



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes
December 16, 2021**

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-
VMRC
Mary Bonacci (SA) –(VMRC)
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA)-
Statute
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)
Araceli Espinoza (FA)
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)
Arely Solano (FA) -SCDD
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

Guests who identified

Chelsea Silveira Burgos
Alma Janssen
Joe Hernandez
James Ford

VMRC Staff

Tony Anderson-Executive Director
Doug Bonnet-Special Assistant to
Executive Director
Christine Couch-Director of
Consumer Services-Adults
Gaby Lopez-Cultural Specialist
Michele Poaster-Participant Choice
Specialist
Tara Sisemore-Hester-Director of Consumer
Services-Children

Irene Hernandez-Interpreter

Call Meeting to order- Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

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

Establish Quorum-Quorum established.

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

Approval of the Minutes from November 18, 2021-A motion was made by Karen to approve the minutes, with a second by Jeff. Vote-approved, with one abstention by John.

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. At the 12/9 meeting, the attendees reviewed the recommendations from the last VMRC SDAC meeting. The following was discussed to be brought back to the full committee for follow-up, review and decisions:

1. January 24, 2022 Meet & Greet Agenda-

Ideas of topics/speakers that were recommended to full SDAC-

- Promote RFP proposal – have Melanie present
- Invite new/interim Self Determination Ombudsperson-Katie Hornberger to speak on role of this new office
- Invite new SCDD Self Determination Manager- Joseph Hernandez to speak on new role
- Have Success Stories in SD by an Adult, Adult and Family and Child and Family.

2. By-Laws-Develop sub-committee of VMRC SDAC members & create survey to distribute to members for feedback.

A By-laws sub-committee was formed with Jeff, Karen & Lisa. The sub-committee will work on and complete the tasks such as developing a survey for all VMRC SDAC members. Dena will offer technical support as a non-voting member if requested.

3. T-shirts- to spend up to \$5,000 on T-shirts from Legends Apparel, T-shirts will be sized for men, women, and children.

Once the mock-up is available, it will be sent out to committee for approval.

4. **Request for Proposal (RFP)** for hand-over-hand services for Spanish speaking families & individuals. This is not a workgroup item. VMRC SDAC Leadership meet with VMRC staff to complete this RFP and bring back to full SDAC to approve. *Need to set up this meeting.*

5. **Develop resource materials** in English & Spanish, and other languages if requested and available. Purchase publications on Self-Determination. The update/information was that the following books be purchased:
 - **Tri-County Regional Center's Self Determination Book**- in English & Spanish- To buy 100 copies of each language would cost \$21.95 for each book for a total of \$4,390- larger quantity can be purchased but VMRC would need to call TriCounty Regional Center for that info plus tax and shipping costs. *Request that VMRC staff connect with TCRC to initiate the purchase.*
 - **Disability Voices United**- In English ONLY includes tax & shipping-
 - Think Outside the Box- Self Determination Info- \$25 each
 - Profiles in Self Determination- \$15 each
 The workgroup suggested that money be spent to translate the Think Outside the Box book into Spanish (or any other languages needed). *Request that VMRC staff (Tony) reach out to DVU regarding translation. Tony suggested that maybe we pay DVU to have the book translated.*

6. **Provide a training on leadership.** Topics will include the role and responsibilities of committee members, voting procedures, and other important leadership topics. *UPDATE- to hold off on this training until the by-laws committee have completed that task so it could be part of this training.*

7. **Develop a VMRC SDAC Member orientation manual.** *UPDATE- to hold off on this item until the by-laws committee have completed that task so it could be part of the manual.*

Suggestions from the event workgroup to spend the Self Determination dollars before March 2022:

Ideas: If allowed-Earmark Funds (Tony?)

- Hold several general assemblies in person – maybe in the summertime- provide food and beverages to promote the Self Determination Program
- Postage to mail our resources

- Funds to pay a translator to make English Resources into Spanish when allowed
- Earmark ½ the money left for administrative items- such a development and administration of satisfaction surveys to find out what is working and isn't working the Self Determination Program.
- Money to be used for any self-determination conferences (pay for people to attend)
- Host local Self Determination Resource Fairs- have providers/agencies, FMS, IF's, PCP Planners, Success Stories. Have VMRC SD staff see if anyone in the program would be willing to come and share their story. Maybe-pay for video segments.

No decisions or votes made on these items...Tony will take these items and work into the plan between the VMRC SDAC and VMRC to spend the funding dollars. He will work on estimated costs for the items for the next meeting.

The next Events Workgroup meeting is on Thursday, January 13, 2022, from 3:30-5pm.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-Information-

No updates. Joe Hernandez, now at the SCDD as the Self Determination Program Manager, introduced himself, and explained his new role working on training for the Self-Determination Program. His first project is developing orientation training modules.

Self Determination Support Project-Information- No updates. There was discussion on how referrals are made for support. Melanie created a referral form for VMRC staff can complete once a consumer/family has requested support. Tara (through Liz) reported that VMRC staff have sent Release of Information (ROI) forms to families for signature to participate in the support project. At this time, no ROI have been returned, so no referrals have been made. Christine made the suggestion that the VMRC SDAC speak about the importance of returning the ROI in a timely manner and that it is ok to sign the forms in order to receive needed support.

Public Comment-Karen reported on an issue that she asked and received an answer from Katy H. regarding the difficulty with spending plans not being signed because providers did not want to go through the FMS for payment (the example was day program). Katy recommended that the FMS reach out to the programs with information and show the ease for service providers to participate in Self-

Determination and the process. It is an issue statewide that is being worked on and hopefully will improve as additional education is provided on the program to providers.

Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- *Information*-Tony Anderson, Executive Director and Tara Sisemore-Hester, Director of Consumer Services, Children

Tara and Tony reported that one person entered Self Determination and three people decided to return to traditional services, as they were having issues finding services. Three FMS have decided not to work in SDP @VMRC (also a problem statewide), so VMRC Research & Development (R&D) is working to find other providers. There is a backlog of people entering SDP, with this further delaying the process. There were offers made to 3 candidates for the new position "Participant Choice Specialist" and an offer for someone to replace the position vacated by David, who moved out of state. There will be six total Participant Choice Specialists, once brought into the SDP staff. Names will be released once the offers are accepted. They will also attend future VMRC SDAC meetings. They will help all people with participant choice services as well as those transitioning to Self Determination. They will coach and assist the Service Coordinators during the transition times.

SDAC Membership Update-*Information*-Dena-Members are needed from Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties.

Self Determination Issues-*Discussion*-Advisory Committee & VMRC Staff-no discussion

Next meeting-January 20, 2022, 3:30pm-5:00pm, on Zoom

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

Meeting Adjourned 5:20pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley