



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

10/11/2023 | 06:30 PM - 07:30 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Lisa Utsey, Linda Collins, Alicia Schott, Margaret Heinz, Brandy De Alba, Suzanne Devitt

Committee Members Not Present: Jose Lara (informed absence)

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

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz (facilitator), Irene Hernandez (interpreter), Isela Bingham (interpreter)

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

Brandy De Alba called the meeting to order at 6:31pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023

Margaret Heinz made the motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023 and Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 09-13-2023 were approved unanimously.

C. Items for Approval

1. Community Outreach and Events Manager Job Description – Bud Mullanix and Doug Bonnet presented the job description.
 - a. Lisa Utsey made a motion to approve the Community Outreach and Events Manager Job Description. Linda Collins seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Benefits Counselor Job Description – Bud Mullanix and Christine Couch presented the job description.
 - a. Alicia Schott made a motion to approve the Benefits Counselor Job Description. Suzanne Devitt seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Public Comment n/a

E. Items for Discussion

Executive Director's Report

1. We're still recovering from the Disability Resource Fair - we had over 1000 people and a good time was had by all. We appreciate the board members who attended and supported the event.
2. We're starting to have our recruitment strategy meetings and will probably begin our internal job fairs starting in January. We anticipate hiring another 50+ staff and may reach the 600 mark by the end of the year.
3. We'll be rolling out the internship program for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) in a few months and we met today with providers to discuss our process for the stipend program.
4. National Disability Employment Month - NDEM
5. DRAIL Conference, Tuesday, October 17
 - a. 9am – 4pm, Modesto Centre Plaza
6. Tony speaking at the Supported Life Conference about DSP Collaborative Project on October 21.
7. Tony speaking for University of Delaware National Leadership Institute next Monday, October 16 in Napa.
8. Special Needs in My City this Saturday, October 14th. VMRC is a sponsor at the \$2500 level. VMRC will have a booth and Family Wellness will have a booth.
9. Saturday the 13th is the last day for the Governor to sign bills. This will then kick off the public policy work to review the bills.
10. South Stockton Resident Summit, October 19 and 20, 2023. VMRC is a sponsor at the \$2500 level. VMRC will volunteer and attend the summit.
11. Positive comments from the last survey sent out were shared with everyone.

Notable Consumer Incidents/Complaints

We are still growing at 260 eligible a month.

Vendor Issues

10. Brian – in person meeting with the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) providers in person on October 19th, Cohen Board Room with the Health Plan of San Joaquin (HPSJ), 11am – 1230pm.
11. Rate Policy Issues Timing
 - a. Conversations regarding the timing of rate model implementation elements have continued with representatives from advocates.
 - b. Advocates have proposed related to equivalencies for RBT and CNA staff it will pass along to DDS.
 - c. There is consideration being given to how to balance an interest in a small percentage of individuals (~10%) wanting to receive at least some of their services remotely with data tracking needs and monthly in-person visits by service providers.
12. CLASP (Coalition of Local Area Service Providers) Conference, Tuesday, October 24, Ag Center
13. Oct 26-Nov 7th Promotion of a job fair in

Self-Determination Updates

Participant Choice Specialists - these positions were anticipated to end in the budget but they were extended through the year and efforts are underway to make them permanent statewide.

Other Matters

14. The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act would raise the SSI asset limit to \$10,000 for individuals and index it to inflation moving forward. It would also raise the limit for married couples to \$20,000 to help correct a harmful marriage penalty.
15. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor, that gives standard definitions of jobs, but there is none for DSP. Currently, there is a bill in Congress that asks BLS to recognize DSPs as a profession. ANCOR (the national providers association) is sponsoring this bill.

Union Issues and Personnel

16. Complaint from SEIU on the Participant Choice Specialist position duties.
17. Wage re-opener begins this month.
18. Benefits fair with providers for the staff was a great event.
19. 523 current employees. We had 6 terminations in August and 1 in September.

F. President's Report

Dr. Suzanne Devitt shared a big thank you for the resource fair. It was well attended and super fun! Great vendors, music and dancing. Tomorrow she visits the San Andreas office.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 PM, Hybrid (Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference)

H. Adjournment