



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

03/06/2024 | 05:00 PM - 07:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Crystal Enyeart, Margaret Heinz, Jose Lara, Erria Kaalund, Lisa Utsey,

Committee Members Not Present: Dr. Devitt, Anthony Owens, Liz Knapp, Daime Hoornaert (informed absences), Dora Contreras, Sarah Howard

VMRC Staff Present: Evelyn Ledesma, Gabriela Lopez, Brian Bennett, Aaron McDonald, Doug Bonnet, Jason Toepel, Michele Poaster, Christine Couch, Katina Richison, Leinani Walter, Claire Lazaro

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz (Facilitator), Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter), Tumboura Hill, Erick Thurmond, Anel Renteria (R&D Transportation), Chanel Murray, Minette Oliver, Trina Castro,

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

Jose Lara chaired the meeting tonight and called the meeting to order at 5:05pm.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of January 31, 2024 – no quorum, not able to vote

C. Presentation - Social Recreation and Camp Services and the Nonmedical Therapies Services Service Standards by Jason Toepel.

Jason Toepel, Compliance Manager presented the changes and updates to the service standards. He answered questions the committee members had. Because there was no quorum, this will go to the full board in April.

D. Public Comment

Tumboura Hill, regarding the social recreation service standards, he shared the goal is to vendor more services. He brought the paper copy of the directives and shared with the committee. He has an issue with a vendor that has been in process since July 2022 with the vendorization process. He is unsure of the issue and she is working with the vendored programs. Dino's is the name of the program and they have been attempting to get get vendored since July 2022. There is a vendor packet from DDS and it says that the regional centers shouldn't deviate and use that packet. He wanted to speak to untimely SIRs, that should be reported and when substantiated they should be substantial inadequacies. They should not receive technical assistance, they should be substantial inadequacies. He distributed handouts to the committee.

Chanel Murray, State Council on Developmental Disabilities – she wanted to share announcements. The SCDD next regional advisory committee meeting is 3/26/24 at their office in Stockton, from 6-8pm. It is hybrid. The statewide self advocacy network will be hosting a webinar on March 27. She will email the flyer. SCDD will be hosting a grant project showcase on March 11 from 1030 to 1230, to highlight past success as well as grant opportunities. The Chico SCDD office is hosting Healthy You, 3/14, 4-5pm. The flyers will be emailed over. CHOICES is sold out!

E. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Tara Sisemore Hester, Director of Consumer Services (Childrens) reviewed the Intake statistics and the growth in all counties.

Christine Couch, Director of Consumer Services (Adults) presented the POS exceptions report for December 2023 and January 2024 and the Transfer Status Report through 02/29/2024.

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

February 1, Sac6 consultant Lisa, worked Sac6 office hours in the Modesto VMRC Office.

February 6th Sac6 Consultant Jessica and Chairperson Dena attended the Supported Life Planning Team Committee via zoom. Also, on this day Sac6 Consultant Lisa U., attended the Housing Roundtable. Were advocates had the opportunity to express their concerns on affordable housing.

February 9th Sac 6 had their Area Meeting in San Joaquin County where they assisted SCDD North Valley Hills Office in announcing the 2024 CHOICES T- Shirt and Video winners.

February 13th Sac6 Secretary, Catrina C. attended the DDS CAC (Consumer Advisory Meeting) via zoom.

February 14th Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance Committee meeting followed by the VMRC Executive Committee meeting.

February 16th Lisa U collaborated with SCDD North Valley Hills Office and gave a presentation about starting a self-advocacy group at a new day program in Modesto- Central Valley Adult Day Care Program.

February 22nd Sac members had their quarterly Finance meeting.

February 28th Sac6 members were in person and on zoom for the VMRC Board training and for the VMRC Board meeting.

February 29th Sac6 Leadership had our first Leadership meeting with the new ED.

G. Resource Development Update

Brian Bennett, Director of Community Services shared updates on the 2023/2024 Community Placement Plan and Community Resource Development Plans. There is one request for proposal for a behavior day program in Stanislaus County. There are 6 applicants. There is a request for proposal for a community crisis home for a service provider and there is no provider identified. They will repost.

They met with Ginger Bugs for vendorization for soc/rec today and have identified a process to support soc/rec vendors.

H. Quality Assurance Update

Katina Richison, Division Manager of Quality Assurance reviewed the Alerts data.

I. Transportation Update

Anel Renteria, R&D Transportation. Since the last meeting the number of unmet service needs has decreased from 18 to 8 individuals. This includes 5 in San Joaquin and 3 in Stanislaus County. They are working to reduce ride times for participants.

J. Fair Hearing Update

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

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

Doug Bonnet shared the report on behalf of Daima Hoonart.

- 1) CLASP met on February 26, 2024, via Hybrid and Welcomed New VMRC Executive Director, Leinani Walter.
- 2) Presentation: Barry Jardini with CDSA (California Disability Service Association) spoke about the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Human Services budget hearings:
He gave examples of "Talking points" for anyone attending the hearings in person. He also gave a written example that people could send via email and share with families, People receiving services, Vendors and Direct Support Professionals.

Example Letter:

Email To: BudgetSub2@asm.ca.gov

Sample Subject **Sub. 2 – February 28 DDS Hearing Comments**

Line:

Sample Email Message:

Dear Members of Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Human Services:

My name is [NAME], and my organization provides [service type(s)] in [region or Committee member's district]. I urge you reject the budget proposal to delay the final phase of rate model implementation for intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) services.

The Legislature already voted to move the rate model implementation deadline to July 1, 2024, because you recognized the severe urgency to adequately fund disability services. Keeping rates the same, while costs go up and competing industries receive higher minimum wage requirements, will have the impact of a cut. Our services were already behind because of the drastic cuts made during the recession and we have never fully recovered.

[Explain the impact a delay would have on your organization and services, focusing on the impact to your workforce and the people you serve]

Californians with disabilities are counting on you to deliver on the promise of the Lanterman Act. Please reject the proposal to delay rate model implementation.

I hope that we can count on you and the rest of the Legislature to protect Californians with disabilities and their families from destabilizing disruptions to the services they rely on. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

- 3) R&D Transportation gave their update: VMRC has minimal unmet service needs. R&D is prioritizing decreasing ride times to 90 minutes for those who are on the buses for 2+ hours.
- 4) Day Program Workgroup continues to meet regularly discussing program updates, the \$68 billion deficit in the state budget and transportation issues. Next meeting is April 17, 2024, via zoom.
- 5) DSP Collaborative: Brian Bennett shared that there will be an event coming to Stockton and will send out information when available.
- 6) Brian also shared that on April 19 and May 27th they will host an Emergency Preparedness Training in Stockton.
- 7) 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

- 8) CLASP continues to appreciate the State Council on Developmental Disabilities/North Valley Hills Office reports and information on SAC 6, CHOICES, 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 via Microsoft Teams: March 25, 2024 @ 10AM.

L. Clinical Update

Claire Lazaro, Clinical Directo, shared the collaborative work of the team with Calaveras County. They have a new service, Behavioral Dentistry, which she described and explained to the committee. She also shared information about the Positive Parenting Classes. The Family Wellness Brunch was last Saturday in Modesto and is held quarterly.

M. Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 5:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

N. Adjournment