



VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

HYBRID

Valley Mountain Regional Center
702 N. Aurora Street
Stockton, CA 95202

Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86551329898?pwd=bSo875n6ZhpBpt3aXsVQsJ8eCaJ1iS.1>

Webinar ID

865 5132 9898

Passcode:

388568



VMRC Executive Committee Meeting

January 14, 2026

- A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Review of Meeting Agenda – Erria Kaalund
- B. Review and Approval of Executive Committee Minutes of 11/12/25 – Erria Kaalund **Action**
- C. Public Comment – Erria Kaalund
 - *Each member of the public may have 3 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 6 minutes will be given. Public comment can address items on the agenda that have been properly noticed for action and/or items that are not on the agenda, however, items not on the agenda cannot be responded to or discussed in the public board meeting because they are not properly noticed items (7 days advance notice).*
- D. Items for Discussion
 1. Executive Directors Report – Leinani Walter
 2. Consumer Information – Tara Sisemore-Hester and Christine Couch
 3. Consumer Services – Brian Bennett
 4. Self-Determination – Mayra Ochoa
 5. Personnel Update – Amanda Versti
- E. President’s Report – Erria Kaalund
- F. Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00pm (In-Person and Zoom)
- G. Adjournment – Erria Kaalund



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting November 12, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Erria Kaalund, Dr. Jody Burriss, Alicia Schott, Kenneth Huntley, Crystal Enyeart

Board of Directors Present: Dominique Mellion

Committee Members Not Present: Dr. Steve Russell (informed absence)

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Leinani Walter, Sean Keyes, Lizzie Valerio, Tara Sisemore-Hester

Public Present: Delia Evans, Xavier Chin

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm. Lizzie did a roll call, a quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

B. Review and Approval of the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of 9/10/25

Erria asked for a motion to approve the board minutes of 9/10/25. Kenneth made a motion to approve, Alicia seconded. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment

There is no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

Leinani began by taking a moment to acknowledge the loss of Lisa Utsey, VMRC Board Secretary and longtime self-advocate. She shared her sentiments and appreciation for her advocacy work in the community and on board. She will be greatly missed.

She thanked Amanda, Aiko, Tara and Union leadership on the union contract agreement that is ratified and approved. She looks forward to the coming year and hopes we continue working together to support Valley Mountain.

At the next board meeting, we will be presenting the Performance Year End contract where she will share progress and areas of improvement per our contract.

She thanked Christine, Erria and Kenneth for all their work for the Thanksgiving meals. She is grateful for returning and new delivery drivers.

Every year regional centers are invited to decorate a tree at the Capitol that represents each regional center with ornaments made by people with developmental disabilities.

She shared the Strategic Plan in the next steps. Leadership team and Catherine Blakemore - Consultant, will be working on developing objectives and bringing them back to the board as updates are made.

Lastly, she shared the ARCA Academy is coming up. Taking the budget into consideration, new board members and VMRC Executive Team will be attending. It's an opportunity to learn about the association and to connect with other regional centers.

2. Consumer Updates:

Tara shared they are in the middle of an Early Start audit, meeting with DDS to discuss any findings anticipate positive reviews.

3. Consumer Services:

Brian shared there are seven requests for proposals that have been posted on social media and website which has been shared with the board prior. The team also met with San Andreas team as an outcome of a public comment made at a previous board meeting. On November 20th, community services team will be having a training for staff regarding new directives that have come out.

4. Self Determination:

Mayra reported on participant information

- 129 SDP Participants as of November 12, 2025
 - 51 Females & 78 Males, 2 Participants are under 5 years old, 41 people between the ages of 6 to 15, 41 between 16 to 23, 45 between 24 and up
- Ethnic Breakdown of Participants
 - 41% - Latinos, 30% - Caucasians, 15% - Others, 7% - African American, 6% - Multi Cultural
- County Breakdown of Participants
 - 76 - San Joaquin County, 44 - Stanislaus County, 9 - Mountain Counties

5. Personnel Update:

Amanda reported there are currently 596 employees, year-to-date turnover rate is 5.18%. There are 8 current openings, 3 recent promotions, and 5 new hires in progress. Lastly, there will be a training needs survey internally this month and she will work with the training committee to finalize 2026 trainings.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she attended a Halloween event for children with special needs and it was fun to watch the kids. She will be heading to ARCA Academy this weekend, looking forward to seeing everyone there. Popplewell Committee will have holiday dinner deliveries coming up in all 5 counties served and thanked Christine for all her help.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)

H. Adjournment at 5:50 p.m.