



Valley Mountain Regional Center
702 N. Aurora Street, Stockton, CA 95242

Board of Director Meeting
Minutes, July 13, 2015

Present:

Robert Balderama	✓	Tom Martin	✓
Tom Bowe	✓	Paula Newman	--
John Forrest	✓	Maren Paris	--
Jose Garcia	✓	Dena Pfeifer	✓
Melinda Gonser	✓	Chris Varela	✓
Robert Grimsley	✓	Dianna Vu	--
Pernell Gutierrez	--	Dave Woodruff	--
Ivan Johnson	✓	Eric Ybarra	✓
Claire Lazaro	✓		

VMRC Staff: Paul Billodeau, Mary Sheehan, Cindy Mix, Claudia Reed, Bill Rutgers, Gordon Hofer

Visitors: Brad Putz, Rick Moen, Joel Reyna (representing Senator Eggman), Nancy Meier, George Lewis (North Valley Hills Office, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, David Simerley, Judith Simerley, S. R. Bailey, Yolanda Ortiz, Andrea Rueda
Facilitators, Jacqueline Price, Renee Mettler, Theresa Vasquez, Karen Leyba & Sharae Oliver

Melinda Gonser, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made and VMRC's Mission Statement was read by Chris Varela.

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S/C (Ybarra/Grimsley) to approve the agenda as amended

C. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

June 8, 2015 Board Meeting as presented.

M/S/C (Ybarra/Varela) to approve the minutes as written

D. VOTE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING

John reported the Finance and Personnel Committee met last Wednesday and voted to recommend approval of the following items to the board:

- Acceptance of Contract Status Report through May 2015
- Acceptance of \$51 Restricted Donation to the James R. Popplewell Fund
- Approval of Contracts over \$250,000, as listed below:

Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Service Code	Contract Amount
SV0011	All-4-U	896	\$880,000.00
H29262	Gapasin Manor #1	915	\$263,088.00
H29264	Gapasin Manor #3	915	\$276,552.00
H29265	Gapasin Manor #4	915	\$263,088.00
SV0018	Options Forward	896	\$1,350,000.00
HV0404	Valley CAPS Stockton CAPS	515	\$1,949,157.00
PV0118	Valley CAPS "Patch"	110	\$264,366.00
HV0308	Valley CAPS Transportation	880	\$427,246.00
HV0299	Valley CAPS Modesto CAPS	515	\$1,976,798.00
HV0094	Valley CAPS PLUS Program	505	\$613,116.00
H07649	Valley CAPS ABLE Program	515	\$2,614,146.00
S29382	Watch Resources Visions	510	\$1,631,727.00
S29381	Watch Resources SLS	896	\$271,553.00
H15557	Watch Resources Transportation	880	\$377,232.00

- Workers compensation contract 7/2105 – 6/2016

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. PRESENTATION:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Melinda presented the Communitàs Award to David Simerley. The VMRC Communitàs Award is given annually to an individual or organization that has demonstrated a sustained and meaningful commitment on a volunteer or professional basis, to the principle that people with developmental disabilities should live and work as full-fledged members of their home communities. In order to be eligible, an individual or organization must be physically present in VMRC's five-county service area and providing support to one or more VMRC consumers during the year preceding the award. For-profit businesses and organizations as well as not-for-profit entities are eligible. The organization/individual: 1. clearly stands out among organizations, volunteers, professionals in the field of developmental disabilities. 2. Demonstrates long-term and sincere

commitment to supporting people in real homes, real neighborhoods, and real jobs. 3. Has an impressive record of achievement in helping people become more independent and active participants in their home communities.

The VMRC Communitàs Award is given only when in the judgment of the VMRC Executive Committee a worthy person or organization has been nominated, and only annually, and presented at the VMRC Board's Annual Meeting. Previous recipients of the Communitàs Award are Bill Ramos (2003), Ann Cirimele (2004), Heather Brooks (2005), Donald Roberts (2006), Howard Cohen (2007), Elbert Simpson (2008), Floyd Bohnett (2009), Dr. Popplewell (2010), Dick Jacobs (2011), Krisi Franzone (2012), and Brad Putz (2013), Doreen Bestalorides (2014).

