



Minutes for Executive Committee Meeting

08/09/2023 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room

Committee Members Present: Jose Lara, Margaret Heinz, Dr. Suzanne Devitt, Lisa Utsey, Brandy De Alba, Alicia Schott

Committee Members Not Present:

VMRC Staff Present: Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Tony Anderson, Evelyn Solis, Bud Mullanix, Brian Bennett

Public Present: Isela Bingham, Interpreter and Irene Hernandez, Interpreter; Rachelle Munoz, Facilitator

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda

Brandy De Alba called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of July 12, 2023

Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 07/12/2023. Alicia Schott seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 07/12/2023 were approved unanimously.

C. Items for Approval -n/a

D. Public Comment - none

E. Items for Discussion

Executive Director's Report

We just went live with our new website and though we have a lot of work to do still we have a new icon driven navigation system that we are really happy about.

- We successfully updated our webpages for the board of directors and submitted our Conflict of Interest forms as required by law. The next two required reports include the caseload ratio reports and the performance contract, both require public review and comment.
 - Next week I'll be out of the office in Irvine from Wednesday to Friday for the ARCA meetings.
1. Last week we had to shut our network down and get everybody off the network.
 2. On August 1, 2023, one of our monitoring systems found suspicious activity in the VMRC network.
 3. The insurance company started to engage a team of cybersecurity experts under contract.
 4. By August 3rd we started meeting with the team, a cyber forensics attorney, and looped in DDS and completed the FBI notification forms.
 5. We are currently in the process of determining what data may have been impacted and whether any sensitive or personal information was involved.
 6. As soon as the process concludes we will formally notify any individuals whose information may have been affected and will provide resources to assist them.
 7. We have done, and will continue to do, everything in our power to ensure all data stored in our network remains protected. We are continuously assessing our data privacy and cybersecurity practices and are actively working to bolster our defenses to minimize the chances of a similar event happening again.
 8. The investigation remains ongoing.

What did you do when you learned about it?

9. Staff was informed of the unusual activity on the network and required to not access any of our systems for two days.
10. As the investigation continued it was clear that the following was safe to work in and they had not been touched:
 - i. AS400 (UFS and Greenscreen)
 - ii. SANDIS
 - iii. EIO
 - iv. Paycom
 - v. Email etc. (Microsoft 360)
 - vi. Early Start Scheduling system
 - i. The Fax is still not working

11. As part of our normal protocol, we are reviewing our information security program, including our layered defenses, to ensure we continue to maintain appropriate measures to protect our systems and information.
12. At this time, we have no evidence that any personal information maintained by VMRC has been misused. The investigation is ongoing, and if the investigation determines that any personal information was accessed without authorization, all impacted individuals will be notified.

Notable Consumer Information

We're preparing for the CA Memorial Project with our self-advocates and local providers on Sept 18th. The Memorial will take place by the water in University Park and simultaneously at the Park View Cemetery in Manteca - board members are encouraged to attend.

CHOICES 2024 is April 12, 2024 – save the date.

A family we serve that is experiencing homelessness is expected to move to their own apartment next week!

Vendor Information

- We have now presented our DSP Collaborative project to our colleagues at ARCA (which was well received), and Health and Human Services Agency, and most recently we were asked to present to DDS. We've been generating some excitement and we're scheduled to present at CDSA in September and the Supported Life Conference in October. We continue to add participating vendors to our site and we're planning for our next round of job fairs and new videos.
- One idea I'm working on with the group is to do a "World Café" style symposium where we get about 50 DSPs together and pose a series of questions for them to deliberate about their careers as DSPs. The event will be filmed.
- We're excited about the upcoming Disability Resource Fair in Modesto Oct 7th
- CLASP Oct 24th - Nancy Bargmann, Lynn Seagle, Joe MacBeth and John Rafeal from NADSP, Carol Blessing from Cornell University PCT,

Self-Determination Updates

- Self-Determination continues to be a major challenge for all regional centers. We have the largest team of Participant Choice Specialists in the state, yet we continue to be faced with major challenges. Lack of FMSs, expanded complexity to meet federal requirements, and the fact that every budget includes additional funding because of unmet needs (unmet needs were originally meant for an occasional major change in life circumstance).

- There have been significant changes to FMS rates, addition rates for planning, some standardization, and now new discussions on how to accommodate the employer burden charged by the FMS companies.

Other Matters

13. Press Coverage

a. LA Times

- i. The Times is planning a series of articles on how those with the most challenging needs are supported with an initial focus being on a particular individual placed out-of-state by education.
- ii. The reporter is also interested in how CalAIM and regional centers overlap.
- iii. Nancy Bargmann sat down with a reporter from the Times and will share her talking points to ensure any EDs contemplating commenting for the story have insight into her messaging.

b. Sacramento Bee

- i. A reporter with the Bee is researching an article on spending disparities in the regional center system and implicit bias training.
- ii. Leinani Walter, DDS will be doing an interview with the reporter on this topic.

c. KQED

- i. This Bay Area public radio station is doing a piece on Mentor's practices and exploring the operation of for-profit service providers as well as DDS oversight.

Union Issues

Bud Mullanix, Tara Sisemore-Hester and I met with the leadership of our union to further explain the state's penalty fee for not meeting the service coordinator expansion target. We did meet our expansion target but later learned from DDS that there was a cutoff of March 2023 (we completed our hiring in April 2023). The state took back \$20 million from regional centers for not meeting the goal set by DDS.

Bud shared that we are at 503 employees, with a loss of 10 employees in the last 3 months. Recruitment and retention are important topics across all regional centers.

F. President's Report

Dr. Suzanne Devitt shared her thankfulness for the team and how they handled the IT issue last week.

She had a great 1:1 training at ARCA today and it was informative and helped clarify the role of ARCA. She appreciated the training.

**G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 PM, Hybrid
(Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video
Conference)**

H. Adjournment at 7:13pm