VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

HYBRID

Valley Mountain Regional Center
702 N. Aurora Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Zoom:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85248535826?pwd=tUPtGkYjmbUIB5EcoHnji04VrhtXWF.1

Webinar ID
852 4853 5826

Passcode: 783174

VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

February 25, 2026

A. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Reading Mission Statement –** Erria Kaalund

- *Empowering people with developmental disabilities and their families with access to services, support, and advocacy.*

B. **Review of Meeting Agenda** – Erria Kaalund

C. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes - 12/17/25** – Erria Kaalund **Action**

D. **Public Comment** - Erria Kaalund

- *Each member of the public may have 2 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 4 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 cannot be responded to or discussed in the public board meeting because they are not properly noticed items (7 days advance notice).*

E. **Consent Calendar Items** – Erria Kaalund **Action**

1. Finance Committee Minutes of January 14, 2026
2. Executive Committee Minutes of January 14, 2026
3. Consumer Services Minutes of January 28, 2026

F. **Independent Audit Presentation by WINDES** – Jessica Kober **Action**

G. **Community Services** – vendor approval for residential home over 6 beds due to change of ownership – Brian Bennett **Action**

H. Human Resources – Approval of two job descriptions:

1. Forensic Specialist Position – Amanda Verstl
2. Outreach and Language Access Coordinator **Action**

I. Committee Reports *(3-5 minutes maximum to report)*

1. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (C.L.A.S.P.) – Candice Bright
2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee – Gricel
3. Consumer Advisory Council, SAC6 – Crystal Enyeart
4. Finance Committee – Dr. Steven Russell
    A. VMRC Financial Reports – Aiko Blancaflor **Action**
5. Consumer Services Committee – Crystal Enyeart
6. Legislative Committee – Kenneth Huntley
7. Governance Committee – Jody Burriss
    A. Bylaws Signature – Erria Kaalund & Dominique Mellion **Action**
8. Popplewell Review Team – Erria Kaalund

J. Executive Director's Report - Leinani Walter

K. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

L. Next Meeting – **Wednesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** In-Person and Zoom

M. Adjournment – Erria Kaalund

VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER

Minutes for VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

December 17, 2025 | 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

Board Members Present: Erria Kaalund, Jody Burriss, Dr. Steve, Jessica Quesada, Jeff Turner, Kenneth Huntley, Alicia Schott, Jose Lara, Gabriella Castillo, Candice Bright, Dominique Mellion, Kyle Cox

Board Members Not Present: Crystal Enyeart (excused absence), Marisela Cruz (unexcused)

VMRC Staff Present: Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Claire Lazaro, Donna Sioson, Emelia Vigil, Mayra Ochoa, Midori Perez, Leinani Walter, Sean Keyes, Lizzie Valerio, Cindy Jimenez, Jason Toepel, Michelle Poaster, Tara Sisemore-Hester

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz, Geri Witt, Dena Hernandez, Tumboura Hill, Marilyn Patacsil, Irene Hernandez, Catherine Blakemore, Kiara Grace, Xavier Chin, Jamie Van Dusen, Ahmad Mahid, Frank (Interpreter), Leticia Reyna, Chelsea – Burgos Behavioral, Erick Thurmond,

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Erria Kaalund. Lizzie took roll call, a quorum was established. The board read the new mission statement.

B. Honoring Lisa Utsey

Leinani acknowledged the loss is Lisa Utsey, one of our amazing long time board members and advocates at Valley Mountain. Her celebration of life was held in November hosted by Modesto Valley CAPs, which was beautiful. She shared her appreciation of others who helped make it a beautiful and memorable celebration.

C. Review of the Meeting Agenda

Erria asked if there were any questions or comments on the agenda. Erria moved on to board minutes for approval.

D. Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 10/22/25

Erria asked for a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 10/22/25. Kenneth motioned to approve the minutes, Dr. Steve seconded the motion. The board of directors meeting minutes of 10/22/25 were approved unanimously.

E. Public Comment

1. Marilyn Patascil – Former board and care provider, she operated 7 homes for approximately 30 years. She came to voice her concerns around the world. She expressed gratitude to board members and urged them to not just listen but to actively engage in understanding of underlying issues. She has heard many troubling stories from current and past staff and vendors, she shared a letter that was emailed in October 2025 proposing development of a confidential community survey to encourage communication, so all are heard.

2. Dena Hernandez – California State Council on Developmental Disabilities of North Valley Hills. She thanked Valley Mountain and Popplewell Committee for putting Thanksgiving meals together and delivered them in all 5 counties. She reminded everyone about the Choices Conference which will be on Friday, March 27th at SCOE. Information for art contest for t-shirts/videos are out - Lizzie will add to the newsletter. She echoed Leinani's comments about Lisa Utsey and what a beautiful celebration of life it was.

