



VMRC/SDAC Meeting notes from 03/19/2026

Committee members in attendance: Jeannet, Gricelda, Arely, Colleen, and Sue

Committee members absent: Lisa, John, and Mariela

Call Meeting To Order: Gricelda started the meeting at 3:54 PM.

Introductions and Quorum: A quorum was established, and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment:

Colleen stated that SDAC voted to sponsor the CHOICES annual conference in about November 2025. She wanted to let the committee know that the sponsorship check was sent to CHOICES but Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) told CHOICES that SDAC was sponsoring the event on behalf of VMRC. She stated that VMRC demanded their logo appear on the shirts, they get a plaque, and they be publicly recognized at the conference for the sponsorship. She stated that she is on the CHOICES planning committee and did make sure SDAC's logo was also placed on the shirt and the SDAC receives the recognition they are entitled to based on the committee's decision to sponsor CHOICES. However, she expressed concern that VMRC was claiming recognition for SDAC's sponsorship.

Gricelda expressed that she was concerned about the situation and what VMRC did and asked that this be placed on April's agenda for further discussion.

Maria Diaz asked the SDAC to fund an Independent Facilitator (IF) training for families. She also asked that the time for Public Comment be five minutes longer.

Gricelda asked that the April agenda allow 5 more minutes for Public Comment.

Sue said she would like the SDAC agenda to be sent out ahead of the meeting. She also stated that she enjoyed the January SDAC retreat with Judy Marks. She explained that there were several VMRC staff members present at the retreat but was concerned because none of those staff members were present at the SDAC meeting. She is concerned that there are not enough VMRC staff to support the self-determination program (SDP). She would like to know from VMRC, who is currently serving consumers in SDP.

Arturo and Donnie from Life Maximizer shared that they are hosting a virtual SDP resource fair on Saturday, March 28, 202, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM via Zoom. The resource fair will be in Spanish, but English translation will be provided. They will send the resource fair registration link and flyer to Gricelda to share with the committee and public.

Arely stated that it might not be a good time to talk about changing the SDAC meeting time since committee members were missing.

Lulu A asked that the SDAC Zoom meeting be properly set up next time, specifically making sure the chat feature is enabled, the translation globe is available, and people can share their screen. She also asked that ICC trainings and other SDP resources be included on SDAC's webpage on the VMRC website so that the public could easily find these items.

Gricelda asked that the April agenda include an action item to allow SDAC to obtain their own Zoom license.

Olaf Luevano from Ritz FMS stated that they are offering financial management services (FMS) for all three FMS models. Ritz FMS' goal is to increase access for families. They will be at the Life Maximizer virtual SDP resource fair.

Vice Secretary Election:

Arely nominated Jeannet as Vice-Secretary. No other nominations were made.

Gricelda explained the role and Jeannet accepted the nomination.

A voice vote was taken and Jeannet was elected as Vice-Secretary.

Meeting Time Change:

Arely motioned that the SDAC monthly meeting time be changed to start at 4:30 PM and end at 6:00 PM. Gricelda seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

Chair Report:

Gricelda shared that because SDAC sponsored the CHOICES Conference, the committee can have a table at the event. Gricelda stated she would be there.

Arely stated she would also try to be there for a few hours.

Event Workgroup:

Colleen stated that the funds for 23-24 have been used and the committee needs to approve paying invoices from the 24-25 funds.

Sue motioned that ICC/Express Way Project's remaining invoices/balances be paid out of FY 24-25. Gricelda seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Gricelda motioned that the remaining balances from the SDP retreat be paid out of FY 24-25. Sue seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

Gricelda motioned that any future expenses related to interpretation and translation be paid out of FY 24-25. Colleen seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

ICC Self Determination Support Project:

Fernando and Josefina shared that they have completed 35 individual coaching sessions out of their goal of 63.

They shared that they have provided 174 hours of coaching out of their goal of 250 hours.

They shared that they have completed 12 small group sessions out of their goal of 15.

For Project Express Way, they shared that they currently have 53 regional center consumers in the pipeline and another 9 consumers have been successfully transitioned into SDP.

They shared that they are still working on the referral process with VMRC.

They shared that the barriers consumers are currently facing are meeting delays, and budgets only being approved for 6 months at a time when the consumer is trying to access generic resources.

They are concerned with how small VMRC's SDP team is.

Colleen asked that they email their slide show from February and this month to Lisa to be included in the minutes.

Gricelda asked them to share the slide show with her too.

Update on Self Determination Program:

Michele shared that VMRC currently has 144 SDP participants.

Michele shared that the fiscal office accidentally cut a check for \$10,000 for the CHOICES sponsorship. She explained that the check was returned and another check for the correct sponsorship amount of \$5,000 was completed.

Colleen asked Michele to emails Lisa VMRC's slide show from February and this month to be included in the minutes.

Gricelda asked that the slide show be sent to her as well.

Gricelda stated she would like to see a SDP Conference in Spanish happen.

Barriers:

This item was skipped.

Membership:

Gricelda shared that Vivian stepped down from the committee.

Gricelda stated that it is easier for VMRC to nominate SDAC committee members. She asked that VMRC place Oscar Mercado on the committee as a self-advocate.

Fernando shared that ICC has 10 Zoom licenses and offered to allow SDAC to use one of their licenses due to the Zoom issues.

Gricelda stated that at the next meeting the committee will vote on getting their own Zoom license.

Gricelda invited community members to share their stories, including success stories, with the committee.

Gricelda stated she recently attended a meeting between VMRC and ICC. She shared that she identified that the barriers consumers and families are facing are happening because of issues within upper management and not the individual case workers.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting ended at 5:23 PM.

Notes respectfully submitted by Colleen Yoder