



Valley Mountain Regional Center
702 N. Aurora Street, Stockton, CA 95202

Board of Director Meeting
Minutes, November 9, 2015

Present:

Robert Balderama	✓	Nancy Meier	✓
S. Rush Bailey	✓	Rick Moen	✓
Tom Bowe	✓	Paula Newman	✓
John Forrest	✓	Dena Pfeifer	✓
Melinda Gonser	✓	Andrea Rueda	✓
Robert Grimsley	✓	Chris Varela	--
Ivan Johnson	✓	Eric Ybarra	✓
Claire Lazaro	--	Candice Bright (CLASP)	✓
Tom Martin	✓		

VMRC Staff: Paul Billodeau, Mary Sheehan, Cindy Mix, Claudia Reed, Bill Rutgers, Jan Maloney

Visitors: Dena Hernandez (North Valley Hills Office), and Facilitators Jacqueline Price, Karen Leyba, Alicia Janae Mikbel, Anna Garcia.

Melinda Gonser Board President called the Board meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made and VMRC's Mission Statement was read by Ivan Johnson. Melinda welcomed Jan Maloney back to the office following a leave of absence.

B. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S/C (NEWMAN/GRIMSLEY) to approve the revised agenda as presented.

C. ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR

M/S/C (YBARRA/RUEDA) to accept the October 12, 2015 Board Meeting minutes as presented, with one abstention, Paula Newman.

D. VOTE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING

Treasurer, John Forrest, reported the Finance and Personnel Committee met last Wednesday and a vote was taken to approve the following items that are now being brought to the board for full approval:

- Acceptance of Contract Status Report through September 2015
- Acceptance of Restricted Donation of \$50
- Approval of contracts over \$250,000 listed below.

Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Service Code	Contract Amount
HV0429	Anka Weston Ranch Anka Behavioral Health, Inc.	113	\$821,880
HV0414	Linden Grove, LLC	113	\$913,248
HV0199	ARC San Joaquin Vocational Services – GP	950	\$255,575
HV0061	ARC San Joaquin Starting Out	515	\$1,069,746
HV0014	ARC San Joaquin Starting Out	510	\$851,968
H15912	Arc San Joaquin ADC – North	510	\$490,172
HV0295	Delta Star Home Care – Mercer	915	\$427,987
HV0325	Delta Star Home Care – Pinot	915	\$301,283
HV0192	Delta Star Home Care – Quebec	915	\$324,936
PV1390	Inspired Behavioral Health Solutions EIBT Program	48	\$500,000
PV1308	Inspired Behavioral Health Solutions, Inc. ESAIP	48	\$985,895
H15920	Patacsil Care Home #2	915	\$264,672
HV0320	Vista Haven	915	\$324,936

M/S/C (BAILEY/YBARRA) to approve the contracts over \$250,000 as presented. One abstention, Candice Bright.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS & PUBLIC COMMENT

Dena Hernandez from the North Valley Hills Office distributed information and stated the CHOICES committee members have chosen a theme for the next CHOICES Conference that will be held next year on April 8 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. The theme next year will be “From I Can’t to I CAN”. She also distributed information regarding the t-shirt design contest and information about video submissions showing people who once couldn’t do something, but now they can. The deadline for both t-shirt and video submissions is January 19, 2016. The winners will be announced at the SAC6 Annual Area Meeting at the San Joaquin Fairgrounds on February 5.

The State Council/North Valley Hills Office has put together a newsletter that can be found on their website at www.sccd.ca.gov.

Dena announced collaboration between CLASP (Coalition of Local Area Service Providers), Valley Mountain Regional Center, and the State Council, to have Sarah Murphy from Transcend Corporation on Employment give a presentation on ways in which people can start talking to consumers around the age of 14, about employment opportunities. The event will most likely be held at VMRC’s Stockton Office.

Robert Balderama announced the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network has a new newsletter entitled “Voices of SSAN”, and Robert distributed some copies to board members.

F. PRESENTATION:

VMRC's Director of Information Technology, Gordon Hofer, presented a technological update. Gordon said the ever-increasing number of folders on the network is now in excess of 600,000. He and his staff are working to cut the time Service Coordinators spend documenting information after visits, by providing tablets that have up to 27 forms pre-loaded that can be completed during the visit. There are 40 tablets that are being used by Early Start employees, and VMRC aims to put a customized tablet in the hands of every employee that meets with consumers. Gordon attends team meetings for employee feedback and suggestions. Gordon's goal is to put minutes back into the day for employees, and to make their work flow more efficiently.

Gordon also works closely with the Communications Committee, from which VMRC's intranet InsideXchange was created, and is constantly evolving to meet the employee's needs. The intranet contains information including the weather and traffic conditions in Stockton, Modesto, and San Andreas. It is also a place for employee announcements and recognition, a classified section for employees to post services and items for sale, and an informational center. VMRC also has an active Facebook page.

Melinda appreciates the Communications Committee and IT collaboration, and stated their efforts are valued by the Board of Directors and VMRC employees.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Paul attended a conference call with ARCA and they shared information from the Governor's Office that Governor Brown does not plan to include any budget increases for our system, along the lines of the Lanterman Coalition's request for a 10% increase in funding. It has also been said that there may be another reduction in regional center budgets.

DDS Director, Santi Rogers, will retire at the end of November. Santi assumed the Director position in March 2014.

Along with approximately twelve other former students, Krisi Franzone was recently inducted into the Edison High School Alumni Hall of Fame in recognition of her life and her self-advocacy accomplishments. Krisi will bring her medal to show VMRC board members at the January board meeting.

