



## **VMRC Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes-February 20, 2025**

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

Karen Bonacci (FA)  
Jeannet Cardenas (FA)  
Lisa Culley (FRN)-secretary  
Gricelda Estrada (FA)-vice chair  
Kenneth Huntley (SA)  
Vivian David Nicolas (FA)-chair  
Chrys Quiwa (SA)  
Mariela Ramos (FA)  
Arely Solano (FA)  
Colleen Yoder -DRC/OCRA

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

Mary Bonacci (SA)  
John Forrest (FA)  
Vanessa Plascencia (FA)

**SA=Self Advocate**

**FA=Family Advocate**

### **Interpreters**

Irene Hernandez-Zoom (English to Spanish)  
Isela Bingham -Zoom (Spanish to English)

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

Dena Hernandez, North Valley Hills Office

### **Public Guests who identified**

Maria Elena Diaz  
Maribel Falcon  
Josefina Romo  
Fernando Gomez, ICC  
Kim Sinclair, ASLA  
Oscar Mercado  
Dora Contreras  
Jose Flores  
Rubi Saldana  
Blanca Mercado  
Jane Sakurai  
Lee Cha, DDS  
Naomi Hagel  
Maricela  
Adriana  
Leticia Jimenez  
Gilma  
Azucena A  
Elizabeth Gomez  
Carolina y Juan de dios  
Aleida O  
Bernarda  
Ernesto

### **VMRC Staff**

Gabriela Lopez, Cultural Specialist  
Emelia Vigil, Program Manager

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

**Item 2: Introductions-** Committee members introduced themselves. Public guests added their names to chat.

**Item 3:** Quorum was established

**Item 4:** Approval of agenda-Motion-1<sup>st</sup> by Karen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian. Vote passed.

**Item 5:** Tabled to March

**Item 6:** Vivian went over the handouts provided in packet on SCDD & VMRC member requirements for committee membership and Meeting Ground Rules, and repeated important points from Chris Arroyo's presentation in January. There will be 4 opportunities for resource tables: CHOICES (4/11/25), Transition Fairs-SJ (4/23), Stan (5/2), Mtn (5/8). There is a need for volunteers to sit at the tables. At the next Event Workgroup meeting, possibly a LVAC Board Retreat will be discussed. Also, Vivian asked for feedback to hosting a Town Hall or open forum to address SDP barriers. LVAC will document and collect data to present to our committee and to partners statewide.

Vivian presented a request from VMRC: that the SDAC sponsor the CHOICES Conference for adult self-advocates for \$5,000. There was some discussion on what the goals of the conference are, and how the SDAC would be involved (resource table). Karen made a motion to support CHOICES for \$5,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian. Motion passed, with abstention from Colleen.

**Item 7:** Nominations for Assistant Secretary: Colleen and Arely. They will provide a short speech for the March meeting and vote will be made.

**Item 8:** Vivian provided information on the ICC project. This will be written into a contract format, and why this format will be used to track the project and for transparency. VMRC has a template they use for contracting, but we can provide any further items to add to the contract. Feedback from the committee included: sharing data points at each meeting, would like to see a completed draft template, barriers that participants have, deliverables, and start and end date.

**Item 9:** Gricelda suggested that as a committee we need to focus more on the barriers that families face. Fernando reminded that there are two parts to the ICC project-coaching and 1:1 assistance, and Project Expressway. He asked what the specific window for invoice submission would be. Maria Elena Diaz wants to make sure that families are included in the IF training, and that VMRC brings more FMS companies to this area. Karen suggested that CHOICES provide additional funding for scholarships for consumers to attend-there is other funding that will be used for this purpose, and additional funding not necessary. Gricelda observed that any committee funding spent going forward be entered into by contract. There was some discussion regarding CHOICES and supporting families that would like to attend. Dena will take this information back to the CHOICES committee to consider for future years. Oscar felt it important that family members be involved in CHOICES to support their self-advocate attendance.

**Item 10:** Emilia reported SDP #'s:

As of February 13<sup>th</sup>-118 participants

By county: SJ-75, Stan-35, Mtn-7.

By age: 0-5: 1, 6-15: 40, 16-23: 36, 24+: 40

By ethnicity: Other-27, multi-cultural-6, White-36, Latino-47, African American-9

Exited SDP: 2020-1, 2021-1, 2022-15, 2023-11, 2024-13

22-23 funding year: spent \$20,054.90, balance of \$69,679.87 remaining by March 21, 2025. Karen motioned that we request an extension from DDS, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian. Motion approved. If extension is granted, funding will be used for ICC project, resource fair, and IF training.

23-24 funding year: balance of \$90,983, spent by March 2026

24-25 funding year: balance of \$92,053.96, spent by March 2027

**Item 11:** Updates given on Resource Fair details. Oscar needs any videos by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Food is going to be from Panera, giveaways have been ordered and received and FMS-Ritz, Acumen, Aveanna, Cambrian, Ace have responded. Vendor tables LVAC, FRN, Shining Stars, ICC, SCDD, FMS companies and more. Speakers: Christine Tolbert, from SCDD, panelists still pending, VMRC reps, parents, etc. Entertainment-Shining Stars, Advocates, possibly Folklore.

Vivian presented information on IF training opportunity from ASLA, 50 trainees in English & 50 in Spanish. \$13,500 for training in English & Spanish. ASLA clarified that their proposal was not an IF training, but a foundational SDP training. Further discussion will need to be made before any voting can happen.

**Item 12: Membership-**Dena reported there were no new applications from the openings from Amador, Calaveras or Tuolumne Counties. She has reached out to a member appointed by SCDD that has attended only one meeting. She is awaiting a response.

**Item 13:** Tabled to another meeting

**Item 14: Next meeting:** Thursday, March 20, 2025, from 3:30pm-5:00pm on Zoom.

**Item 15: Meeting Adjourned** 5:02pm

*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>

