



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

02/28/2024 | 06:00 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Microsoft Teams

**Board Members Present:** Dr. Steve Russell, Jeff Turner, Jody Buriss, Jose Lara, Crystal Enyeart, Liz Herrera Knapp, Margaret Heinz, Alicia Schott, Dr. Suzanne Devitt, Erria Kaalund, Lynda Mendoza, Robert Balderama, Emily Grunder, Lisa Utsey, Dr. Li, Jessica Quesada

**Board Members Not Present:** Linda Collins, Tom Toomey, informed absence

**VMRC Staff Present:** Melissa Stiles, Brian Bennet, Tara Sisemore Hester, Christine Couch, Evelyn Solis Ledesma, Bud Mullanix, Doug Bonnet, Gabriela Lopez, Aaron McDonald, Leinani Walter

**Public Present:** Dena Hernandez SCDD, James Ford DDS,

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

Dr. Suzanne Devitt called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. Doug Bonnet took roll. A quorum was established. The board read the Mission Statement.

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

The board reviewed the agenda with no recommended changes.

### **C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 12/13/23**

Alicia Schott made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 12/13/23. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. Liz Herrera Knapp and Jody Burriss abstained. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were approved.

#### **D. Presentation - The DSP Collaborative**

Brian Bennett, Community Services Director presented on the DSP Collaborative, Direct Support Professionals, and answered any questions the board members had.

#### **E. Public Comment**

Dena Hernandez, SCDD – will email her report.

Erick Thurmond, Independent Facilitator – searched the VMRC website and cannot find any updates since 2022. Since then there has been a lot of updates, including directives. There are not enough resources for people who want to participate in this program. There is no connection for potential enrollees and the resources. We need to empower them to succeed with SDP. We shouldn't have to go outside our catchment area to get these resources, even for orientation.

Tumboura Hill, Quality Assured - welcome Leinani. I work out at St. Mary's community services. Is there a way VMRC can create a liaison or connection to these community services, homeless shelters. We are identifying regional center consumers. Keep that in mind when you see someone living off the land without resources, they might be regional center consumers. People don't know how to assess them. When we go to statute, case finding duties is part of regional center. When we do find these people, the process is not in plain language and some of them can't read and have to fill out forms. I bring them to the regional center. This might be a consideration to think about reaching out to where you may have regional center consumers, to locate them and find services.

#### **F. Consent Calendar Items - Action**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of January and February 2024
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January and February 2024
3. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of January 2024

Margaret Heinz made a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. The consent calendar items were approved unanimously.

## **G. Committee Reports**

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP)  
Liz Herrera Knapp

### **Meetings Since Last Board Meeting:**

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

February 26<sup>th</sup>

- January Meeting we had an Employment Law Presentation from Jamie Bossuat.
- February Meeting we had a presentation by Barry from CDSA presented on the delay of rate model increase and provided us with resources to provide comment for and after the budget hearing.
- Account: \$20,817.64
- 82 members. Membership ends June 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Day Program Workgroup**

- Next Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> 8:15
- Contact Sonya Fox-Watson to attend

### **Next Meeting:**

March 25<sup>th</sup>

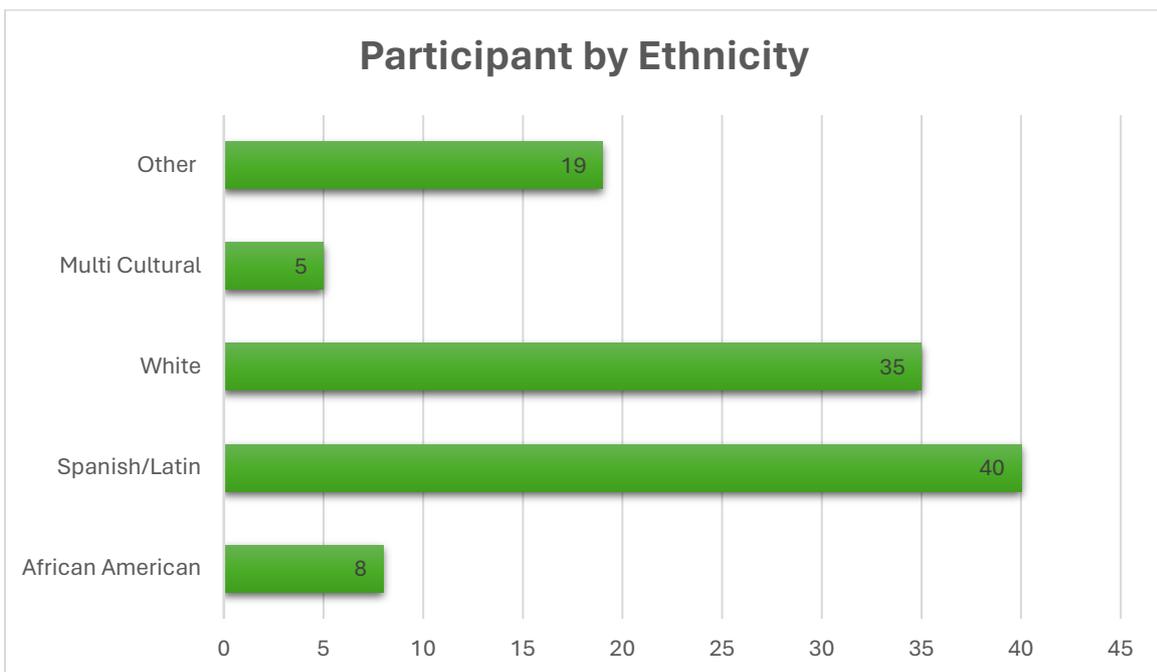
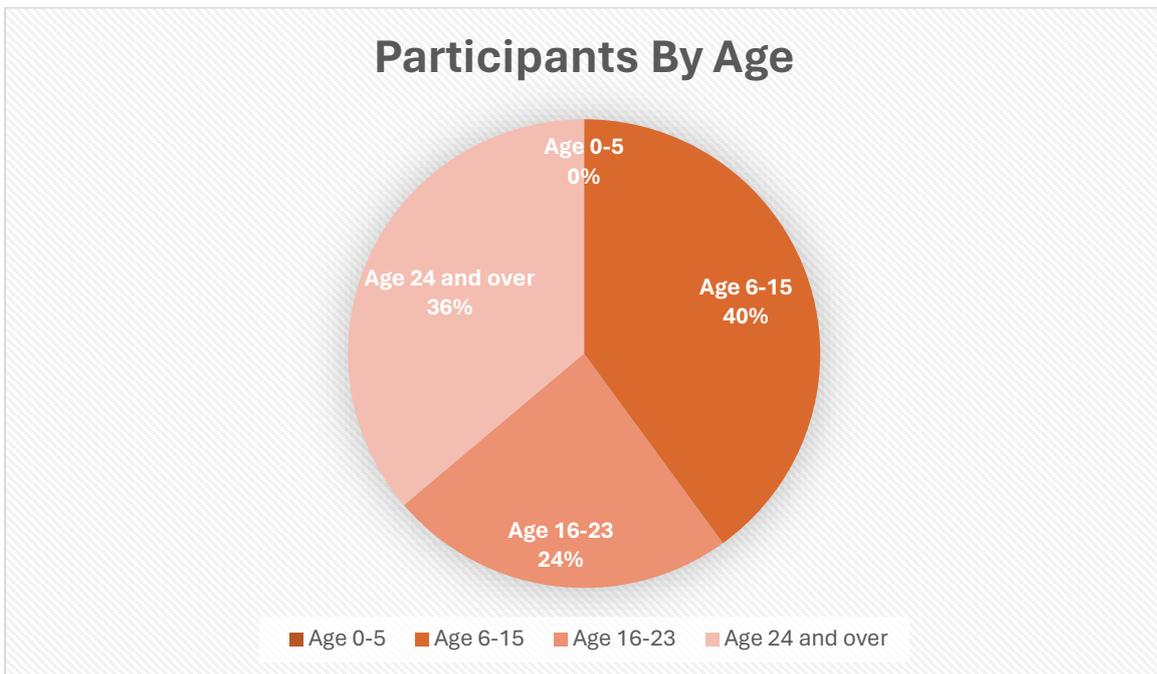
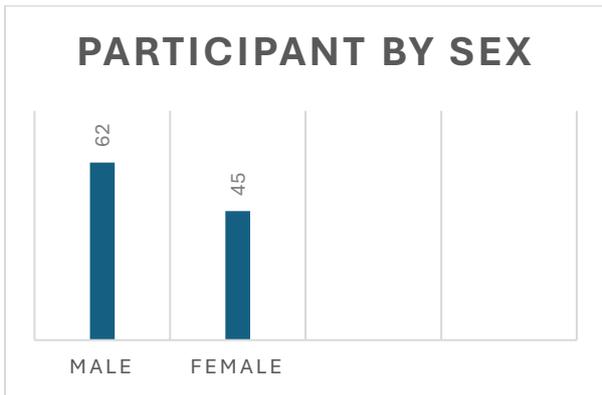
2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)  
Vivian Nicolas

