



VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

HYBRID

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

Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81208114399?pwd=qwIBtWAl6zLJ1M2OT9hFGoEULZEMc.1>

Webinar ID

812 0811 4399

Passcode: 783174



VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

December 17, 2025

- A. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Mission Statement - Erria Kaalund**
- *The mission of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is to empower people with developmental disabilities and their families with access to services, support, and advocacy.*
- B. Honoring Lisa Utsey – Leinani Walter**
- C. Review of Meeting Agenda - Erria Kaalund**
- D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes - Oct 22, 2025 - Erria Kaalund **Action****
- E. Public Comment - Erria Kaalund**
- *Each member of the public may have 2 min for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 4 minutes will be given. Public comment may 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 by the board because they are not properly noticed items (7 days advance notice). Public comment will be heard for up to 60 minutes in total.*
- F. Consent Calendar Items - Erria Kaalund **Action****
1. Finance Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025.
 2. Executive Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025.
 3. Consumer Services Minutes of November 19, 2025.
- G. California Public Records Act (CPRA) Policy - Jason Toepel **Action****
- H. Committee Reports (3-5 minutes each)**

1. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (C.L.A.S.P.) – Candice Bright
2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee – Kenneth Huntley
3. Consumer Advisory Council, SAC6 – Crystal Enyeart
4. Finance Committee – Dr. Steven Russell
 - A. VMRC Financial Reports – Aiko Blancaflor
5. Consumer Services Committee – Crystal Enyeart
6. Legislative Committee – Kenneth Huntley
7. Bylaws Committee – Dr. Jody Burriss
8. Nominating Committee – Erria Kaalund
 - A. Nominations to fill a vacancy
 - B. Election of Board Secretary
9. Popplewell Review Team – Erria Kaalund

Action

I. Executive Director’s Report - Leinani Walter

1. Presentation – *FY24-25 Performance Contract Year End Report*

- A. Public Comment – Performance Report FY24-25

Each member of the public may have 2 minutes for comment on the VMRC Performance Contract Presentation.

2. Reflections of VMRC Achievements in 2025

J. President’s Report – Erria Kaalund

K. Next Meeting – Wed, February 25, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. In-Person and Zoom.

L. Adjournment – Erria Kaalund



Minutes for VMRC Board of Directors Meeting October 22, 2025 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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

Board Members Present: Erria Kaalund, Dr. Jody Burriss, Dr. Steve Russell, Jeff Turner, Crystal Enyeart, Jose Lara, Kenneth Huntley, Kyle Cox, Dominique Mellion, Candice Bright, Gabriela Castillo, Jessica Quesada

Board Members Not Present: Lisa Utsey (excused absence), Alicia Schott, (excused absence), Marisela Cruz (uninformed absence)

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Claire Lazaro, Mayra Ochoa, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Lizzie Valerio, Sean Keyes, Donna Sioson, Midori Perez, Aaron McDonald, Emily Orth, Jackie Borges, Shana Molotch, Mary Duncan, Maria Pedraza, Veronica Waldo, Kennitha Montgomery, Sherri Sally, Victoria Moreno, Kalleann Sokbour, Cindy Jimenez, Danielle Wells, Julie De Diego, Christina Yanez, Stephanie Cavan, Blanca Avalos, Michelle Poaster, Nereida Briseno, Josie Craig, Deanna Fantulin, Jenne Bielby, Olivia Held, Erin Martin, Lorraine Rodriguez, Heather (last nme illegible), Melissa Sales, Melissa Gully, Christina Tunquero, Mel Sanders, Balbina Arroyo, Rafael Arroyo, Janina, Annabella, Avril Giussi, Obed Rivera, Lauren Watkins, Christina McGaughy, T. B (illegible), K (illegible), Wanda Johnson, Chanthou Min, Noelia Candara, Ryan Lee, Giselle Simpson, Terry Simpson, Gregoria Gonzalez, Deanna Wagenman, Advian Gonzalez, Mireya Gonzalez, Alyssa Waldo Gonzales, Quetzalic Gutierrez, Alejandro (illegible), Veronica Waldo, Sherri Sally, Xinh Nguyen, Jordan Bettencourt, Yakima Florez, Carlos Hernandez, Jacqueline Alvarez, Cecilia Gutierrez, Aaron McDonald

