



## Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

07/26/2023 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

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

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Steve Russell, Crystal Enyeart, Jody Buriss, Jeff Turner, Alicia Schott, Lynda Mendoza, Jose Lara, Robert Balderama, Lisa Utsey, Suzanne Devitt, Erria Kaalund, Anthony Owens, Emily Grunder, Brandy de Alba, Tom Toomey, Yan Li, Jessica Quesada,

**Board Members Not Present:** Margaret Heinz (informed absence), Linda Collins (informed absence), Liz Herrera Knapp (informed absence), Gabriela Castillo

**VMRC Staff Present:** Tony Anderson, Brian Bennett, Claire Lazaro, Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Aaron McDonald, Melissa Stiles, Mary Duncan, Bud Mullanix, Evelyn Ledesma Solis

**Public Present:** Angie Lewis (facilitator), Isela Bingham (interpreter), James Ford (DDS), Tumboura Hill (QATA), Rachelle Munoz (facilitator), Matthew Bahr, Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Dena Hernandez, Ruby Saldana, Dora Contreras, Faviola Cruz,

### **A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Reading of the Mission Statement**

Meeting called to order at 6:02pm. Suzanne Devitt led the reading of the Mission Statement. Doug Bonnet took the roll. A quorum was established.

### **B. Review of the Meeting Agenda**

Suzanne Devitt reviewed the agenda.

### **C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 06/28/23 - Action**

Brandy De Alba made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 06/28/23. Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 06-28-23 was approved unanimously.

#### **D. Presentation - Matthew Bahr - "Public Meeting Rules in 2023"**

See attached presentation – Matthew answered questions from the board members regarding “chat” feature, interacting with the public, appreciation for the presentation and the zoom option!

#### **E. Public Comment**

Dena Hernandez, SCDD North Valley Hills Office: Welcome to Jeff and Jody as new VMRC board members. She was thrilled to be part of the nomination committee. They had the RAC meeting last night at VMRC. Thank you to Tony Anderson and Doug Bonnet for assisting the RAC member with the hybrid option that allows them to engage more folks. The State Council continues to provide the Self Determination orientations on line, virtually, to receive their certificate. Info on the SCDD website. It's also in the VMRC newsletter each week. August flyer in Engl and Spanish was sent out several times. This is an opportunity to receive the information in a variety of languages in your own home. The new employment first office that is a permanent state office under HHS agency. In 2013 California became an employment first state and this takes it a step further to help more people with dis get employed.

Tumboura Hill, an advocate: It's harder and harder to access the regional center. You can't come in through the door. It's hard to get ahold of anyone on the phone. I don't understand that. I worked here for 12-13 years. I never really understood what is the regional center? What does the regional center do? Who do they serve? If they serve the public, why do we need you? If we can't access you, through the door, by phone and now in the public meeting, why do we need you?

Dora Contreras, Inegrated Community Collaborative: She has a 31 year old consumer from the regional center. She was able to capture that there are 2 new board members this year. Her question is how do you prepare new board members to participate in a very active way on the board? She has served on new boards and some of the boards have rubber-stamped and you say aye to everything you vote on. How do you get an active board? How do you do this when you have meetings every two months or so? And I know the binder must be thick. A good member will have to prepare by reading the

materials. My question is what is VMRC doing to prepare the new board members to be active and represent the people? Another issue I take up that sometimes we you get board members that don't listen to the public, especially us as parents. Can you please let me know how do you do that with the two new board members and the other board members? How do you get training and become an active board member?

Integrated Community Collaborative, Fernando Gomez: Co-founder of ICC and for several years now have been collaborating with VMRC. A couple things, thank you for volunteer work, it is extremely challenging and difficult. A comment I heard from Miss Contreras and a gentleman earlier, we consider a movement. The community is getting more involved in engagement. This is part of the solution to help the system address issues and challenges. I understand the frustration. I understand the passion that is displayed. Is there something in place that you have or would consider having where the community could come to the board and share thoughts and concerns, so that the board is in a better position to represent their voice? The limit of 2-3 minutes is somewhat frustrating, as there is so much to share. The board should hear from the community to ensure that connection.

## **F. Consent Calendar Items - Action**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2023
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2023

Alicia Schott made a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

## **G. Committee Reports**

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Liz Herrera-Knapp unable to attend but shared her report: CLASP Report 7.26.23

- Last meeting was held 7/24/23 10am via Zoom
- \$25647.47 in the CLASP account
- CLASP is currently up to 30 paid members for the year.

- o Our new membership year started June 2023, so we are working to get the word out about renewing membership and membership benefits which includes the CLASP ListServ and discounted rates for the provider Conference.

- CLASP has a public page in FB & IG, if you want to post something there, send to Kirsten via email: ksea9@aol.com

- o 1. Instagram: @CLASP.VMRC

- o 2. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CLASP.VMRC> and

- o 3. Our private member group: "CLASP - VMRC (MEMBER GROUP)" - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2310077552557091> When joining our private member group, please be sure to answer the membership questions to be approved into the group.

- Provider Conference Committee met today

- o October 24th 2023

- o 6 CEUs available (\$95- member, \$125 non-member)

- o Sponsorship opportunities available

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<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pnnut8zab&oeidk=a07ejv3sehp4db55c5f&oseq=>

- Day Program Workgroup- Chaired by Sonya Fox-Watson

- o Meets August 14th Via Zoom

- Next meeting is August 28th 10am via zoom

2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Vivian Nicolas

1) We don't have updated numbers as Liz was not present due to being at a training last week so we don't have the updated enrollment numbers.

