



Minutes for Consumer Services Committee Meeting

01/04/2023 | 05:15 PM - 06:45 PM

Hybrid - VMRC Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

Called to order at 5:19pm

Committee Members Present: Suzanne Devitt, Margaret Heinz, Lisa Utsey, Anthony Owens, Crystal Enyeart, Daime Hoornaert, Erria Kaalund, Liz Knapp, Sarah Howard, and Dora Contreras

Committee Members Not Present: Linda Collins

VMRC Staff Present: Enos Edmerson, Christine Couch, Brian Bennett, Tony Anderson, Libby Contreras, Tara Sisemore Hester, Erin Martin and Katina Richison

Public Present: Dena Hernandez, Isela Bingham, Irene Hernandez, Ana Soto, Melinda Gonsler, Anel Renteria, Rachelle Munoz, Trina Castro, Steven Herrera, Erick Thurmpmd, Tumboura Hill, Leticia Leon, Maria Elena Diaz, Marisela Moroyoqui and , Minnet Oliver

A. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call: meeting called to order at 5:19pm. Tony Anderson took roll. A quorum was established.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 11/02/22

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 11/02/2022. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved with one abstention by Daime Hoornaert.

C. Presentation - Kavere Services – postponed due to the weather and state of emergency.

D. Public Comment –

Dena Hernandez – The State Council on Developmental Disabilities North Valley Hills Office (SCDD) has a regional advisory committee meeting on January 31 from 6-8pm. The SCDD statewide meeting is January 24 from 1030-4pm on zoom. CHOICES is April 14, 2023 and it will be hybrid. Registration will be \$30 for in person and \$10 for zoom. The t-shirt and video contest entries are due on January 17.

E. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Tara Sisemore Hester reviewed the intake numbers which are continuing to rise in all counties. Christine Couch reviewed the transfer status report, POS exceptions data and the Special Incident Reporting data. The committee had questions about special incident reporting; Katina Richison, Brian Bennett and Christine Couch answered the questions. Dora Contreras requested more training and information – but as a point of order we cannot make a change at this time as it is not on the agenda.

F. Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Update

Crystal Enyeart reported: On November 2, Sac 6 had their practice zoom chat. We decided to only do the Friday zoom chats once a month now. Since people are returning to day programs and work. This way at least once a month we get to share an important topic / training

November 4th was our Friday Zoom Chat, and the topic was on voting. It was presented by sac 6 members, and we showed a power point to go along with our presentation.

November 10th, some Sac6 members joined the Transportation meeting via zoom.

November 15, sac 6 had their monthly Leadership meeting with Executive Director and Sac6 Liaison and the SCDD North Valley Hills Office. Her we talk about business matters and future Friday Zoom Chat topics.

November 15th and 16th Catrina C. attended the DDS CAC (Consumer Advisory Committee) meeting via zoom.

November 17, Sac 6 had their quarterly Finance Committee meeting, via zoom.

November 23rd, Chairperson Dena assisted VMRC with delivering Thanksgiving meals to the Stockton Area. Sac 6 consultant Lisa U. also assisted VMRC with delivering meals to the Modesto area.

November 30th, Sac 6 meet via zoom for the monthly Friday Zoom Chat practice.

December 2nd, Sac 6 Friday Zoom Chat was on Fire Prevention and have an escape plan presented by Sac6.

December 3rd, Lisa, Jessica, Crystal and Robert all attended the VMRC Board retreat where we listened to presenters and learned lots of new things.

Upcoming events:

December 21st, some Sac 6 members will be having Coffee with the COPS at VMRC, in Stockton.

December 28th- Sac 6 will be having a meeting to have their annual elections and discuss office hours in the different VMRC offices.

January 7, 2023, we are having our goals meeting to talk about our contract goals.