Public Present: Irene Hernadez, Isela Bingham, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Steve Taylor, Dena Hernandez, Gina Castiano, Gia McElroy (Break the Case), James Ford, Erandeni Lopez, Oscar Mercado, Gricelda Estrada, Jeanette Cardenas, Hery, Tumboura Hill, Xavier Chin, Heraclia Perez, Blanca Mercado, Maribel Falcon, Shannon Hernandez, Marcela Sanchez, Erika Cibrian, Arely, Dora Contreras, Doug Bonnet, Lucia Espinoza, Daniel Boah, Monique Guerrero,

A. Call to Order, Roll Call, Reading of the Mission Statement

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Erria Kaalund. Lizzie took roll call, a quorum was established. The board read the Mission Statement.

B. Review of the Meeting Agenda

Erria asked if there were any questions or comments to the agenda. Lizzie informed the Board that there would be an addition to the Consumer Services line item. Brian Bennett will share an update.

C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 8/27/25

Erria asked for a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 8/27/25. Kenneth motioned to approve the minutes. Jose seconded. The Board of Directors meeting minutes of 8/27/25 were approved.

D. Public Comment

1. Steve Taylor, Behavior Analyst working with VMRC and Care Homes for over 20 years. He reported an incident that took place on October 8th at a residential facility in Modesto. We violated HCBS rules. He asked how much everyone knew about HCBS and began asking, "If I work in a group home questions." The incident he shared was in regard to a female client wanting her boyfriend (molester) to stay overnight in the home and staff told her no.
2. Dena Hernandez, SCDD reported to have mailed public comment to Lizzie. She is leaving handouts for the Medicaid watch from SCDD and self-advocacy network. Monday, October 27, 2025 for Employment Disability Awareness Month.
3. Emily Orth, Intake Coordinator and Chapter President for SEIU. She discussed ongoing challenges with caseload ratios and workload, while there are new hires, there are still high attrition rates, they're losing seasoned service coordinators. It takes a year to really know what to do. She also shared concern about unfilled positions from a previous expansion plan under Tony, with no current plans to fill them. Additionally, she mentioned that families are struggling, they received raises while Tony was here but that's eaten up with inflation, and they are now asking for a fair contract.
4. Gina Castiano, Parent. She shared she values the front line workers – they advocate for their families and for those that can't advocate for themselves and teach parents how to be advocates. She is her son's in-home healthcare provider and finds it hard to believe VMRC workers make roughly \$5 more than her. She is an executive board member of SEIU local 2015 in San Joaquin County, serving 8,000 members and maybe 3,000 are parent providers/relatives that have a client served by VMRC. She voiced her support giving staff a fair contract, they are vital to the community.
5. Jackie Borges, Fiscal VMRC. She reported staff are underpaid and overworked while the agency spends on Apple computers instead of raises. Health insurance and gas costs have increased, yet staff are still required to be onsite daily and purchase specific work clothing. Concerned about losing seasoned staff and having to fill gaps with new hires.
6. Shana Molotch, Senior Office Technician. She shared that although she has a full-time position with VMRC, plus a weekend part-time job and Instacart to cover basic expenses. She now holds three jobs just to afford her living costs and survive
7. Mary Duncan, VMRC Staff of 15 years. Reported she has spoken to the Board multiple times, citing differences in compensation compared to nearby regional centers (CVRC & RCEB). Appreciates new hires but caseloads are still going up and wants fair pay and fair contract.
8. Maria Pedraza, VMRC Service Coordinator. Caseload currently at 85. Reports being overloaded and stressed trying to meet client needs. Supports the bargaining team and hopes for improved support.

