



## **Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting**

04/26/2023 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

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

**Board Members Present:** Jose Lara, Suzanne Devitt, Dr. Steve Russell, Crystal Enyeart, Linda Collins, Margaret Heinz, Alicia Schott, Liz Knapp, Lynda Mendoza, Jessica Quesada, Lisa Utsey, Robert Balderama, Anthony Owens, Gabriela Castillo, Dr. Li

**Board Members Not Present:** Emily Grunder (Informed Absence), Brandy De Alba (Informed Absence), Tom Toomey, Erria Kaalund (Informed Absence)

**VMRC Staff Present:** Tony Anderson, Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Angelique Shear, Bud Mullanix, Brian Bennett, Tara Sisemore Hester, Claire Lazaro, Michele Poaster, Melissa Stiles, Evelyn Ledezma Solis, Gabriela Lopez, Liz Diaz, Sandra Smith, Emelia Vigil, Aaron McDonald

**Public Present:** Irene Hernandez, Rachelle Munoz, Tumboura Hill (QATA), James Ford (DDS), Angela Lewis, Chelsea Silveira Burgos, Dora Contreras, Gricelda Estrada, Mari Gomez, Maria Elena Diaz, Liliana Escudero, JD Robinson, Maria Solano, Isela Bingham, Jeannett K

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

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm. Margaret led the reading of the Mission Statement. Doug Bonnet took the roll. A quorum was established. Margaret thanked everyone for attending.

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

Margaret Heinz reviewed the agenda.

### **C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 02/22/23**

Alicia Schott made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 02-22-2023. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 02-22-2023 was approved unanimously.

### **D. Presentation - Enos Edmerson, Jr., VMRC Employment Specialist**

The board of directors asked questions about the presentation and Enos answered the questions.

### **E. Public Comment**

Kenneth Huntley – I am a long-time client of VMRC. Hearing the Mission Statement, VMRC is not serving his best needs. Since 2021 he has been on a path to get a new hearing device, due to severe ear infections. He needs an implant to take the hearing aids out of the ears to breath and improve hearing. UCSF stopped working with him, due to VMRC not stepping in and saying what we need. VMRC didn't want to communicate directly with UCSF. I gave up in 2022 and primary ear doctor said no, giving up is not good. They tried another clinic that was accepting HPSJ in January 2023. When he met with the surgeon, on Feb 14, 2023, the implant wasn't covered by medi-cal, medicare will pay a portion of the surgery, he shared the SC's name, email and phone number. The doctor wanted an open communication process to work together to get the implant. Kenneth did everything on his part. Anita knows. The SDP program knows. The SDP IPP plan is very concise and shows that he really needs to get this. It was stressed in there. When he hired Tumboura Hill, just recently, it was a little blotter in his IPP. He is frustrated and wants help from VMRC.

Tumboura Hill – he wants to continue Kenneth's story. He is not being heard. He is driving around, getting papers, seeing doctors. His SC is Anita Vodden and she doesn't reply to him. We made 4731 complalints. Talk to Anita so she can reply to him. We drove here to drop off paperwork and asked for the PMOD and we got Anita Vodden – the issue is communication. You are getting paid to do this, it shouldn't be a challenge. We talked last quarter about the NCI, this is our local core indicator. We aren't worried about everyone else, we are worried about right here. Someone please see to Anita Vodden to respond to Kenneth when he sends an email. He shouldn't call 4 times or email 5 times to get a response. Tumboura is giving a helping hand to help him live.

Jeremiah Martin – a client of VMRC. My situation is dealing with communication. I have been with VMRC since I was about 2 or 3. The communication has been a problem for me. It's not with my SC, it's with when I need something done. I shouldn't have to wait to get it for a month. When I was with another RC, it took me 2 weeks to get a new SC. But when I came back to Stockton, it took almost 3 months to get me where I am now. I shouldn't have to wait for a bus pass or ID voucher. I put in multiple complaints. I had to get an advocate, Mr. Tumboura Hill. The point I'm making is more communication following up with VMRC. There are some other folks who will need that.

Erick Thurman, an Independent Facilitator from SJ Area – I have over 30 years experience working with the ID community. I am an asset with self-determination services, based on my experience in this community.

