



## **Minutes for VMRC Board of Directors Meeting**

08/23/2023 | 06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

**Board Members Present:** Lisa Utsey, Jessica Quesada, Crystal Enyeart, Robert Balderama, Alicia Schott, Tom Toomey, Erria Kaalund, Margaret Heinz, Linda Collins, Liz Herrera Knapp, Jeff Turner, Brandy DeAlba, Jody Burris, Suzanne Devitt, Anthony Owens, Dr. Li, Gabriela Castillo, Dr. Russell

**Board Members Not Present:** Lynda Mendoza (informed absence), Emily Grunder (informed absence), Jose Lara (informed absence)

**VMRC Staff Present:** Doug Bonnet, Tony Anderson, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Brian Bennet Aaron McDonald, Evellyn Ledezma Solis, Angie Shear, Melissa Stiles, Mary Duncan, Bud Mullanix, Claire Lazaro

**Public Present:** Rachelle Munoz (facilitator), Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter), Dena Hernandez, James Ford, Eddie Esquiviz, Erick Thurmond, Quality Assured Training Tumboura Hill, Michele

### **A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Reading of the Mission Statement**

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm. Suzanne Devitt led the reading of the Mission Statement. Doug Connect took the roll. A quorum was established.

### **B. Review of the Meeting Agenda**

Suzanne Devitt reviewed the agenda.

### **C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 07/26/23**

Linda Collins made a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 07/26/23. Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. Liz Herrera Knapp abstained. The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of 07/26/23 was approved.

## **D. Presentation - Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction Public**

### **Presentation by Tony Anderson**

**See attached presentation**

Board Members shared:

Robert Balderama – it's important that we appreciate you for your honesty. Transparency is very important to everyone. You and your staff work very hard and I appreciate it.

Linda Collins- staff have hope now. New staff in training gives hope and it's a really good thing for everyone.

Jeff Turner – for next time, it would help me understand it better if you explained it in terms of how many people we need.

#### **1. Public Comment on Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction**

Each member of the public may have 3 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 6 minutes will be given. Public comment at this time will only be taken in regards to the Caseload Ratio Plan of Correction.

Quality Assured Training, Tumboura Hill – I'm happy that you have increased the caseload. I participated and helped out a little bit, I saw that a couple years back and I'm glad we are turning the corner. How faast will SC's be trained on HCBS compliance, it's a big issue impacting SC's and vendors. There is a lack of training for vendors that supports more than 50% of funding.

Tony Anderson responded, 9-12 months of training to get someone up to speed. HCBS is a subgroup of all they need to learn about. It's closely tied to Person Centered Thinking. This is something you can get on a certain level but it takes a lot more training, continuous training for someone to get what it really is. This is more global and takes many years. HCBS and Person Centered Thinking is inseparable, so I would say to really get it will take some time. We are providing that training right now, they will get it on a workable level within the timeframe, 9-12 months, but it will be ongoing as it is meaningful.

Dena Hernandez, SCDD North Valley Hills Office – Thank you Tony for that report. She has been with this region for about 25 years. Every year it's been the same about building up ratios. I know you have all been dedicated to doing this and this is the closest it has ever been. The transparency is very refreshing. From hands on experience with the new employees, I've been in the training with 100 new staff in the room that got to hear from the community partners. Thank you Bud and Team, it is impressive. \$600,000 that went back, where did it go back to? How much money in total went back from all RCs?

Tony Anderson responded that \$20million statewide was returned to DDS. Ours was only \$600,000.

## **E. Public Comment**

Each member of the public may have 3 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 6 minutes will be given. Public comment can address

items on the agenda that have been properly noticed for action and/or items that are not on the agenda, however, items not on the agenda can not be responded to or discussed in the public board meeting because they are not properly noticed items (7 days advance notice).

Dena Hernandez, SCDD North Valley Hills – Tony and Doug I emailed recruiting ideas to you that you can share with Bud and team. Thank you for the board members that don't know. SAC6 held their Area Meeting last Friday in San Andreas. The VMRC staff were there to help. Doug and Aaron shared information and training to about 110 people. Christine Couch for coordinating the volunteers from VMRC to help with the event. Please feel free to join us at the events that the SAC6 members are holding.

Quality Assured Training, Tumboura Hill – I want to reiterate the importance of HCBS Compliance. There are three directives from DDS to ensure vendor compliance. The regional Center is responsible according to the federal code, for the person centered planning process. This is very important. The board should take a close look and educate themselves on it. This is not a brand new concept. It's important that everyone is aware.

