



## **Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting March 11, 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. Jody Burriss, Dr. Steve Russell, Dominique Mellion, Crystal Enyeart, Kenneth Huntley

**Committee Members Not Present:** Alicia Schott (informed absence)

**VMRC Staff Present:** Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Leinani Walter, Nathan Sioson, Donna Sioson, Lizzie Valerio, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Mayra Ochoa, Brian Bennett

**Public Present:** Xavier Chin, Marc Gutierrez

### **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 1/14/26**

Erria asked for a motion to approve the board minutes of January 14, 2026. Dr. Steve made a motion to approve, Crystal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **C. Public Comment**

There is no public comment.

### **D. Items for Discussion Menu**

#### **1. Executive Director's Report**

Leinani reported Grassroots was a success and thankful for leadership of our co-chairs and everyone sharing their voices and advocating for our system. Last night, the American Sign Language Stockton class held a graduation and potluck – a big thank you to Midori! There is one more Purchase of Service (POS) meeting scheduled with SAC6 this upcoming Saturday and she thanked Christine for coordinating with PCS, a community partner. Mayra will be presenting our POS Data. We just held a Spanish session on the 9<sup>th</sup> and English on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with over 160 participants. She is thankful to

Maritza Ochoa, Escuchen Mi Viz and Elizabeth Gomez, ICC who co presented at each session.

Choices will be on March 27, 2026, VMRC will be attending. We are also working on our all staff, Amanda shared it will be on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and shared we will be offering tenure awards, raffles – a way to show our staff how appreciated they are.

**2. Consumer Updates:**

Tara reported that the Autism Forum will take place April 22, 2026 it is free for families and self-advocates and others pay \$30.00 per registrant. Christine shared information on Transition Fairs, April 8<sup>th</sup> in Lodi (San Joaquin County), April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Stanislaus County) in Modesto, and May 8<sup>th</sup> in San Andreas (all Three Mountain Counties). All information is on social media.

**3. Community Services**

Brian shared they are coordinating a training with Aaron McDonald, VMRC Emergency Response Coordinator for the first emergency preparedness public training. It's a learning opportunity for all counties, individuals and their families, board members are encouraged to attend, it will be held via zoom. Scheduled on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 7:30pm, invites will be shared soon.

**4. Self Determination:**

Mayra reported on participant information and summary report. Next local advisory meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm.

**5. Personnel Update:**

Amanda shared employee updates, including promotions and open positions. We have a new Training Manger, it was internal position and he will be starting next week with training and onboarding.

Dr. Steve asked with new hires for service coordinator, what is the difference between employed now than last year. Amanda reported it is significant but would need to look at data from point in time last year to this. Leinani added that in terms of Aiko's efforts, she projects the needs we have for service coordinators and makes it a higher number so the department sees the need for additional service coordinators.

**E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund**

Erria reported she attended Grassroots dinner, which was a powerful event. She also attended the Animal Protection League on behalf of the VMRC Board, who works with rescuing, fostering and rehoming cats and dogs. ARCA meetings will take place next week.

**G. Next Meeting** - Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)

**H. Adjournment at 5:22 p.m.**