Gricelda Estrada, via interpreter – good afternoon to all. I want to make a complaint that the chat is disabled at these board meetings. It doesn't allow the community to be involved. I can't see the comments. It doesn't give us access. That limits us to have direct contact with the people on the board. So I'd rather have it be a zoom meeting. And I've also been fighting for this for several months, I would like the camping to be brought back to VMRC. Camping was only given as a resource. But also the outreach was not, the social recreation was not given. Non-medical therapy and tutoring as well. That is what I'm asking the Board of Directors, why was this policy not re-established completely? And I'm for this community, I've been writing several emails to the SC that I want to be part of this policy since December 2021. I found out that the policy was re-established without inviting the community. I just want the services to be re-established.

JD/Jan Robinson – A couple of concerns regarding the timelines of IPP's and budgets. I have a current situation where one of my, I'm an IF also, one of my children, we did his IPP in November, I just got the IPP signed last week. And the budget today, the amended budget. The other issue I have is with my daughter. We did her IPP, she is in self-determination, we did her IPP in February and I'm still waiting. She is nearing her 60 days before she has no part of self-determination because of the FMS rules. I'm just wondering what VMRC is going to do to comply with the responsiveness with the SC's and following the generally acceptable accounting principles when developing a budget for the consumers.

Liliana Escudero, via interpreter – So my question is who here can answer my question, why are these meetings held via webinar? She just wants an answer. I support Gricelda Estrada.

Dora Contreras – I agree with Gricelda. I have a tendency to let you know that this meeting are getting restrictive. People that don't have technology savvy, can't figure it out, I did because I can. This is very restrictive, with no chat, I couldn't send a message to say I couldn't find the mute button. I'm done with that. I want to talk about safety net services. I think VMRC needs to look at more safety net services. I'm talking about other families, I meet in the community. They have Saturday or Sunday emergency services and the staff can only ask if they have respite or a PA to work the weekend. People don't want to work on the weekend when they work all week. We need to look at other RC's to see what they are doing with crisis situations. It's very frustrating. I would like the board to consider crisis services with more importance.

## **F. Consent Calendar Items**

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

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of March and April 2023
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of March and April 2023
3. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2023

## **G. Committee Reports**

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) by Liz Herrera-Knapp
  - Last two meetings were held on March 27th and April 24th, 2023 via Zoom
  - CLASP currently has 14,780.09 in our account
  - We have 72 paid members
  - During the March Meeting we had Kelsea Carbajal from Kroloff Law Firm present about Updated Labor laws.
  - During the April Meeting we had Path Now present on their new services
  - We are currently working on updating our bylaws to be voted on during our June Meeting

- We have updated our Mission Statement which will be voted on by our leadership during our May meeting and will be brought to our Membership for final approval
- CLASP is having elections and our current slate of 2023-2024 officers
- We are currently working on our Provider Conference which will be held October 24th, 2024.
- Next meeting May 22nd, 10am via zoom

2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) by Mariela Ramos – Tony gave the report in Mariela’s absence. DDS created a new standardized vendorization packet so every regional center is the same. DDS is working on the rate structure for the Fiscal Management Services (FMS). It is a problem for us as we don’t have a lot of FMS providers. The state is getting close to a new rate structure.

3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) by Crystal Enyeart

### SAC6 report to VMRC Board, April 2023

April 14, 2023, SAC6 had a table at the CHOICES Conference where material was available on Self Advocacy, what SAC6 does, self-determination information and handouts of the SAC6 Chatter letter. It was so nice to be in person, for those who could attend. Others still attended just via zoom.

April 20, 2023, SAC6 consultant Lisa U. gave a presentation to some of the VMRC staff at the Modesto site on the End-of-Life Prepare for Care presentation. This was a great way for her to practice and receive feedback on what she can improve on and a great training for Service coordinators at VMRC.

April 26, 2023, SAC6 members Jessica and Dena will be working the SAC6 table at the Transition Fair in Stockton. This is a great opportunity to talk with others about any unmet needs they may have.

April 28, 2023, SAC6 members Crystal and Lisa will be working the SAC6 table at the Transition Fair in Modesto. This is a great opportunity to hand out information on Self Advocacy, what the VMRC Advocate job is and provide people with educational materials.

