



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

05/08/2024 | 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, Margaret Heinz, Lynda Mendoza, Alicia Schott, Jose Lara

Committee Members Not Present: Suzanne Devitt and Brandy deAlba informed absences

VMRC Staff Present: Gabriela Lopez, Aaron McDonald, Doug Bonnet, Christine Couch, Leinani Walter, Tara Sisemore Hester, Brian Bennett

Public Present: Rachelle Gomez, Maureen Fitzgerald, Irene Hernandez, Isela Bingham

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

Margaret Heinz 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 April 10, 2024

Lynda Mendoza made the motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024 and Jose Lara seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of April 10, 2024 were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

n/a

D. Items for Approval

n/a

E. Items for Discussion

1. Executive Director's report:

I am always hopeful that April showers are bringing May flowers – I think our community-connecting work in April is bringing forth new opportunities for expanding Native American community engagement and Hispanic Community connections in our foothills. I am thankful for new learning and listening opportunities!

- **Calaveras Interagency Leadership Team (ILT) Meeting April 17** – appreciated meeting with our county partners and working together to find ways to support our foster-youth in meaningful ways. I appreciate Libby Contreras' leadership in the last few years supporting and coordinating VMRC efforts with AB2083.
- **Spanish POS Meeting – Hosted in partnership with Escuchen Mi Voz – April 18th** – grateful for the leadership of Mariza Ochoa, Director of Escuchen Mi Voz with helping VMRC to coordinate and support an amazing group of parents, self-advocates and caregivers to participate in our POS Meeting in Spanish.
- **Listening Session with Integrated Community Collaborative, ICC** – June 4
- **Partnering with Acorns to Oak Trees to Host the Native American Outreach event on May 21, 2024**
 - Looking forward to building a relationships with Tuolumne Band of Miwuk
- **Implicit Bias Training June Equitify – June 18th** – VMRC is actively planning our Program Managers Meeting with Equitify /DDS Contractor – Bay Area based firm with expertise in this space and a training developed with regional center services as the focus.

2. Notable Consumer Information

- a. Tara Sisemore Hester shared that we were able to place the young lady from the hospital into a licensed care home with additional supports. She is doing well.
- b. Christine Couch shared that the team met a Mom and young adult who needed a wheelchair assessment at the April 18 public meeting. Our Benefits Counselor was able to find a loaner chair through a community resource, while the service coordinator works with clinical to have her assessed for a new chair.

3. Vendor Information – Brian Bennett shared that he continues to work on the Direct Support Program (DSP) stipend program with DDS. He is also working on the DSP Internship Program. They are also working on the standard provider portal for vendor applications and processes to be uniform across all regional centers. The Quality Assurance Team participated in investigations training and the team passed the exam. They are working with Human Resources staff on the learning management system to explore ways to use for vendor training.
4. Self-Determination Update, Christine Couch shared that as of May 8, 2024 we have 114 people in the self determination program.
5. Other Matters - none
6. Personnel and Union Update, Doug Bonnet shared Bud Mullanix's report. There are 543 employees, with 2 voluntary terminations in April. They have a scheduled labor/management meeting for May. They are preparing for contract negotiations. There was a successful Bring Your Child to Work Day in the Modesto and Stockton offices.

F. President's Report

n/a

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 6:30 PM, Hybrid (Stockton Office Cohen Board Room and via Zoom Video Conference)

H. Adjournment at 6:50pm