



VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-January 18, 2024

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA)
Mary Bonacci (SA)
Jeannet Cardenas (FA)
Lisa Culley (FA)-secretary
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)-chair
Gricelda Estrada (FA)-vice chair
Jeff Lazaro (FA)-vice secretary
Mariela Ramos (FA)
Arely Solano (FA)
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

John Forrest (FA)
Jonathan Zahodne (SA)

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Interpreters

Isela Bingham-In person
Irene Hernandez-Zoom

Guests who identified

Dora Contreras-ICC
Erika Cibrian
Chelsea Coffin
Jonesia Smith
Elena Diaz

VMRC Staff

Jordan Bettancourt, Participant Choice Specialist
Doug Bonnet, Assistant to the Executive Director
Christine Couch, Interim Executive Director
Liz Diaz, SDP Program Manager
Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist
Michele Poaster, Participant Choice Specialist
Maribel Trujillo, Participant Choice Specialist

Item 1: Call Meeting to order- Vivian Nicolas, called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

Item 2: Introductions- Committee members and public members introduced themselves. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services via Zoom and Isela Bingham interpreted in person.

Item 3: Establish Quorum-Quorum was established.

Item 4: Approval of the Agenda-motion to approve the agenda was made by Mary (2nd by Gricelda). Motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Approval of the Minutes from November 16, 2023-Vivian made the motion to approve minutes (2nd by Jeff). Motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: VMRC SDAC Chair Report-

- Vivian provided a detailed explanation on DDS Directives from November and December. The directives can be found on the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/> Directives sent in December and are translated into many languages at the link.
- DDS held a Town Hall meeting on January 16th-topic was Financial Management Services (FMS). There will be another Town Hall meeting on January 20th, at 9am, with the same topic.
- Our VMRC SDAC Leadership Team (Vivian, Gricelda, Lisa & Jeff) will be meeting with VMRC SDP staff in March to discuss any issues.

Item 7: Public Comment

No public comment

Item 8: VMRC Update-Liz provided data for VMRC:

- **Participants:** #107 (#62 male, #45 female)
- **County:** SJ (#71), Stanislaus (#29), Mountain (#7)
- **Ethnicity:** Latino (#40), Caucasian (#35), Other (#19), African American (#8), Multi (#5)
- **Ages of participants:** 0-5 years (0%), 6-15 years (40%), 16-23 (24%), 24 years and older (36%)

Liz also provided details on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) training program and incentive payments. The deadline to participate in the training is June 30, 2024, and participants can receive a \$625 stipend. Participants must spend at least 10 hours per week in DSP activities. Additional details can be found at <https://provider.arcalearn.org/>

Item 9: Special Events Workgroup-There was no meeting held and no action items to present. The next meeting for the workgroup is on January 25, 2024.

Item 10: Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-The statewide committee collected barriers and has identified priorities: 1) Develop and manage best practice platform 2) Review and update training materials 3) Look at equity issues.

There is a new FMS agency onboarding-ACE FMS. The contact is peyman@acefms.com

Item 11: ICC Support Project Report-Dora reported that there was no coaching since the last meeting. The ICC is requesting an extension of contract as they have not spent all dollars allotted. Vivian made motion (Lisa 2nd) that the ICC Support Project be extended until all funds are expended. Currently, there is \$16,000 left to spend. The vote was unanimous to extend the

contract.

Item 12: Adjoin Support Project Report-Chelsea provided the following data: Their contract began in 2021. They provide monthly coaching sessions. To date, 52 referrals have been received, 16 clients are in transition, 16 have completed process and in SDP, 1 on hold, 1 moved out of area, 18 have withdrawn from or are no longer interested or have had no contact or response.

Item 13: VMRC SDAC Membership Update: Lisa provided report there are no updates, and the committee still needs representation from Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. Christine requested that ICC and Adjoin advertise the SDAC to any people they are supporting in the mountain counties.

Item 14: Discussion Issues: Karen requested that there be a list of all action items that have been approved, and their status of completion. Vivian was able to go over the list with the committee of items that had been approved and those still pending.

Item 15: Next meeting-February 15, 2024, 3:30pm-5pm, with the informal discussion session starting at 3pm. The meeting will be in-person at VMRC in Stockton or on **Zoom**

Item 16: Meeting Adjourned 5:02pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley