



Valley Mountain Regional Center

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2019, 6:00 pm

**Valley Mountain Regional Center, Cohen Board Room, Stockton Office
702 N. Aurora Street, Stockton, CA 95202**

- A. President Tom Bowe**, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Executive Director Tony Anderson administered roll call.

Board Members Present: Tom Bowe, President, Margaret Heinz, Secretary, Mohamad Rashid, via call in, Lynda Mendoza, Andrea Rueda, Candice Bright, via call in, Dena Pfeifer, Linda Collins, Robert Balderama, Tom Toomey, Lisa Esteves

Board Members Not Present: Elizabeth Victor-Martinez, Treasurer (informed absence), Emily Grunder (informed absence), Nadia Robinson, Noemi Santiago, Tracie Leong (informed absence), Chris Varela.

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 proposes modifying the agenda. Under item “G – Finance Report”, Tom will be giving this report due to Elizabeth Victor-Martinez’s absence. Tom would also like to add “Auditor’s Report” under item “G – Finance Report.”

Also, under “G – President’s Report” Tom will be giving an update on Executive Committee Actions from last week.

Andrea Rueda made a motion to approve the agenda as modified, Dena Pfeifer seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

- C. Minutes Approval** – Review and approve the minutes from the April 8, 2019 Board Meeting. Dena Pfeifer made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mohamed Rashid seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

D. Presentation

- a. IT Director Gordon Hofer gave a quick recap of his training presentation that he provided for the Board of Directors prior to the meeting. Gordon introduced the new Board Effect software that the Board will be phasing in moving forward. The software will allow the Board to conduct their business paperless.
- b. Auditors from Kemper CPA Group reviewed their audit report. See packet.
- c. Tom requested to bring forward a motion to accept the findings of the audit because there was not a quorum at the May 1, 2019 Finance Meeting. Robert Balderama made a motion to approve the audit as submitted. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

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

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2019
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2019
3. Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2019
4. Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2019
5. Executive Director's Monthly Report.

Dena Pfeifer made a motion to accept the consent items as presented. Mohamed Rashid seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

F. Announcements/Public Comments –

- a. **Dena Hernandez, Manager, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North Valley Hills Office** – Next SCDD North Valley Hills meeting will be held on July 23, 2019 in Tuolumne County- location to be determined from 6:00pm-8:00pm. We are in need of Regional Advisory Members from Tuolumne County currently! If you know of anyone- please have them contact Dena at SCDD North Valley Hills. All are welcome. I want to thank the VMRC staff- Angie Shear, Liz Diaz, David Narbona, Tara Sisemore-Hester and Tania Candelaria for collaborating with the Self Determination Advisory Committee in presenting the Self Determination Orientations- three have been held so far and have been well received. Family Resource and SCDD are proud to help with these trainings. Speaking of Self Determination- the DDS Self Determination Newsletter- May and June copies attached- a great resource for the program. SCDD had its council meeting on May 21, 2019- a highlight sheet from that meeting is attached. SCDD Grant Cycle 41 -Get Safe events have been scheduled. Flyers attached in English and Spanish. There will be 3 Self Advocate trainings- (flyer on white with light blue heading),

two Family & Staff trainings (flyer on beige paper) and a two day training specifically for Law Enforcement (flyer has POST CERTIFIED on heading). These are free so please share! We are hoping for a great turnout at each event! A handout called “Your Right to a Community Life” regarding the Home and Community Based Settings Rule- it’s a user friendly document and the SAC6 received copies and is going thru it. (It is only in English at this time but have requested a Spanish version). The CHOICES Conference will be held on April 3, 2020... Save the Date flyers attached. Recreation for All People & PCS June 14, flyer.

- b. **Nancy Sanchez** – Her daughter is a consumer. The community needs services, especially personal assistance services.
- c. **Dora Contreras** – Her grandson is a consumer with VMRC. Several families still have not heard of Self-Determination. The website is not an effective tool to reach out to Hispanic families.
- d. **Elizabeth Gomez, ICC** – She is here to reaffirm their commitment to implement their integrator model. They continue to do outreach and have done many trainings for families in the community. She reports that the community has been very receptive to their training model.
- e. **Mariela Ramos** – Her son is a consumer. She is here to tell the Board that we need services of social skills and for these services to be offered to our community.
- f. **Janette Cardenas** – Her son is a consumer. We have been asked to visit the website several times. The website is not an effective way to communicate with the Hispanic community. She has also tried to contact vendors and they don’t answer and it seems like they don’t exist.
- g. **Grisela Estrada** – She has 2 children with Autism, 1 with severe limitations. She is asking the Board to revisit the Respite Assessment tool because it does not reflect the real necessity of our needs. Please revise this policy and the assessment. In 5 years with VMRC I’ve only qualified for 18 hours of Respite monthly. That is not enough. She also is requesting the Self-Determination Orientation be done completely in Spanish.
- h. **Gregoria Torres** – Her son is a consumer and she is here to support the Hispanic community.
- i. **Jose Lara** – He has 2 children who are clients with VMRC since 1999 and 2011. 2 children are clients. I’m here in support of the Hispanic community as an English speaking individual. I couldn’t answer what VMRC does, I don’t know what is offered or what services there are. At the IPP we would like to know what services and what vendors are available for our children.
- j. **Josefine Nieves** – I am a parent of 2 children with Autism at East Los Angeles Regional Center and I also work with ICC. We have been doing lots of outreach in Stockton and we would like to branch out to the rural communities.