3. Mary Duncan – VMRC Employee, she thanked the board for quickly ratifying the contract, but the work is not done, we still face challenges. In leading work for the 2026 budget of Local 1021, our mission is empowering individuals and their families with developmental disabilities. The amount of work grows, service coordination, resources development, office assistance, fiscal support – we need to value them all.

4. Tumboura Hill – He reported to be disappointed and frustrated. He has attempted to collaborate with the regional center. He shared different Executive Directors, Leinani being the most recent. He sees the same thing, different group. He reported himself to be retaliated on and feeling discriminated against, especially towards him for doing his job. He reported there are no Black/African American individuals on the Self Determination Program. He read a letter dated January 2023 to the board. Time ran out and he continued to speak

F. Consent Calendar Items

1. Finance Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025.
2. Executive Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025.
3. Consumer Services Minutes of November 19, 2025.

Erria brought as an action item and asked for a motion to approve. Kenneth Huntley motioned to approve committee minutes, Jose Lara seconded the motion. The consent calendar items were approved unanimously.

G. California Public Records Act (CPRA)

Jason Toepel presented policies requiring board approval, prior to January 1, 2025. He reported Regional Centers will be subject to PRA as of January 1, 2025. ARCA has partnered with law firm, BBK to provide trainings to regional centers staff and Board of Directors. The policies were provided in advance to the Board for review prior to the meeting.

- Public Records Act Policy - What is required of regional centers
- Electronic Communication Policy – Guidelines and procedures use of electronic communication (VMRC devices or controlled accounts)
- Record Retention Policy – This was a policy updated relating to retention of records updated by VMRC HR Director, Amanda Verstl.

Erria asked for if there were questions or comments, she asked for a motion to approve the policies. Dr. Jody Burriss made a motion, Kenneth Huntley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Committee Reports

1. **VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Provider (C.L.A.S.P.)**
   Candice Bright reported CLASP made a couple of expenditures: $2,500 was donated to the Choices Conference and $1,000 to Lisa Utsey's Celebration of Life.

   There were a variety of VMRC reports updated, DDS standard, vendorization portal and discussion of level 7 survey. Day programs had their work group meeting on December 10. There is a lot of discussion BCBA requirements, Brian supported telling them about regulations. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26 at 10:00am.

2. **Self-Determination Advisory Committee**
   Kenneth reported that there was a meeting on November 20th via zoom and there was a vote to have retreat meeting at the end of January.

   At the State SDAC meeting on December 2nd, it was agreed to have the town hall scheduled for February 2026, normally held in December. New member orientation resources are being developed with plain language, co-chairs are working with DDS, bringing issues from LVAC and SDAC meetings.

   Aaron Caruthers gave an update from October 2024 to September 2025 over 12,000 training sessions for SDP program and 91,000 people reached. More people with IDD requested technical support, increased assistance at trainings and 23,347 people trained.

   SD ombudsperson was helpful for knowing individual rights in the SDP and helped in understanding directives from DDS, how rc's interpret them as well. In February 2026 SSDAC members will host a town hall to gather input for renewal of the SDP waiver, the department seeks feedback from the community prior to renewal.

3. **Consumer Advisory Committee**
   Kenneth read Crystal's report.
   - November 4th Sac6 Leadership meet with VMRC Liaison for Sac6 for our quarterly Leadership meeting.
   - November 7th Sac6 had their quarterly Area meeting in Stanislaus County. We had VMRC guest speckers Robert, who's presentation was on Employment and Jennifer S. who presented on Affordable Housing.
   - On November 12th Crystal attended the VMRC Executive meeting.
   - On November 13th Jessica Q. attended the OAHA committee meeting on zoon from 1 pm to 4 pm.
   - November 19th Crystal attended the VMRC Legislative meeting and the VMRC Consumer Services meeting.
   - November 20th Kenneth H. attended the Self Determination Advisory Committee.
   - November 26th Sac6 member Angelina S. attended the Statewide Self Advocacy Chat on zoom.

- On December 13th Sac6 had their quarterly business meeting. At this meeting we had Christine Couch from VMRC give us an update on the VMRC contract performance review, people gave feedback to Christine. We also held our elections for new office positions.

4. Finance Committee

a. VMRC Financial Report

Aiko Blancaflor, CFO read the financial report as of October 31, VMRC has used 34% of purchase of service (POS allocation) and 28.4% of operations funding. The fiscal team is working on implementing rate reform changes, processing retro payments, and completing fiscal year 24/25 CPA audit, which is on track. They are currently monitoring the cash flow and won't be concerned until the towards the end of our fiscal year. Given the retro payments that are a result of rate reform changes, we need to pay close attention. $2.6 million in retro payments to personal assistants has been issued. $3.6 million to transportation broker services from April 2022 to September 2025. Based off current projections, we have enough cash flow through February 2026, when we expect to receive additional payments from DDS.

