



Minutes for Executive Committee Meeting

01/11/2023 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Hybrid - VMRC Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present: Margaret Heinz, Alicia Schott, Linda Collins, Lynda Mendoza, Suzanne Devitt

Committee Members Not Present:

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

Public Present: Irene Hernandez, Isela Bingham, Maribel Barrera, Aleida O, Lilliana Escudero, Ana Soto, Maria Solano, Gricelda Estrada, Nancy Millan, Maria Elena Diaz, Diaz Aguilar Ernesto, Eren Torres, Dora Contreras, Rosy, Bertha, Maria Gutierrez, Maria del Rosario, Maria, Anita Hurtado, Juan Moran

A. Review of Meeting Agenda (No Minutes for Approval, Most Recent Minutes Approved by the Board in December) We reviewed the agenda.

B. Public Comment – n/a

C. Items for Approval – n/a

D. Items for Discussion

Executive Director's Report – Tony Anderson shared

- About \$22 billion short fall in the Governor's Budget for FY2023-24
- Attached is the ARCA summary of the Governor's January Budget for FY2023-24. Key notations
 - The overall DD Budget now stands at \$14.2 Billion – 60% (\$8.6 billion) of which is General Fund.
 - The net increase from Revised FY2022-23 is \$1.6 Billion.
 - This reflects a 12.7% increase from FY2022-23.
- The proposed Budget puts forward an extra \$102.1M TF to support the reduced caseload ratio for children ages 0-5. This special lower caseload, set at 1:40, was started last year. The extra money reflects a revised and improved estimate of the actual costs of hiring service coordinators.
- The only reduction in the budget is the delay in a preschool integration grant that saves the state \$10M. The language on what we were supposed to do was vague so this also gives DDS time to flesh this out more.
- The item I was most worried about was the service provider rate reform but the Budget proposal is clear that the promised funds (\$355.9M) will be in the budget for 2023-2024. This also includes the additional funding related to the increased mileage rate the IRS allows.
- The increase to the state's minimum wage will also impact many providers and this adjustment is in the budget as well.
- Added more funding for the next phase of the new fiscal and case management systems (Uniform Fiscal System Modernization (UFSM) and the Consumer Electronic Records Management System (CERMS) Project).
- 6 positions at DDS for a new Autism Services Branch.
- Additional regional center staff to help implement trauma-informed services for foster children (this came from a bill signed into law in 2018).
- Money to relicense two STAR (Stabilization Training Assistance Reintegration) homes to better serve people with intense psychiatric needs.
- Additional funds to support provisional eligibility for children 4-5 years old.
- Safety Net Report:
 - 15 positions foster youth 2083
 - Extends
 - Complex needs program 5 people in state operated behavioral Health (mental health and IDD)
- Family Cost participation program is scheduled to be reinstated but the state is planning on meeting to propose a change in the May Revise

Notable Consumer Incidents/Complaints

Christine shared an update on T – preliminary hearing 1-19-23.

J – cancer at PDC which delayed his move to the community; he opted for a one time procedure to eradicate the cancer; and moved into community 12-20-22. He is doing well.

P – has had no contact with Dad and is doing well. She has requested that we do not communicate with her father and has rescinded the signed release of information.

F– Temporary restraining order not granted as he is not a danger per the court right now.

Vendor Issue

- The two AB 637 applications (Psychologists and Transportation) are still on track and moving forward.
- Transportation Follow-up meeting is being scheduled with CLASP - so far the response has been very positive.
- The most pressing issue we are faced with at this time related to our providers in processing all the HCBS Compliance applications so that providers can continue to be paid without delay after March 16th.
- New policy on transportation: *This Directive authorizes providers of transportation services to use a monthly reimbursement rate for the provision of transportation services to individuals effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Each provider will utilize a unique monthly reimbursement rate calculated based on their monthly average reimbursement prior to the pandemic, minus fuel expenses.*

Union and Other Staff Issues

Tony reviewed the Multilingual Access Specialist job description that is part of the Language Access Grant. This gives us in house interpretation and translation services for the Spanish language, as well as support to the DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Manager. Suzanne Devitt asked about long-term goals for other language specialist positions- Tony explained it's funded through a grant and is time limited, which supports only the Spanish language.

Lynda Mendoza made a motion to approve the MAS, Multilingual Access Specialist position as presented. Linda Collins seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

We just completed the union reopener negotiations. We agreed to a:

1. 1% pay increase will be given to all staff except senior leadership. Effective payroll 12/18/22.
2. VMRC agrees to increase the medical contribution from \$1,000 to \$1,015 for non-smokers and smokers. Eliminated separate smokers benefit rate.
3. VMRC commits to investigating and pricing pet insurance and various dental options during the 2023 open enrollment period and sharing the information with union leadership.
4. VMRC (Bud/Melissa) commit to review the salary schedules and look at the overall cost to VMRC by moving all steps from 7 to 8.

We are halfway there on the hiring of 70 new staff. We will have a social media blast for recruitment videos to encourage people to pursue a career in our community and having an open house for hiring!

Self-Determination Updates

- The new budget and spending plan shall be completed no later than 60 days following the end date of the previous budget year, or a Notice of Action shall be issued.

Other Matters - none

E. President's Report – Margaret Heinz shared the updates on the budget which has an increase of \$1.6billion or 12.7% from last year. She and Tony have their next ARCA meeting is next Thursday and Friday in Sacramento.

Please remember to be safe when traveling in the weather. It can be dangerous out there.

Thank you to super advocate Linda Collins!!

A Board member posted on facebook during bad weather and a giant thank you to staff Aaron McDonald for responding within 7 minutes!!! Aaron, you are amazing and fabulous!!

F. Next Meeting - Wednesday, February 8, 2021, 6:30 PM, Hybrid (via Zoom Video Conference and Cohen Board Room)