



VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 6:30 PM

Valley Mountain Regional Center, Stockton Office, Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference

702 N. Aurora Street

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81261678155?pwd=Y0xLZXVkJUzZSajBnWXN6b1BRSDlBRSDBQQT09>,
Webinar ID: 812 6167 8155, Passcode: 487864, +16699006833

Stockton, CA, 95202

For accommodations, please contact Doug Bonnet at 209-955-3656, or DBonnet@vmrc.net. Spanish translation is included without requesting.



Meeting Book - VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

Executive Committee Meeting

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

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2023

C. Items for Approval

1. System of Care Coordinator Job Description

D. Public Comment

Each member of the public may have 3 minutes for comment. If a translator is needed, 6 minutes will be given. Public comment can address items on the agenda that have been properly noticed for action and/or items that are not on the agenda, however, items not on the agenda can not be responded to or discussed in the public board meeting because they are not properly noticed items (7 days advance notice).

E. Items for Discussion

1. Executive Director's Report
2. Notable Consumer Information
3. Vendor Information
4. Self-Determination Update
5. Other Matters
6. Personnel and Union Update

F. President's Report

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 PM, Hybrid (Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference)

H. Adjournment



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



VMRC Job Description

27.66	29.05	30.50	32.01	33.62	35.31	37.04
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Title: System of Care Coordinator (Children’s Residential Support Navigator)

Reports To: Community Services Manager-Resource / Clinical Development
(Libby Contreras)

General Statement of Duties:

The System of Care Coordinator will act as VMRC’s representative in the implementation of AB 2083, which requires each county to develop and implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU), setting forth the roles and responsibilities of entities, including those that serve children and youth in foster care who have experienced severe trauma by addressing systemic barriers to the traditional provision of interagency services. The System of Care Coordinator will have an important role in coordinating with local partners in identifying and securing the appropriate level of services to meet the needs of children and youth in foster care who are served by the regional center. When a child or youth is in placement crisis and the local placement team has exhausted all placement options at the local level, the Foster Youth and Residential Support Navigator will provide technical assistance and support to the service coordinator and our partnering agencies.

Working Condition and Physical Requirement:

- The majority of duties are performed in the office and out in the community.
- The ability to drive an automobile is required on a daily basis.
- You must maintain a valid driver’s license and be able to travel locally and out-of-town regularly.
- Must be able to sit at a work station for long periods of time.
- Must be able to frequently stand, walk, bend, and reach throughout offices.
- Must be able to operate office machines requiring manual dexterity and coordination to operate standard office equipment (i.e., computer, telephone, fax machine, etc.)
- Must be able to read, write and comprehend large amounts of written material, use the telephone, and communicate via electronic mail on a daily basis.
- Excellent verbal and written skills are essential.

Minimum Position Requirements:

BA/BS degree in a social science, public administration, communication, or similar field is required. At least 4 years’ experience in a case-carrying or administrative position at VMRC or another regional center; or at least 4 years of experience in a case-carrying, clinical support services or administrative position in a human or social service organization (e.g., Mental Health, Social Services, etc.) including at least 1 year experience in developmental services; or at least 4 years of experience in a direct service or administrative position in an organization providing services to dependent persons including at least 1 year experience in developmental services; or a combination of these experiences adding up to at least 4 years’ experience including at least 1 year experience in developmental services.

Key Responsibilities:

- Will be the lead regional center staff responsible for coordinating activities to implement AB 2083, which includes:
Collaborating and sharing information with counties, state agencies and other specified entities to identify and coordinate services for foster children and youth served by regional centers, who have experienced severe trauma
- Coordinating available placement and service options for foster children and youth served by RC's
- Participating on interagency leadership, advisory, and placement teams as specified in W&I Code sections 16521.6 (a)(2)(A) and (B);
Providing expertise and guidance to regional center staff on service coordination for foster children and youth served by regional centers who have experienced severe trauma;
- Providing DDS with data, implementation updates and recommendations;
- Participating in state-coordinated trauma-informed behavior support trainings and engaging and contributing to DDS coordinated technical assistance and collaborative opportunities.

- **Intra-Agency Activities**
 - a. Act as a resource for agency staff and participate in planning team meetings as requested
 - b. Participate in residential screening of children who are referred for Enhanced Behavior Supports Home and / or Community Crisis Home supports
 - c. Participate in "transition" meetings for children entering or exiting EBSH and / or CCH settings
 - d. Support resource development with identification of potential unmet residential needs for foster youth

- **Community Outreach Activities**
 - a. Provide training, support, and technical assistance to the community.
 - b. Participate in Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus county with staffing cases and participating in placement meetings, to support regional center foster youth.

- **Complete other duties as assigned by supervisor**

VMRC support's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for all staff, We have a zero tolerance for Discrimination and Harassment in our agency.