9. Veronica Waldo, Service Coordinator. Struggles to find private meeting spaces for families, often meeting in public or scheduling multiple appointments. Loves working with children but finds it hard to meet everyone's needs. Requests more staffing, support, and better pay so staff can have quality time with their own families after work.
10. Kennitha Montgomery, VMRC Staff. Reported having been with the agency for almost 18 years, they are overwhelmed and overloaded. She reported to be valuable as well as her colleagues, they have to fight in the world and fight at work for what is right. As far as caseloads, she makes sure her team doesn't feel overwhelmed, she takes up the majority of the burden, she hopes they reconsider the need for a fair contract and wages.
11. Sherri Sally, VMRC staff, reported they advocate social recreation for consumers but cannot afford similar activities for her own child. She felt in the past it was an open-door policy where she could provide ideas or provide open dialogue no matter what the position. She doesn't want to work for an agency where there is a fear component of speaking or advocating for myself. She does not feel valuable, a mindset she is easily replaceable. She met with families today via phone calls and reported she felt parents felt heard, comfortable and peace – parents are in good hands.
12. Gia McElroy, parent. She represents a parent advocacy group called, Break the Case, for adults with moderate to severe autism in residential care settings or needing residential care. She expressed concerns about violations of client rights and medical protocols, lack of meaningful activities, limited therapy and exercise, inadequate personal care, and minimal engagement with residents. She noted the growing rate of autism, noting that when her son was diagnosed, the rate was 1 in 500, whereas it is now 1 in 31. She shared her contact information (209) 914-2658. She welcomes professionals, therapists, and parents to join this grassroots group.
13. Tumboura Hill, a former VMRC shop steward, advised service coordinators to review the Welfare and Institutions Code. He stated that the last contract ended in 2021 and that DDS cannot negotiate a new one until VMRC meets service coordinator hiring requirements. He claimed VMRC is contracting out-of-state workers for union shop roles and raised concerns about overtime pay for hourly employees. He also noted that AB1147, effective January 1, 2026, will place VMRC under the Public Records Act.

E. Human Resources Update

Amanda provided an update on union contract negotiations, noting the current contract ends October 31 and that 22 of 32 sections have tentative agreements since talks began in August. She emphasized the need to balance fair pay and staff support with long-term fiscal stability, given budget uncertainties.

From a fiscal standpoint, audits are complete and efforts continue to improve efficiency. Since January, 30 staff have been hired, including 23 service coordinators, with more hiring planned as resources allow.

She acknowledged rising caseloads and family needs, explaining that the core staffing formula, which determines funding for operations, has been frozen since the 1990s and no longer reflects current workloads. ARCA data shows all regional centers face similar shortages (one noted in public comment today, needs 113 service coordinators).

Amanda stressed this is a statewide, systemic issue, and VMRC will keep advocating for updates to the staffing formula while continuing recruitment efforts.

F. Calendar Consent Items

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2025
3. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2025

Erria brought as an action item and asked for a motion to approve, Crystal made a motion to approve, Kenneth seconded motion to approve. The consent calendars items were approved unanimously.

G. Committee Reports

1. VMRC Professional Advisory Committee, Coalition of Local Agency Service Provider (C.L.A.S.P.) – Candice Bright

Candice reported that their last meeting was on September 22nd and the next one will be October 27th. They are held on 4th Mondays of each month. There were no CLASP updates. They are working to look for people to work on their provider conference.

There are currently 81 paid members.

2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee

Kenneth shared that August – October SDAC meeting, Fernando Gomez and Elizabeth Barrios of Integrated Community Collaborative shared an explanation of what their company wants to do for VMRC Self-Determination Program. They want to expedite and reduce wait time from 6 months to 60 days using their new program, Project Expressway. In October, the committee gave VMRC approval the rest of the funding to the program and a day long workshop we committee members are clear on the goals and guidelines are for committee members. In 2026, another self-determination conference will be held to learn about the self-determination program as committee members shared the same, VMRC has the lowest number of participants versus other regional centers.