Dr. Steve reported that this comes as a motion, Erria made a motion, Dr. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consumer Services Committee

No Report

6. Legislative Committee

Kenneth reported that originally, he shared information about IHSS that is no longer on the website. He is working on creating a schedule with Lizzie for future committee meetings.

7. Bylaws Committee Governance Committee

Erria reported that the Bylaws and Nominating Committee will be combining as the Governance Committee

8. Nominating Committee Governance Committee

Erria reported that at the last ARCA meeting, it was reported that the need for professionals do not need to have developmental disability background. The committee will be holding interviews in January, nominations done in February. The recommendation is to recruit continuously.

a. Nomination to fill a vacancy
Erria reported with the loss of Lisa Utsey, the board secretary she asked for nominations to fill the vacancy, Kyle Cox nominated Dominque Mellion. If there is no objection, she would like to bring to a vote. Erria asked if she accepts nomination of secretary. Dominique accepted the nomination. Erria asked if there was additional discussion, there was none.

b. Election of Board Secretary
Kenneth made a motion to approve, Jose Lara seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Leinani added there are two areas, Valley Mountain is required, per DDS. We need representatives from Calaveras County and secondly, representation from the Asian community. The diverse makeup of our board based off percentage of our community served. We are working to reach out to Asian community partners.

Dr. Jody shared a comment, that the Bylaws were changed to reflect a board member could represent the Mountain Counties, not needing one from each county. Leinani added this is an important change as they have had difficulty in recruiting people from specific mountain counties and is thankful for board members who do come from the mountain counties. Erria added Dr. Steve has been helpful in trying to recruit in the Mountain Counties.

9. **Popplewell Committee**
   Erria reported that for thanksgiving meals were delivered to families. We spent $5,150.26, there were a lot of donations designated to the Thanksgiving dinner. They received additional donations and total of $577.36 received afterwards will be designated to 2026 meals. In previous years for Christmas, gift cards were given but this year, departments are giving based of the needs of their consumer.

10. **Strategic Planning Committee**
    Catherine Blakemore thanked the board for all their thoughtful input and appreciated working with board members, community input and staff. She went over the slides in the presentation and reported they could ask questions and then vote to approve.

    Erria thanked everyone, especially Catherine Blakemore, for her leadership and everyone who supported as this was a long process. Leinani added she was thankful for our board members and Exec team staff who went out into the community to present and gather information.

    Erria asked for a motion to accept the strategic plan. Kenneth made a motion to approve the strategic plan, Dominque seconded the motion. The Strategic Plan passed unanimously.

H. Executive Director's Report

Leinani thanked everyone who helped develop the Strategic Plan. She hopes to come back to the board with objectives in the new year. January we will have all staff to share in which we will share the plan along with the budget. It’s been a complex, terrific, and incredible year. At the beginning of the year, we had to go back to past year’s audits and current in this year. She thanked Aiko for her leadership, changing how we think about audits, staying current and compliant and getting it all done in 10 months.

Secondly, she thanked the union and its leadership, Amanda, Bruce, and Tara to get the contract done. Recognition of staff longevity, health care contributions, coming to a place of agreement. Without the 600 staff, thousands of service providers and all this board, the families and communities we serve, we couldn’t get this work done.

She shared the importance of accessibility, including providing language access for families and developing a new, user-friendly website that is accessible to everyone. She highlighted outreach efforts across divisions, such as diaper drives, clothing drives for unhoused individuals, and turkey dinners, all carried out by staff volunteering their time throughout the year. She shared her appreciation for working with Valley Mountain staff to both improve services for clients and giving back to their own community.

She appreciated the Thanksgiving meal deliveries and the annual tree decorating at the Capital. Thankful to Valley CAPS program participants for contributing beautiful ornaments focused on what they would like their goals to be. The theme was “Reaching for the Stars”, ornaments reflecting their dreams of their career future. She thanked all those who contributed and participated Valley Mountain's tree. It's humbling to see so many regional centers staff and reflect on our statewide community.

She gave thanks to the board for their dedication and service. Whether it's traveling to an outreach event, delivering thanksgiving meals, attending the meetings in person or on zoom, or even travelling to Mountain County to listen in on a meeting with self-advocates. Their support in improving ongoing efforts to VMRC systems, programs and best practices. On behalf of our team and the entire staff at Valley Mountain, thank you for your service and commitment.

1. Presentation – FY 24-25 Performance Contract Year End Report

Leinani went over the year end report, it's a requirement every year that we share our performance with the community. DDS contracts with regional centers and they include performance objectives and every year at the end we share that data.

- Autism continues to be highest diagnosis served
- Ethnicity served: Other - 22% multicultural as we are seeing increase in clients being made eligible, largest continues to be Hispanic
- Ages served: 7% - 52 and older, we have more eligible for our services, still a young system, continue to support individuals living in family homes
- Where people live: 87% live in family home
- Slight dip than state average, 0.05% decrease of children living with family due to complex needs
- Independent audits were completed in October, data pulled over the summer (must report if complete)
- Efforts to get people working is 1. She reported that Valley Mountain received $50K CPP funding to support supported employment and/CIE projects. Hope to improve next year.
- Service access and equity: VMRC hired a director to prioritize service access and equity. Increased service access and eligibility for African Americas, Asian and Hispanic individuals 22 and older. ASL resources, making connections, hosting ASL classes
  - Ways to improve Service Access: prioritize language access, plain language, focus efforts in recruitment of diverse service providers speaking other languages.
- Steps to Improve VMRC performance
  - Timely Audit Compliance (Strengthen internal controls, training for staff), Service Access (fortify new partnerships and expand engagement), Employment Services (CPP Funding, link VMRC staff and community partnerships)
- Last slide is the Performance Report letter put out in the summer.

- Brian shared we were awarded 3 separate projects from the department for supported employment, $50K for each start up project. We have 8 applicants, will be deciding soon and hope others continue without the startup.
- Jose Lara shared he would like to add that we have all heard about Special Olympics. To see all the young adults we serve, having so much fun, it makes it worth being here for them. We are the voices for them. Watching them regardless of their capacity, they were all together and watching them dance was amazing. They are the young ones we are representing, trying to help.

A. Public Comment – Performance Report FY24-25

1. Tumboura Hill – Reported the plan looks like a good plan, hopes employment is reflective of what supported employment is. Will they have certifications, so it's not another component of just sitting inside of a day's program. Excited to hear about Special Olympics, he helped write a program designed for disabled individuals needing opportunities, they run a basketball program vendored through the regional center year-round.

2. Kenneth Huntley – Thanked VMRC for what they have been doing. He would like to see better help with Self-Determination, not just making sure budgets aren't turned in late, also needing a direction in the committee to make it more successful to better serve participants.

3. Dena Hernandez – She wanted to highlight the increase of supported living and independent living. Seeing the number of those living at home and working together to let folks know that it is a resource so if someone is living at home, they can live independently at the age of 18. We can support at home and with the individual we can grow and support families.

4. Brian added one of community resource development plans from last year 24-25, just completed vendorization requirements, within next 45 days they will be providing support for independent living in the Mountain Counites. They are Community Connection Support.

I. President's Report

Erria shared she attended the tree lighting and in the future if any board members can come, it is fun. You connect with other regional centers which is nice. She also shared attending the 1612 apartments which support independent living and thankful for all that has happened this year. She shared Leinani's review is going to start taking place, in early January the board will receive a survey, we hope to have it finalized for the February board meeting. She will be attending the ARCA meeting in January.

J. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 25, at 6:00pm Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)

K. Adjournment – 7:37pm

Minutes for VMRC Finance Committee Meeting
January 14, 2026 | 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Dr. Steve Russell, Dr. Jody Burriss, Erria Kaalund, Alicia Schott, Jeff Turner, Connie Uychutin

Committee Members not Present:

Board Members Present: Kenneth Huntley, Dominique Mellion

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Mayra Ochoa, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Leinani Walter, Lizzie Valerio

Public Present: Xavier Chin, Delia Sanders

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda
Dr. Steve called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m., Lizzie took roll call. The agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

B. Review and Approval of the Finance Committee Minutes of 11/12/2025
Dr. Steve made the motion to approve the Finance Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025. Erria motioned to approve the motion, Alicia seconded the motion. The Finance Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment
No public comment

D. Fiscal Department Update
Aiko shared that the Contract Status report for payments made through November 30, 2025, representing first five months of the fiscal year 2025-2026. She went over purchase of service expenditures and operational costs. There are no new allocations for any of the three open fiscal years.

She presented the Governors' January 2026-2027 budget proposal highlights and the DDS portion of the proposal. She shared for current fiscal year 25-26, there was no increase, but there was an increase in federal reimbursement. They are estimating that regional centers will serve 37,600 more clients than last projection. There is projected increase in caseload growth and use of services. There is allocation to the Life Outcomes

Improvement System (LOIS) which is replacing current system tracking services and implementation of HCBS.

She went over Regional Center budget comparisons. Another thing to keep in mind is the Federal Policy changes, proposal has an increase to Medi-Cal and CalFresh changes – does account for all costs state has to carry once changes are implemented. We continue to be conservative, streamline our processes, and efficiently use of resources.

Dr. Steve reported that this comes as a motion to the board for approval. Erria made a motion to approve, Alicia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Steve shared he wanted to talk about the audit. He reported WINDES auditors met with him and Erria. The auditor shared how impressed he was with the team, Aiko, Leinani, Erria and the board. Erria added that moving forward, the board President and Treasurer will meet with the auditors yearly. Aiko added we are on track to present the report to at the February Board Meeting.

E. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in-person and Zoom

F. **Adjournment at 4:46 p.m.**

Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting
January 14, 2026 | 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, Dr. Steve Russell, Dr. Jody Burriss, Dominique Mellion, Crystal Enyeart, Alicia Schott, Kenneth Huntley

Committee Members Not Present: N/A

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Leinani Walter, Athena Jurado, Nathan Sioson, Donna Sioson, Lizzie Valerio, Tara Sisemore-Hester

Public Present: Delia Evans, Xavier Chin

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. 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 11/12/25

Erria asked for a motion to approve the board minutes of November 12, 2025. Kenneth made a motion to approve, Dr. Steve seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment

There is no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. **Executive Director's Report**

Leinani thanked Erria for hosting the New Year dinner for the board. She shared the All-Staff meeting was held this morning, the focus was on the Governor's proposal budget, the strategic plan that was approved by the board and introduction of the PRA analyst and resources. The Fight for your Health rally was held today in Sacramento. An event where advocates, ARCA, labor unions rally together to make an impact. Grassroots is coming up, a day to talk to local legislators and advocate for services, programs, policies and initiatives.

2. **Consumer Updates**:
   Christine shared that person-centered training is going well for staff. She informed the board they are welcome to attend if they would like to join. Leinani reported on Brian's updates for CRDP awards. Multiple employment providers were awarded in all counties and there are pending interviews. Special projects team completed the Medicaid waiver audit and was thankful to everyone who supported.

3. **Self Determination:**
   Mayra reported on participant information
   - 136 SDP Participants as of January 14, 2025
     - 53 Females & 83 Males, 3 Participants are under 5 years old, 44 people between the ages of 6 to 15, 48 between 24 and up
   - Ethnic Breakdown of Participants
     - 55% - Latinos, 30% - Caucasians, 18% - Others, 6% - African American, 6% - Multi Cultural
   - County Breakdown of Participants
     - 80 - San Joaquin County, 46 - Stanislaus County, 10 - Mountain Counties

4. **Personnel Update:**

Amanda reported there are currently 597 employees, likely to reach over 600 after next executive meeting. There are 8 current openings: 4 internal, and 4 external. She shared there were 5 internal promotions, 7 hires in progress. She mentioned San Andreas office positions are now filled. Continue to promote positions that are available.

Amanda shared there is a position that requires board approval, a new job description has been developed for the HR Analyst role. It is not a new position, it is a new job description that captures all the work the person has been doing. It comes as an action item. Erria brought it forward for approval, Kenneth made a motion to approve, Alicia seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she met with Amanda regard the evaluation for the Executive Director. The evaluation will be sent out seven days before a closed session to the Executive Committee. A closed session was chosen for January 27, 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Amanda shared Leinani will present her self-evaluation and results from survey from the board and staff. A full board closed session will be scheduled afterwards. If anyone is interested in attending Grassroots, please reach out soon as the deadline is January 16th. They will be reaching out to nominees for the board and would like to ask members to help.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)

H. Adjournment at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting
January 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present: Crystal Enyeart, Gabriela Castillo, Dominique Mellion, Jessica Quesada, Kennth Hentley, Liz Herrera-Knapp, Megan Ybarra

Committee Members Not Present: Sarah Howard

Public Present: Delia Evans, Anel Renteria, Dena Hernandez

VMRC Staff Present: Gabriela Castillo, Midori Perez, Brian Bennett, Robert Fernandez, Katina Richison, Libby Contreras, Jason Toepel, Aaron McDonald, Christine Couch, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Leinani Walter, Claire Lazaro, Lizzie Valerio, Sean Keyes, Mayra Ochoa

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

Crystall Enyeart called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Lizzie took roll call, quorum was established. Crystal asked for approval of the agenda. Kenneth Huntley made a motion to approve, Megan Ybarra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 11/19/25

Crystal asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 11/19/25. Kenneth Huntley made a motion to approve, Megan Ybarra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

1. Dena Hernadez, SCDD Northern Hills shared they are working on themes months for statewide events. She shared SCDD has signed up for Disability Pride Month and Emergency Preparedness Month and would like SAC6 and VMRC to support in collaboration.

D. Intake & Early Start

Tara reported Early Start intakes have slowed down a bit. Early Start audit meeting will be help with Leinani Walter and DDS. In addition, they are working closely with Libby Contreras for early start center-based programs in the mountain counties.

E. Case Management

Christine shared National Core Indicators (NCI) surveys are getting ready to be mailed. Postcards were created to share with folks and will be distributed to case management and SCDD and will share with CLASP. She shared Minette Oliver and herself will be presenting at the next SAC6 meeting about person centered IPP.

F. Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Update

- January 6th, Jessica and Crystal attended the VMRC annual Board Dinner.
- On January 7th, Sac6 Leadership meet to review the website.
- January 8th Sac6 members meet with the Supported Life Conference Planning team committee on zoom.
- January 10th, Sac6 goals committee met to review Sac6 goals.
- On January 14th, Sac6 members attended the VMRC Finance Committee meeting and also the VMRC Executive committee meeting.
- January 15th, Sac6 Chair Kenneth attended the SDAC meeting.
- On January 20th Sac6 members attended the RAC (Reginal Advisory Committee meeting.
- January 21st, Sac6 Leadership meet with VMRC Liaison to share the homework/feedback sac6 had on the webpage design.
- January 22nd, Crystal attended the CVTC open house in Jackson.
- January 23rd, Sac6 consultant Dena and Sac6 Secretary Steven H. attended the ARCA CAC meeting on zoom.

F. Community Services

1. Resource Development

Robert shared updates on CRDP grants that were awarded. They have interviewed and assigned grants to providers in employment support and adult level 7 homes. Children's residential homes are in the interview process for potential recipients.

Libby shared updates on CRDP on infant toddler early start ABA based programs starting in the Mountain Counties. She shared the grant awards were based on unmet needs per reporting from service coordinators. She referenced the low numbers Tara mentioned, it is because the programs are meeting the needs of the every infant and toddler who is referred in San Joaquin and Stanislaus County.

2. Quality Assurance

Brian reported that the team alongside Human Resources are working on back fills of open positions.

G. Transportation Update

Anel shared transportation stats for the current month of January 2026. She shared if you have questions or concerns, please contact the office.

H. Fair Hearing Update

Jason reported there have been 14 new fair hearing requests in the last two months.

I. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Update

Liz reported CLASP have met twice on upcoming DSP training opportunities and current employment laws they should be aware of, currently there is $24,198.15 in the account and 94 paid members. She shared information on their social media and next meeting details.

J. Clinical Update

Lizzie shared updates on behalf of Claire, who was unable to attend. The coalition advised the community to ensure that Medi-Cal has the correct mailing address, as redetermination notices are mailed out, and individuals may lose benefits if not completed on time. Additionally, St. Luke's Family Practice in Modesto accepts patients without insurance, and undocumented individuals.

K. Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 4:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

L. Adjournment at 4:31pm

Forensic Specialist Job Description

Title:	Forensic Specialist	Confidential:	No
Department:	Deflection	FLSA Classification:	Non-Exempt
Created:	February 2026	Revised:	

Introduction

All positions, in some capacity, exist in support of VMRC's mission to support people with developmental disabilities as they enrich their lives through choices and inclusion.

VMRC is serving a growing number of individuals who are involved in the criminal justice system. As more individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD), including those with co-occurring psychiatric conditions, enter the system, it is essential that VMRC strengthen its specialized services to effectively meet the needs of this population.

Position Overview

The Forensic Specialist provides consultation, coordination, and advocacy for judicially involved consumers. This role supports VMRC Service Coordinators across all five counties served by VMRC who have clients involved in the criminal justice system as an alleged offender. The Forensic Specialist will assist in attempts to maintain these clients in the community and reduce unnecessary admissions to State Developmental Centers (SDC) and Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD). If admission is necessary, the Specialist will ensure clients receive legally mandated due process through the courts. The Forensic Specialist will serve as the primary liaison to all criminal justice agencies and plays a key role in building collaborative partnerships to improve services to VMRC clients involved with the criminal justice system.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Depending on area of assignment, duties may include but are not limited to the following:

- Attend court hearings for judicially involved consumers
- Provide ongoing consultation to Service Coordinators regarding proper case documentation, assessment, problem-solving, and assistance in the coordination of services through criminal justice agencies
- Complete and review court reports
- Review consumer files to assess history, current status and service needs
- Chair LSRT meetings, providing technical assistance for interventions that will support the consumer in the development of diversion and competency plans and recommendations in response to court orders
- Maintain a database of clients involved with the criminal justice system and a tracking system for progress reports to the court
- Obtain legal documents such as police reports, minute orders, etc.
- Interface with judges, attorneys, probation and parole officers, and other stakeholders to improve cross system coordination

- Conduct trainings and participate in committees to strengthen partnerships with outside agencies and development of a network of contacts to improve services to clients involved with the criminal justice system
- Attend all unit and division staff in-service training meetings, as required
- Handle confidential information in compliance with Welfare and Institution (W&I) code, including ensuring proper completion of required legal notifications (e.g. OCRA's Notification Rights for comprehensive assessments, community placement in danger, LPS conservatorships, 5150 and Psych Hospital admissions, etc.)
- Assess referrals to Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff for placement in institutionalized settings; assist with SDC referrals and admissions pursuant to PC 1370.1 and WIC 6500
- Maintain effective working relationships with VMRC leadership, staff, community partners, consumers and their families
- Participate in CDCR Mental Health Re-entry Collaborative and facilitate VMRC's process for re-entry.
- Serve as case management liaison for CPP and high-level residential programs serving forensically involved consumers
- Maintain a small caseload of high-level felony offenders
- Consult with VMRC Community Services Department in the creation and ongoing quality assurance of forensically related services and supports
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements

