



## **VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-April 18, 2024**

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

Karen Bonacci (FA)  
Lisa Culley (FA)-secretary  
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)-chair  
Gricelda Estrada (FA)-vice chair  
John Forrest (FA)  
Jeff Lazaro (FA)  
Mariela Ramos (FA)  
Arely Solano (FA)  
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

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

Mary Bonacci (SA)  
Jeannet Cardenas (FA)

**SA=Self Advocate**

**FA=Family Advocate**

### **Interpreters**

Isela Bingham-In person  
Irene Hernandez-Zoom

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

Chanel Murray, North Valley Hills Office

### **Guests who identified**

Dora Contreras-ICC  
James Ford-DDS  
Lee Cha-DDS  
Marlin Martinez  
Minette Oliver  
Chelsea Coffin, Adjoin  
Lizmett  
Rosie Lasca-IF Training Academy  
Mona Garcia  
Monica Stelmack  
Omar Granados  
Lucia Espinoza  
Emily  
Azucena A  
Maria Cortes  
Cc

### **VMRC Staff**

Liz Diaz, SDP Program Manager  
Evelyn Ledesma, Multilingual Specialist-  
Spanish  
Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist  
Michele Poaster, Participant Choice Specialist  
Cindy Strawderman, Admin Support Manager  
Christine Couch, Director of Consumer Services-  
Adult  
Deanna Wagenman, Participant Choice  
Specialist

**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 Jeff (2<sup>nd</sup> by John). Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 5: Approval of the Minutes from February 15, 2024-**John made the motion to approve minutes (2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff). Motion passed unanimously.

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

- The SDAC Leadership Team (Vivian, Lisa) met with VMRC SDP staff on April 18 to discuss any issues. Some topics discussed: Participant Choice Specialist positions that may not be funded in the next CA budget year, fiscal processes in SDP, barriers and processes, DDS may be developing a uniform template for spending plans, verifying accuracy of data given to this committee regarding SDP participants, asked that this committee is given the fiscal report for the funds provided to this committee.

If there are any issues that members would like brought to the next meeting, please send them to Vivian [Vivian\\_nicolas@yahoo.com](mailto:Vivian_nicolas@yahoo.com)

**Item 7: Public Comment**

- Introduction of Sisk Financial Services-new FMS company- Apriely Sisk (209) 910-9100, email [SISKFSI@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SISKFSI@GMAIL.COM) website: <https://siskfinancial.com/>
- Rosie Lasca-Independent Facilitator Training Academy-has You Tube videos on Self Determination- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZU-7iw72yqj8Qq77ZqYmPUO-Baadf4OL> Her company also has an Independent Facilitator Certification Course- [www.iftrainingacademy.com](http://www.iftrainingacademy.com)
- Minette-introduced herself-saw table @CHOICES, interested in SDP
- Dora-Question for Liz-how long for families to transition to SDP? Liz answered that quickest has been three months-those who are totally prepared with their information. Dora suggested a flow chart be created to assist families be more prepared to transition to SDP. Liz will work on creating something. Dora also suggested inviting FMS and DDS to our meetings.
- Monica-introduced her program Wide Horizons Day Program. The program supports participants in Self-Determination, and focuses on employment and independence. <https://www.widehorizons4u.org/> Phone number is 209-482-4483
- Gricelda-Asked Vivian how her prior problems were solved.
- CC-Asked for clarification on DDS Directive regarding Extension for three months for participants not to be left without services while transitioning to SDP.
- Arely-Supports Dora's comments and suggestions. She asks that the committee explain the DDS directives in simpler language that can be understood. She also wants to know why the meetings of this committee's leadership meeting with the VMRC SDP leadership were cancelled. It was due to scheduling conflicts.
- Vivian shared link for a newspaper article on SD <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-04-15/self-determination>

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

- **Participants:** #113 (#70 male, #43 female)
- **County:** SJ (#73), Stanislaus (#32), Mountain (#7), Sacramento (#1)
- **Ethnicity:** Latino (#43), Caucasian (#35), Other (#19), African American (#10), Multi (#6)

- **Ages of participants:** 0-5 years (1), 6-15 years (41), 16-23 (37), 24 years and older (34)
- See attached report at end of meeting notes for other data from VMRC.

### **Item 9: Special Events Workgroup-**

Recommendations from March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. Quarterly round table discussion of Independent Facilitators, FMS companies, VMRC SDP staff and SDP participants and public to talk about the issues and possibly create solutions.
2. Plan a Self Determination Conference-put together a sub-committee to plan the details of the conference. Vivian made a motion to approve (Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>). The vote was approved unanimously.
3. The Special Events Workgroup meetings-frequency of meetings?

The next meeting for the workgroup committee is May 23, 2024, at 3:45pm to 5pm. We will determine if monthly meetings are needed based on projects.

The link for the meeting is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89778160760?pwd=N25SeW5GNnpOSDIKenNNei95dm5UUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 7816 0760

Passcode: 441746

**Item 10: Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)**-Vivian provided updates from the statewide meeting on April 15, 2024.

**Item 11: ICC Support Project Report**-ICC project is paused due to staffing changes. They do not currently have any referrals waiting.

**Item 12: Adjoin Support Project Report**-Melanie Gonzales is no longer at Adjoin, Chelsea will be the contact person for SDP.

**Item 13: VMRC SDAC Membership Update:** Chanel reported there are no updates, and the committee still needs representation from Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. One application has been received from Stanislaus County, but there is no slot for parent reps. We still need Self Advocate representation.

**Item 14: Discussion Issues**-Karen reported on the resource table at CHOICES, and that the giveaway items were popular. Also, she described the CA START program, and suggested they be invited to a future meeting to describe the programs available to VMRC clients.

Vivian also asked for volunteers to work at the SDAC tables at the upcoming transition fairs in Modesto, Stockton and San Andreas. FRN staff will bring the tablecloth, giveaway items, and flyers to provide to the table.

DDS Directives can be found at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/>

**Item 15: Next meeting**-June 20, 2024, 3:30pm-5pm. The meeting will be in-person at VMRC in Stockton or on Zoom

**Item 16: Meeting Adjourned 5:00pm**

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley*

VMRC-Reasons people did not begin, or left Self-Determination (reported by Liz):

<u>Started TheProcess and naver made it</u>	count	comment
	8	decided SDP was not for them
	2	had issues with FMS
	3	movde to different RC
	1	moved out of state
	1	needed vendor services
	5	process too involved
	9	stopped communicating with SDP team
	38	Traditional servces met the needs
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	
<u>Still in process but pending</u>	count	comment
	1	has not responded to PCS
	3	not ready/still interested
	3	on pause
	3	Still deciding
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	
<u>Traditional</u>	count	comment
	2	FMS issues
	7	FMS was too difficult
	1	moved out of state
	1	SDP seemed limited
	12	Traditional services could meet needs
	8	Vendor Services needed
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	

<u>SDP</u> <u>Transfer</u> <u>out of</u> <u>VMRC</u>	count	comment
	1	Left to antoher Regional Center
	1	Left to antoher Regional Center, but shared case management