



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

3.12.25 | 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Dr. Steve Russel, Alicia Schott, Erria Kaalund, Lisa Utsey, Jeff Turner, Jody Buriss, Jose Lara

Committee Members Not Present: Gabriela Castillo

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Aaron McDonald, Donna Saison, Lizzie Valerio, Midori Perez, Mayra Ochoa, Aiko Blancaflor, Brian Bennett, Tara Sisemore-Hester

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz, Irene Hernandez (Interpreter), Isela Bingham (Interpreter), Xavier Chin, ASL Interpreter - K. Grace (Kiara Grace), Gloria Sanchez

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda

Alicia Schott called the meeting to order at 6:06pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed, Alicia reported she would make a change to the agenda due to a closed session that was held prior.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 01/08/25

Alicia Schott asked for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting of 01/08/25. Alicia asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jody made a motion, Lisa seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. Closed Session

Alicia reported there was a closed session to discuss the Executive Director, she is bringing it as a motion to approve the satisfactory performance review. Dr. Steve made a motion to approve, Jody seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

E. Items for Discussion Menu

1. **Executive Director's Report –**

- Leinani shared she is grateful to the board and her executive team. There have been a number of positive agency-wide changes in the last year. Her goal in the next year is to focus on what's important to the board and community with the input and support of the executive team and leadership at Valley Mountain. She is looking forward to upcoming board retreat, thankful to Jeff, Jody, Erria and Alicia for being willing to participate in pre conversations which will be on April 26
 - She shared the POS meeting is in a few weeks – Equity team is helping to build new partnerships and rekindling old relationships. It's important to have relationships with the community to be able to do the work and share information to families.
 - Structurally – she is thankful for Lizzie's leadership and support for the board, looking forward to Amanda's continued leadership in human resources – ongoing training for staff
 - VMRC Board Retreat – looking forward to finding strategic goals to improve our agency
 - ARCA meeting is coming up, most likely will hear about the budget
 - Save the Date for Cultural & Disability Fair flyer was handed out, it will be on Friday, October 10.

2. **Consumer Updates:**

- Tara reported on children's services and intake services have been out in the community. Children's managers have provided training to Stockton Police Department and county behavioral services, and interagency a leadership team presentation. Working to increase early start services, especially San Joaquin County. She shared events that will be taking place – Autism Forum, April 3, CAPTAIN is working on Fall Summit.
- Christine shared VMRC traveled to ARCA Grassroots on March 3 – 4. The team consisted of Self-Advocates, Staff and Legislative members who met with 7 legislators. Christine shared events that will be taking place for Adults and Transition age – Microbusiness (start & sell more 3/27), Choices Conference (4/11), Transition Fairs in Stockton (4/27), Modesto (5/2), San Andreas (5/8).

3. **Consumer Services:**

- Brian reported on the Community Services team, members did a presentation at Lodi Police Departments – how to better community partners, supporting in an emergency response and shared the Blue Envelope program (also presented at Grassroots), the team is also busy with trainings – hosted a training for residential services in February, Office of Clients rights training for service providers, and a supported living orientation was hosted today. On March 27-28, Aaron McDonald and himself will be attending Emergency Coordinators meeting with North

Bay RC, they will have tabletop exercises with the department and interact with other emergency response coordinators. Brian shared he attends this training as he is a co-chair with Vince Toms from Inland Regional Center on emergency coordinator group.

- Awarded another CPP project to an independent living service provider – Hanif Khan, will be awarded independent living services in three foothill counties. One remaining CPP award left to give, hopefully by the end of the week.
- There is one project that has had no applicants, it is on the VMRC website, it is for a behavior management day program to serve Tuolumne County – Deadline to apply is March 24.

4. **Self Determination:**

- Mayra shared they are going to host three Purchase of Service (POS) meetings, Department of Developmental Services gives regional centers data on spending for the previous fiscal year, these are require meetings per DDS contract. Great opportunity to gather input from the community.
 1. Saturday, March 15 with SAC6 10:30 – 11:30 AM
 2. Tuesday, March 18 – English 4:00- 5:00 PM
 3. Tuesday, March 18 – Spanish 5:30 – 6:30 PM
- She reported on self-determination:
 - 118 participants (77 male, 41 female)
 - 40 participants between ages of 6 – 15
 - 40 individuals are 24 and up
 - Ethnicity: Hispanics continue to make up the biggest number of participants, followed by White
 - 63% reside in San Joaquin County, followed by Stanislaus County, 7 in the mountain counties
- Mayra also wanted to address public comments from last board of directors meeting; parents requesting support with the FMS. She reported they connected with the parents and held a meeting for them to listen to their concerns. They also met with FMS and are addressing those concerns individually to help facilitate conversation between families and FMS
- Alicia and Jody thanked Mayra for the update and shared the same sentiment, providing the board with feedback when issues arise lets them know there is follow up taking place.

5. **Personnel Update:** Amanda officially introduced herself. Currently in the assessment phase, understanding current practices and procedures at VMRC. Initial priorities include revamp of staff training, updating HR practices to be in line with HR best practices. Union updates, the Labor Management Committee meetings have been resumed, moving forward they will meet monthly. Gives Management and union to come together and talk and be able to connect. We gave an update to the

union, we are required to give 6 months update – 1 day return to work to office minimum of one day a week which was negotiated with the union.

F. President's Report Alicia Schott

- Alicia would like to remind the board that the board retreat is April 26. Thanked the board members for making it to the meeting, shared her appreciation to the Executive staff for showing up and presenting their reports, and supporting staff seamless meetings.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)
Alicia Schott

H. Adjournment at 6:51pm