



Valley Mountain Regional Center

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting Monday, April 8, 2019 6:00 pm

Valley Mountain Regional Center Cohen Board Room Modesto Office

1820 Blue Gum Avenue, Modesto, CA 95358

A. President Tom Bowe, Chair, called the meeting to order 602pm.

Doug Bonnet administered roll call.

Tom Bowe led the board in the reading of the mission statement: *"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. Agenda – Tom Bowe asked for a motion to move Item I, Committee Reports, to above Item E. Andrea Rueda moves to approve the agenda and Dena Pfeifer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Minutes Approval – Tom Bowe asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2019 meeting. Tom Toomey moved to approve the agenda and Emily Grunder seconded the motion. Candice Bright opposed and Chris Varela abstained. Motion was approved.

D. Consent Items – Tom Bowe asked for a motion to approve and adopt the following Consent Items:

1. Consumer Services Committee, Minutes of March 11, 2019 meeting.
2. Executive Committee, Minutes of Meeting of March 6, 2019 meeting.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee, Minutes of Meeting of March 6, 2019.
4. Contracts Approved by the Finance Committee.
5. Executive Director's Monthly Report.

Dena Pfeifer moved to approve and adopt the consent items and Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- E. Announcements/Public Comments** – Christine Hager of Clients Rights, thanks VMRC for the teams putting together the Transition Fairs, and gives a huge “shout out” to Tony Anderson for staff support at Choices Conference on Friday, April 5.

Dena Hernandez of SCDD – Names the volunteers of VMRC for the Choices Conference on Friday...Katie Alcantara, Rafael Arroyo, Carlos Hernandez, Tumboura Hill, Wanda Johnson, Marlene Lombardo, Karla Pacheco, Dave Vodden, Lauren Watkins, and Malik Williams. Dena thanks everyone named for volunteering.

Mohamad Rashid – Mo mentioned that he spoke at Choices.

Christine Hager – thanks Doug Bonnet who also volunteered at Choices.

Gia McElroy – submitted a written statement: “I have read the 12/12/2018 minutes from the VMRC Board Meeting of that date including the summary of the public statement by me.” “I would like it added to this month’s minutes that, as regards to the summary of my statement, it is a summary only as written by someone else’s interpretation of 3 pages condensed into a summation paragraph. Some meaning may be lost or misinterpreted without my exact wording as well as by omission of other portions of the statement I made that night. Respectfully submitted. Gia McElroy (Parent/Advocate).”

F. Committee Reports

VMRC Consumer Advisory Committee – Lisa Esteves, Sac 6 Representative – Sac 6 Report for the VMRC Board – “Sac 6 is preparing for the annual statewide Self-Advocacy Conference. We have 2 VMRC consumers presenting sessions and we will host the dating game. Our Sac 6 officers continue to meet and collaborate with Tony Anderson. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Tony and VMRC. Thank you to the VMRC staff for all of their help with the Choices Conference.”

Consumer Services Committee – Chris Varela, Committee Chair – Chris reported that she does not have a report due to minutes not being on the website and she did not take minutes on that day. Next meeting will be in May and Dena Pfeifer will be taking over as the committee chair. Chris announced that she will be stepping down from the VMRC Board in June.

Finance Committee – Elizabeth Victor Martinez, Committee Chair – Elizabeth asked for clarification from Claudia Reed, CFO on the contract amendment E2. Claudia mentioned that the amendment is for \$250,000 for CPP. Claudia commented that this amendment translates into good news for VMRC on operations side. VMRC will spend this money out of CPP and not operations.

Elizabeth mentioned a POS summary report and OPS summary report and asked if there are any questions. No questions were asked. Committee did not have a Finance meeting in April. Executive Committee accepted the \$250,000 plus contracts.

Coalition of Local Area Service Providers (CLASP) VMRC Vendor Advisory Committee –

Candice Bright, CLASP Representative – Candice stated that the last CLASP meeting was on 03/25/19. In the meeting, Patricia Green, Quality Assurance Manager, went over upcoming VMRC provided trainings and Tony Anderson reviewed the Rate Study. The Provider Conference is upcoming on 10/08/19 in Stockton. This will be an opportunity for DSP's to get continuing education units. An Art of Acknowledgement training was held on 04/01/19, in which 65 people attended. The training was fantastic and Candice thanked Tony for it. The next Leadership Meeting will be on 04/15/18, and the next CLASP Meeting will be held on 04/22/19 at 10am in Stockton.

Legislative Committee – Candice Bright, Chair – The committee met 03/19/19 and went over the presentation for 03/28/19. On the 03/28, the turnout was low, but there was great discussion about some bills that may potentially affect us. On April 3 it was Grassroots day. Candice, Lynda Mendoza, Mohamad Rashid, and Anthony Hill met at the state capitol in Sacramento. There they met with 8 legislators. It was fantastic and the team worked well together. There was also a 1500-2000 person rally that day in support of an 8%, across the board increase until the Rate Study is resolved. The next committee meeting is on 05/22/19 where they will discuss the May revise. Candice asked Tom if a group picture that was taken in front of capital of the above mentioned 4 attendees was ok to send to legislators, along with a letter. Tom indicated that this request did not warrant Board action and approved the request.