## **February 2024 LVAC Report**

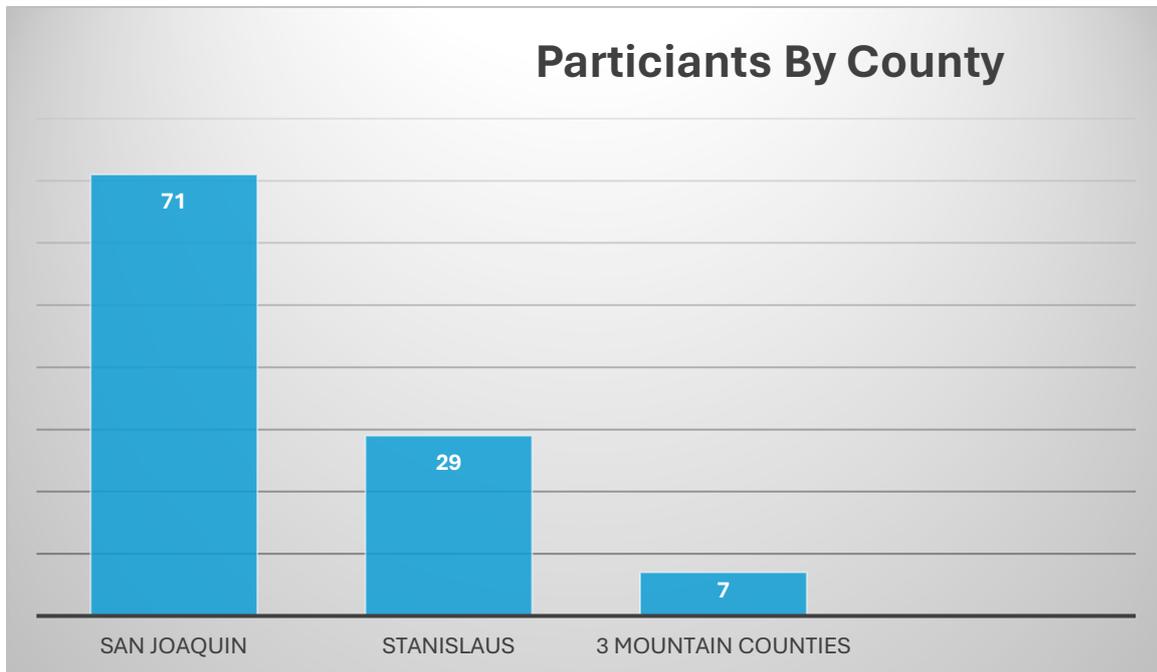
### **107 Participant**

As of 02/14/24 and includes people starting in December

Any category with a count of 0-4 will be reported as "other" to ensure confidentiality



