



## Minutes for Executive Committee Meeting

07/13/2022 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Via Zoom Video Conference

**Committee Members Present:** Margaret Heinz, Lynda Mendoza, Suzanne Devitt

**Committee Members Absent:** Linda Collins, Alicia Schott

**VMRC Staff Present:** Doug Bonnet, Tony Anderson, Christine Couch, Bud Mullanix, Tara Sisemore-Hester

**Public Present:** Irene Hernandez – Interpreter

### A. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

Margaret Heinz reviewed the agenda. Lynda Mendoza made a motion to review the agenda. Suzanne Devitt seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

### B. Review and Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 06/08/22

Margaret Heinz reviewed the minutes. Suzanne Devitt made a motion to approve the minutes of 06-8-2022. Lynda Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

### C. Public Comment

n/a

### D. Items for Approval

Fiscal Self-Determination Specialist Approval

Action

Tony Anderson and Bud Mullanix reviewed the new position. Lynda Mendoza made a motion to approve the Fiscal Self-Determination Specialist position. Suzanne Devitt seconded the motion. The motion passes with unanimous consent.

## **E. Items for Discussion**

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **1. Disparities Grant \$100,000: Partners in Policymaking**

PIP “teaches people with disabilities and family members the power of advocacy to positively change the way people with disabilities are supported, viewed, taught, live and work.

The focus of the partnership expands from one with legislators and local politicians, the regional center, and education officials, to community groups and educators and providers.

This proposal is different from even the standard Partners in Policymaking Program because it will be held primarily in Spanish so that our monolingual Spanish speaking families are the primary focus instead of the group needing additional accommodations.

In the end of the project participants will gain information and knowledge of the whole community system, they will learn why and how services and service systems were created and how advocates participate in their oversight and how they work to change them when needed. Curriculum The training will be an eight months (one weekend a month) intensive experience with participants often making lifelong connections with other advocates and policymakers of various levels. Some of the topics of the program will include the following:

- a. History of the Disability Community/Advocacy Movement
- b. Inclusive Education
- c. Service Coordination (Case Management and Self-Directed Services)
- d. Person-Centered Planning and Person-Centered Thinking
- e. Supported, Competitive, & Customized Employment
- f. Supported Living/Home of Your Own
- g. Community Organizing, Advocacy, and Meeting with Public Officials
8. Having a Vision for the Future
- h. State Legislation and Federal Legislation and the Processes
- i. Parliamentary Procedures for Boards, Commissions, Councils, Committees, etc.
- j. Serving on Boards
- k. Assistive Technology, Positioning, and Behavior
- l. Media and Communications Skills
- m. Graduation Ceremony and How to Maintain an Advocacy Network into the Future

#### **2. The Language Access & Cultural Competence Plan \$285,000: LAC Plan**

We submitted this plan last week and at this phase in the initiative our focus is on assessing the needs and creating the positions that will help us increase access of all information we provide to the community and our consumers and families and improve our cultural competency as a regional center. We propose hiring a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion manager, language access liaisons, and consultant to help us bridge the gap between VMRC and our communities of color, culture, and faith, disability, etc.

**3. Family Wellness Grant \$1,598,466 (two years): VMRC Family Wellness Pilot Project**  
Family wellness services will include but need not be limited to early identification of stressors, opportunities to build networks for peer support, help developing effective and positive caregiving strategies, and warm hand-offs to applicable resources. We plan to hire a coordinator, licenses therapist, clerical support to manage and measure the implementation of this wellness project.

**4. Performance Measures:** Person-Centered Thinking, Diversity and Implicit Bias Training,

## **Notable Consumer Incidents/Complaints**

BM moved from College Hospital after several years to our new home, Delaware by Merakey.

Unfortunately, he had an aggressive episode against staff and law enforcement was involved. He was held at behavioral health for 3 days and then released back to the care home. He is currently stable.

Mikey is planning a move to the ACRC on approximately August 1. He is conserved by DDS and has an involved parent who is not pleased with our services and timelines.

The restructure for children's teams continues and parents are very excited and thankful for the change.

## **Vendor Issues**

We have a provider who applied for a level and rate change last November 2021 was approved for the change on March 1, 2022. There are several reasons why this application took so long but none of these reasons are under dispute. She is requesting to be paid back to January 1, 2022. She said she should be reimbursed for providing the higher level more expensive level of service since she did it from the beginning of her application according to her. In reviewing her records she did not even meet the basic standard for the lower level home. Her request under 4731 was denied and she is appealing to DDS and using an attorney to sue.

## **Union and Other Staff Issues**

Defer to Bud.

## **Self-Determination Updates**

- Self-Determination Advisory Committee to the Director Co-Chair - Appointed by the Director of the Department of Developmental Services.
- The FMS costs are no longer coming from the consumer's budget.
- We will be meeting with our Fiscal Management Services providers to take a look at how things are working for our consumers and what changes we may need to pursue to make improvements.
- We have one FMS who has stopped taking referrals and we will meet with them after the others to determine what changes might need to be implemented to bring them back on line.

## **Other Matters**

Together with our provider community we are currently working in a collaboration with the Alta regional center and some of their providers on a project to promote the value and contributions of people with disabilities and their families. Our goals are to:

- Change the stereotypes about the workforce
- Have people working with us not just for the paycheck and that this career choice will not be a binary decision, such as choosing between making a living wage and working a job you'll love and make a difference.
- Promote and show the value of our community
- Pass on the things that are working for some organization to other organizations
- Promote the social justice component of the work we do and show the community how positive this is.
- Attract more qualified applicants and have less vacant positions. We'll not just fill positions, but we'll attract and hire mission career employees.
- People will be stay in the field longer
- Make our jobs front of mind for people in early career times of their lives.
- Achieve equal acknowledgement of our careers as other well-established professions like education.
- Make sure people don't just know the job, but they know the profession.
- Deliver and effective public message that will ensure the public will hold our families and people with disabilities in high regard.

## **Personnel and Union Update**

No issues right now, working very collaboratively with the union.

Ended at 411 staff, with 90 hires and a loss of 53. Growth rate 10%; turnover rate was 13% with a lot of retirements. Average tenure is over 8 years.

## **F. President's Report**

Board retreat in December. Board dinner is Friday night. ARCA Executive Director's assessment completed on Amy. Reviewed IHSS workers receiving additional training on emergency services.

DDS has grants available for ideas on employment – check it out.

A family contacted her and shared their wonderful story of completed home modifications which has allowed their son to remain in the family home.

## **G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 6:30 PM, VMRC Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and Via Zoom Video Conference (Hybrid)**