Education/Experience

- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- (2) years experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities
- Strong communication skills
- Strong report writing and case documentation skills
- Knowledge of court processes and legal documentation
- Experience navigating criminal justice or forensic systems preferred

****Education may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis.** (if applicable)**

Licenses & Certifications

- CA Driver License Required
- Evidence of current auto liability insurance Required

Physical Demands & Requirements

	Regularly	Frequently	Occasionally
Sitting	X		
Standing		X	
Walking		X	
Climbing/Balancing			X
Reaching (with arms and hands)	X		
Stooping/Kneeling/Crouching/Crawling			X
Talking	X		

Hearing	X
Feeling/Touching	X
Vision (close, peripheral, depth, ability to adjust focus)	X

Outreach and Language Access Coordinator
Job Description

Title:	Outreach and Language Access Coordinator	Confidential:	No
Department:	Equity and Engagement	FLSA Classification:	Non-exempt
Created:	1/30/2026	Revised:	

Introduction

All positions, in some capacity, exist in support of VMRC's mission to support people with developmental disabilities as they enrich their lives through choices and inclusion.

Position Overview

The **Outreach and Language Access Coordinator** will lead strategic outreach and engagement efforts across VMRC's catchment area, supporting consistent access to information for multilingual, monolingual, and diverse cultural groups. This role will also manage translation and interpretation requests to ensure individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) can access information in a language they understand.

The ideal candidate will have strong written and verbal communication skills, experience in community engagement, and the ability to foster meaningful partnerships that build trust and deliver positive outcomes.

This position is funded through the Department of Developmental Services' Language Access and Cultural Competency (LACC) program and is contingent upon the continued availability of LACC funding. The Outreach and Language Access Coordinator will work under the direction of the Cultural and Language Division Manager.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop, plan, coordinate and participate in community engagement and outreach activities designed to inform, educate, support, and collaborate with individuals served, individuals not served, families, and community partners.
- Maintain documentation and report data for language and engagement activities in the GrantVantage for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
- Arrange for accurate and confidential translation and interpretation needs as requested.
- Support the planning, organization, and implementation of special events such as the Cultural Fair.
- Maintain VMRC's social media presence (Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, ScreenFluence, and future platforms) in partnership with the agency's social media team.
- Contribute content for VMRC's website VMRC's website, www.vmrc.net, as well as the VMRC Newsletter.
- May perform additional assigned duties to maintain operations and services.

Requirements

Education/Experience

- Must be bilingual.
- Experience working with community members from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Ability to interact sensitively and positively with people with disabilities, their families, and other VMRC professional staff and community professionals.
- Ability to communicate effectively verbally, in writing, and via electronic networks, including excellent creative writing skills, with individuals and groups from a variety of educational and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Working knowledge of developmental disabilities, family support systems, and community-based resources to address special needs of consumers.
- Ability to manage multiple projects, work independently, and complete projects and reports in a timely manner.
- Must be able to maintain confidentiality.
- Must be able to travel between sites and catchment areas.
- Must have a minimum of a High School diploma or equivalent (Associate degree preferred, Bachelor's degree desirable).

****Education may be substituted for experience on a year for year basis.** (if applicable)**

Licenses & Certifications

- CA Driver License Required
- Evidence of current auto liability insurance Required

Physical Demands & Requirements

	Regularly	Frequently	Occasionally
Sitting	X		
Standing		X	
Walking		X	
Climbing/Balancing			X
Reaching (with arms and hands)	X		
Stooping/Kneeling/Crouching/Crawling			X
Talking	X		
Hearing	X		
Feeling/Touching	X		
Vision (close, peripheral, depth, ability to adjust focus)	X		

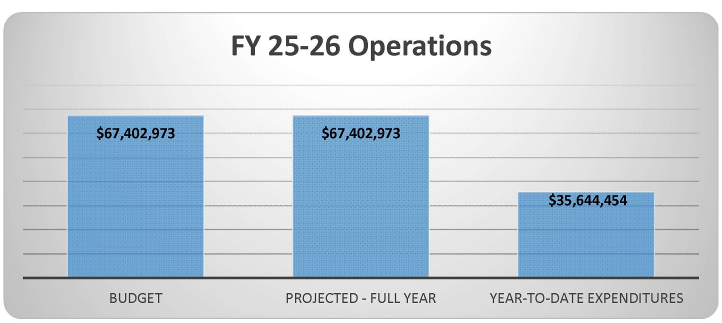
Valley Mountain Regional Center
Contract Status Report
January 31, 2026

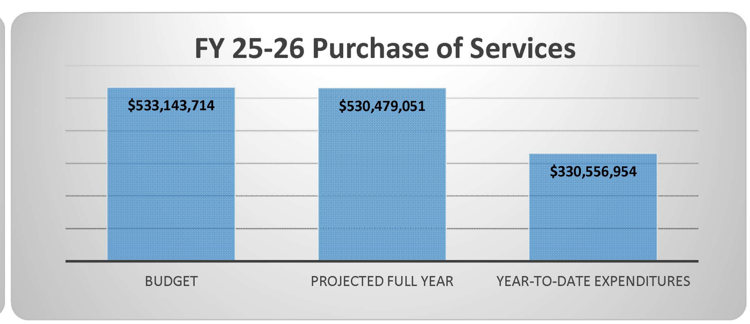
FY	Amount Description	Operation	Purchase of Services (POS)	CPP/CRDP POS	LACC Grant	Service Access & Equity	Foster Grandparents & Senior Companions	Total
	Allocation - E-4	$ 58,373,022	$ 413,167,983	$ 848,855	$ -	$ 91,714	$ 578,369	$ 473,059,943
23-24	YTD Expenses	58,038,615	402,506,932	357,882	-	-	503,913	461,407,342
	Balance	**$ 334,407**	**$ 10,661,051**	**$ 490,973**	**$ -**	**$ 91,714**	**$ 74,456**	**$ 11,652,601**
	Allocation - A-2	$ 64,236,563	$ 504,398,061	$ 2,427,489	$ 659,403	$ -	$ 589,019	$ 572,310,535
24-25	YTD Expenses	63,881,685	502,564,117	2,282,032	635,040	-	552,618	569,915,492
	Balance	**$ 354,878**	**$ 1,833,944**	**$ 145,457**	**$ 24,363**	**$ -**	**$ 36,401**	**$ 2,395,043**
	Allocation - B-2	$ 67,402,973	$ 532,932,594	$ 211,120	$ 707,066	$ -	$ 601,444	$ 601,855,197
25-26	YTD Expenses	35,644,454	330,556,954	-	316,357	-	215,262	366,733,026
	Balance	**$ 31,758,519**	**$ 202,375,640**	**$ 211,120**	**$ 390,709**	**$ -**	**$ 386,182**	**$ 235,122,171**
Amount Change FY 23-24 to FY 24-25		$ 5,863,541	$ 91,230,078	$ 1,578,634	$ 659,403	$ (91,714)	$ 10,650	$ 99,250,592
Amount Change FY 24-25 to FY 25-26		$ 3,166,410	$ 28,534,533	$ (2,216,369)	$ 47,663	$ -	$ 12,425	$ 29,544,662
% Change FY 23-24 to FY 24-25		10.04%	22.08%	185.97%	N/A	-100.00%	1.84%	20.98%
% Change FY 24-25 to FY 25-26		4.93%	5.66%	-91.30%	7.23%	N/A	2.11%	5.16%

The contract status report provides information on the total amount of contract allocations received from DDS, the expenditures, and remaining balances for the current and two prior fiscal years. The report also compares the contract allocations between fiscal years in both dollars and percents.

FY 25-26 Operations & Purchase of Services Expense by Category as of January 31, 2026

OPS Expense Category	YTD Expense	POS Expense Category	YTD Expense
Salary & Benefits	$ 32,481,965	Out of Home	$ 100,563,401
Facility Rent and Maintenance	$ 2,378,570	Day Programs	$ 7,322,967
Information Technology	$ 653,344	Respite & Day Care	$ 52,315,291
General Expenses	$ 148,228	Non-Medical Services	$ 26,225,903
Communication	$ 282,811	Supported Living Services	$ 27,606,343
Insurance	$ 318,788	Transportation	$ 19,659,810
Accounting & Legal Fees	$ 102,236	Prevention Services	$ 12,336,192
Consultants	$ 286,093	Other Services	$ 21,801,925
Staff Mileage/Travel	$ 209,586	Personal Assistance	$ 24,395,586
ARCA Dues	$ 125,303	Medical Services	$ 36,776,225
Equipment	$ 66,946	Supported Employment	$ 1,369,894
Board Expenses	$ 11,348	Camps	$ 183,416
ICF Admin Fee, Interest, & Other Income	$ (1,420,764)	CPP/CRDP	$ -
Total YTD Operations Expense:	**$ 35,644,454**	**Total YTD POS Expense:**	**$ 330,556,954**





This report covers payments made through January 31, 2026, representing seven months of fiscal year 2025-2026. During this period, Purchase of Service (POS) expenditures totaled approximately $48.3 million for the month, while operational expenses were approximately $4 million.

Year-to-date expenditures amount to approximately $330.5 million for POS and $35.6 million for operations.

There have been no new allocations across any of the three open fiscal years. For FY 2024–2025, approximately $1.8 million remains in the POS allocation. However, we anticipate needing an additional $7 million in POS funding to cover rate reform retroactive payments and any outstanding, unbilled FY 2024–2025 Purchase of Service expenses. We continue to work closely with DDS to secure additional FY 2024–2025 POS allocations to address our projected need.