Jose Lara shared that an issue people are having is getting paid and that is a reason why a lot of families don't want to go. Families have to pay out of pocket and wait for reimbursement. Kenneth reported that it is a VMRC staff question.

Brian added that Financial Management Services, "the bank" for families in SDP, all regional centers commonly share financial management services through courtesy vendorization. It is a challenge, we are actively looking for new FMS providers in our region. Mayra added there are a few FMS providers our families have access too. We heard at our learning sessions that there is a need for independent facilitators.

3. Consumer Advisory Council, SAC6 – Crystal Enyeart

- September 3rd and 4th Sac6 member Crystal attended the SSAN meetings.
- September 4th Sac6 members had an ARCA training on zoom.
- September 10th Lisa U attended the VMRC Finance and Executive Meetings in person.
- September 13th Sac6 had their quarterly Board meeting.

- September 15th was Remembrance Day Sac6 worked with VMRC, SCDD and DRC hosting two locations, one in Stockton and one in Manteca, both had great turn outs and guest speakers.
- September 16th and 18th Kenneth attended and chaired the Self Determination Advisory Committee meeting
- September 24th Sac6 members attended the Statewide Self Advocacy Chat on zoom and the Consumer Services meeting on zoom.
- September 25th Kenneth attended the Self Determination Leadership meeting.
- October 2nd Kenneth attended the SDAC work group planning for Self Determination events in 2026.
- October 7th Sac6 had their quarterly Leadership meeting.
- October 8th Kenneth worked the Sac6 Office hours at the Stockton office; this was his first time.
- October 10th Sac6 had a table at the Cultural fair and advocates talked to peers and family members about unmet needs. Forms were completed and turned into our Liaison.
- Upcoming events:
- Sac6 Area meeting November 7th from 10 am to 2 pm at Cornerstone Church in Turlock. Guest speakers will be Jennifer Stone on affordable housing and EJ on Employment

A. Early Start Update

Tara shared an update on the Early Start team. They received their measures data, and the team is exceeding goals for the state of California, in areas of social-emotion, and learning. She shared the team has been doing a great job meeting performance measures.

4. Finance Committee –

Dr. Steve reported there are three items that will be discussed which Aiko will present on.

- VMRC Finance Reports:** Aiko reported they received their second allocation for current FY 25-26, which is expected to cover remaining expenses. As of September 30th, 24.3% of purchase of service allocation and 21.2% of operations allocation has been used. She anticipates needing additional funds for POS funding due to implementation of rate reform. This has been communicated to the department, and it has been informed VMRC will need an additional \$6.1 million to cover funds.

WINDES Audit Report: At the October 8 Finance Committee meeting, audit reports for FY 22–23 and FY 23–24 were presented. The only finding was a delay in submitting a single audit report as they are due 9 months after the fiscal year ends. Additionally, VMRC transitioned from CalPERS to FASB valuation standards, requiring restated FY 21–22 statements but ensuring proper compliance moving forward. Reports have been posted on our website and submitted to DDS and our bank. Currently they are working on FY 24-25, which we are anticipating to be reported to the board in the February 2026 meeting.

Dr. Steve reported this to the board as an action item from the committee. Erria seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Increase Line of Credit:** Aiko reported the current \$15 million line of credit expires on November 30, 2025, and a request has been made to increase it to \$25 million to ensure provider payments if funding is delayed. The line of credit was not used last year, avoiding interest costs.

This is an action item, first to extend their line of credit for another year and second to increase from \$15 to \$25 million. She reported line of fees: the bank will charge 0.15% for fees, which is equal to \$37,500 plus an additional \$695 in loan processing fee.

Dr. Steve stated we have a motion to accept this. Erria makes a motion to accept, Kenneth seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Consumer Services Committee

Crystal shared the next committee meeting will be on November 19, 2025.

6. Legislative Committee –

Kenneth shared the next committee meeting is November 19, 2025, from 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm.

Brian shared an update on approved Community Resource Development and Community Placement Plan. Several plans were submitted and approved – posted on website and will be shared on social media.

- 3 Early Start Intervention in Mountain Counties at startup amount of \$75,000
- 3, 4 – bed Children’s specialized children’s residential home startup amount \$250,000 (1 – Mountain County, 1 – San Joaquin, 1 – Stanislaus County),
- 3 Employment programs in Mountain Counties startup of \$50,000
- 2 – 4 bed homes for forensic needs (court involved) RFP includes substance use disorder support

Dr. Steve asked if the clients in the Mountain Counties do not have access to the forensic housing. Brian reported, that have access and be referred to them if services meet their needs, by experience they are closer to natural resources, behavioral health services than in the Mountain Counties.

7. Bylaws Committee –

Jody reported there was nothing to report.

8. Nominating Committee –

Erria has not met, in the process of recruiting.

9. Popplewell Review Team –

Erria reported that they are in the process of getting pricing for Thanksgiving meals. Prices have gone up for each meal. They would like to increase meals by 5, if possible. Working on setting up a meeting in early November. Dr. Steve asked how to donate. Erria reported on the website, you can donate and ask that funds are designated to meals.

H. Executive Director's Report

Mayra reported on behalf of Leinani as she is out on medical leave.

Leinani thanked the board, staff, and community partners for their support of VMRC’s strategic plan listening sessions and collaboration across programs, the board room, and online. Special thanks were extended to SAC6, ICC, People First, Arc of Amador

and Calaveras, Families United, Escuchen Mi Voz, FRN, VMRC staff, and board members Erria Kaalund, Dr. Steve, Dominique Mellion, and Kyle Cox.

September 15th, VMRC honored individuals with developmental disabilities who lived and passed away in state hospitals at a remembrance ceremony in Stockton and Manteca. She thanked Kimo for his commemorative painting which is now displayed in the hallway and to Erria Kaalund and Alicia Schott for attending.

September 24, she attended Special Olympics event at Edison High (Stockton Unified), celebrating inclusion and athletes and incredible talent from all athletes. She was very appreciative of board member Jose Lara for supporting this wonderful event with his family.

September 26th, Leinani and herself attended the 58th Annual California Native American Day at the Capital. We're thankful for connecting with many DDS staff and tribal liaison, Jordan Martinson and our Native American community partner, Season Goodpasture or Acorns to Oak Trees.

On October 10, VMRC hosted one of its most successful cultural disability resource fairs on our Stockton campus. We welcomed over 1,100 individuals with disabilities and their families across our five counties along with more than 85 vendors and community-based organizations providing resources, information and giveaways. Our microbusiness fair showcase beautiful, creative artwork for everyone to enjoy. This event highlights what makes VMRC special with over 70 VMRC staff who worked tirelessly over the past several months and on the day of the event. We appreciate board member Erria Kaalund and Kenneth Huntley for tabling and sharing what you do. She appreciated everyone who attended and contributed to bringing our mission to life.

Mayra added a quick special shout out in addition to Leinani's report, she thanks the Cultural Fair Planning Committee Christine, Gaby, Aaron and Lizzie – Thank you for all your work.

I. President's Report

Erria shared updates from the ARCA meeting in San Diego, highlighting key discussions on CalABLE, continued funding for Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, and legislative updates—all 16 bills on the Governor's desk were approved. Pete Cervinka spoke with them about strategic thinking for ARCA and uniform all 21 boards to have the same standard and encouraged them to work with their DDS liaison, succession planning for Executive Directors, and streamlining public comment registration.

