



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting September 10, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Erria Kaalund, Jody Burriss, Lisa Utsey Steve Russell, Alicia Schott, Crystal Enyeart, Kenneth Huntley

Committee Members Not Present: Crystal Enyeart

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Mayra Ochoa, Athena Jurado, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Nathan Sioson, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Emelia Vigil, Lizzie Valerio

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

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:07pm. Lizzie did a roll call, a quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 7/27/25

Kenneth made a motion to approve, Dr. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

- Leinani thanked the board for being so patient for listening to the public comment at the board meeting. It's an important time and we are in the middle of Union negotiations and it's important to hear the challenges. We are thinking about how to address budget challenges, not only for our staff but for our families as well. As a team we want to prepare for 2026 as well as the Public Records Act which will begin January 1, 2026. ARCA has been helping all 21 regional centers with the budgets and PRA.

2. **Consumer Updates:**
 - Christine thanked Community Services and Aaron McDonald for all of their work these last few weeks, there have been many fires in our catchment area and they have been providing support to our families.
3. **Consumer Services:**
 - No report
4. **Self Determination:**
 - 131 SDP Participants as of August 11, 2025
 - 51 Females & 80 Males
 - 3 Participants are under 5 years old
 - 42 people between the ages of 6 to 15
 - 44 between 16 to 23
 - 42 between 24 and up
 - Latinos make up 41% of all program participants at 54, followed by Caucasians at 30% (39), Other at 15% (20), African American at 7% with 9 participants, and multi-cultural at 5% with 7 participants
 - 78 of program participants live in San Joaquin County, 43 in Stanislaus and 9 in the mountain counties.
5. **Personnel Update:**
 - Amanda reported there are 587 total employees, year to date turnover is 4.32%, actively recruiting for 12 open positions-four (4) are internal, eight (8) are external. From hire in progress, we have 9 external hires in progress, with an average of 4 weeks from time of offer, to background to then two weeks' notice. She shared internal promotions, active recruitment in San Andreas – looking of where to promote.
 - We are in current union negotiations; economic proposals were received and working collaboratively as we move in negotiations and will have a closed session when the time comes.
 - Training update: DDS released new Service Coordinators training 20 sessions withing their first year. DDS has given the topics but not the content.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she has been meeting with Amanda regarding Leinani's review, reaching out to other regional centers. The outside process is not working, processes seem to work internally. Proposal to create something similar and will use survey monkey. Erria asked Amanda for additional input. Amanda reported Erria has met with regional center board colleagues as well as her own, there

were no recommendations for external agencies and range is \$5,000 - \$15,000, other regional centers reported they did not like it. Regional Centers were happy to share their templates. They both spent time together to review and evaluate performance overall. The timeline is to have everything ready and be brought to the board on January 14th Executive Committee meeting and be brought to February Board of Directors meeting for a vote. She reminded everyone they are taking board photos for the new website at the next Board Meeting 10/22. She shared in addition Dominique Mellion was able to get Stockton Port tickets and Erria took it to day programs where consumers were able to go. She reminded everyone about the PRA session one more session being held on 9/18.

Alicia shared feedback on the PRA that some of the topics were beyond what the board needed to know. Leinani will share with ARCA. Kenneth also informed everyone that as someone with a disability, it needed to be simplify for everyone to understand.

Erria shared she attended 175th Anniversary for the Board of Supervisors in Stockton and was happy to have VMRC represented there. She encouraged board members to get out in the community.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)
Erria Kaalund

H. Adjournment at 5:47 p.m.