## Participants By County



### VMRC SDAC Chair Report-

- Vivian provided a detailed explanation on DDS Directives from November and December. The directives can be found on the DDS website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/program-directives/>
- Directives sent in December and are translated into many languages at the link.
- DDS held a Town Hall meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>-topic was Financial Management Services (FMS). There will be another Town Hall meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9am, with the same topic.
- Our VMRC SDAC Leadership Team (Vivian, Gricelda, Lisa & Jeff) will be meeting with VMRC SDP staff March 7, 2024, to discuss any issues
- Liz Diaz (SDP Manager) also provided details on the Direct Support Professional (DSP) training program and incentive payments. The deadline to participate in the training is June 30, 2024, and participants can receive a \$625 stipend. Participants must spend at least 10 hours per week in DSP activities. Additional details can be found at <https://provider.arcalearn.org/>
- **SSDAC**-The statewide committee collected barriers and has identified priorities: 1) Develop and manage best practice platform 2) Review and update training materials 3) Look at equity issues. There is a new FMS agency onboarding-ACE FMS. The contact is [peyman@acefms.com](mailto:peyman@acefms.com)
- **ICC Support Project Report**-Dora reported that there was no coaching since the last meeting. The ICC is requesting an extension of contract as they have not spent all dollars allotted. Vivian made motion (Lisa 2<sup>nd</sup>) that the ICC Support Project be extended until all funds are expended. Currently, there is \$16,000 left to spend. The vote was unanimous to extend the contract.
- **Adjoin Support Project Report**-Chelsea provided the following data: Their contract began in 2021. They provide monthly coaching sessions. To date, 52 referrals have

been received, 16 clients are in transition, 16 have completed process and in SDP, 1 on hold, 1 moved out of area, 18 have withdrawn from or are no longer interested or have had no contact or response.

- **VMRC SDAC Membership Update:** Lisa provided report there are no updates, and the committee still needs representation from Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. Christine requested that ICC and Adjoin advertise the SDAC to any people they are supporting in the mountain counties.
- A Town Hall (instead of a meet & greet) to focus on Fiscal Management Services (FMS) issues/barriers and problem-solving solutions was already approved. Date not set for Town Hall yet. The recommendation is to hire an independent event facilitator for this Town Hall to stay on track and on time. North Bay Regional Center did this-workgroup can reach out and get their information of person hired if approved.
- Orientation Manual for all members of the VMRC SDAC- the manual needs to be put together and has already been approved. The recommendation is to have the VMRC SDAC set aside a time for a training of the manual for SDAC members.
- Recommendation to the full SDAC to get monthly fiscal reports on the self determination dollars used and report on unused funds from VMRC. Would also like to be informed about the number of people in the self determination program who have decided to go back to Traditional Services and why.
- Recommendations for Workgroup:
  - Recommend that the VMRC SDAC speak to Adjoin & ICC about helping the committee set up practical examples of each stage of the self-determination program (orientation, person centered planning, IPP, Spending Plan, Budget, working with regional center, FMS, service providers etc) in a round table setting where people can ask questions and get concrete support. Possible hold this quarterly – rotate between Stockton VMRC and Modesto VMRC.
  - Recommend that the VMRC SDAC have a table with Self Determination Program and Advisory Committee materials at the Friday, April 12, 2024 CHOICES Conference. (10am- 1pm at the SJCOE- no charge to have a table)
  - Ask VMRC Self Determination Staff for a list of Self Determination service providers, including Fiscal Management Services that can be shared with people in the program.

### 3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6)

Crystal Enyeart reported

February 1, Sac6 consultant worked Sac6 office hours in the Modesto VMRC Office.

February 6<sup>th</sup> Sac6 Consultant Jessica and Chairperson Dena attended the Supported Life Planning Team Committee via zoom. Also, on this day Sac6 Consultant Lisa U., attended the Housing Roundtable. Were advocates had the opportunity to express their concerns on affordable housing.

February 9<sup>th</sup> Sac 6 had their Area Meeting in San Joaquin County where they assisted SCDD North Valley Hills Office in announcing the 2024 CHOICES T-Shirt and Video winners.

February 13<sup>th</sup> Sac6 Secretary, Catrina C. attended the DDS CAC (Consumer Advisory Meeting) via zoom.

