



**VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting  
Minutes  
January 20, 2022**

**VMRC SDAC Members - Present**

Karen Bonacci (FA) -vice chair-  
VMRC  
Lisa Culley-secretary (FA) -SCDD  
John Forrest (FA)-VMRC  
Mariela Ramos-chair (FA) -VMRC  
Kerstin Williams (SA) -SCDD

**VMRC SDAC Members- Absent**

Rosa Chable-Poot (FA)  
Araceli Espinoza (FA)  
Gricelda Estrada (FA) -VMRC  
Eugene Kilbride (DRC OCRA) -  
Statute  
Jeff Lazaro (FA) -SCDD  
Alphonse Mickahail (FA)  
Arelly Solano (FA) -SCDD

**SCDD Staff**

Dena Hernandez-North Valley Hills

**SA=Self Advocate**

**FA=Family Advocate**

**Guests who identified**

Chelsea Silveira Burgos  
James Ford  
Melanie Gonzales  
Joe Hernandez  
Katie Hornberger

**VMRC Staff**

Tony Anderson-Executive Director  
Tania Candelaria-Participant Choice  
Specialist  
Elizabeth Diaz-Program Manager  
Xinh Nguyen-Participant Choice  
Specialist  
Michele Poaster-Participant Choice  
Specialist  
Angelique Sheer-Program Manager  
Mari Bel Trujillo-Participant Choice Specialist  
Deanna Wagenman-Participant Choice  
Specialist

Irene Hernandez-Interpreter

|  
|  
|

**Call Meeting to order-** Mariela Ramos, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:40pm.

**Introductions-** Committee members and guests introduced themselves in chat. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services for committee members & guests who speak Spanish.

**Establish Quorum-**There was no quorum established

**Approval of the Agenda-**Unable to vote due to no quorum

**Approval of the Minutes from December 16, 2021-**Unable to vote due to no quorum

**Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-Information-**

Joe Hernandez confirmed the next statewide meeting is scheduled on February 15, 2022.

**Self Determination Support Project-Information-**Melanie reported that the weekly coaching calls were going well so far. The first two meetings had three attendees who wanted to know more about Self Determination. In December, five individuals were referred to her for support who are in the process of transitioning into Self Determination-one transition age and two children. Two others have not responded yet. There has been one referral so far in January. Support has been provided through phone calls, Zoom or email. Weekly coaching calls will continue through February. Calls are open to all and have any of their questions answered. The connection information for the coaching calls is on VMRC's website.

**Self Determination Support Project for Spanish speaking families/consumers-**

**Information-**Karen provided information on the meeting that had been held with VMRC (Robert Fernandez, Tony, Liz), questions that were answered and what needed to go into the new RFP. The final product will need to be brought back to the full committee for approval.

**Public Comment-**Karen shared that she is working with a couple of parents who were told things about process that she wanted to clarify-Liz outlined the following processes:

Internal Intake-once someone takes the orientation, the participant must send their orientation certificate to their service coordinator. The SC fills out a referral that Liz receives, then the person will be assigned to a Participant Choice Specialist.

FMS-need to find the FMS early in the process, there has been some waiting time. There is a list of suggested questions available for new participants to interview FMS.

Liz introduced the new Participant Choice Specialists-MariBel (Stkn), Xinh (Modesto) & Deanna (Stkn). Jordan (Modesto) will take over David's caseload. Upcoming Orientation Dates-Feb 4th 9-12 (English w/Spanish Interpretation), April 19th 9-12 (Spanish), June 16th 1-3 (English w/Spanish Interpretation)

**Update on the Self Determination Program Phase in & Orientation during the COVID-19 Pandemic- *Information*-Tony Anderson, Executive Director**

Angie provided current numbers-52 totally in program by February, several people are working on spending plans, 25-30 are working on budgets, scheduling into February for initial meetings. Ten people have decided not to proceed with Self Determination for one reason or another.

Tony reported on the funding allocations for the past three years. The first years' funding \$59,000 must be spent by March. The list of items that have been agreed upon between the SDAC and VMRC will go back to the workgroup and purchases will be initiated.

**VMRC SDAC Special Events workgroup-*Information/ACTION* – Dena-** Dena shared the agenda for the Meet & Greet scheduled for January 24, 2022.

**SDAC Membership Update-*Information*-Dena-**Members are needed from Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties. Future appointments need to come from SCDD.

**Next meeting-**February 17, 2022, 3:30pm-5:00pm, on Zoom

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

**Meeting Adjourned** 4:45pm

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley*