



## **VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-September 19, 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  
Chrys Quiwa (SA)  
Arelly Solano (FA)  
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

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

John Forrest (FA)  
Kenneth Huntley (SA)  
Vanessa Plascencia (FA)  
Mariela Ramos (FA)

**SA=Self Advocate**

**FA=Family Advocate**

### **Interpreters**

Irene Hernandez-Zoom

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

Dena Hernandez, North Valley Hills Office

### **Public Guests who identified**

Carolina Arzate-ICC  
Maria Elena Diaz  
Chelsea- ADJOIN  
Tumboura Hill  
Maribel Falcon  
Marcela Sanchez  
Jeannette Castro  
Vera Quiwa  
Hery Perez  
Norma G  
Josefina Romo  
Fernando Gomez, ICC  
Ana Soto  
Kim Sinclair, ASLA

### **VMRC Staff**

Christine Couch, Director of Consumer Services, Adult  
Liz Diaz, SDP Program Manager (In person)  
Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist  
Michele Poaster, Participant Choice Specialist  
Mari Bel Trujillo, Participant Choice Specialist  
Cristina Torres-Financial Controller  
Cindy Strawderman, Admin Support Manager  
Emelia Vigil, Program Manager

**Item 1: Call Meeting to order-** Vivian Nicolas, called the meeting to order at 3:38pm.

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

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

**Item 4: Approval of the Agenda-**motion to approve the agenda was made by Karen (2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian). Motion passed, with abstention from Jeannet. It was requested that item 7 and item 8 were traded, and this was approved by the group.

**Item 5: Approval of the Minutes from August 15, 2024-**Motion to approve the minutes was made by Vivian (2<sup>nd</sup> by Gricelda). Motion passed.

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

- Vivan reminded the committee that Victor Duron and Fernando Gomez would be presenting on the CA Masterplan on Developmental Services at the October meeting. The website was included on the agenda in case members wanted to review it before the next meeting.
- The SDAC will have a table at the VMRC Disability and Cultural Resource Fair in October. She asked for volunteers to sit at the table and share resources. Lisa will bring the giveaway items that have been ordered for outreach events.

**Item 8: (Items 7 & 8 were switched for the meeting, but leaving same number to match agenda) VMRC Update-**Liz provided data for VMRC

- Cristina Torres was introduced as VMRC's Financial Controller, who provided the financial report on the LVAC finances and expenses.
- Personnel changes-Christine introduced Emelia Vigil as the Program Manager, who will oversee the enhanced caseload team and the three Participant Choice Specialists. DDS is not funding the PCP's, but VMRC feels they are necessary to assist with SDP implementation. The three Participant Choice Specialists are Michele, Maribel and Maria Gonzalez. September 27<sup>th</sup> will be Liz's last day, and September 30<sup>th</sup> will be Emelia's first official day. Liz will be able to answer any questions Emelia has.

**Item 7: Public Comment**

- **Arely-**felt Emelia should be able to give her introduction in Spanish. She also agrees that the VMRC SDAC should use the ICC project discussed at the last meeting.
- **Tumboura-**concerned that the LVAC money is not being spent, and that more agreement on spending needs to occur. He is also concerned that African Americans are not represented well on the LVAC.
- **Gricelda-**very concerned that Liz will not be managing the SDP for VMRC. She is worried that her knowledge on the program will create barriers and stall the program at VMRC.
- There were several other comments that agreed with Gricelda. Christine voiced that the committee has no control over SDP staffing, and Liz wanted to work back in the children's unit.

**Item 9: Special Events Workgroup-** The next meeting is on September 26, 2024. There will be monthly meetings to work on the SDP Resource Fair on October 24, 2024, November 14, 2024. January 23, 2025, February 27, 2025, and March 27, 2025. The meetings will all be at 3L30pm. If needed, additional meetings will be scheduled.

**Item 10: Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)-**

- Next SSDAC will be sometime in December.

Because of the time and number of public comments made during the meeting, Items 11 through 14 were tabled to the October meeting.

**Item 15: Next meeting:** October 17, 2024, from 3:30pm-5:00pm on Zoom.

**Item 16: Meeting Adjourned** 5:01pm

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Culley*

**Join the VMRC SDAC on Facebook:**

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

**SCDD SDP Orientation:**

<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/?fbclid=IwAR3BNnHWCWly4gwgXdXgYxfcHubPZnVuJKF6hyrpV5bREdsi-8IXZFJdSY>

# September 2024 - LVAC Report- Elizabeth Diaz-VMRC

## 119 Participants

As of September 12, 2024, and includes people starting in August  
Any category with a count of 0-4 will be reported as "other" to ensure confidentiality