February 14<sup>th</sup> Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance Committee meeting followed by the VMRC Executive Committee meeting.

February 16<sup>th</sup> Lisa U collaborated with SCDD North Valley Hills Office and gave a presentation about starting a self-advocacy group at a new day program in Modesto- Central Valley Adult Day Care Program.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Sac members had their quarterly Finance meeting.

Tonight, Sac6 is present for the VMRC Board training and for the VMRC Board meeting.

Tomorrow night Sac6 Leadership will be having our first Leadership meeting with the new ED.

4. Finance Committee – Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles reviewed the Contract Status Report as of December 31, 2023. Doug, double check the language. **Melissa said as of 12/31/23 and the agenda says Jan and Feb.**

**a. Approval of Contract Status Reports (CSR) for January and February 2024 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee.**

Lisa utsey seconds the motion brought forth to approve the Contract Status Reports for January and February 2024. The January and February 2024 Contract Status Report was approved.

**b. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for January and February 2024 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee.** Emily Grunder seconds the motion brought forth to approve the Contracts over \$250,000 for January and February 2024. Liz Herrera Knapp abstained. The January and February 2024 contracts over \$250,000 was approved.

5. Consumer Services Committee – Jose Lara, no report. Doug shared that the committee met on 1/31/24 and heard a presentation by Brian Bennett.

6. Legislative Committee – Lynda Mendoza shared Grassroots Day on April 1 and 2, 2024. Doug Bonnet shared this is an organized effort by ARCA, the Association of Regional Center Agencies. This is the first in-person since 2019. We have a group attending made up of the Legislative Committee and

self-advocates. Leinani Walter shared that the day is amazingly fun. There are tons of people in attendance. It is an opportunity to meet your local legislature in their office space and share what is going well and what's not.

7. Bylaws Committee – Linda Collins, no report. Doug Bonnet shared that this committee will meet in March or April. Leinani Walter shared that there will be changes to the bylaws to address the Finance Committee being an open meeting, due to a complaint and our discussion with the Department of Developmental Services.

8. Nominating Committee – Margaret Heinz shared the ARCA training on March 9 from 10-1130am. She shared that learning best practices is good. The committee consists of outgoing board members and they will meet and talk about sharing the open positions.

9. Popplewell Review Team – Erria Kaalund asked Doug Bonnet to share the report. The team met this afternoon. There were 2 disbursements in the month of December. The next meeting is in April.

## **H. Executive Director's Report**

Leinani Walter shared that there is a lot to report. She has met over 400 staff and is still meeting more staff. She is learning technology and getting settled in.

## **I. Other Matters – Dr. Suzanne Devitt**

Dr. Devitt shared a heartfelt thank you to Christine, Doug and all VMRC staff who supported the organization and stepped up into roles and respond to requests by the board to fulfill the interim period of time at the regional center. You did a fantastic job making sure that the regional center fulfilled it's mission. You are so valuable. Welcome to Leinani to your first board meeting and I hope you are able to see all of the magic. We look forward to working with you.

## **J. Board Member Activities and Reports – Dr. Suzanne Devitt**

Alicia Schott shared that before Covid, board members were encouraged to visit facilities. She reached out to Brian's team and matched up with Wanda Johnson. They went on a couple of visits to see high level homes. Alicia learned quite a bit and hopes to see more facilities. Tara will connect her to children's facilities. Erria shared that she agreed that these visits are wonderful opportunities for board members.

**K. President's Report – Dr. Suzanne Devitt shared the 2 job descriptions.**

1. Compliance Officer Job Description and Approval, brought forth as a motion from the Executive Committee. Robert Balderama seconds the motion brought forth to approve the Compliance Officer Job Description. Motion passes unanimously.
2. Cultural and Language Division Manager Job Description and Approval, brought forth as a motion from the Executive Committee. Erria Kaalund seconds the motion brought forth to approve the Cultural and Language Division Manager Job Description. Motion passes unanimously.

**L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)**

**M. Adjournment**