

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 03/05/20, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Attendees

Committee Members Present: Margaret Heinz, Board President, Mohamad Rashid, Vice-President, Lynda Mendoza, Secretary, Linda Collins, Treasurer, Dena Pfeifer and Facilitator, Consumer Services

Staff Present: Tony Anderson, Executive Director, Doug Bonnet, Special Assistant to Executive Director, Bud Mullanix, Human Resources Director, Christine Couch, Compliance Manager

Public Present: Mariela Ramos

Margaret Heinz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

A. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

Margaret Heinz asked for a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. Linda Collins made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. The Meeting Agenda was approved unanimously.

B. Review and Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 02/05/20

Margaret Heinz asked for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 02/05/20. Mohamad Rashid made a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 02/05/20. Dena Pfeifer seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 02/05/20 were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment – None.

D. Items for Approval – None.

E. Items for Discussion

1. Executive Director's Report – Tony Anderson

Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 met yesterday Wednesday March 4 from 1 pm to 8:30 pm to discuss the Governor's Budget for DDS. Assemblymembers Arambula, Rubio, Mathis, Patterson, Wood, and Ramos were in attendance. The hearing followed this [agenda](#).

Assemblymember Arambula opened the hearing and recognized the milestone of moving the last resident out of permanent residency in the developmental centers. Items for discussion included:

- Trends in the Developmental Services System and Defining System and Fiscal Reform
- Provider Rates, Governor's Proposal, and Associated Investment Proposals
- Governor's Proposal on Performance Incentives for Regional Center Services
- Governor's Proposal on Specialized Caseload Ratio and Associated Advocacy Request
- Governor's Proposal on Crisis and Safety Net Services and Associated Trailer Bill Language Proposals
- Advocacy Proposal on Service Outcome Initiative
- Advocacy Proposal on Paid Internship Program (PIP) and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Incentives
- Advocacy Proposal Regarding Subminimum Wages for Consumer Workers
- Oversight Item: Home and Community-Based Services Federal Compliance
- Oversight Item: Self-Determination Program
- Oversight Item: Headquarters Restructure and Reorganization and Governor's Budget Change Proposal
- Oversight Item: Disparities Funding

Our regional center representation included three staff (including me), four early start services providers, one parent from EducateAdvocate, and two parents from Integradoras.

2. Notable Consumer Information – Tony Anderson

"After a long conversation our Service Coordinator, Lauren Leffler, had with a mom on Friday last week it was quite evident the mom was very frustrated. Lauren felt it would be best to meet with the parent in person. Lauren and Lizbeth De Alba-Montes went to her home yesterday. They found out that this mom has 5 children and is very stressed, she doesn't have any support and she was getting quite frustrated. She is trying to navigate systems she doesn't understand and feels she is not doing a good job. Two of her children have been diagnosed with Autism (ASD) and her 9 month old is showing concerning signs of being at risk. Lauren and Lizbeth spent 2.5 hours listening and talking with her, and answering her questions. They provided her support and resources, and referred her 9 month old to VMRC. The IEP for the early start child is in a couple of weeks and Lauren will be there to support the mom. By the end of the meeting the mom felt better and that she had the support of her SC. I really feel that Lauren and Lizbeth did such a wonderful job addressing the concerns of this mom. "

It was reported by our immigration attorneys that some families started bring advocates with them to the meetings with attorneys. They were informed that they could not do that because it removes their "Attorney Client" privilege.

3. Vendor Information – Tony Anderson

We just met with a provider who is having trouble with the process of switching over his vendorization and license so he can retire. If the problem is no resolved it will be financially devastating to the provider and the consumers are at risk of losing their home. This is part of a recent problem we have been having regarding transition for provider services.

4. Self-Determination Update – Tony Anderson

Last Monday afternoon we received direction from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding how to spend the funds allocated to the regional centers and the Self-Determination Advisory committees. It states:

"DDS, in consultation with stakeholders, identified priority areas for the funding including:

- Recruitment and training of independent facilitators;
- Joint training for participants, families, regional centers, LVAC members and others;
- Support or coaching in making the transition to SDP;
- Assistance with spending plan development;
- Orientation support which could include costs for speakers/presenters, and development of modification of materials; and
- Collaborative groups/workshops to foster ongoing, shared learning and problem-solving opportunities.

The LVACs play an important role in the implementation and oversight of the SDP. Therefore, regional centers and LVACs must work collaboratively to prioritize the use of the available funds to meet the needs of participants in their local area. Funds may only be expended after agreement is reached on the local needs. See Enclosure 1 for more information about the potential uses of the funds, the amount available in each regional center area, and suggested steps to determine the use of the funds."

5. Other Matters – Tony Anderson

Coronavirus Alert - What Should You Do?

(March 4, 2020) As of today the government feels the risk of getting this virus is low, but since this virus can make you very sick (some people have even died from this), everyone should take precautions. Here are some things you should do based on the Center for Disease Control and the Dept of Labor recommendations:

- It's the time of year when many people get the flu so you should get the flu vaccine and flu antivirals if your doctor prescribes them.
- **Stay at home if you are sick.** People who have a fever and or respiratory symptoms should not go to work or school until 24 hours after their fever ends (100 degrees Fahrenheit [37.8 degrees Celsius] or lower), without the use of medication.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds; use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.**
- **Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes.**
- **If you have a cough or sneeze wear a mask** and if you're working with someone who is coughing or sneezing offer them a mask.
- If you do not have a mask **cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve(s) – wash hands immediately after.**
- **Keep frequently touched common surfaces clean.**
- **Try not to use someone else's phone, desk, office, computer, or other work tools and equipment.** If you must use a coworker's equipment, consider cleaning it first with a disinfectant.
- **Avoid shaking hands or coming in close contact with people who may be ill.**
- **Stay in shape.** Eat a healthy diet. Get plenty of rest, exercise, and relaxation.
- **Speak with your doctor and find out if you are in a [high risk](#) category for seasonal flu (e.g., elderly, pregnant women, small children, persons with asthma, etc.).**
- **Participate in any training offered by your employer.** Make sure that you understand how to stay healthy at work.
- If you have been in China or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face some limitations on your movement and activity. Contact your doctor or county public health if you think you might be at high risk.

Local Public Health and VMRC Resources:

[Amador County](#)
[Calaveras County](#)
[San Joaquin County](#)
[Stanislaus County](#)
[Tuolumne County](#)

Valley Mountain Regional Center: [Policy for Staff](#)

State Resources:

Department of Developmental Services [CONVID-19 Advisory Resources](#)

From <https://www.vmmc.net/covid-19-coronavirus/>

6. Personnel and Union Update – Bud Mullanix

As of now, we have filled 36 positions. Of that 36, 10 are new, the others were transfers/current employees. It keeps morale up, but the downside is that there is still a training period. Some teams are getting hit hard and losing multiple people. Still have 33 open positions.

Hired a Training Manager that starts the end of the month.

We have a new intern that started. She gets her degree in 90 days.

January to February, we have 338 employees. We have a bunch in background. Turnover rate is 1.5% for calendar year.....16 hires and 21 terms in this fiscal year, turnover rate is 6.2%...compared to other RC's are turnover rate is excellent.

There is a lot of stress amongst the staff at all levels. We had a staff in Modesto have a breakdown.

Bud just wanted the Board to be aware.

F. President's Report – Margaret Heinz

Tony and Margaret will be going back to Alta Regional Center in 2 weeks for another ARCA training. There was an in-service training put on by Doreen Bestolarides of St. Joseph's Hospital. Doreen is an amazing lady who facilitates the care of every person with special needs at the hospital. Doreen gave my class a tour of the facility and even had a birthday party at the hospital for one of her students who is battling cancer.

I'm excited about the changes coming to the main entrance at the Stockton office.

G. Next Meeting – Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 6:30 PM, Cohen Board Room, VMRC Stockton Office

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