Nominating Committee – Claire Lazaro, Chair – The committee met today and reviewed 8 applicants. Three applicants will be invited for an interview. A few of the applicants were automatically disqualified due to the applicant being a vendor, and for them to become a board member, they will need to go through CLASP. CLASP will then vote on who the representative is. There are also a few other applications that the committee needs clarification on whether or not they are vendors. Interview dates are set for 05/01/19 at 3:45 pm and 05/07/19 at 400 pm at the Stockton VMRC office. Officer board recommendations will be discussed by the Executive Committee and presented in June at the Board Meeting. Claire gave an update on Self Determination. An Advisory Committee meeting will be held on 04/26/19 at 10:00 am in Stockton. Board members are invited to attend. VMRC and the assigned Self Determination staff will meet in May and June to prepare for orientation.

- G. Presentation on DDS Rate Study –** Brian Bennett, Assistant Director of Resource Development This is the VMRC response to the rate study to present to DDS. VMRC and CLASP received information from vendors on how the rate study would affect our vendors and VMRC. See hyperlink: <https://vmrc.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Rate-Study-Presentation.pptx>.

The Association of Regional Center Agencies developed an extensive report which will cover many other sections. Board will get copy of report.

Next Steps – senate budget committee coming up May 2, May 10 is budget revise. May 28 floor sessions only, June 15 – Budget Bill will be passed.

These comments from providers and families went to DDS, legislators, legislative analyst office (LAO) and their regional centers. Views are pretty consistent amongst regional centers. Early Start concerns are shared amongst regional centers. 1.8 billion dollars is the cost of implementing this proposal.

Chris Varella – comment that she was in managed medi-care, she tells Tony we will have to push back hard because all of the requirements will increase but the funding decreases.

H. Executive Director's Report – Tony Anderson, Executive Director – Tony provided report to the Board. Tony gave an update on some parental feedback on disparity. Some parents had come to our Board Meetings and said that VMRC is not giving services and good case management to some Hispanic families. Tony had staff follow up and the findings were that these families all do receive some services. Some parents then went to the state capital at a budget hearing and said that they didn't get services. The legislators listened to the families. VMRC looked into these claims and proved them to be not accurate. VMRC does provide services to these families. Tony stated that in terms of total cost, we do spend more money on Caucasians than any other group, but this doesn't tell whole story. What VMRC's findings did show is that, in terms of respite services, there is not a disparity to Hispanic families in any younger and school age groups. In general there is a disparity in services for adults for Hispanics. The biggest disparity is in care homes and day programs of adults. These are some very expensive services and our other communities of color are not accessing those services. Tony reported that Cindy Mix has come up with several creative ideas for working with these families to ensure they receive additional services from the regional center and others and looking into why is there a disparity in care home services? Why is there a disparity in day program services? That's what we are looking at now. Tony says the many meetings in Sacramento were very necessary. It is great that the advocates come out and express themselves, but we would prefer that they be truthful. Tony asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

I. Board Member Visits – Linda Collins signed up for visits and hasn't heard anything. Linda will get with Doug Bonnet to look into this. Lynda Mendoza has signed up for visits as well and she commented that she is getting a very late notice to attend. Doug Bonnet will look into this as well. Cindy Mix commented that staff says that they have made calls to Board Members, and they don't get return calls. Tom recommended to funnel through Doug Bonnet. Mary Sheehan asked that board members have correct contact information.

J. President's Report, Tom Bowe – Tom thanked the Board Members for going to Grassroots Day in Sacramento.

Human Resources Update – Bud Mullanix, Director of Human Resources – Bud stated that they are continuing to recruit. Staff is at 344. Full time staff is actually at 337 still. They have 6 open spots, 3 of which are in background. These are not new positions, but backfills. Two employees just transferred. They are still working on hiring a clinical director. They are talking to 5 candidates. They are also working on filling the Dental Coordinator contract position. An update will be given on staffing at the May 1, Executive Committee Meeting.

Closed Session – Andrea Rueda made a motion to move to closed session. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion and the board moved to closed session. The public was adjourned. Tom asked for a motion to reopen the closed session. Andrea Rueda made a motion and Emily Grunder seconded the motion.

Action taken during closed session: The board agreed to give Executive Director, Tony Anderson, a positive performance review.

K. Next Meeting

Date: Monday, June, June 3, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office
702 North Aurora Street, Stockton, CA 95202

Phone: (866) 299-7945, code: 7793177#

L. Adjournment – Tom Bowe adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.