The Communitàs Award Recipient for 2015 is David Simerley. Dena Hernandez, Executive Director of the State Developmental Disabilities Council, North Valley Hills Office, nominated him. Currently, David is the Program Director of Thumbs Up; a day program that provides services in the Sonora area (Tuolumne County) in his 20 years of service, David brings energy and dedication in supporting people with developmental disabilities. He actively promotes the mission of inclusion and self-advocacy for all people by going beyond what is expected to ensure people are included and involved in their community.

David provides facilitation for the self-advocacy Council members and is consistently effective in getting people to those meetings and any of their events. He is willing take a creative approach to get the message of self-advocacy out to our counties as well as statewide. David is humble about his impact and his extraordinary efforts in facilitating opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to be involved in self-advocacy.

The nomination of David for the Communitàs Award states, ".....that the success of the self-advocacy movement in our 5 county areas would not be as strong and respected if it was not for David's tireless efforts and collaborative spirit. He consistently demonstrates his dedication to help people be the best they can be and is respectful of each person." On Behalf of the Valley Mountain Regional Center Board, David was selected for this award because he demonstrated a sustained and meaningful commitment to the principle that people with developmental disabilities should live and work as full-fledged members of their home communities.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Last month the caseload ratios were discussed, currently, the ratio is 1:82. All 21 regional centers are out of compliance with the ratios that are required by statute. Each year the regional centers are required to provide a report in the form of a plan on how the regional center will come in to compliance with the required caseload ratios. The plan submitted to the Department of Developmental Services includes steps VMRC has taken to comply as well as what is required in the form of funding and resources to meet the statutory requirements.

The State Budget for FY 2015/16 does not contain any new funding in Purchase of Service or Operations for the Developmental Disabilities service delivery system. There was extensive advocacy

throughout this budget process to bring attention to the challenges faced by the system and its impact on the sustainability of the services provided. The goal of the grassroots efforts was to ensure additional funding up to as much as a 10% increase across the board. Senator Beall has authored and introduced a new bill for the extraordinary session, SBX2-1. A copy of "SBX2-1 – Financial Sustainability" was included in the hand out packet.

Self Determination Advisory Committee. The Self Determination initiative is required to establish an advisory committee. The first meeting of the committee was held on 6/30 at which, Dena provided a presentation on Self Determination. The next meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled for the end of September. If anyone is interested, they should contact either Paul Billodeau or Dena Hernandez. The VMRC board of directors will be provided a presentation at the October board meeting on the Self Determination Program.

The board members were provided a copy of the VMRC Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs Annual Advisory Council Evaluation for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. This document was included in the supplementary packet to the board.

H. BOARD MEMBER PROGRAM VISITS:

Melinda reminded board members to sign up for program visits.

Claire Lazaro went to Castle House in Manteca for the Quality Assurance visit. It is a level 3 residential home. Claire met the owner of the residence who has provided services to consumers before the Regional Center system was established. They currently have six consumers. Claire expressed that she was impressed with the residence and the way all the files were organized, thus ensuring quality care to the residents.

Tom Bowe visited Modesto VMRC office and observed two early start intake sessions. Tom conveyed that it was a very interesting and educational visit.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

i. Consumer Services Committee
(Tom Bowe, Chair)

There was no Consumer Services meeting held in July. The next Consumer Services Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 14. Paula Newman will be the Consumer Services Committee Chair for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

The Employment First Policy was discussed and was recommended for approval to the board by the Consumer Services Committee.

M/S/C (Bowe/Lazaro) Approval of the Employment First Policy as presented

ii. VMRC Consumer Advisory Committee Report
(Dena Pfeifer, SAC6 Representative)

Dena reported that the Sac 6 met June 20, in Sutter Creek

- o A new Chatter Newsletter was shared

- There was a review of how the conferences went. All agreed the conferences went really well and everyone loved the dating game at the Self Advocacy Conference.
- There is a new video on the SAC 6 Face book page and they are still working on our website.
- SAC 6 is still in the process of hiring a financial consultant.
- There is a flyer available announcing the next Area Meeting which is scheduled for August 7th.

iii. Finance and Personnel Committee

(John Forrest, Treasurer)

John reported the Finance and Personnel Committee met last Wednesday. The Human Resources and Caseload Reports activity for the month of July was reviewed. The total number of employees within all three VMRC offices in July was 268, and the agency caseload average was 82.

The committee reviewed the DDS contract amendment. VMRC has an initial allocation of \$137 Million starting July 1st.

The worker's compensation contract was reviewed and presented to the board for approval as an action item, earlier in the agenda.

The full minutes of the July Finance and Personnel Committee will be included in the September board-meeting packet.

iv. Executive Committee

(Melinda Gonser, Board President)

Melinda advised that some of the items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting were also discussed in Paul's Executive Director Report earlier in the board meeting.

In addition to these items, the Executive Committee reviewed a Compensation Comparison Report for 2013-2014 that reflects the salaries for all regional center executive directors, chief financial officers and service coordinators. The Board is required to review this document annually.

Melinda announced that board members would be receiving the annual Executive Director Performance Evaluation Survey next month. Melinda emphasized the importance of completing the survey by the due date to provide input on the performance measures for the Executive Director. The surveys will be submitted to Melinda and she will compile the data, providing a report to the board of directors during an Executive session prior to the September regular board meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held September 9.

v. Nominating Committee

(Maren Paris, Chair)

Melinda presented the Nominating Committee report, as Maren Paris was not in attendance. The Committee met last Wednesday and interviewed four potential board members. It was recommended by the Nominating Committee that all four candidates be presented to the Board for appointment. In addition, the candidates were invited to join the Board for the July meeting and annual dinner. The

candidates presented to the Board for approval are Nancy Meyer, Dr. Rush Bailey, Rick Moen and Andrea Rueda.

M/S/C (Ybarra/Bowe) approval for appointment to the Board Nancy Meyer, Dr. Rush Bailey, Rick Moen and Andrea Rueda.

Each of the newly appointed board members was provided a Board Orientation Binder, additional training and orientation will be provided in October.

The Nominating Committee also presented the FY 2015/2016 slate of officers, as follows:

Melinda Gonser – President	Eric Ybarra – Vice President
Chris Varela – Secretary	John Forrest - Treasurer

There were no additional nominations presented from the floor.

M/S/C (Balderama/Bowe) approval of the slate of officers as presented

Melinda briefly discussed the board member assignments to committees and will work with Board members to determine their interest and availability.

vi. Strategic Planning Committee
(Melinda Gonser, Chair)

Paul will present the progress made toward the Strategic Plan goals and objectives at the September Board meeting.

vii. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee (CLASP)
(No Current Representative)

No report. See the CLASP minutes included in the Board packet.

viii. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
(Melinda Gonser, ARCA Representative)

Paul and Maren attended the meeting held in San Francisco June 19 at RCEB. It was a somber meeting because the legislature did not include additional funding for the developmental disabilities service delivery system. This was the Annual Meeting for ARCA, which included a dinner with Senator Beall as the keynote speaker. Senator Beall expressed his concern and disappointment that the regional centers had not received additional funding. There was discussion about steps that would be taken to further the advocacy for the system and drafting of new legislation. ARCA recognized a former board member, Ralph Griffin with a presentation for Mrs. Ralph Griffin.

The ARCA Contract Negotiation Committee, have been working with the Department of Developmental Services staff to modify the regional center contract language. The new contract should be agreed upon soon and will be distributed.

ARCA staff has identified legislative bills that will influence services to people with developmental disabilities. There are numerous bills, the list and description can be accessed on the ARCA website.

ARCA elected new officers for the FY 2015/2016 year the officers are as follows:

President, Ann Struthers of Regional Center of the East Bay
Vice President, Terri Colasis of San Diego Regional Center
Secretary, Gloria Wong, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Treasurer, Ron Fell, Golden Gate Regional Center
Parliamentarian, Melinda Gonser, Valley Mountain Regional Center

The next ARCA meeting will be held on August 20th & 21st in Torrance at Harbor Regional Center. A report will be provided at the September board meeting.

J. OTHER MATTERS:

There were no other matters

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session this month.

L. NEXT MEETING:

The next board meeting will be held on **Monday, September 14, 2015, at 6:00 pm** at the Stockton Offices of Valley Mountain Regional Center in the Cohen Conference Room.

M. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.