G. Resource Development Update

1. AB 637 for current and future providers of (785) Psychologist services: Brian Bennett explained the AB637 waiver proposal for psychologists; it is a request for a rate increase for the services that VMRC purchases from the psychologists under service code 785.
 - a. Public Comment on 785 Psychologist Services
 - i. Liz Herrera Knapp asked if the rate increase would apply to every vendor under 785. Brian answered yes. Liz then asked if you are an inactive vendor and then reactivate, would the new rate apply to you? Brian shared that we are asking DDS to apply the new rate to all current and future vendors under 785.
 - ii. Dora Contreras asked if we have a shortage of Psychologist in the State of California.
 - iii. Dora Contreras noted that we did not state the current rate in the letter. Brian shared that the current allowed rate for 785 is \$1250 for assessments. Kaiser's rate is \$3000 for the same assessment. Private pay is from \$3500-\$4000 in the community.
 - iv. Dora Contreras asked if we are having difficulty keeping psychologists due to the rate.
 - v. Daima Hoornaert asked how long psychologists work with us. Brian shared that the providers have told us that they cannot afford to work with us at the current rate.
 - vi. Dora Contreras asked how many psychologists we currently have vendored. Brian answered that we have less than 20 but more than 15
 - vii. Maria Elena Diaz asked how much money a psychologist is offered per year. Brian answered the current rate is per individual assessed. Maria Elena Diaz then asked if there was a standard

rate. Brian shared that the current rate is \$1250 per assessment. Maria Elena Diaz stated that Brian didn't understand the question; DDS gives RC money for each resource, so how much is the amount of money received from DDS, what do you report to DDS to get the money, do you say we have an assessment, so we need money or do we receive the money ahead of time? Brian shared that the payment process is the same for all services. RC is paid for the services after the services are provided. Maria Elena Diaz then stated that the referral is made for the assessment and then RC reports to DDS and then RC gets the money from DDS to pay the vendor.

viii. Leticia Leon asked if there was a budget, not to exceed, for the assessments. Brian shared that we develop a contract with a psychologist with a not to exceed amount for the provider, based on the anticipated work that year.

2. AB 637 for current providers of (880) transportation-Additional Component and (875) Transportation Companies: Brian Bennett shared that this request is about transportation services, 880 and 875 service codes. Letty Leon from R&D is going to explain the proposal which will increase the rate and opportunities for these providers due to the RC being bound by DDS median rates. The timeline has our public comment tonight; a provider survey has been sent out. Letty shared a presentation on the topic which includes the timeline and dates to complete the tasks.

a. Public Comment on 880 and 875 Transportation

i. Dora Contreras shared her understanding of the presentation.

Letty clarified that 875 is for commercial transportation companies.

Dora asked about self-determination rates for transportation.

Brian shared that it is not prohibited.

ii. Tumboura Hill asked about the transportation company services and their payment during the alternative services period of time when they weren't used at full capacity. Brian shared that DDS allowed alternative services for 875. The 875 providers did a variety of things during this period of time. This ended prior to the ending of alternative services for other service codes. 880 was not a service code eligible for alternative services. Letty shared that they are asking providers to support the process due to the unmet services needs that have been identified.

- iii. Maria Elena Diaz asked if RC has proposed the increase to DDS. Brian shared that we have not yet sent the proposal to DDS. We need to finish gathering the information and data. Letty explained that we are in the process of gathering information. Maria asked how far back are you collecting the information. Letty said April 2020 to December 2022 is the data being gathered. Maria Elena Diaz stated that there have been so many years of this not being reported and so many barriers that VMRC should consider reporting every 6 months. She sees this as a barrier for consumers who need services and cannot receive them. And here we are talking about information from 2 years ago. Brian responded that our goal is to minimize barriers to services by supporting 880 and 875 providers.

H. Quality Assurance Update

Katina Richison shared the QA alert report. The committee asked questions about alerts and Katina explained the alert process. Tumboura Hill asked a question about an untimely SIR and the finding was substantiated and the action was technical assistance. He questioned the following of the regulations and Katina explained that some of the reportable categories are not in Title 17.

I. Transportation Update

R&D Transportation: Leticia Leon shared in December 2021 there were 13 contractors for 875 and 880. There has been a lot of vendor development activities, currently there are 39 contractors, 10 commercial and 29 880 service providers.