## **F. Consent Calendar Items**

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2023
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2023

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the consent calendar items. Crystal Enyeart seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

## **G. Committee Reports**

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP)  
Liz Herrera Knapp

Next Meeting is CLASP Membership Meeting is on August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am via Teams:

Meeting ID: 265 280 332 802

Passcode: MdDJTk

Registration is Currently Open for our 2023 Provider Conference: "Moving Forward":

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 8:00am – 4:30pm**

**Robert Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E Earhart Ave., Stockton, CA 95206**

**Providers receive 6 hours of Continuing Education Units.**

## **Conference Information**

**Page:** <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pnnut8zab&oeidk=a07ejv3sehp4db55c5f&oseq=>

**Conference Registration Page:**

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejv3sehp4db55c5f&oseq=&c=&ch=>

**Information for Sponsorship:**

<https://www.vmmc.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Sponsorship-Letter-2023.pdf>

Spaces are limited! There will be no ONSITE Reservation.

2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)  
Vivian Nicolas, no report

3. Consumer Advisory Council, Self-Advocacy Council Area 6  
(SAC6)  
Crystal Enyeart

SAC6 report to VMRC Board, July 2023

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sac6 member Robert worked the SAC6 office hours in the Stockton VMRC office.

July 5, 2023 - Sac6 had their weekly practice Zoom Chat to prepare our script.

July 7, 2023 – Sac6 member Lisa U. presented on the Friday Zoom Chat about the “Planning for End of Life Care” This is such an important but hard topic to talk about. Also, Sac6 Chairperson Dena attended the VMRC Senior grandparent talent Show at VMRC in Stockton.

July 12, 2023 - Sac6 consultant Lisa attended the VMRC Finance meeting followed by the VMRC Executive committee meeting in person.

July 17, 2023 - Lisa U attended the DEBI Committee meeting. This was Lisa first meeting.

July 21, 2023, Lisa, and I had the honor of attending the annual VMRC Board member dinner. I presented on “Getting involved with your Reginal Center.”

July 26, 2023, Lisa U attended the family wellness meeting via zoom and Popplewell committee meeting via zoom.

Upcoming events:

July 27, 2023 – We will be having our monthly leadership meeting.

August 18, 2023, we will be hosting an Area Meeting at Turner Park in San Andreas from 10am to 2pm, where we will have guest speakers and a lunch.

October 7, 2023- VMRC Disability Awareness Fair at the Modesto VMRC parking lot from 11am to 3pm.

Sincerely,

Crystal Enyeart

SAC6 representative to the VMRC Board and Consumer Services.

4. Finance Committee

Alicia Schott and Melissa Stiles

a. Approval of Contract Status Report (CSR) for August 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee.

**Action**

Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Approval of Contracts over \$250,000 for August 2023 brought forth as a motion from the Finance Committee.

**Action**

Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. Liz Herrera Knapp abstained. The motion was approved.

5. Consumer Services Committee

Jose Lara, no report. The Committee has not met. The next meeting is September 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

6. Legislative Committee

Lynda Mendoza, no report.

7. Bylaws Committee

Linda Collins, no report. They will meet in the Spring.

8. Nominating Committee

Linda Collins reported that we have a full board. Nothing new to report at this time. Doug added that we have 5 board members terming out this year. The committee will be busy this spring.

9. Popplewell Review Team

Erria Kaalund reported the committee will meet in October.

10. Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee

Liz Herrera Knapp

-Last Meeting was 8/21/23 hybrid 6:30pm

-the DEBI Committee Hosted a Potluck for those that were present.

-Mark Crear, DEI Manager, did a training for the committee.

-The committee is discussing a new meeting schedule and will likely have meetings every other month.

-Stay tuned!

## **H. Executive Director's Report**

Tony Anderson reported that regional centers and DDS are working on standardized forms. One of the highlights is a standard packet on Early Start that everyone will receive in the Early Start program.

Our website is icon driven and has been released!

Trailer Bill Language is coming out very soon. This is from DDS and they explain all of the trailer bills. The Legislative Committee will present this.

Managers' training is tomorrow, August 24. Chris Littlefield is presenting.

Friday, August 25 is the all staff conference, held annually. There will be breakout sessions.

**I. Other Matters - none**

**J. Board Member Activities and Reports - none**

**K. President's Report**

Suzanne shared that she did an onboarding with ARCA. It was interesting to learn more about the organization. She attended the ARCA meetings virtually last week. She learned a lot about their role and the bigger picture. Her next meeting is in October.

**L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 6:00 PM, Hybrid (In-person and via Zoom)**

**M. Adjournment at 7:11pm.**