



## VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021

### **VMRC SDAC Members - Present**

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-  
VMRC  
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD  
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC  
Adeyinka Glover (DRC OCRA)-  
Statute  
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA)-  
Statute  
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD  
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC  
Arely Solano (FA) -SCDD  
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

### **VMRC SDAC Members- Absent**

Mary Bonacci (SA) –(VMRC)  
Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)  
Sue Collie (FA) -SCDD  
Tim Collie (SA) -SCDD  
Araceli Espinoza (FA)  
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)

**SA**=Self Advocate

**FA**=Family Advocate

### **Guests who identified**

Mariza Ochoa  
Marisol Cardenas  
Cesar Gutierrez  
Ana Bertha Ramos  
Monique Guerrero

### **Guests who identified, continued**

Con2jomo@hotmail.com  
Fabiola Castellanos  
Kim Schreiber  
Alma Janssen  
Joe Hernandez  
Aleida O  
Maria Ayala  
Maria Solano  
Ana Barragan  
Maria Lara  
Erika Acosta

### **VMRC Staff**

Tony Anderson-Executive Director  
Doug Bonnet-Special Assistant to  
Executive Director  
Christine Couch-Director of Consumer  
Services-Adult  
Elizabeth Diaz-Program Manager  
Gaby Lopez-Cultural Specialist  
Michele Poaster-Service Coordinator  
David Narbona-Service Coordinator  
Tania Candelaria-Service Coordinator  
Tara Sisemore-Hester-Director of Consumer  
Services-Children

Irene Hernandez-Interpreter

**Call Meeting to order-** Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34pm.

**Introductions-** Roll call was taken. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services for committee members & guests who speak Spanish.

**Establish Quorum-**There was no quorum at the start of the meeting. Attendance was monitored to determine if/when quorum was met. Quorum was established part way through the meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda-**Agenda was approved once quorum was established. Jeff made a motion to approve the agenda, with second from John. Agenda passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes from June 17, June 28, and July 15-**Once quorum was established, John made a motion to approve the minutes as written, with second from Yinka. There was unanimous approval to all the minutes as written.

**Public Comment-** none

**VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-Information – Karen-** Karen provided the update from the workgroup committee. There were 4 recommendations made to the committee as a motion:

- Creation of short videos on different aspects of Self Determination to post on social media, in the 3 VMRC offices, and the VMRC website. Videos would be created by those in Self Determination or Self Determination staff or SDAC members.
- Creation of a SDAC manual/handbook and orientation for members of the SDAC.
- T-shirts for the SDAC members-paid for from committee fund allotment
- Topic for the Meet & Greet for 10/25/21-Financial Management Services-invite the FMS companies to present on the services they can offer to Self Determination participants and time for questions & answers.

Jeff seconded the motion. The vote was taken as a group with unanimous approval from the committee.

**Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-Information-** Mariela shared that no date had been announced for the next meeting.

**Self Determination Support Project-Information-**Melanie will be attending future meetings and will update on the progress of the project

each month. Details are being worked out regarding the referral process and marketing strategy for advertisement of the support project. It was suggested that Melanie also attend the workgroup committee and possibly meet with the SDAC Leadership & VMRC Self Determination staff to outline roles.

**Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- *Information***-Tara provided the following statistics for VMRC Self-Determination: 71 people have attended the orientation. Of those who have attended the orientation: 68 have completed Person Centered Plans. Of those who have had person centered plan: 15 are working on their budgets, 8 are working on their spending plan. 45 are in the Self Determination program, with 4 started on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Orientation dates scheduled:

9/30 (2-5pm) in English with Spanish interpretation

10/8 (1:30-4:30pm) in Spanish

10/13 (1:30-4:30pm) in English with Spanish interpretation

11/4 (9am-12pm) in English with Spanish interpretation

11/5 (9am-12pm) in Spanish

The information for registration for future orientation trainings will be in the Friday Health Advisories, will be on VMRCs website & will be given to Service Coordinators to provide to families. For 2022, orientations will alternate one month in English, the next month in Spanish. Service Coordinators are continually receiving Self Determination training. Since July 1, 27 consumers have joined the process to enter Self Determination, and 15 consumers are waiting for assignment to VMRC staff.

*Due to another meeting, Tony added his report to chat- VMRC is waiting for an allocation from DDS to begin funding the Participant Choice Specialist. The statewide budget includes an increase of \$7.8 million TF (\$5.2 million GF) for participant choice specialists who will be subject matter experts and provide assistance to individuals with timely transition to program participation and provide assistance to regional center staff and service coordinators. Statewide for advisory committee and regional center there is a \$2.0 million allocation is for regional centers, in collaboration with the local volunteer advisory committees, to assist selected participants in their transition into the Self Determination Program. A few examples of activities funded for the year include: training all service coordinators and fair hearing specialists in the principles of self- determination, the mechanics of the Self-Determination Program, and the rights of consumers and families. The training shall be conducted in collaboration with the local*

*volunteer advisory committee. Provide payment to the financial management services provider for spending plan expenses, through a not less than semi-monthly pay schedule.*

**By-Laws/Ground Rules-Discussion/Information-Advisory Committee**

*members*-Discussion was opened on the subject of by-laws, and multiple committee members offered their viewpoints on the matter.

Jeff made a motion that at the next meeting the SDAC votes to determine taking the next step to create organization to our committee by establishing by-laws, with second by Kerstin. This item will be added to the September meeting agenda as an **ACTION** item.

**SDAC Membership Update-Information**-Lisa provided update on membership with members still needed from Amador & Calaveras Counties.

**Self Determination Issues-Discussion**- None

**Next meeting**-September 16, 2021, 3:30pm-5:00pm.

**Meet & Greet** scheduled for Monday, October 25, from 5-8pm.

**Meeting Adjourned** 5:02pm

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley*