



VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-March 20, 2025

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA)
Mary Bonacci (SA)
Lisa Culley (FRN)-secretary
Gricelda Estrada (FA)-vice chair
Kenneth Huntley (SA)
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)-chair
Mariela Ramos (FA)
Arelly Solano (FA)
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Jeannet Cardenas (FA)
John Forrest (FA) Informed
Chrys Quiwa (SA) Informed

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Interpreters

Irene Hernandez-Zoom (English to Spanish)
Isela Bingham -Zoom (Spanish to English)

State Council on Dev. Disabilities

Dena Hernandez, North Valley Hills Office

Public Guests who identified

Maria Elena Diaz
Maribel Falcon
Josefina Romo
Fernando Gomez
Oscar Mercado
Dora Contreras
Rubi Saldana
Blanca Mercado
Elizabeth Gomez
Chelsea Coffin
Jeannette Castro
Olaf Luevaro
Gloria Sanchez
Erika Cibrian
Carolina Arzate
Marcela Sanchez
Norma G
Rosy

VMRC Staff

Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist
Mayra Ochoa, Director of Equity & Engagement
Emelia Vigil, Program Manager

Item 1: Call Meeting to order- Vivian David Nicholas-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

Item 2: Introductions- Committee members introduced themselves. Public guests added their names to chat.

Item 3: Quorum was established

Item 4: Approval of agenda-Motion-1st by Kenneth, 2nd by Karen. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 5: Motion to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024, and February 20, 2025, was made by Kenneth, with 2nd by Vivian. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 6: Vivian reported on the following:

- Mayra facilitated an Independent Facilitator Meet & Greet session on March 14, 2025. It was a good session with barriers addressed and discussion on how to move forward with solutions. The group will meet regularly, every other month. This group is not a part of our committee.
- An update on our SDAC Resource Fair, scheduled for Monday, April 28, 2025. It will be at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, from 10am-6pm. See spreadsheet attached to meeting packet. Please share the Save-the-date with those who may be interested in attending and encouraging any service providers you know to participate at a table with their resources.
- All invoices for spending on expiring allocation of LVAC funds must be received by Gaby/Mayra by 4/15/25 in order to be processed utilizing the extension period.
- Discussion on adding a workgroup to draft details for any future RFP development for Independent Facilitator training or Coaching projects. This group should have self-advocates, parents, and professionals. Karen motioned that we add coaching and have VMRC all-staff meeting for orientation, Mary 2nd the motion. Motion passed.
- CHOICES is 4/11/25-Karen & Vivian will be attending. Karen will assist at the Stanislaus Transition Fair on 5/2/25, Vivian will assist at the San Joaquin event on 4/23. No one volunteered to assist at the San Andreas event on 5/8/25, but Lisa offered to provide space on the FRN table for our SDAC information.
- VMRC will provide the SCDD SDP Orientation for all VMRC staff so all staff have a baseline knowledge of SDP.

Item 7: Replace Assistant Secretary: Colleen declined the nomination for the position. Arely accepted the nomination, and Lisa made a motion to approve Arely for the position and Kenneth 2nd. Motion was approved unanimously.

Item 8: Vivian verbally shared the standard VMRC contract. Multiple committee members shared they would like to have the template to participate in the discussion better. It was suggested that ICC enter their information into the template, so the committee would have a draft document to discuss at the next meeting. *See attached draft contract that the ICC has created using the VMRC standard contract.

Item 9: Oscar confirmed the details for the video he is creating for the SDAC Self-Determination Resource fair. The video will be completed by 4/21/25. He inquired about the number of self-advocates

that would be featured on the video.

Gricelda would like to schedule a meeting to work on the ICC contract and include Fernando in the meeting. Arely supported this suggestion and wanted to schedule the meeting right away.

Item 10: 22-23 funding year: Invoices must be received by VMRC by 4/14/25 in order to be process and billed to DDS by the extension deadline.

23-24 funding year: balance of \$90,983, spent by March 2026

24-25 funding year: balance of \$92,053.96, spent by March 2027

Item 11: Workgroup Updates given on Resource Fair details. *See attached spreadsheet for the latest update. The most important thing is to distribute the save-the-date flyer to all your networks and invite those who may be interested to attend. The next (and last) workgroup meeting before the resource fair is Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 3pm-5pm.

Item 12: Membership-Dena reported that the person who had been placed on the SDAC from Calaveras County has been removed from the committee due to not attending the meetings and not responding to communication. There are no new applications for the openings from Amador, Calaveras or Tuolumne Counties.

Item 13: Tabled to another meeting

Item 14: Next meeting: Thursday, April 17, 2025, from 3:30pm-5:00pm on Zoom.

Item 15: Meeting Adjourned 5:02pm
Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley

Join the VMRC SDAC on Facebook:

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

SCDD SDP Orientation:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/?fbclid=IwAR3BNnHWCWly4gwgXdXgYxfcHubPZnVuJKF6hyrpV5bREdsi-8IXZFJdSY>

*Attachments that are part of the minutes:

- ICC Draft Contract
- Event Workgroup Spreadsheet with latest details on SDAC Self-Determination Resource Fair information
- Save-the-Date flyer for SDAC Resource Fair

