



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
November 18, 2021**

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-
VMRC
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Mary Bonacci (SA) –(VMRC)
Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)
Araceli Espinoza (FA)
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA)-
Statute
Arelly Solano (FA) -SCDD

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Guests who identified

Chelsea Silveira Burgos
Erika Cibrian
Dora Contreras
Elena Diaz
Carlos Hernandez
Alma Janssen
Joe Hernandez
Reyna Rangel-Simon
Delfina Reyes
Ana Valdez

VMRC Staff

Tony Anderson-Executive Director
Debbie Beyette-Fiscal
Doug Bonnet-Special Assistant to
Executive Director
Tania Candelaria-Participant Choice
Specialist
Elizabeth Diaz-Program Manager
Jacqueline Lang-Fiscal
Gaby Lopez-Cultural Specialist
Evonne Lucero-Fiscal
Angelique Shear-Program Manager
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, but quorum was established five minutes into the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda-A motion was made by Karen to approve the agenda, with a second by Alphonse. Vote-unanimous approval.

Approval of the Minutes from September 16th & October 21-A motion was made by Gricelda to approve the minutes, with a second by Karen. Vote-approved, with one abstention by John.

Public Comment- Alphonse requested that email sent from our SDAC add “VMRC SDAC” in subject line, to differentiate those emails from those from other groups. Jeff requested that the VMRC SDAC membership hold an assembly/summit early in 2022 to establish goals for the year.

VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-Information/ACTION – Dena- The event workgroup will meet monthly, the 2nd Thursday of each month, from 3:30-5pm, on Zoom. All are welcome to attend. The following recommendations were presented to the full committee to be voted on:

1. Approval of agenda for Meet & Greet from 10/25/21-skipped because event happened. Leadership team approved agenda.
2. By-Laws-Develop sub-committee of VMRC SDAC members & create survey to distribute to members for feedback. Work on the by-laws will be drafted outside of the main meeting and will be brought back to the entire committee for approval. VMRC Staff will have no input into the creation of the by-laws, SCDD can assist with technical support, if requested. Motion made by Jeff, with second by Karen. Approved, with one abstention by Mariela.
3. T-shirts-Karen motioned to spend up to \$5,000 on T-shirts from Legends Apparel, with second by Jeff. T-shirts will be sized for men, women, and children. Approved unanimously.
4. RFP for hand-over-hand services for Spanish speaking families & individuals. Motion made by Gricelda, with second by Jeff. Approved unanimously.

5. Develop resource materials in English & Spanish, and other languages if requested and available. Purchase publications on Self-Determination (Tri-Counties workbook, Thinking Outside the Box, Self Determination Profiles, other?) for families and individuals. Motion made by Karen to spend up to \$10,000 on resource materials, with second by Alphonse. Approved unanimously.

6. Host a Grub Hub culturally diverse meal for individuals and families with meals for those who attend the VMRC SDAC meetings. After discussion, no motion was made, so this recommendation will go back to the workgroup or be dropped.

7. Provide a training on leadership. Topics will include the role and responsibilities of committee members, voting procedures, and other important leadership topics. Motion made by Lisa, with second by Jeff. Approved unanimously.

8. Develop a VMRC SDAC Member orientation manual. Self-Advocates may be used to put the materials together with possible stipends given. Motion made by Alphonse, with second by Karen. Approved, with one abstention by Jeff.

Next workgroup meeting is December 9th, from 3:30-5pm.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-Information- Mariela shared from the statewide meeting on 11/10/21, that the local advisory committees should be discussing what is, and what is not working in SDP. Nancy Bargmann, DDS Director, presented materials, data, and answered questions and took comments. The Power Point Nancy shared is on the SCDD website. DDS has contracted with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to provide training and orientations across the state. A Self-Determination Manager was hired to oversee the process and starts December 1st. The orientation will be presented as training modules. The Statewide SDAC will be meeting more frequently during the year.

Self Determination Support Project-Information- Melanie Gonzales was unable to attend the meeting. No updates.

Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Information-

Tara reported that twenty-three people are reviewing their budgets, eighteen participants are developing their spending plans. Fifty participants are through

the process and are fully enrolled in Self-Determination. There were two orientation workshops in November (1 in Spanish, 1 in English). The 2022 orientation workshop/training schedule is in process. The Self-Determination team is scheduling 4-5 IPPs & PCPs per week. Meetings are scheduled into January. VMRC is recruiting for 3 Participant Choice Specialists, with interviews scheduled for December 3rd. One of the current Participant Choice Specialists is moving from our area, so VMRC will hire for that slot also. There was a information session held last week that 30 people attended to learn more about the Participant Choice Specialist positions.

Tony added that some regional centers catchment areas are reporting that there is not much interest in Self-Determination, and he relayed that he has reported that there is a lot of interest in our area!

Liz thanked members of the committee for all the feedback offered, as they take the feedback to make programming and processed better.

Members from VMRC Fiscal staff were at the meeting to answer questions from committee members. They provided information on how they work together with the FMS.

Self Determination Issues-*Discussion-Advisory Committee & VMRC Staff*-An Independent Facilitator (IF) brought up the issue of difficulties finding service providers who will “accept” payment from the FMS, especially those outside the “traditional” disability system. Others echoed the same difficulties. Liz encouraged SDAC members, Independent Facilitators, and parents to bring others (businesses, service providers, etc.) to attend the orientations to learn more about the Self-Determination Program.

There was robust discussion around the systemic issue of the frustrations from family members and self-advocates around participation with the rest of society. There is definitely a lot of work to be done to encourage participation by providers of non-traditional services for SDP.

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

Meet & Greet Save-the-date, January 24, 2022, from 5-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned 5:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley