



## **Executive Committee Meeting**

Chaired by, Margaret Heinz, President

March 9, 2022

6:30 pm Zoom Remote and In-Person Meeting

### **Attendees**

**Board Members Present:** Linda Collins, Lynda Mendoza, Margaret Heinz, Suzanne Devitt,

**Board Members Not Present:**

**Informed Absences:**

**Staff Present:** Tony Anderson, Christine Couch

**Public Present:** Irene Hernandez, Interpreter

#### **A. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Margaret Heinz reviewed the agenda. Lynda Mendoza made a motion to approve the agenda. Linda Collins seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

**B. Review and Approval of the Executive Meeting Minutes of 02/09/2022** – Linda Collins made a motion to approve the minutes of 2-9-2022. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

**C. Public Comment** – n/a

**D. Items for Discussion**

**Tony Anderson, Executive Director**

1. This week will be our 100th Health Advisory

2. Major Program Initiatives
  - Emergency Response Services and Coordinator position - filled by Aaron McDonald.
  - Deaf and Hard and Hearing Community Service Liaison - fill by Nicholas Bolger (we'll also be contracting with an ASL interpreters to support the employee.)
  - Enhanced Caseloads Low to No POS - The team has a supervisor, Gaby Lopez, a Senior SC, and now all but one of the SCs have been hired (four out of five).
  - The Self-Determination or Participant Directed Services Team is now fully hired.
  - We've completed the first new Early Childhood Caseloads (0-5 years) team and we are moving on to the next. We are also trying to position ourselves to be ready in case the state decides to change the ratio to 1-40 in the new fiscal year.
3. Phase Two of the Cultural Competency and the creation of a board committee.
4. POS data and community meeting and public forums.

## Notable Consumer Incidents/Complaints

1. Our consumer that we reported on last month who was long term homeless and now is gravely ill went back to the hospital and has now been transfer to a skilled nursing facility in Chico. He is on hospice at this time and Christine and her team are working on getting transportation for his wife to visit him regularly during his end of life treatment. The SNF in Chico has reached out to the Service Coordinator to discuss return to Lodi Memorial. The SC is working with Lodi Memorial.

## Vendor Issues

1. I'm getting questions weekly about how the state plans to stop alternative services. No update from DDS at this time.
2. There is a PIN from licensing that allows for an accommodation if someone can't wear a mask because of their disability then they don't have to. This is causing others to claim they can't wear the mask either. At some point no one will be wearing a mask.
2. In a recent meeting with day program providers, they reported that they have not been able to get their services back up to fully support our consumers. They feel that 75% of the problem is due to transportation barriers, 20% is hesitancy from consumers and families to return, and rest is associated with having enough staff. Though some reported that staff shortages are a bigger problem than this.
3. R&D, who works with about 5 other regional centers, reports that every regional center catchment area is struggling to return to services as before due to the major staff shortages. In the VMRC area programs are clearly seeing transportation as a barrier since commercial providers are experiencing the same staff constraints as their colleagues across the state.
4. Tony met with the CLASP leadership tomorrow to discuss a potential initiative to focus on the developmental services system provider network to promote their meaningful work employment opportunities and the regional centers and our employment opportunities. Tony had one initial meeting with the Alta regional center director, and she is meeting with her folks next. If all goes well, we'll get both together to see if we can advance a joint effort.

## Self-Determination Updates

- The Self-Determination or Participant Directed Services Team is now fully hired. The manager is now full time for the team, the budgeting manager has had their responsibilities streamlined, fiscal will engage the whole team so not to be depended on one person, and there are six Participant Choice Specialists on the team. Future plans for the program include a full time manager, part time manager, and full time dedicated fiscal staff.

## Union and Other Staff Issues

The two major areas for concern in HR are:

1. Recruiting, and
2. Gas Prices

Recruiting: The initiative with providers is an important potential step in being strategic and prepared for the enhance recruiting needs in the upcoming months. Bud is also, exploring the many current innovative recruiting techniques to bring people into VMRC. Ideas such as Sign on bonus's, Monthly stipend (100-150 mo) to assist with gas and expenses, etc. We are holding our own right now, but I am worried about the recruiting issue combines with overall cost and especially gas.

Gas Prices: Bud and Tony will be reviewing the different strategies companies are coming up with to mitigate this impact.

- E. President's Report - Margaret Heinz:** Thank you for everyone who attended the ARCA webinar last night, 3/8/2022. Emily Grunder wants to be on Leg and Consumer Services Committee. She is concerned about transportation needs. The board is interested in a tour of the new homes, the community crisis home and an EBSH.

**Next Meeting - Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:30 PM, on Zoom and In Person chaired by Margaret Heinz, President**