



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

09/25/2024 | 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office
Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present: Gabriella Castillo, Crystal Enyeart, Lisa Utsey, Kenneth Huntley, Daime Hoornaert, Jose Lara, Sarah Howard

Committee Members Not Present: Liz Herrera-Knapp, Marisela Cruz

Public Present: Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter), Anel Renteria (R&D)

VMRC Staff Present: Evelyn Solis-Ledesma, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Katina Richison, Jason Toepel, Claire Lazaro, Tara Sisemore Hester, Leinani Walter, Lizzie Valerio, Robert Fernandez, Brian Bennett

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda

Gabriella Castillo chaired the meeting tonight and called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting

Minutes of 06/05/24

No meeting notes, no action.

C. Public Comment

Each member of the public may have 3 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 6 minutes will be given. Public comment can address items on the agenda that have been properly noticed for action and/or items that are not on the agenda, however, items not on the agenda cannot be repo

- Tumboura Hill shared that he has been trying to get vendored as an IF and running into walls. He has spoken to others who are having difficulty getting vendored. He is concerned there are different processes, vendorization process needs to be looked at again.
- Dena Hernandez shared information regarding the master plan on developmental services. Victor Duran overseeing implementation. She would like folks involved in master plan.

D. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Tara Sisemore Hester, shared the intake data for August 2024.

Christine Couch, shared the POS Exceptions Report for May, June, July, August 2024. She also shared the Consumer File Transfer Report through 9/17/24.

E. Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Update

August 1st - Lisa Utsey worked the Sac6 Office hours at the VMRC in Modesto. These hours are the first Thursday of every month from 10 am to 11 am.

August 2 – Sac6 had their mountain counties Area Meeting. Guest speakers were Christine Couch who talked about Caseload Ratios. Mike from Drail about emergency preparedness and George Lewis from the SCDD North valley hills office on the NCI surveys. We had information tables handing out information and free goodies. Overall, it was a successful turnout with about 100 people in attendance.

August 22 - Sac6 had their quarterly finance meeting. The finance committee's duties are to make sure we are following our budget, and our bills are paid on time.

August 28 -- Sac6 consultants Jessica and Lisa attended the VMRC Board training followed by the VMRC Board meeting.

August 30th Lisa U. attended the ARCA CAC meeting on zoom.

September 14 -- Sac6 had their quarterly Business meeting. We had this meeting in Manteca

September 16 - Sac6 members attended the two in person CMP ceremonies, one was in Stockton and the other in Manteca. This was the 22nd annual California Memorial Project. This ceremony honors those who passed away while living in state Hospitals without the proper services.

F. Resource Development Update

- Robert Fernandez reported that informational sessions are held to assist potential providers with questions they have. The focus is to address all questions about being a vendor. The first Wednesday of this month session about being a vendor, difference of vendorization and licensing through MS Teams.
- Jose Lara asked if vendorization is for someone who wants to take on a family member to reside, Robert reported its more than providing services for a family member (like a personal assistant).
- Brian Bennett reported there may be a need a service for their child, Robert is talking about residential home serving 4-5 people, specific to license residential not for parent vendorization (personal assistant, recreational).
- Brian Bennett shared updates about disability resource fair, also with DRAIL in Modesto, 10 vendors from VMRC will be able to table
- Anna Sims shared update for Community Home Based evaluator. Apply to vendored services, our programs must follow all rules. Going on site for assessments day program, employment program to ensure they are following federal regulations. 55 day programs, 3 employment programs. 257 compliant residential homes. 4 settings going through remediation plan, to be found fully compliant. Agree to complete plans by 9/30/24. Tri county RC created a comic book that is translated into all languages used through regional center system.

G. Quality Assurance Update

Katina Richison shared the alert report.

H. Transportation Update

Anel Renteria, R&D Transportation shared transportation stats for individuals 2,059 individuals scheduled 236 routes operation on a daily basis. 47 transportation services providers contracted with VMRC. Growth in individuals scheduled on transportation, growth in number of routes operated, 197 last year, 30 additional, 41 service providers compared to 47 service providers. Additional services provided are added for long service waits. Anel answered questions from the committee.

Jose asked about long ride times, son reports his program ends at 2:00pm but gets home at 4:00pm. Anel reports it's an ongoing issue in the area due to driver availability, and obtaining vehicles takes 3-6 months for both. We are working on a plan to add specific routes.

I. Fair Hearing Update

Jason Toepel VMRC Compliance Manager, presented the Fair Hearing report for 3 months of field data. 25 appeals or hearing requests received. We are working on resolving. Two hearing withdrew, one was administratively closed.

J. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Update

VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

September 25, 2024

CLASP Report

- 1) CLASP continues to meet on the 4th Monday of the month via zoom.
- 2) CLASP Members are continuing to renew their memberships. In August, there were 35 paid members and in September Membership increased to 69 paid members. CLASP continues to reach out to the vendor community to inform them of the benefits of CLASP.
- 3) CLASP Presentations:
September 23: All's Well presented on DDS DSP Internship program. Vendors are encouraged to reach out to VMRC if interested in hosting DSP interns.
- 4) The Day Program Sharing group met 9/25/24 and discussed more on the DSP Internship program. Programs currently using the program, felt it was a positive step in teaching people about being a Direct Support Professional, which could turn into employment for the intern. Next Meeting is scheduled for November 20 @ 8:15 via zoom.
- 5) The SLS/ILS network will begin starting up again and meeting on a regular basis. Erin Martin has sent out meeting information and she encourages anyone else interested in attending to email her.
- 6) Vendors are anxiously waiting for the Rate implementation to begin January 2025. DDS is expected to release directives in the next couple of months regarding the plan for rate adjustments.
- 7) Brian Bennett Shared the DSP Collaborative will fund vendors interested in having a booth at The DRAIL Disability Awareness Day on October 18, 2024. There are five more spots available.
- 8) Vendors are looking forward to all the upcoming trainings available to them. SIR training is scheduled for November 12, 2024, in person in Stockton and Virtually November 21st.
DSP 1 is starting October 1; DSP 2 is starting in November. Katina is working on LGBT+ training with the Pride Center.
- 9) R&D's Transportation Update: Anel Renteria reported that 2059 individuals received transportation in August. There are 47 active service providers. 236 routes on the road daily. Total number of trips was 85, 869.
- 10) CLASP continues to appreciate VMRC staff reports on:
HCBS News
Resource Development Projects

Quality Assurance Updates
Early Start
Employment
Consumer Services
Clinical
Ex. Director updates

11) CLASP continues to appreciate the State Council on Developmental Disabilities/North Valley Hills Office reports and information on SAC 6, CHOICES, Self Determination, and their Regional Advisory Committee.

12) Please visit CLASP on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/CLASP.VMRC>) & Instagram (@CLASP.VMRC)

Next CLASP meeting will be held via Zoom: October 28th, 2024 @ 10AM.

K. Clinical Update

Claire Lazaro, Director of Clinical Services, shared information on vaccine clinic October 4, 2024, from 10:00-1:00pm at VMRC-Modesto. The Oral Health Fair will be taking place on the same date/time/location. Free Community Health Fair in coordination with University of the Pacific on October 12, 2024, at VMRC Stockton. Claire answered questions from the committee.

L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 27, 2024, 5:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

M. Adjournment at 6:15pm