2) New Facebook Page for VMRC-SDAC:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/401810838352575> encourage consumers and family members to join and post useful info to disseminate info about SDP and related matters

3) ICC and Adjoin provided project updates (again don't have updates so going by the agenda which I've attached that we went over last week)

4) Discussed barriers to SDP and how we can look at address some of the issues causing such barriers (e.g., budgets not being completed on time, delays with transition to SDP as a result, etc.)-we will look to see if any workgroups can help support addressing such areas where the committee can then take such feedback

back to VMRC SDP leadership team. 3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Crystal Enyeart

### SAC6 report to VMRC Board, July 2023

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sac6 member Robert worked the SAC6 office hours in the Stockton VMRC office.

July 5, 2023 - Sac6 had their weekly practice Zoom Chat to prepare our script.

July 7, 2023 – Sac6 member Lisa U. presented on the Friday Zoom Chat about the “Planning for End of Life Care” This is such an important but hard topic to talk about. Also, Sac6 Chairperson Dena attended the VMRC Senior grandparent talent Show at VMRC in Stockton.

July 12, 2023 - Sac6 consultant Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance meeting followed by the VMRC Executive committee meeting in person.

July 17, 2023 - Lisa U attended the DEBI Committee meeting. This was Lisa’s first meeting.

July 21, 2023, Lisa and I had the honor of attending the annual VMRC Board member dinner. I presented on “Getting involved with your Regional Center.”

July 26, 2023, Lisa U attended the family wellness meeting via zoom and Popplewell committee meeting via zoom.

Upcoming events:

July 27, 2023 – We will be having our monthly leadership meeting.

August 18, 2023, we will be hosting an Area Meeting at Turner Park in San Andreas from 10am to 2pm, where we will have guest speakers and a lunch.

October 7, 2023- VMRC Disability Awareness Fair at the Modesto VMRC parking lot from 11am to 3pm.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enyeart

SAC6 representative to the VMRC Board and Consumer Services.

4. Finance Committee Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles

a. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for July 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee – **Action**

Emily Grunder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for July 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee – **Action**

Anthony Owens seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Consumer Services Committee Jose Lara does not have a report as the committee takes July and August off. The next meeting is September.

6. Legislative Committee Lynda Mendoza recorded the presentation and it is available online. She thanked the members of the committee.

7. Bylaws Committee Linda Collins was not present. Doug Bonnet shared that the committee has not met since the last board meeting.

8. Nominating Committee Linda Collins was not present. Doug Bonnet shared that the committee has not met since the last board meeting.

9. Popplewell Review Team Erria Kaalund did not have a report. The team did not meet in July and they will resume meeting in August prior to the August board meeting.

10. Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee Liz Herrera-Knapp was unable to attend but shared her report:

**DEBI Committee Report**

**7.26.23**

- Last meeting held 7/17/23 at 6:30pm
- New Chair- Liz Herrera Knapp
- The committee met to discuss their ideas and vision for the new committee

- Liz and Mark are working on developing a mission statement for the committee
- Liz and Mark are working on discussing training and events the committee develop and support to provide to the members of the VMRC Board
- Working on collaborating with the VMRC DEI Committee
- Next meeting TBD

## **H. Executive Director's Report – Tony Anderson**

Happy Disability PRIDE month, recognizing the passing of the ADA – we've been publishing articles in the weekly newsletter. Please take pause and recognize and celebrate the progress and the work we still have to do.

SAC6 has office hours and has a presence in the office, helping people and listening to their advocacy issues. They have their own office, near the Executive Director's office. It's so nice to build up the presence of self-advocates in both Stockton and Modesto! We appreciate this. It is in our bylaws to have members on each of our board committees who represent self-advocates. We also meet with the SAC6 monthly.

There is nothing about us without us, meaning all people with disabilities have a voice in our policies and activities.

Welcome back Christine Couch and the Person-Centered Thinking Team from St. Louis. They attended a training for several days. This team does internal training for the staff and community. We are committed to person-centered thinking, at the core, to drive authentic person centered plans and outcomes.

IPP and IFSP's have been done remote at the request of families and persons with disabilities. We thought this would end on July 1 and we were preparing for that. It was decided that this will be extended for the entire year – they can now be remote at the request of families and persons with disabilities through June 30, 2024.

Family Cost Participation Fee and the Annual Program Family Fees will continue to be on hold for another year through June 30, 2024. This means the fees are stopped for families for another year. Our position is that they create barriers and animosity between families and Regional Centers.

Tony met with Vivian, the new chair for the Self-Determination Advisory Committee. We discussed her vision and SDAC goals.

Happy to have all of the board members here tonight! Welcome to the new board members. We also appreciate the trainings provided by Matthew Bahr, thank you!

## **I. Other Matters - none**

## **J. Board Member Activities and Reports**

Emily Grunder shared that the Annual Dinner was a very full circle moment for her. She was able to tell Joey Travolta about her memory of how kind he was to her in the past. To the board members and regional center staff, I'm a walking testimonial of what can be done for me and my family. Thank you!

## **K. President's Report – Dr. Suzanne Devitt**

Thank you to Tony, Doug and Margaret Heinz for the wonderful dinner. It was wonderful to see the Communitas Awards presented to Tom Whitesides and Joey Travolta. Thank you to VMRC staff for all of you attending the board activities. Thank you for the continued zoom options – it is accessible for people.

## **L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)**

## **M. Adjournment at 7:20pm**