



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 that was held this morning, the focus was on the Governor's proposal budget, the strategic plan that was approved by the board was shared to all and an introduction of the PRA analyst and resources were presented. The Fight for your Health rally was held today in Sacramento. An event where advocates, ARCA, and labor unions rally together to make an impact. Grassroots is coming up, this is 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 it.

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. Dr. Steve confirmed this is a confidential position not associated with the union, to which Amanda confirmed it is and is not subject to meet and confer process with the union.

Erria brought it forward for approval, Kenneth made a motion to approve, Alicia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she met with Amanda regarding the evaluation process for the Executive Director. The committee finalized a date to meet, and Amanda shared next steps for the committee. Erria added if anyone is interested in attending Grassroots, please reach out soon as the deadline is January 16th. She will be reaching out to Jody and board members to meet nominees interested in joining the board for introductions and questions they may have.

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

H. Adjournment at 5:32 p.m.