VMRC transportation letter to Board Of Directors dated 8.30.22: Brian shared that the CLASP vendor advisory group shared a letter regarding transportation barriers and its impact on consumers. VMRC worked with an independent contractor, Melinda Gonser to identify the barriers. Melinda Gonser shared that she reviewed the letter and sorted out the main issues. She identified 6 areas to gather information on: communication, process, priorities, vendorization, training and accountability. Melinda shared the 2022-12-07 Plain Language Version of Transportation Report – CLASP Concerns.

J. Fair Hearing Update – no report this month.

K. Coalition of Local Area Service Providers (CLASP) Update

Daime Hoornaert reported:

- 1) CLASP held it's first hybrid meeting in December on zoom and VMRC. CLASP provided coffee and bagels to those who were able to make it in person.
- 2) CLASP was introduced to VMRC's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Manager, Mark Crear.
- 3) Vendor Uniform Holiday 2023 schedule has been approved by CLASP and sent to VMRC.
- 4) CLASP continues to have On Going Discussions on Current DDS Directives and CCL PINS (Provider Information Notice)
Alternative Services ended December 31, 2022.
Minimum Wage Increase
Tailored Day Services (Tailor Day Services process, Individualized Service Designs, Vendorization/Program Design Addendums)
Remote Services
- 5) Transportation continues to be an unmet need. R&D presents every month to CLASP and continue to hold forums the 2nd Thursday of the month at 11:00 AM for transportation updates. They continue to look for more transportation vendors to provide services to those people waiting to get routed.
- 6) CLASP's Provider Conference has been scheduled for October 24. The committee is finalizing location and speakers. There next meeting is January 9, 2023 @ 2pm via zoom.
- 7) Tony Anderson gave an update on the Workforce Collaboration with Alta Regional Center and vendors in both areas. They are working on a website to assist in hiring. The Goal is to raise awareness in the field of intellectual/developmental disabilities and attract new people to field. They are working on a website and social media package to help with awareness. The Workforce is also planning a job fair in both areas.
- 8) CLASP continues to appreciate VMRC staff reports on:
HCBS News-
Resource Development Projects
Quality Assurance Updates
Early Start
Employment
Consumer Services
Clinical
Ex. Director updates

Next CLASP meeting will be Hybrid: January 23, 2023.

L. Clinical Update

Christine Couch shared on behalf of Claire Lazaro:

- Dr. Lazaro attended the ARCA Clinical Directors Meeting and the ARCA Physicians Meeting.
- Discussion was around the lack of psychologist providers across the state and how to possibly improve that; what other regional centers are doing with the lack of nursing providers; and updates from ARCA.
- VMRC staff education on Pressure ulcers done on Nov. 10. This is part of the VMRC strategic plan to focus on consumer health. We want to empower and equip our SCs about these topics so they can support our consumers better.
- Met with HPSJ together with Christine and Brian on the transition of ICF funding to Managed-Care Medi-Cal Plans. We are awaiting letter from Department of health care services about this. HPSJ will try to reach out to ICFs again.
- We have a new part time staff physician, Dr. Beatriz Villabona. She is trained and will cover the eligibility load of Dr. Funamura who has retired on Dec. 31, 2022.
- Last meeting with Coalition for Compassionate Care of California on December 7, 2022. That was about this grant funding on how we can incorporate Advanced Care Planning on our IPP. They worked with VMRC and ACRC. They are hoping to get more funding to disseminate the information we have gathered to the other regional centers.
- Dr. Lazaro is part of the San Joaquin County Public Health Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MCAH) Branch, Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) program, Community Advisory Board (CAB). They met on Dec. 12, 2022. VMRC is hoping to host a Focus Group on this, in partnership with Family Resource Network. We are hoping families will attend this focus groups which we are planning to hold in a hybrid format at the Cohen Board room.
- Regarding the Family Wellness Pilot Project – the Family Wellness Navigator has been hired and started on December 19, 2022. He is Matthew Threet, or Mat Threet. His role is primarily focused on families and connecting them with various community resources that would help them and support them during the challenging time of getting a developmental disability diagnosis on their child.

M. Next Meeting, Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 5:15 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