- k. **Mariela Ramos** – She would like to also support what Grisela Estrada said in reference to Respite. She is the Vice President of the Self-Determination Advisory Committee. She wants a new respite policy.
- l. **Maria Solano** – She is a mother of 2 children with Autism. She supports with Grisela Estrada said regarding respite.
- m. **Marilena Diaz** – I am the mother of Samantha Diaz, a consumer at VMRC. I'm asking for all information to be distributed like any other piece of information is distributed. I'm supporting all of the Hispanic community.
- n. **Grislea Estrada** - We have a lot of barriers. We have been told that the clinical services that VMRC offers are a last resort and we have to look for generic resources first. We don't count with the clinical department that VMRC has. Since our kids were diagnosed, we haven't receive or obtained other services that support the children's' disabilities. We can't access the generic services.
- o. **Tom Bowe** – Recognized outgoing Clinical Director, Mary Sheehan, who is retiring at the end of June. Spoke about some highlights and accomplishments of Mary during her time at VRMC. Presented Mary with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for all she has done.
- p. **Mary Sheehan** – Mary thanked the Board. She will miss everyone and all of the activity.

G. Committee Reports

VMRC Consumer Advisory Committee – Lisa Esteves, Sac 6 Representative – Lisa gave the highlights from the meeting on Saturday, 06/08. Lisa reviewed the Supported Life Conference held in May. Next year the conference will be 05/08 and 05/09. Lisa also talked the August Area Meeting that will be held on 08/02 at Turner Park in San Andreas. Next meeting is September 14 at Valley Caps in Manteca.

Consumer Services Committee – Dena Pfeifer gave update. The minutes are available from the last meeting on the website. Next meeting is 09/09 at 4pm at VMRC Stockton Office.

Finance Committee – Claudia reviewed Contract Status Report. See packet. Tom Bowe asked for a motion to accept the Contract Status Report. Dena Pfeifer made the motion. Tom Toomey seconded the motion. Approved Unanimously.

Legislative Committee – Candice Bright – Met on May 22nd. Went over the May revise. Tony reviewed new major assumptions of May revise related to the Rate Study. Next meeting is August 26, 12pm.

CLASP – Candice Bright - Last meeting May 20th. We had a presentation on public speaking and were offered an in-service for inclusion to work with Day programs on speaking up for a better tomorrow in the IPP process. Also had a presentation from

Autism Speaks. HCBS Grant money awarded to 4 providers. Transportation continues to be a significant issue. There are 2 CPP projects upcoming. Next meeting is June 24th and we will have elections.

Bylaws Committee – No report.

Self-Determination Advisory Committee – Mo Rashid, currently in Sacramento getting a training from DDS. Helping the SDAC to developing strategic plan to do our job. Training continues tomorrow all day. Will report info at next SDAC June 20th.

Nominating Committee – Linda Collins – We put out information for community to respond to us for interest. There were 11 applications. We scheduled interviews for 6 candidates. Five of the applications had conflicts of interest and were not interviewed. We interviewed 5 candidates because 1 chose not to interview. All did excellent jobs. Four of the 5 interviewed will be recommended for the board today. The 5th individual can reapply at another time. Recommending appointment are Cherina Shaw, Tina Vera, Alicia Schott and Erria Kaalund. Nominating Committee made a motion, Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. Unanimous approval to appoint the 4 nominees to the Board. New members will be joining us in our meeting in July.

We also have 3 additional openings for Board positions for representatives from Amador, Tuolumne and Calaveras County.

Slate of officers read. Nominating Committee proposes the slate for Margaret Heinz as Board President, Mohamad Rashid as Vice President, Elizabeth Victor-Martinez, Treasurer, and Lynda Mendoza, Secretary. Dena Pfeifer seconded the motion. Unanimous decision to appoint the slate of officers.

President's Report – Tom Bowe, we need to approve the board schedule, proposed, for the 2019-2020 year. Meetings will be proposed every other month, to the 3rd Monday of every month. Came forward as a motion from the Executive Committee. Dena Pfeifer seconded the motion. Unanimous decision to approve the Board Schedule.

Bud – We have a change in job description. We now have 3 assistant director positions. Executive Committee has reviewed the job descriptions. We also did a salary review. Want to make sure the pay scale is in line. We are recommending the pay scale is an additional 10% paid out after 7 steps. Recommended from the Executive Committee. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. Unanimous decision to approve.

Tom Bowe – Communitas Award. Executive Committee voted unanimously to present to Janice Leary. Tom read her application.

