



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

5/14/25 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Dr. Steve Russel, Alicia Schott, Erria Kaalund, Lisa Utsey, Jeff Turner, Jody Buriss, Gabriela Castillo

Committee Members Not Present:

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Donna Saison, Lizzie Valerio, Midori Perez, Aiko Blancaflor, Brian Bennett

Public Present: Irene Hernandez (Interpreter), Xavier Chin, ASL Interpreter - K. Grace (Kiara Grace), Gloria Sanchez

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

Alicia Schott called the meeting to order at 5:37pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 3/12/25

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

- Leinani reported the big news is the May revise release, most of the day was spent with colleagues on what to anticipate what the budget will look like. She thanked Windes for presenting the audit report, thankful we are in a better space. Thanked Aiko for her leadership, ability to train and support, and for staff to feel supported. She shared updates on the Strategic Planning, meetings are scheduled with Catherine Blakemore and SP Committee, thanked Lizzie for taking notes from the meeting and adding them to the spreadsheet for Catherine who has been drafting where we are going. Sample surveys are being used to build one for input

from the community. Leinani will share what has been complied with the committee. VMRC Annual Board dinner update, The Kitchen can host us within budget, and we are looking forward to the end of July. July 23rd, Leinani shared she is not aware no one is terming off, wants feedback on dates that don't work. Jeff reported he is not going to be able to attend. Lizzie will coordinate new dates and send out a survey monkey to the full board. Leinani sent out appreciation to the Self Determination Resource Fair, thanking Mayra and the team for all their work, thank you to all Transition fair folks – lots of people attend, school district partners and all VMRC offices. She was able to go to a couple, so many service providers and community service providers there, 900 people came to all three fairs. Lizzie will share ARCA meeting schedule, usually open public Fridays. Thanked Christine, Lisa, (SAC6), Lizzie attended the Self-Advocacy conference in Sacramento. Lisa reported she didn't speak this year but will be next year. She just wanted to support her fellow friends.

2. Consumer Updates:

- Christine thanked Leinani for bringing up the Transition Fairs and Self Advocacy council 6 for 5 amazing sessions at the Self-Advocacy Conference. She thanked Lisa and Catrina who had microbusiness. At a public comment from Michael Long, he asked for a memorial wall for artwork and is working with Amanda to make a procedure that is equitable and working with facilities to make sure folks each have their artwork displayed and changed to allow for new artwork to be displayed.

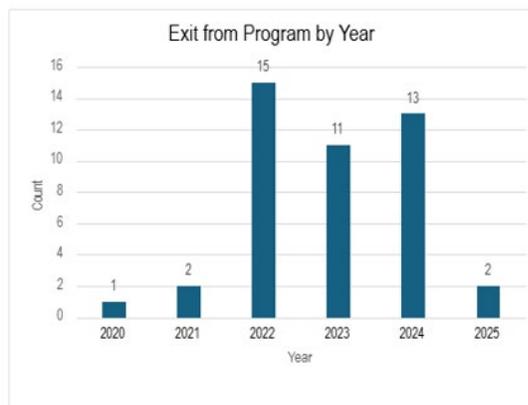
3. Consumer Services:

- Brian reported that they have been busy working on rate reform implementation. He shared a premature idea that the team is working on setting up coordinated visits for the Board to visit residential and day program settings possibly in July. He shared 1612 Apartments will be hosting their open house June 25, 2025.
- Leinani thanked Brian's team, VMRC is the #1 center to have service providers complete the service provider manual. Brian added on and thanked Aiko and the Fiscal team.

4. Self Determination:

- We have 123 Self Determination Participants
 - 76 Males and 47 Female participants
 - 1 participant is between ages 0-5
 - 41 participants are between ages 6 to 15
 - 39 are between 16 and 23
 - 42 are between 24 and up

- Hispanics continue to make up the biggest number of participants by ethnicity at 48 out of the 123 (39%), followed by Whites at 39 (31%) and Other at 20 (9 African Americans = 7%)...RC total pop is at 7%)
- Over 63% (78) of participants reside in San Joaquin County, the second highest number of participants reside in Stanislaus (36), 9 individuals in the 3 mountain counties
- There are no program exits for the month of April



- VMRC participated in the LVAC's SDP Resource Fair April 28th where our Participant Choice Specialist participated in a panel discussion.

- **Hiring:**

- We are currently hiring for a Senior Participant Choice Specialist (PCS)
- One of our current PCS will be leaving the agency toward the end of the month
- We're not anticipating challenges to backfill those positions

5. **Personnel Update:**

- Amanda shared personnel staff update currently at 587
 - January year to date is 1.88% low turnover,
 - We do have 14 openings, primarily all back fills: 3 Internal only, 11 external currently.
 - Union update: Submitted 1 day a work requirement to all staff, union has requested a meeting to discuss impacts of return, they are looking to put together a committee. VMRC is moving forward with an effective date of 9/15/2025

E. President's Report Alicia Schott

- Alicia shared she got a lot of good feedback about the Board Retreat, she would like to continue doing it that way in the future. Leinani shared that what we paid for location and catering didn't match. She would like to find another location for next

year. Alicia agreed, she did like a quick running program and the space to move around.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)
Alicia Schott

H. Adjournment at 5:51pm