



## **Minutes for VMRC Legislative Committee Meeting July 22, 2025**

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Video Conference Room 124 and via Zoom Video Conference

**Committee Members:** Kenneth Huntley, Lynda Mendoza, Dena Hernandez, Catrina Castro, Dennis Sanson, Erria Kaalund

**Committee Members Not Present: Mohammed Rashid, Candice Bright**

**VMRC Staff:** Lizzie Valerio

**Public Present:** Rachelle Munoz

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

Kenneth called the meeting to order at 3:08pm

### **B. Welcome New Members**

Members introduced themselves

### **C. Developmental Services Trailer Bill Language AB143**

The bill was shared with the committee to review on their own time.

### **D. State Budget**

Lizzie read a draft update prepared by Aiko Blancaflor, VMRC CFO.

### **VMRC Legislative Committee 7/22/25 Meeting Budget Update**

- The approved budget for fiscal year 2025-26 does not include any cuts to our operations. However, things could still change in the October budget revision, so we're keeping a close eye on updates.
  
- California's budget situation is challenging:
  - There was a new federal budget approved, and the state is figuring out how it affects VMRC programs.
  - Spending on program costs are going up, Medi-Cal as an example.

- The state has increased funding for emergencies such as wildfire response and recovery.
- Key budget changes:
  - Implicit bias training, there is no specific funding for this training. Regional centers can provide the training if they have the resources, but it's not required right now.
  - Service provider rates: The "hold harmless" period—which lets providers keep rates above the new rate model—will now end on February 28, 2026, four months earlier than previously scheduled. Starting March 1, 2026, all rates will align fully with the rate reform model.
  - Self-Determination Program: Funding is reduced by \$22.5 million for FY 2025-26 due to new safeguards being put in place to keep the program sustainable.
- Given these uncertainties, we're managing our operations budget carefully — looking for ways to be more efficient and save costs so we're prepared if changes come later in the year.
- Dena reported that SCDD met this morning, they are Federally funded and State funded because they are a part of the Lanterman Act. The Big Beautiful Bill will not go into effect yet, we will share how it's impacting people with disabilities who we serve. If you have any questions after looking at the PPT, please feel free to contact Dena Hernandez.

## **E. Grassroots Day**

Lynda shared this year was successful, Valley Mountain RC has been blessed to be welcomed when we are with our consumers. Lynda asked Catrina if she wanted to share any information about what she experienced. Catrina was having connection issues and was unable to respond.

Rachelle attended with her day program and supported Lisa on the importance of her services and how the cuts would affect her service. Lynda asked Erria if there is any expectation of this year. Erria mentioned she will be attending an ARCA orientation, will share information she receives.

Dena gave a brief overview to new members what Grassroots is. ARCA hosts Grassroots, which works with 21 regional center Executive Directors and Legislative Committee.

There was a discussion of hosting, "Breakfast with Legislators" an idea to have at VMRC, which would need to be scheduled a year in advance. Erria added she is new to the committee and likes the idea and is looking forward to engaging.

Questions were asked by committee members:

- Dennis asked how budget cuts would impact his day program. Dena

reported we have to wait and see what happens in 2026. If the finding is impacted to regional center, then VMRC will have to look at what will be cut. Dennis also asked how it will impact residential homes, Dena reported similarly, there will be a conversation as of right now, everything is a wait and see, there will be cuts but we don't know where.

- Kenneth asked if the website will be updated, last report was from 2023, Lynda reported that Lizzie will be updating the agenda and meetings moving forward. This is to support families and consumers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lizzie.

**F. Next Meeting – TBD**

**G. Adjournment at 2:33pm**