- H. Board Member Visits** – Linda Collins visited Aim Higher with staff Nicole Weiss and Board Member Mo Rashid. Mo stated the visit was really interesting to see different programs that they had and how the ratios are and how they provided services. Linda stated that this was an unannounced visit. Linda commends VMRC and staff for

initiative to make the visit. I asked lots of questions. Some concerns that are being addressed.

I. Executive Director's Report, Tony Anderson

Tony first commented that we have sent out information regarding Self-Determination via Constant Contact. We will continue to send out information on Self-Determination to try and keep everyone informed about what is going on with the program.

We are happy to continue to work with ICC.

We had great public comment today. We will review everything and get back to Executive Committee on our follow up.

Tony clarified the reason for the 10% increase to Assistant Directors is because we have added to their job descriptions. They will begin to represent VMRC during the informal hearing process on items other than eligibility.

The Conference Committee and the Administration have come to an agreement on the final Budget deal for FY 19-20 as outlined in the action list, which can be found [here](#). The DDS portion of the agenda can be found on page 13. The Conference Committee is scheduled to meet to affirm these actions soon.

The following are some key highlights that are probably of the greatest interest to those with developmental disabilities that were not included in the Governor's proposals:

- **Provider Rates:** An additional \$25 million will be added in FY 19-20 and \$50 million in out years for "broad-based" provider increases that will begin 1/1/20 and sunset 12/31/21. (May Revise: Provider Rate Adjustments and Regional Center Transparency and Accountability Increase of \$163.7 million (\$98.7 million GF) to provide funding to implement proposed Provider Rate Adjustments and activities related to improved Regional Center and service provider accountability and transparency. These adjustments are - 4 - intended to help: 1) stabilize capacity and maintain options for residential services; 2) address rate differences between regional centers and vendors, and 3) stabilize the workforce. On average, provider rates will receive a supplemental increase of approximately 18% with no provider rate decreases.)
- **Suspended Services:** No restoration
- **Additional \$5 million for Safety Net Services:** No additional funds appropriated
- **Plan for Rate Study Implementation:** Unclear if placeholder TBL on this will be approved
- **Intermediate Care Facilities Rates:** While not entirely clear, it does not appear the Committee is taking action to increase ICF provider rates
- **Fix to "Minimum Wage Quirk":** No action taken on this item
- **Uniform Holiday Schedule:** As proposed by the Governor, the Uniform Holiday Schedule will be suspended until 1/1/22
- **Repeal Half-Day Billing:** No action taken on this item

Now that the Legislature has agreed on a final Budget deal, each house will vote on it, so it can move onto the Governor for his approval.

Trailer Bill language for regional centers include:

- Section 1 - NCI Data Reporting
 - Must send meeting notice to consumers/families
 - Data must be presented that was “generated by the department”
- Section 2 - Dashboard Posting
 - RCs must post their own portion of the dashboard and link to DDS dashboard for all RCs as comparison
- Section 3 - Board Composition
 - No changes
- Section 4 - Board Composition Reporting
 - Documentation of “how and, in as expeditious a manner as possible, when the board will come into compliance, in part or in whole...”
- Section 5 - Legal Counsel Conflict-of-Interest
 - No changes
- Section 6 - Governing Board Meeting with DDS
 - “If requested, the board shall exclude regional center employees...”
 - “At the department’s discretion, efforts shall be made to meet with a governing board of a regional center at a mutually agreed upon time, date, and place, with the goal of promoting attendance by board members.”
- Section 7 - Performance Contract Public Meeting
 - The meeting may be held separately from other board meetings.
 - Notice shall be sent to consumers/families
 - “The regional center shall consider strategies to promote opportunities for public comment.”
 - ARCA’s proposed limiting of RC corrective action plans related to performance contract objectives was not accepted.
- Section 8 - Posting of NCI Data
 - Data must be posted on RC websites from Section 1 above
- Section 9 - DDS Director Directives
 - Directives can be related to consumer rights, health, safety, or welfare.
 - There is also a reference to WIC 4434, which is very broad and was added at the request of DDS (awaiting clarification on the intent)
 - Consistent with ARCA’s request, directives must be consistent with “existing statutes or regulations.”
- Section 10 - Corrective Action Plans/Sanctions
 - RC must provide copies to DDS of CAPS and sanctions
 - No website posting will be required
 - DRC will have ability to request these from DDS, which is consistent with information availability of all DDS information under Public Records Act requirements
 - DDS must work with DRC “on the process for increasing consumer and family access to the information.”

- Section 11 - Intake Packets
 - DDS will develop these for RC distribution at intake, transfer to Lanterman Act services, and upon request
 - RCs must also post on their websites
 - DDS will translate the materials
 - There is no mention of electronic distribution, but DDS will provide additional distribution details in a directive upon completion

Sections regarding the specifics around rate increases are not included in this language, likely because the Legislature is still debating this issue.

- J. Other Matters** – Tom thanked the family members for coming to speak publicly. Tom also personally wanted to thank Mary Sheehan.

Dena Pfeifer wanted everyone to know that SAC 6 has moved their office upstairs to the 2nd floor at VMRC next to Jan and Doug's office.

K. Next Meeting

Date: Monday, July 15, 2019

Time: 4:00 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 7:33pm.