



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: Margaret Heinz, Dr. Suzanne Devitt, Lisa Utsey, Brandy De Alba, Alicia Schott

Committee Members Not Present: Jose Lara (informed absence)

VMRC Staff Present: Christine Couch, Tony Anderson, Evelyn Solis, Brian Bennett, Claire Lazaro, Donna Sioson, Tara Sisemore Hester, Gabriela Lopez

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 6:33pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

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

The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 08/09/2023 were approved unanimously.

C. Items for Approval

1. System of Care Coordinator Job Description – Tony Anderson and Brian Bennett answered questions about the job description from the board.
 - a. Alicia Schott made a motion to approve the System of Care Coordinator Job Description. Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Public Comment - none

E. Items for Discussion

Executive Director's Report

1. Definition of Medical and Dental for Generic Services Trailer Bill Language (TBL) is still being worked on but this is where we'll be able to fund for services that usually need denials for approvals.
2. Underspent Purchase Of Service funds (POS) conversation on using unspent POS funds for additional start-up.
3. Contract Negotiation
 - a. DDS has several concepts it would like to discuss during contract negotiation and will propose dates for early October to begin these conversations.
4. AB 1147 (Addis) - now a two-year bill.
5. Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver positions
6. Medi-Cal Redetermination - During the pandemic, counties did not disenroll people from Medi-Cal, but redetermination is being started again.
7. Common Data Definitions - The August TBL (AB 138) requires more consistent data collection on topics related to race/ethnicity.
8. October 7th Disability Resource Fair – we will add Board of Directors positions to their name badges for the resource fair.
9. Oct 24th Vendor Group Conference - tickets still available about 100 tickets sold so far:
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=pnnut8zab&oeidk=a07ejv3sehp4db55c5f&oseq=>
10. We're all celebrating National DSP Week -
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/workforce-initiatives/>
11. We're working on our new website: www.vmrc.net
12. Media - Sponsors of AB1147 have been working with some local papers now to get public support for their bill. A recent story came out that focused on two consumers in our region that were not completely true.

Notable Consumer Incidents/Complaints

We are still growing at 285 eligible a month. Tara Sisemore-Hester shared that eligible children continue to grow at a phenomenal rate. Christine Couch shared an incident from the weekend that involved four individuals who live in licensed residential care who reported allegations of abuse. The After-Hours Response Staff and Community Services team quickly responded and insured safety and the removal of the alleged perpetrator. The team is working with investigative agencies to maintain safety pending outcomes.

Vendor Issues

13. 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.

Union Issues

New contract is coming soon.

Self-Determination Updates

14. Participant Choice Specialists - these positions are anticipated to end in the budget but we're putting together the argument for continuing these positions statewide.

Other Matters

15. 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. This bill is sponsored by the ARC.

16. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor. But there is a bill in Congress that asks BLS to recognize DSPs as a profession, with a consistent job classification. This bill is sponsored by ANCOR.

17. LACC Grant - Benefits Counselors and an Outreach Coordinator - are jobs being developed through the grant funding.

F. President's Report

Thank you to staff for their dedication to serving individuals and their families. She appreciates all that the staff do to maintain safety, enhance lives, and support needs. She also expressed thanks to the board members for the commitment to the agency.

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

H. Adjournment at 7:16pm