Erria congratulated Dominique Mellion, who was named Woman of the Year by Assemblywoman Liz Ortega. She also attended the fair and thanked everyone for all their work, it was amazing, one of their best turn outs. It was the first time it was held on Friday, and it allowed more consumers to attend.

Additionally, Erria represented VMRC at the Lions Club event, met with Assemblywoman Rhodesia Ransom, and attended BWOPA, advocating for legislation supporting people with developmental disabilities and their voting rights.

Jeff Turner asked for reference to Nomination and Bylaws Committee update, in the last Board of Directors meeting it was voted they would become a combined

committee. He asked if the updated bylaws had been signed yet and if not, when will they be and who has been assigned to chair the new Governance Committee. Erria will get information and updated to the committee.

J. Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 6:00pm Hybrid (In-Person and Zoom)

K. Adjournment at 7:18pm.



Minutes for VMRC Finance Committee Meeting November 12, 2025 | 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Erria Kaalund, Dr. Jody Burriss, Jeff Turner, Alicia Schott, Connie Uychutin

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

Board Members Present: Kenneth Huntley, Dominique Mellion

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Mayra Ochoa, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Leinani Walter, Lizzie Valerio

Public Present: Xavier Chin, Delia Sanders

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and informed the committee Dr. Steve (Finance Chair) was unavailable due to a personal matter. She also reported that the meeting started later than scheduled due to a previous board meeting that went over in time.

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

Erria made the motion to approve the finance Committee Minutes of September 10, 2025. Dr. Jody motioned to approve the motion. The Finance Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

No public comment

D. Fiscal Department Update

Aiko shared that the Contract Status report is the same as that was presented in the October board meeting because the month ends not until Friday, November 14th, as they are typically done on the 15th of each month. They are still waiting on the Departments allocation for fiscal year 24-25, we will have the rest of the funds to issue rate reform retroactive payments.

She also provided an update on the service providers quality incentive payment for fiscal year 26-27 and what the eligibility requirements are. In order for service providers to get

the 100% of the rate set by the Department, 10% must be earned through the quality incentive program.

- Eligibility requirements for certain years:
 - Currently signed up in the provider directory.
 - The next fiscal year will be compliance with the electronic visit verification
 - Second is HCBS compliance
 - Third is completing the independent audit report or independent review report depending on how much they made.
 - If they made \$500,000 to less than \$2 million – Independent Review report
 - Anything more than that – Independent Audit Report
 - QIP measures that will need to be completed. DDS began sending out surveys beginning first week of November and continue to do so.
 - Providers need to report on capacity; where services are provided, information regarding staff, in alignment with the Department to improve direct service providers quality.
 - Second is preventative health and wellness - report when clients last received wellness screening
 - Employment vendors need to submit data on staff training and client employment data

All criteria must be met for them to get the 10% QIP for next fiscal year. Alicia asked when everything must be completed by. Aiko reported all criteria must be met by February 27, 2026 and surveys are due by January 31, 2026.

Erria reported that this comes as a motion to the board for approval. Alicia made a motion to approve, Dr. Jody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. in-person and Zoom

F. Adjournment at 5:11 p.m.



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 also noted that the community has experienced a lot of loss recently, yesterday the celebration of life was held for Eric Ybarra, a longtime advocate. She noted Lisa's

celebration of life will be held soon and the board will receive information. She will be greatly missed by her.

Leinani reported that Lisa was a member of the executive team as a secretary and per VMRC Bylaws, they have to fill that role. At the next board meeting in December, nominations will be accepted to fill that role and voted on and installed in the following February board meeting.

She thanked Amanda, Aiko, Tara and Union leadership for their union contract work on having an agreement that is ratified and approved. She looks forward to the coming year and hopes we continue working together to support Valley Mountain – a place people want to work and make a career at.

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. December's board meeting will be held on a different date to allow for VMRC staff to be able to decorate the tree.

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. It's a living plan that has goals that will shift to reflect changing needs of the community.