VMRC Board Member, Dena Pfeifer, gave a presentation at the recent Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion in-service about her life and her self-advocacy journey. Her presentation was very well received by the FG/SC group.

VMRC staff members were very appreciative of the raises they received last month.

Paul attended the recent Self Advocacy Regional Meeting at the Howard Training Center. Over 250 people were in attendance. Disability Rights California and the ACLU gave a presentation which included a creative exercise to explain the voting process and its importance for people to vote.

VMRC has received an anonymous whistleblower complaint. The anonymous complainant alleges favoritism toward the provider who was recently awarded a grant to establish a crisis home.

VMRC will investigate and respond to DDS, who will review the complaint. VMRC's whistleblower policy can be found on the website.

The annual Micro-Business Fair will take place at VMRC's Stockton office on Friday, December 4, at which consumers showcase their crafts and services, including landscaping, handyman, computer repair services, and many arts and crafts. Paul will forward the flyer, and encouraged board members to do some early Christmas shopping.

H. BOARD MEMBER PROGRAM VISITS:

Rush Bailey visited the Vocational Coaching and Development Institute in Modesto, and he has two other visits scheduled for later in the month.

John Forrest attended an Open House event at Kesha House, a crisis facility, and he also visited Linden Grove, a newly vendorized step-down facility with a few farm animals. There was only one consumer at Kesha House, and no consumers living at Linden Grove at this point.

The Program Visit sign up book was passed around and Melinda encouraged Board members to sign up for visits scheduled in November.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

i. Consumer Services Committee
(Paula Newman, Chair)

Paula provided a summary of today's committee meeting that included:

- Update on the transition on MediCal Managed Care to Behavioral Health, which will go into effect on February 1, 2016. VMRC is attempting to obtain a list from DDS to see which consumers will be affected
- The annual Micro-Business Fair will be held December 4 at VMRC's Stockton office. Consumers showcase their handmade crafts and services, including landscaping and handyman services.
- The Alerts report for September was distributed and there are 68 open, and 35 closed alerts.
- Recent trainings attended by VMRC staff include Autism Strategies, Autism Housing Summit, CAPTAIN, Early Start Symposium, and a Train the Trainer Dementia workshop. Upcoming trainings will be on Autism Strategies, and also Special Education Legal Training. Planning is underway with the North Valley Hills Office and CLASP, for braided employment services with Sara Murphy, and will be held at VMRC on January 20.
- Since training the Service Coordinators and updating the method in which they enter data into SANDIS, consumer employment statistics in September for adults 22 years of age and above, statistics showed 9.08% or 463 consumers are now working full or part time. There were 889 individuals with employee related goals stated in their IPP.
- Recent community outreach activities include an MJC Parent Support group, Stanislaus Probation, Stockton Park Village apartments, and San Joaquin Emergency Services.
- The deadline for FEMA registration offered to consumers affected by the Butte and Valley wildfires is November 23.

- Medicare Part D is underway with 550 consumers identified to have their plan reviewed due to formulary changes in 2016.
- Quarterly all-team Case Management meetings by age group, now have consistent agendas which will include focus on VMRC Value Statements, a challenging case study with a successful outcome, along with a training component.
- Some placement issues have eased following the opening of new crisis and step-down facilities.

The full minutes of this meeting will be included with the December board meeting packet.

ii. VMRC Consumer Advisory Committee Report

(Dena Pfeifer, SAC6 Representative)

Dena reported that she attended the recent Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion in-service meeting and gave a talk on her life and her self-advocacy. Her talk was very well received and Dena was presented with a gift card and cup.

The Finance Committee will meet November 19, and the SAC6 committee will meet in December.

iii. Finance and Personnel Committee

(John Forrest, Treasurer)

Claudia Reed, CFO, provided the report on behalf of John Forrest.

The Finance and Personnel Committee met on November 4, 2015. The full minutes of this meeting will be included in the November board meeting packet.

The next Finance and Personnel Committee meeting will be held December 9, 2015 at 5:30pm.

iv. Executive Committee

(Melinda Gonsler, Board President)

Melinda stated that Paul covered most items in his Executive Director's Report.

The Executive Committee discussed the Board Members Retreat that was held on October 31, and a suggestion was made to use a PowerPoint slide to help explain the fiscal report. Melinda asked board members for some feedback on the retreat around what they liked and how it could have been better presented, and also topic ideas for discussion or training.

There will be a few mini-training sessions prior to board meetings, during the board member dinner period. Board members should let Melinda, Paul or Jan have their topic items and requests to bring someone to discuss specific topics.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held December 9, 2015 at 6:00pm, directly following the Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting.

v. Nominating Committee

(Tom Bowe, Chair)

The committee did not meet this month.

vi. Strategic Planning Committee

(Melinda Gonser, Chair)

No update was given.

vii. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee

(Candice Bright, CLASP Representative)

Candice advised the CLASP meeting last month was canceled. The committee will meet again this Thursday.

viii. Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)

(Paul Billodeau, Melinda Gonser)

Melinda and Paul attended the ARCA meeting in San Diego on October 15 and 16. The primary focus was the development of the strategic plan with three specific areas, finances, community integration for consumers, and the Lanterman Act. A draft plan is expected in January.

J. OTHER MATTERS:

Paul discussed the letter received from DDS regarding board composition. VMRC is out of compliance for the third year in a row, and Paul will add to his goals the need for more community outreach in an effort to recruit people from a wider ethnic and/or professional group. Melinda reminded board members to recruit other board members, and that there are currently four open positions.

K. NEXT MEETING:

The next board meeting will be held on **Monday, December 14, 2015, at 6:00 pm** at the VMRC office in Stockton, in the Cohen Conference Rooms.

L. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.