SAC6 has had several meetings to prepare for their three presentations for the Supported Life Conference that is in May 2023. We are just about to our final stages now.

\*\*Check out our webpage from the VMRC website, we have updated information and contact info.

Upcoming events:

Statewide Supported Life Conference is May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> SAC6 is presenting on three different sessions.

May 26<sup>th</sup> the Mountain County will also be having a Transition Fair.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enyeart

SAC6 representative to the VMRC Board and Consumer Services.

4. Finance Committee by Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles

- a. Approval of Contract Status Reports (CSR) for March and April 2023 - Melissa Stiles and Alicia Schott, Action – The Finance Committee brings this report as a motion to approve the CSR report for March and April as presented. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- b. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for March and April 2023 Alicia Schott, Action – The Finance Committee brings this report as a motion to approve contracts over \$250,000 for March and April 2023. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. Liz Herrera Knapp abstained. The motion passes.

5. Consumer Services Committee - Dr. Suzanne Devitt reported the last meeting was held on March 1, 2023. They had a presentation from Pacific Home Care Services and Respite. They also heard several reports from staff, one about resource development and the first Residential Services Orientation. There is also one additional children's home vendored in Stanislaus County. Dr. Claire Lazaro shared with them that there are trainings focused on consumer health to staff to educate about issues that arise regarding health. The next meeting is May 3, 2023 at 515pm.

6. Legislative Committee - Lynda Mendoza shared that there is no report at this time. The next meeting is end of May, early June pending the report from the Governor's office.

7. Bylaws Committee-Lynda Mendoza should be Linda Collins, this was an error. Linda reported that there has not been a meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June.

8. Nominating Committee-Linda Collins reported that there are 2 openings and they have accepted applications from the areas of vacancy, which is Stanislaus. There were 15 applications with 8 being exceptional. Linda was very impressed! There are interviewing 8 of the applicants in Modesto. They are set for May 23 and May 25. There may be 3 applicants that potentially have conflicts and are not eligible.

9. Popplewell Review Team-Erria Kaalund is not able to be here tonight. Doug Bonnet and Christine Couch reviewed the funds. The committee met tonight to consider a donation to a family and consumer in need.

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

Today is administrative professionals' day and we thank all who support us at VMRC, without them we could not serve our community.

I'll be interviewed next week on Monday morning on FX40 news to highlight the next event from teh DSP Collaborative, the job fairs. We currently have ads running on television highlighting the job fairs and our website for the DSPs, dspcollaborative.org

We had a manager training this week where we reviewed the organizations Values as they are the underpinning for our code of ethics then we focused on the code and discussed how to navigate conflicts within the codes.

We also had a training from the DFEI manager on microaggressions and how to support our staff who feel like they are targets of microaggressions.

We have received some initial data from our strategic plan surveys and in June we'll have a full report from Ami Sullivan from Kinetic Flow.

The Association of Regional Center Agencies is working to create a standard intake and vendorization process in collaboration with DDS.

Tony reminded the board that the reason we stopped having the chat available for the remote option of board meetings was that during our last summer retreat our parliamentarian trainer and our legal counsel both independently informed us that when the public starts bring up non-agenda items in the chat and we comment on it we are violating public meeting requirements. We're only allowed to discuss items that we have told the public we will be talking about.

**I. Other Matters - none**

**J. Board Member Activities and Reports - none**

**K. President's Report** – Margaret Heinz reported that her class participated in the CHOICES Conference online. It was so much fun attending on zoom. There were great advocates speaking! Thank you very much! She spent her day today at the transition fair – and she visited every table and it was amazing. Her class had such an incredible time learning. They were able to ask questions at each of the tables. When they got back to school the students were able to tell her what they wanted to learn more about. She appreciates VMRC for making it happen today. It will also happen on Friday in Modesto and on May 26 in Calaveras. She saw another quality group from VMRC at the Life Skills Event! Dave Vodden and his team had a table set up – when the young adults visited the VMRC table they quizzed them on who the SC was and gave out their business cards! It was a great experience. This weekend we will be at the ARCA Academy for training.

**L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 28, 2023, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom)**

**M. Adjournment at 7:23pm**