live, persons supported may be on probation, parole or actively involved in criminal court proceedings. Persons may have active or historical substance use disorders and will all require night-time supervision. Staff shall be experienced in providing trauma informed care, crisis communication and will include RBT level staff supports. Enhanced Central Avenue SLS will utilize consultants, including a Physician, Psychiatrist and Behaviorist.

CFS – Pilot program that DDS introduced in the Early 2023: CFS is a new service option specifically designed for adults served by a regional center who choose to live in their family home. The CFS Services Pilot Program focuses on improving equitable access to services and supports and reducing ethnic and racial disparities in the purchase of services.

Dora Contreras asked about the FMS soc/rec directive. Brian Bennett shared that 21 regional centers are sharing all of the FMS', approximately 10-15 within the state. We just developed our first one that currently serves only us as an FMS. The Regional Center Community Services Directors just met and are working on a request for proposal for FMS' to serve three regions of California. The directive does allow for the FMS to purchase social recreational activities, but it did not create new service providers. We are working on it.

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. Dora Contreras asked questions about the previously received Special Incident Reporting data and requested to receive the information again. Margaret Heinz will review the request with committee chairperson, Jose Lara. Brian shared information about the Direct Support Professional stipend program.

I. Transportation Update

Anel Renteria from R&D Transportation gave an update. There are 18 people with unmet transportation needs in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties. They are working on scheduling these individuals with transportation. They believe they can get the number to zero by the end of March. They continue to work on addressing ride times.

J. Fair Hearing Update

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

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

Daime Hoornaert, CLASP representative, shared:

Consumer Services Committee Meeting
January 31, 2024
CLASP Report

- 1) CLASP met on December 18, 2023 and January 22, 24 via Teams.
- 2) CLASP members finalized 2024 Uniform Holiday Schedule.
- 3) Presentations: Jamie M Bossuat presented on 2024 Employment Laws
- 4) Transportation continues to have unmet needs, but they are decreasing. R&D is prioritizing decreasing ride times to 90 minutes for those who are on the busses for 2+ hours.
- 5) Day Program Workgroup continues to meet regularly discussing program updates, the \$68 billion deficit in the state budget and transportation issues. The next meeting is February 14, 2024.
- 6) Discussions:
 - Remote Services extended to 06/30/2025.
 - DSP Stipend Billing and Invoicing Issues- weekly reporting from DDS is sent to VMRC, they then produce an authorization, email notifications will be sent for approval to vendor. Invoices are then sent through ebilling for submittal.
 - The Regional Center Vendor Advisory Committee Letter sent to DDS discussing correcting the Rate Model Implementation. If not corrected it could lead to ongoing closures of Providers due to insufficient funding.
- 7) Workforce Collaboration Update: Several Vendors were filmed while participating in a round table discussion on DSP work, which will be used for marketing. Vendors can post open positions on the DSP Collaborative website <https://dspcollaborative.org>.
- 8) CLASP continues to appreciate VMRC staff reports on:
 - HCBS News-
 - Resource Development Projects
 - Quality Assurance Updates
 - Early Start
 - Employment
 - Consumer Services
 - DEI
 - Clinical
 - Ex. Director updates
- 9) 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.
- 10) Please visit CLASP on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/CLASP.VMRC>) & Instagram (@CLASP.VMRC)

Next CLASP meeting will be held via Teams: February 24, 2024 @ 10AM.

L. Clinical Update

Claire Lazaro, Director of Clinical Services, shared that the agency had a blood drive in the Stockton and Modesto offices. VMRC participated in a state workshop to have an electronic POLST (Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment). We have restored

the Early Diagnostic Mobility Clinic. Family Wellness is supporting a Positive Parenting Program for 6 weeks in the Stockton office. We are continuing to look for a Licensed Clinical Psychologist to join the staff at VMRC.

M. Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 5:00 PM

N. Adjournment