



VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-September 21, 2023

VMRC SDAC Members - Present

Karen Bonacci (FA)
Jeannet Cardenas (FA)
Lisa Culley (FA)-secretary
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)
Gricelda Estrada (FA)
John Forrest (FA)
Mariela Ramos (FA)
Arely Solano (FA)
Idalia Arroyo -DRC/OCRA

VMRC SDAC Members- Absent

Mary Bonacci (SA)
Jeff Lazaro (FA)
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA
Jonathan Zahodne (SA)

SA=Self Advocate

FA=Family Advocate

SCDD Staff

Dena Hernandez-NVH Office

Interpreters

Isela Bingham-In person
Irene Hernandez-Zoom

Guests who identified

James Ford-DDS
Dora Contreras
Ana Valdez
Aleida O
Maria Elena Diaz
Maria L. Gonzalez
Jane Sakurai
Marcela S
Monica Stelmack
Maribel Falcon

VMRC Staff

Tony Anderson-Executive Director
Jordan Bettancourt, Participant Choice
Specialist
Evelyn Ledesma Solis-Multi-Lingual Access
Specialist
Michele Poaster, Participant Choice Specialist
Maribel Trujillo, Participant Choice Specialist
Deanna Wagenman, Participant Choice
Specialist

Call Meeting to order- Vivian Nicolas, called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

Introductions- Committee members and public members introduced themselves. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services.

Establish Quorum-Quorum was established.

Approval of the Agenda-motion to approve the agenda was made by Vivian (2nd by John). Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from August 17, 2023-Vivian made the motion to approve minutes (2nd by Gricelda). Motion passed unanimously, with one correction by Mariela.

VMRC SDAC Chair Report-

- **Request:** volunteers to work at the Disability Resource Fair on 10/7/23. Jeff, Vivian, Gricelda & Jeannet agreed to work one-hour shifts. Lisa has the items that will be given away, and Dena and Lisa will work on the information handout items. Lisa reported that the following was ordered from committee funds: logo canopy, 500 buttons, 1000 pens, 500 water bottles, 250 fidget spinners, 250 bubbles, and 250 stress balls. All with the SDP logo.
- **Information:** Statewide SDP survey results:
Executive Summary: <https://bit.ly/3ssHDdV>
Plain Language Executive Summary: <https://bit.ly/45A8Dqv>
Spanish Language Executive Summary: <https://bit.ly/3QXPYAG>
- **Follow-up:** The SDAC Leadership Team (Vivian, Gricelda, Lisa, Jeff) is scheduled to meet with Tony and the Self-Determination Leadership (Christine & Liz) in October. If committee members would like to share issues that should be discussed in this meeting, please contact Vivian.
- **Re-cap:** The first information session was held before this meeting. The link will be the same, and anyone can drop in to ask questions about SDP. The session will not have a strict agenda, but will follow the needs of those attending.

Public Comment

Jane Sakurai-announced ASLA Advanced Cross Cultural Independent Facilitator Training will be offered in English, Spanish and Korean. Link to register for the training can be found here: <https://www.autismla.org/1/ifmentortraining/>

Maria Elena-Did not know about the information time before the business meeting, and what the purpose of that time is for, and what types of questions can be asked? Vivian outlined what the informational session was about, and what was hoped to be gained through the informational sessions. Also, Maria Elena was frustrated because the chat feature was not enabled.

Gricelda-Had a complaint that the chat was not enabled, and that the chat is necessary to allow families to communicate their questions and needs. There is frustration that

those who need to access the in-person interpreter must wait and stop while speaking, unlike the Zoom interpreter, who is able to interpret simultaneously.

Dora-Still concerned that SDP participants are receiving their IPPs and other documentation in English, when English is not their language.

Mariela-Agree with Gricelda and Karen regarding the chat feature.

Marcela-Also concerned that the chat feature is not open during the meeting.

Arely-Agreed with the others regarding the chat feature to share comments, links and other important information.

VMRC Update-Lisa shared the following report from VMRC, prepared by Liz:

As of 9/19/23, There are 105 participants in SDP at VMRC

63 are male, 43 are female

Ages: 0-5, 0%; 6-15, 37%; 16-23, 28%; 24 and up, 35%

Ethnicity: Spanish, 41%; White, 32%; other, 19%; African American, 8%; Multi, 5%

Geography: San Joaquin, 69; Stanislaus, 30; Mountain Counties, 6

It was again requested that the committee be given data on the reasons and numbers of people who entered or were in process to enter SDP, then moved back to traditional services or decided not to enter SDP.

Tony added that the SDP staff is working on streaming the process to make things smoother and quicker between all departments.

Special Events Workgroup-The next meeting is from 3:30pm-5pm on October 26, 2023 on Zoom, and is open to anyone who would like to attend.

ICC Support Project Report-Dora reported that they were working with families and had held some of the group training. They have worked through all the referrals that had been received, and are now working on those who have self-referred to the project.

Adjoin Support Project Report-No report.

Membership Update-No new information, still need representatives from Amador and Tuolumne counties.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-The next meeting is September 28, 2023, starting at 10:30am.

SCDD SDP Orientation:

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdporientation/?fbclid=IwAR3BNnHWCWlv4gwgXdXgYxfcHubPZnVuJ4KF6hyrpV5bREdsl-8lxZfJdSY>

Issues & Discussion-Arely asked who she inquires to in order to change her current Participant Choice Specialist (who does not speak Spanish), to a Participant Choice

Specialist who does speak Spanish. She was referred to Liz Diaz to make that request. If that does not work, please reach out to Christine Couch.

Monica Stelmack voiced how grateful she is for Self-Determination, and the difference it has made in her son's life. She also shared her organization, Wide Horizons, that assists people in Self-Determination. Wide Horizons is a day program funded through Self-Determination, teaching independent living and employment skills.

Join the VMRC SDAC on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/401810838352575/?ref=share&mibextid=DcJ9fc>

Next meeting-October 19, 2023, 3:30pm-5pm. The meeting will be in-person at VMRC in Stockton or on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned 4:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley