



Valley Mountain Regional Center

Board of Directors Meeting

702 N. Aurora Street, Stockton, CA 95202

Monday, December 12, 2018

Present: Tom Bowe, Robert Balderama, Linda Collins, Claire Lazaro, Lynda Mendoza, Dena Pfeifer, Moe Rashid, Andrea Rueda, Noemi Santiago, Chris Varela, Elizabeth Victor-Martinez

Absent: Tracie Leong, Margaret Heinz, Emily Grunder, Kori Heuvel, and Tom Toomey

Guests: George Lewis (SCDD/NVHO), Paul Billodeau (former VMRC Executive Director), Gia McElroy (parent), Allan Smith (DDS), Leonard Hansen (HTC), Will Sanford (Futures Explored), and facilitators Shaefaye Kirkendoll, Angie Lewis, Lori Williams.

VMRC Staff: Tony Anderson, Cindy Mix, Mary Sheehan, Nicole Weiss, Gordon Hofer, Anthony Hill, Dr. Barbara Johnson, Carlos Hernandez, Jan Maloney

Action items noted in bold.

A. Call to Order:

President, Tom Bowe, brought the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Jan Maloney, Executive Assistant, completed Roll Call.

The Mission Statement was collectively read by board members: The mission of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is to support people with developmental disabilities as they enrich their lives through choices and inclusion. VMRC is committed to securing quality, individualized services in collaboration with families and the community.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda:

M/S/C (RUEDA/MENDOZA) to approve the agenda as amended.

C. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2018

M/S/C (RUEDA/LAZARO) to approve the minutes as submitted.

D. Adoption of Consent Items:

The Chair called for any requests to remove items from the Consent Calendar. Hearing none,

M/S/C (RASHID/RUEDA) to approve the Consent Items as submitted.

• Finance & Personnel Committee Minutes, October 3, 2018	9
• Finance & Personnel Committee Minutes, November 7, 2018	13
• Executive Committee Minutes, October 3, 2018, 2018	39
• Executive Committee Minutes, November 7, 2018, 2018	43
• Legislative Committee Minutes, October 16, 2018	47
• Legislative Committee Minutes, November 19, 2018	51
• Special Events Committee, Minutes, November 15, 2018	53
• Consumer Services Committee, Minutes, November 13, 2018	55
• Executive Director's Monthly Report & Weekly Blog (separate items)	

E. Announcements & Public Comment:

Tom reminded Gia McElroy, parent, of the three-minute limit for Public Comment and stated he would give her some additional time to read her statement but asked her to be brief. Gia said she was speaking as a parent and advocate for her son who has severe autism, and others who are fighting for services that have been denied, and are threatened with removal and retaliation. Since her son began receiving services from the school district and VMRC in 2001, she feels both have been a source of duress and counter to promises made by state and federal laws on multiple levels. She feels regional center services have been worse than district services. Speaking on behalf of other consumers and families in the same situation, she stated clients are being disfigured, traumatized and dying. Gia referred to some cases both in and out of VMRC's catchment area where parents have harmed or killed their children. There have been two deaths at homes where her son has resided, and another death at a home where the consumer had been transferred. She has witnessed and been told by other parents, of dangerous situations whereby the consumer has been missing and later returned by the police. The past two years of duress and declining regional center standards and deaths have prompted Gia to speak on behalf of the silent clients and their parents who have been vilified, bullied and blamed. She does not trust the regional center and agencies, and also does not trust the school system. She fears the regional center, their staff and their providers, the administration of the regional center. She stated she has been retaliated against and threatened with loss of services for her son. Providers retaliate against Gia if alerts have been made against them, and communication/contact with staff/services has been removed if she places an alert against a regional center employee. The regional center is not providing the services her son requires, and the stress placed upon her has affected her health. She stated regional center employees work from home and do not return calls within 2 days, and cancel meetings, one of which was canceled due to rain. Staff is rude, do not know anything and will not provide their first name when she feels she needs to escalate an issue. (Testimony exceeded the allotted time.)

On behalf of the SCDD/NVHO, George Lewis made the following announcements:

- George acknowledged VMRC Board Member, Robert Balderama, who has stepped down as the SSAN (Statewide Self Advocacy Network) Chair. Robert will continue his advocacy efforts on the committee.
- George coordinates the Quality Assessment program which is currently headed into the childrens' study survey and will be mailing surveys to parents of children aged three to 13 throughout California. Approximately 3,500 consumers and their families will be interviewed. George provided information from earlier surveys, which will be given back to the regional centers for use in strategic planning purposes.
- The next RAC meeting will be January 22, 2010, at UCP Turlock from 6:00-8:00pm, and invited board members to attend.

In response to a question from CLASP representative, Candice Bright, George confirmed that the surveys are being sent just to families and not to children in residential placement.

F. Executive Director's Report:

Tony provided his monthly Executive Director's Report, copies of which were mailed to board members along with the meeting packet. Since VMRC has moved to meeting alternate months, Tony has provided a weekly Director's Travel blog that is available to VMRC employees and also on the VMRC website.

Tony discussed the correspondence received from DDS, that was also part of the Executive Director's Report packet.

G. Board Member Visits:

On October 17 Dena Pfeifer visited The Village, a day program in Lodi that had been open for four weeks. They had 12 consumers attending but there is room for 15. There is a social area, a kitchen, and a sensory room that was provided by the Lodi Chamber of Commerce. Program participants were working on Halloween decorations, and they do a lot of activities especially in the Downtown area of Lodi. Dena was invited to give Halloween candy at Lodi's Safe Halloween event. Dena said she enjoyed visiting this program.

Lynda Mendoza made a program visit but will wait until the February board meeting to give her report.

Tom Bowe encouraged board members to sign up for site visits.

H. Presentations:

The Finance and Personnel Committee invites one of the vendors whose contracts are over \$250,000 to present information about their contract/s with VMRC. This month, Leonard Hansen, Director of Operations, Howard Training Center, presented a PowerPoint about the different programs.

Leonard explained the Howard Training Center has an adult service program, a supported employment program in Ceres, a culinary kitchen, Commercial Landscaping, Community Employment, Production Unlimited, and Independent Job Placement programs. The Howard Training Center has been operational for over 65 years.

They have provided full landscaping and janitorial services for four rest stops for over 20 years along highway 99, I-5, north and south Turlock, and north and south Wesley. There is also a landscaping contract that has been in place for 5 years with the City of Ceres that services all major roads, overpasses and two parks.

The Culinary Services work activity program has 30 consumers who cook all meals for the Stanislaus Recovery Center, and Banta Elementary School District. They have been providing meals on wheels for over 12 years. Discussions are underway with the Dean of Vocational Services at Modesto Junior

College, and it is hoped to be able to create a culinary academy at HTC. The Howard Training Center also independently helps place consumers in jobs. Personal Achievement is a behavioral community integration program and serves 40 consumers. Production Unlimited is a traditional sheltered workshop and as of March 1 the program will be revamped and no longer produce piecework.

The Howard Training Center serves 145 consumers in vocational and job skills programs, with over 100 in adult services programs. There are two campuses, five work sites, and 110 members of staff.

The second presentation was given by Barbara Johnson, Psy. D. and included lots of statistics. Dr. Johnson applied for and received an MHSA grant (Mental Health Services Act) to hold one conference a year for the next three years, entitled Bridging the Gap, Co-occurring Disorders and Developmental Disability. VMRC partnered with Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. The series is designed to address the specific needs of both youth and adults served by VMRC who, without community inclusion, struggle to be identified and receive appropriate behavioral health and substance abuse services both with the community and legal justice system.

Dual Diagnosis is a term also applied to the co-existence of both developmental disabilities (autism, intellectual disability, epilepsy, cerebral palsy) and mental health/substance abuse conditions, and individuals with autism are at a higher risk of developing a mental health disorder. Co-occurring mental, neurodevelopmental, medical and physical conditions are frequent occurrences in the ID population, with rates of some conditions that are 3 to 4 times higher in comparison to the general population. One in two children with cerebral palsy meet the criteria for a psychiatric disorder, the most common being ADHD. Individuals with epilepsy are at a greater risk of developing a behavioral health condition in comparison to the general population. The majority of individuals with a developmental disability and mental illness are less likely to receive appropriate mental health services. Only 15% of VMRC's consumers are diagnosed and treated for a mental illness. Almost 300 mental health diagnosticians and providers as well as 26 specifically designated VMRC staff attended.

The planned s for the next two years are Overcoming Barriers: Medication Intervention, Crisis Response and Psychiatric In-Patient Treatment (2009), and New Beginnings: Building Collaborative and Inclusive Community Partnerships (2020).

I. Committee Reports:

i. VMRC Consumer Advisory Committee:
(SAC6 Representative)

A new SAC6 Representative has recently been elected, and will join VMRC's February board meeting.

ii. Consumer Services Committee:
(Chris Varela, Chair / Dena Pfeifer, Co-Chair)

Chris was absent from the November meeting and Dena Pfeifer chaired the meeting in her absence. The minutes of that meeting are included in the Consent Calendar.

- iii. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee (CLASP)
(Candice Bright, CLASP Representative)

Candice reported MabPRO attended the meeting and talked about crisis intervention training and the various CEU's (Continuing Education Units) that are available to providers.

CLASP now has 45 paid members. The CHOICES conference on April 15, 2019 is entitled "The Wheel of Choice", and the deadline for the video and t-shirt artwork is January 16.

CLASP has started a provider conference committee in the hope of being able to provide CEU's for providers, but more members and a Chair are needed.

One of the unmet needs determined by the CLASP group was developing job competencies and training, as there is a lack of staffing and direct care that is hitting day programs, residential and SLS services, along with the upcoming increase in the minimum wage.

The next CLASP meeting will be a potluck on Monday, December 17, 10:00am at VMRC in Stockton.

- iv. Finance and Personnel Committee:
(Elizabeth Victor-Martinez, Chair/Emily Grunder, Vice-Chair)

Treasurer and Committee Chair, Elizabeth, advised the committee met last week and is bringing the following items to the board for approval.

- **M/S/C (COMMITTEE/RUEDA) to accept contracts over \$250,000 per Resolution 1 on page 63.** Abstentions from Candice Bright and Mohamed Rashid
- **M/S/C (COMMITTEE/PFEIFER) to accept contracts over \$250,000 per Resolution 2 on page 65.** Abstentions from Candice Bright and Mohamed Rashid

RESOLUTIONS ATTACHED

- **M/S/C (COMMITTEE/LAZARO) to accept the Contract Status Report on page 67.**
- **M/S/C (COMMITTEE/RUEDA) to accept donations from PG&E totaling \$2,525**

This committee will meet again on January 2, 2019 at 5:30pm at VMRC in Stockton.

- v. Legislative Committee:
(Candice Bright, Chair / Moe Rashid, Vice-Chair)

The committee gave two presentations on December 4, one in Stockton and one in Modesto. Both presentations were well received and brought about a lot of conversation surrounding some of the bills that passed. Board members did very well in presenting and speaking about the bills. Also 1.5 CEU's were given to attendees.

This committee will not meet again until January 28, from 10:00am to 12:00pm at VMRC in Stockton, at which point they will start gearing up for the next budget cycle.

- vi. Bylaws Committee:
(Lynda Mendoza, Chair / Open position for Vice-Chair)

There were no questions following distribution of the draft Restated Bylaws at the October board meeting. The committee now brings forth the bylaws for approval.

M/S/C (COMMITTEE/LAZARO) to accept the Restated Bylaws as presented.

The Board Officers present signed and dated VMRC's newly adopted bylaws.

- vii. Self-Determination Committee:
(Claire Lazaro, Chair)

Claire reported the committee met the first week of December. There is no exact date from DDS as to when Self-Determination can begin, but VMRC is ready and has already assigned a Service Coordinator and Program Manager. Staff have been trained in Person Centered Thinking (PCT) and DDS is planning more training on the subject. There are upcoming meetings, one in Stockton and one in Modesto, for consumers. All VMRC staff has been trained and produced their one-age profiles.

The next meeting will be on January 14, 2019, at 2:00pm at VMRC in Stockton.

- viii. Nominating Committee:
(Claire Lazaro, Chair / Andrea Rueda. Vice-Chair)

The committee met just before the board meeting, and strategized ways to approach the promotion of VMRC's Board of Directors to the community. They identified the target population, which consists of representatives for Calaveras, Amador, and Tuolumne counties, an African-American and Asian representatives too. Although not a requirement, the board would like to have a member who is involved with the medical or health field. By the end of the current fiscal year, it is expected there will be seven vacancies to fill.

In January an announcement will be released with an online application to the targeted communities. In February the announcement will be released to all stakeholders and families. In March selections will be made for interviews and a vote to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation will take place at the April 2019 board meeting. In June the new board members will be invited to attend the board meeting and be sworn-in.

The committee will meet again on February 25, 2019, at 4:00pm in Stockton.

- ix. Special Events Committee:

(Kori Heuvel, Chair)

Kori was not in attendance and no report was given.

x. President's Report: 1:25:00

Following Claire's request, Tom encouraged board find people who they feel would be a valuable member of the board, and have them submit an application.

J. Other Matters:

Tom Bowe reported on the approved changes in Chief Financial Officer and Director of Consumer Services job duties and Tony noted the CFO, Director of Consumer Services, and the Legal Affairs Advisor are all on the same pay scale.

K. Adjournment:

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2019 at 6:00pm in the Stockton Office, Cohen board rooms.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Contract Summary and Board Resolution

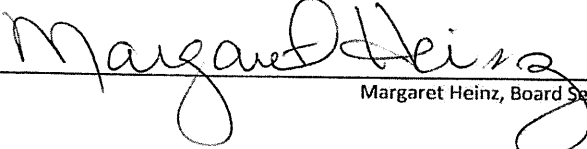
Valley Mountain Regional Center's Board of Directors reviewed the above contract on December 10, 2018 and passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED THAT in compliance with VMRC's BOD Contract Policy, the contracts listed below between VMRC and stated vendors were reviewed and approved by the VMRC BOD on _____ and Board hereby authorized any Officer of the corporation to execute the Agreement without material changes but otherwise on such terms deemed satisfactory to such Officer.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1 Futures Explored | \$ 400,000.00 |
| 2 Creating Behavioral & Ed. Momentum CBEM | \$ 550,000.00 |

VMRC Board of Directors hereby authorizes and designates any office of VMRC to finalize, execute and deliver the Contract on behalf of VMRC, in such form as VMRC's counsel may advise, and on such further terms and conditions as such Officer may approve. The final terms of the Contract shall be conclusively evidence by the execution of the Contract by such Officer. For purposes of this authorization, and "Officer" means VMRC's Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and no one else.

Certification by Secretary: I certify that: (1) I am the Secretary of VMRC; (2) the foregoing Resolution is a complete and accurate copy of the Resolution duly adopted by VMRC's Board of Directors; (3) the Resolution is in full force and has not been revoked or changed in any way.

	12/10/2018
Margaret Heinz, Board Secretary	Date