



## **VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-February 15, 2024**

### **VMRC SDAC Members - Present**

Karen Bonacci (FA)  
Mary Bonacci (SA)  
Jeannet Cardenas (FA)  
Lisa Culley (FA)-secretary  
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)-chair  
Gricelda Estrada (FA)-vice chair  
John Forrest (FA)  
Mariela Ramos (FA)  
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

### **VMRC SDAC Members- Absent**

Jeff Lazaro (FA)  
Arelly Solano (FA)

**SA=Self Advocate**

**FA=Family Advocate**

### **Interpreters**

Isela Bingham-In person  
Irene Hernandez-Zoom

### **State Council on Dev. Disabilities**

Dena Hernandez, North Valley Hills  
Office

### **Guests who identified**

Dora Contreras-ICC  
Elena Diaz  
James Ford-DDS  
Anita Hurtado  
Reyna Rangel Simon  
Dhalya Davila  
Maria Granados  
Maria del Rosario  
Elizabeth Gomez-ICC  
Yamilet Serrano  
Aurora Guevara  
Marcela Sanchez  
Aleida O  
Maria Cortes  
Josefina Romo  
Liliana Escudero  
Erick Thurmond  
Rubi Saldana  
Caroline Arzate  
Ana Valdez  
Maria Solano  
Connie

### **VMRC Staff**

Doug Bonnet, Assistant to the Executive  
Director  
Liz Diaz, SDP Program Manager  
Evelyn Ledesma, Multilingual Access  
Specialist-Spanish  
Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist  
Michele Poaster, Participant Choice Specialist  
Cindy Strawderman, Admin Support Manager  
Maribel Trujillo, Participant Choice Specialist  
Leinani Walter, Executive Director

**Item 1: Call Meeting to order-** Vivian Nicolas, called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

**Item 2: Introductions-** Committee members and public members introduced themselves. Irene Hernandez provided interpretation services via Zoom and Isela Bingham interpreted in person.

**Item 3: Establish Quorum-**Quorum was established.

**Item 4: Approval of the Agenda-**motion to approve the agenda was made by Mary (2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian). Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Approval of the Minutes from January 18, 2024-**Gricelda made the motion to approve minutes (2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian). Motion passed, with one abstention from John.

**Item 6: VMRC SDAC Chair Report-**

- Vivian provided a detailed explanation on DDS Directives from January. The directives can be found on the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/> Directives from the previous month are translated into several languages, which can be found at the noted link.
- Our VMRC SDAC Leadership Team (Vivian, Gricelda, Lisa & Jeff) will be meeting with VMRC SDP staff in March to discuss any issues. If there are any issues that members would like brought to the meeting, please send them to Vivian [Vivian\\_nicolas@yahoo.com](mailto:Vivian_nicolas@yahoo.com)

**Item 7: Public Comment**

- Dora-asked if there is a list of services families have used with their Self-Determination spending plans. This would be helpful as other families create their programs.
- Rubi-FMS are slow and not progressing with no control, Independent Facilitators don't need to be vendorized, hard to be independent, lots of changes need to be made.
- Colleen-Agreed with Dora regarding list of services others have used.
- Gricelda-requests that the SDAC meetings return to Zoom, as it is easier for families to use. Teams is difficult to navigate.
- Liliana-Burden rate from FMS is too high for families.
- Maria Granados-Agreed that Zoom is easier for families to use.

**Item 8: VMRC Update-**Liz provided data for VMRC:

- **Participants:** #107 (#62 male, #45 female)
- **County:** SJ (#71), Stanislaus (#29), Mountain (#7)
- **Ethnicity:** Latino (#40), Caucasian (#35), Other (#19), African American (#8), Multi (#5)
- **Ages of participants:** 0-5 years (0%), 6-15 years (40%), 16-23 (24%), 24 years and older (36%)

**Item 9: Special Events Workgroup-**Dena provided status on the previously approved action items, what had been completed, and what was still pending. The next workgroup meeting is March 28, 2024.

**Item 10: Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-**no report and no date for next meeting.

There is a new FMS agency onboarding-ACE FMS. The contact is [peyman@acefms.com](mailto:peyman@acefms.com)

**Item 11: ICC Support Project Report-**ICC representatives shared the following numbers to date: They have held 88 meetings with individuals, 4 large community meetings (academias),

and are planning one additional, 1 large group training, and there are 15 individuals waiting to transition to SDP. Their grant was \$35,000, and \$18,500 has been spent. The balance to be spent is \$16,500. The committee agreed that they would continue their grant until all funds were expended.

**Item 12: Adjoin Support Project Report**-no report

**Item 13: VMRC SDAC Membership Update:** Dena reported there are no updates, and the committee still needs representation from Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. There are a couple of possibilities, but no applications have been received.

**Item 14: Discussion Issues**

**Item 15: Next meeting**-March 21, 2024, 3:30pm-5pm. The meeting will be in-person at VMRC in Stockton or on Zoom

**Item 16: Meeting Adjourned** 4:55pm

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley*