



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

11/20/2024 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Gabriella Castillo, Crystal Enyeart, Lisa Utsey, Kenneth Huntley, Daime Hoornaert, Liz Herrera-Knapp, Marisela Cruz,

Committee Members Not Present: Jose Lara

Public Present: Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter), Anel Renteria (R&D), Dena Hernandez- State Council on Developmental Disabilities North Valley office

VMRC Staff Present: Evelyn Solis-Ledesma, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Katina Richison, Jason Toepel, Claire Lazaro, Tara Sisemore Hester, Leinani Walter, Lizzie Valerio, Robert Fernandez, Brian Bennett

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

Crystal Enyeart chaired the meeting tonight and called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. Lizzie Valerio took roll call; a quorum was established. Crystal asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Marisela made a motion, Kenneth second the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting

Minutes of 09/27/24

Crystal asked for a motion to approve the minutes from 9/27/24. Kenneth made a motion; Lisa seconded the motion. Motion carried, minutes are approved

C. Public Comment

- Dena Hernandez-SCCD North Valley shares that the Choices committee met this morning regarding the Choice Conference will be April 11, 2025, theme will be our voices our choices, the cost will be \$30 dollars to attend and appreciates VMRC continued support. There is an art and video contest, materials are available and are due by January 15, 2025, for the committee to make selections. Dena reported that SCDD are state funded and federally, one of our requirements we have to have a 5-year state plan and we have to get information on what state council should focus on from 2027-2031. They are working on plain language surveys to help direct our state plan.

D. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Tara reported early start intake has increased in all offices, September to October had approximately a 1/3 increase. Babies and over 3 years of age are growing 5 caseloads a month. In Stockton office we have a resource issue as far as vendors doing assessments. Intake Managers, Cindy Jimenez and IDEA Specialist are working to develop a plan to present to look at resource issue. There was an increase in Lanterman in all offices; 69% - Stockton, 76% - Modesto, 67% - San Andreas, most concerns for babies coming in have Autism, looking for initial assessment. Leinani asked if Tracy will be included, Tara stated we are working on revisions on what we need for data, we are in process in developing South County.

Christine reported on POS Exceptions for August and September, we continue to run high in personal assistance, people are identifying individuals that can take care of them. In September, Patch is increasing with the holidays coming around, vendors are requesting more support. Patch is an extra staff person to support license staff. To stay consistent with numbers, so far 50 more people are moving into the regional center area. Our area is economically feasible to live in and we continue to track these numbers. The SIR report from the middle of September to October, there was an increase in vendor care Hospital internal infection, Katina reports that the trends are UTI and Pneumonia, we reached out to Dr. Claire Clinical Director, shared we have trainings that are on our website to have staff attend those training.

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

Crystal Sac 6 report to VMRC Board, November 2024

- October 2nd Sac6 had their practice zoom chat to prepare for the Friday Zoom Chat.
- October 4th Sac6 had their Friday Zoom chat from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm where we introduced Nicole Patterson from DDS as she shared information about The Master Plan to advocates.
- October 8th Sac6 consultant Jessica attended the Office of Administrative Hearing Committee meeting via zoom from 9 am to 12pm.
- On October 12th several Sac6 members had an information table at the VMRC Cultural fair, and some advocates registered for the Micro business fair and sold their handmade items.
- October 23rd, Sac6 Consultant Lisa attended the VMRC Popplewell Committee meeting. Also, Sac6 members attended the VMRC Board Training and Board meeting in person at the Stockton VMRC office.
- November 2, Sac had their quarterly area meeting the guest speaker was Nicole Paterson from DDS and the topic was The master Plan and its 5 areas. There were over 150 advocates in person that were able to give feedback. We also shared the CHOICES Planning Team request for feedback and input on this year's conference Theme.

Upcoming events

- November 23rd sac6 will have an informational table at the Autism Resource fair & Festival on November 23rd 10 am to 3 pm Location is Northgate Complex in Manteca.

Crystal Enyeart

SAC6 representative to the VMRC Board and Consumer Services.

F. Resource Development Update

Brian reported on six VMRC 24-25 CPP and CRDP approved projects.

- First is that we've been awarded \$1.6 million for renovation on an existing multi-family housing building that set aside 16 studios for individuals we serve.
- Behavior management programs serving Amador, Western Calaveras, Northeastern San Joaquin, and Tuolumne County.
- Individual and family training related to sexual health and safety.
- Independent living services in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne County.

Three requests for the proposal are on the website. Those projects take about 1 ½ years. Independent living services will hopefully be done within 6 months. Brian answered questions from the board.

Robert gave brief updates on previous years CPP and CRDP projects.

- Two enhanced behavioral support homes continue to be developed, one for children in Modesto and one for EBSH all female home in French Camp.
- Two day programs being developed in Stanislaus County, one in Turlock and one in Modesto.
- Specialized residential facility for adults being developed in El Campo.
- Lastly, one adult specialized home for forensically involved individuals in east Stockton.

Robert answered questions from the board and staff. Evelyn asked is individual and family training provided in Spanish and other languages. Brian reported we request Spanish in translation and other languages preferred. Not only to present, if they do not speak it, we will move on with another. Robert also shared staffing updating we are adding Senior Services Liaison Me Lo in December.

G. Quality Assurance Update

Katina Richison shared incoming alerts from 9/16/24-10/15/24. Presented issue breakdowns: delivery of care, environment, food service, other, recordkeeping, staffing qualifications, staffing/supervision, untimely SIR, violations of rights in total of 41 alerts.

H. Transportation Update

Anel Renteria, R&D Transportation shared transportation stats. They continue to focus on individuals not receiving transportation. They are working with a commercial transportation company. Starting a new route in San Joaquin valley and we will accommodate some individuals waiting on transportation.

Stats for October:

- 238 total routes, increased by 1 route compared to the month of September,
- 2,116 Riders with total trips of
- 92,207 trips (one way and round trip to their residence and day programs)

San Joaquin Council of Governments was scheduled to do a presentation but representative was unable to make it.

I. Fair Hearing Update – Jason Toepel

Jason shared he is not able to access information due to network issues. He did report two trends for appeals tend to be eligibility related and we continue to be able to resolve majority of appeals received prior to going all the way to hearing.

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

VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

November 20, 2024

CLASP Report

- 1) CLASP continues to meet on the 4th Monday of the month via zoom.
- 2) CLASP Members are continuing to renew their memberships. In August, there were 35 paid members and in September Membership increased to 69 paid members. CLASP continues to reach out to the vendor community to inform them of the benefits of CLASP.
- 3) CLASP Presentations:
September 23: All's Well presented on DDS DSP Internship program. Vendors are encouraged to reach out to VMRC if interested in hosting DSP interns.
- 4) The Day Program Sharing group met 9/25/24 and discussed more on the DSP Internship program. Programs currently using the program, felt it was a positive step in teaching people about being a Direct Support Professional, which could turn into employment for the intern. Next Meeting is scheduled for November 20 @ 8:15 via zoom.
- 5) The SLS/ILS network will begin starting up again and meeting on a regular basis. Erin Martin has sent out meeting information and she encourages anyone else interested in attending to email her.
- 6) Vendors are anxiously waiting for the Rate implementation to begin January 2025. DDS is expected to release directives in the next couple of months regarding the plan for rate adjustments.
- 7) Brian Bennett Shared the DSP Collaborative will fund vendors interested in having a booth at The DRAIL Disability Awareness Day on October 18, 2024. There are five more spots available.
- 8) Vendors are looking forward to all the upcoming trainings available to them. SIR training is scheduled for November 12, 2024, in person in Stockton and Virtually November 21st.
DSP 1 is starting October 1; DSP 2 is starting in November. Katina is working on LGBT+ training with the Pride Center.
- 9) R&D's Transportation Update: Anel Renteria reported that 2059 individuals received transportation in August. There are 47 active service providers. 236 routes on the road daily. Total number of trips was 85, 869.
- 10) 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

11) 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.

12) Please visit CLASP on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/CLASP.VMRC>) & Instagram (@CLASP.VMRC)

Next CLASP meeting will be held via Zoom: October 28th, 2024 @ 10AM.

K. Clinical Update

Claire reported on prior events.

- Family members were able to participate BDS focus group, this is for families who have a lot of medical and behavioral needs not being met by our traditional services.
- We finished our fourth Stepping Stones parenting program in November.
- ARCA physicians group held: following an advocacy for nasal spray for epilepsy non trained healthcare professionals as a rescue medication.
- November 7 - we had the ARCA clinical director group, discussion in early implementation eligibility. There is also a current work group working on the 5th category.
- November 9 - last family wellness brunch, part of DDS family wellness grant. We are hoping to launch, with another grant through DHCS, will be able to expand for individual served 0-21 years of age.
- Joint training was held with Alta and VMRC in collaboration with California North State University. Dental hygienists are able to go to family homes for dental services, cleaning, x-ray fluoride varnish and minor treatment. No need to be sedated.

L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 4:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

M. Adjournment at 4:51