



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

11/13/2024 | 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Alicia Schott, Erria Kaalund, Dr. Steve Russell, Lisa Utsey, Jeff Turner, Jose Lara, Jody Buriss

Committee Members Not Present: Gabriela Castillo

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Aaron McDonald, Sean Keyes, Athena Jurado, Lizzie Valerio, Evelyn Ledesma Solis

Public Present: Rachelle Munoz, Irene Hernandez (Interpreter), Isela Bingham (Interpreter), Lorraine Rodriguez (Dunkin)

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

Alicia Schott called the meeting to order at 6:27pm. A quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 9/11/24

Alicia Schott asked for a motion to approve the Executive Committee Meeting of 9/11/24. Alicia asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lisa made a motion, Erria seconded the motion. The Executive Committee Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment N/A

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

- Leinani reported VMRC staff attended 3rd Annual American Indian Intellectual and Developmental Disability Symposium hosted by Acorns to Oak Trees, San Diego Regional Center, and Pala Band of Mission Indians at Pala Reservation. There were tribal leaders, government officials and regional center leaders from throughout the state. Leinani participated in a Cultural Leader Panel. It was an amazing conversation with attendees and discussed ways to connect in the future. Met California State Superintendent of Public

Instruction Tony Thurmond who provided important keynote that linked both his regional center roots as former SC at GGRC (Bay Area) and focused efforts on tribal leaders making sure tribal communities are part of all conversation in education and regional center services. There was a tribal listening session led by Victor Duran, Chief Deputy Director of California Dept of Rehabilitation for the Master Plan. He received meaningful input. VMRC was awarded 2024 Village award for supporting Native American people.

- October 16-17 - attended ARCA Board Meeting in San Diego, with Alicia VMRC Board President who participated in conversation on transitional housing, special incident reporting and presentation by SDRC tribal liaison about implementing tribal engagement strategies in the community.
- October 29 - thanked all board members who attended Tracy Open House, it was an amazing event with 175-200 in attendance. We had a ribbon cutting with Tracy service providers, self-advocates from all counties and staff were able to meet community members. We also welcomed Carla Castaneda, Chief Deputy at DDS and Mayor Nancy Young of Tracy. Lizzie will be posting photos in the VMRC Newsletter of photo collages of various outreach events in the coming days.
- November 18th - DDS bi-annual audit will begin. Brenda, thankfully, with the Leadership team are helping in HR, fiscal, case management to ensure VMRC is in compliance with the contract. DDS will be here virtually 4-6 weeks.
- December 11th – Multiple public comment opportunities. The first presentation will be on NCI National Core Indicators (Christine and George Lewis will lead the conversation), and VMRC End of Year Performance Contract Report. Jason Toepel, VMRC Compliance Officer, will provide board training regarding appeals, complaints, compliance and whistleblower policy.

2. **Consumer Updates:**

Tara reported a parent in Stanislaus County was diagnosed with a brain tumor, due to confidentiality reasons she is not sharing the name. Staff at VMRC are going to great lengths to support her. Tara shared sad news of a service coordinator who lost her husband. VMRC staff are trying to support her.

Christine reported Sac6 meeting held on November 1 at VMRC Modesto office. Victor Duran, Chief Deputy of Department of Rehabilitation and Nicole Patterson, Department of Developmental Services spoke with 140 self-advocates about the Master Plan, committees and priorities. It was nice to see Victor and Nicole go over each priority, get feedback and answer questions, and listen to the concerns of self-advocates. It was an amazing event and very humbling to support Sac6.

3. **Consumer Services:** No report to share.

4. Personnel and union Update:

Leinani reported that the contract is in the ratification stage, and the union has 7 days to vote. Once ratified, more details will be shared. Voting begins November 19-22. She thanked Bruce and Tara, and union leaders for their support and help to come to an agreement. This is very positive news, and it was a heavy lift in the last couple of weeks.

Tara thanked Lizzie for supporting the last day of negotiations and Leinani who while presenting at an event, was getting information from across the state to make informed decisions.

Alicia gave condolences to the service coordinator on behalf of the board. She thanked Christine for the information from the master plan meeting as it is confusing. She was happy that the self-advocates who are affected were given feedback as it's important to the process. She also expressed that she is happy that they are at the end of union negotiation and moving in a positive direction.

F. President's Report Alicia Schott

Alicia shared that she attended the Tracy Open house, the building is amazing, staff were very friendly, and she heard a lot of good feedback from families. She shared that the open house for Families United for Equity is next week. Dominique Mellion, Executive Director, presented at our last board meeting. Alicia and Erria will be attending next week and encouraged other board members to attend. Thanksgiving dinner giveaway will have help to deliver the meals and is looking forward to hearing how it goes in the next board meeting. Please make sure Erria has contact information for drop-offs.

Leinani shared Dr. Steve has mentioned in our Finance meeting that there was interest of meeting earlier to make sure there is some alignment between meetings. Alicia shared that she can meet if everyone else can meet. Alicia reported Finance Committee will be at 4:30pm and Executive Committee can meet at 5:30pm. Erria asked if the board can be flexible as the Finance Committee Meeting didn't take the full hour. Alicia thinks it would be best to test out the meetings at the one-hour mark to ensure they will only take 30 minutes as the public needs to be notified.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)
Alicia Schott

H. Adjournment at 6:50pm