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. She acknowledged Rebecca Gile, she shared a client recently moved from New York to the Central Valley and needed to be found eligible and was found with her support and is in emergency placement with significant needs.

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. Quality Assurance held a training for service providers today. The team also met with San Andreas team as an outcome of a public comment made at a previous board meeting, where it was reported they felt less supported in their location. 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:

- 1 internal, (senior service coordinator in San Andreas)
- 7 external including 5 service coordinators
 - 4 of the 5 service coordinators are in final interview phases
 - Public Records Analyst also in process of job offer
 - Psychologist position

There were 3 recent promotions since the last Executive meeting: full-time front desk, community services manager, and senior service coordinator internally.

There are 5 new hires in progress, service coordinator, fiscal assistant, and program manager. They were able to hire for a position in San Andreas. Lastly, there will be a training needs survey internally this month and I will work with the training committee to finalize 2026 surveys that will include mandatory sessions.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she attended a Halloween event for children with special needs, it was fun to watch the kids. She will be heading to ARCA Academy this weekend, looking forward to see everyone there. Popplewell Committee will have holiday dinner deliveries coming up in all 5 counties served and thanked Christine for all her help. She added there will be a Board Dinner in December. She also shared they will all miss Lisa, and there will be nominations to replace her positions.

Kenneth added, Lisa made him feel welcome as a new board member and SAC6. She was a leader, pioneer, a great friend and will be missed.

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

Erria Kaalund

H. Adjournment at 5:50 p.m.



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

November 19, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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

Committee Members Present: Crystal Enyeart, Dominique Mellion, Jessica Quesada, Liz Herrera-Knapp, Megan Ybarra

Committee Members Not Present: Gabriela Castillo, Marisela Cruz, Sarah Howard

Public Present: Irene Hernandez, Isela Bingham, Delia Evans, Anel Renteria, Dena Hernandez

VMRC Staff Present: Gabriela Castillo, Midori Perez, Brian Bennett, Robert Fernandez, Katina Richison, Libby Contreras, Jason Toepel, Aaron McDonald, Christine Couch, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Leinani Walter, Claire Lazaro, Lizzie Valerio, Sean Keyes, Mayra Ochoa

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

Crystall Enyeart called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. Lizzie took roll call, the committee did not have a quorum.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 9/24/25

Crystal asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 9/24/25. A quorum was not present, an approval could not be made.

C. Public Comment

1. Dena Hernadez, SCDD Northern Hills reported that over 4,300 surveys were received across the state of California on what areas the 2027-2031 state plan should focus on. The draft areas contain self-advocacy, system change advocacy and capacity building and advocacy. The draft was approved by the state council at their meeting and will be going out for public comment.

D. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

Christine reported that 2 of 3 sessions for the National Core Indicators have been held in conjunction with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North Valley Hills office. They are informing folks about the surveys being done being mailed to homes, answering questions they may have. The data they receive helps see what needs to be

done differently, setting goals and schedule training and targeting outreach. She also reported Thanksgiving meal deliveries will be taking place next week.

Tara reported Early Start audit sections have been completed, DDS came to observe intensive autism program, infant toddler program, intake assessments and met with Program Managers. Awaiting final meeting and report, she is very proud of the team. She reported that are working on early start stations in collaboration with school districts, vendors and service providers in the Mountain Counties in partnership with First 5 and Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ACCTA)

E. Self-Advocacy Council Area 6 (SAC6) Update

- October 10th many Sac6 members worked the Sac6 table at the Cultural Fair and talked to people about unmet needs and self-advocacy. Unmet forms we received were turned into our Liaison.
- October 22nd, Sac6 members Crystal, Catrina and Kenneth gave a presentation to the VMRC Board on what Sac6 does.
- October 22nd Sac6 Chair Angelina attended the Statewide Self Advocacy Chat on zoom.
- November 7th Sac6 had their quarterly Area Meeting. This meeting was held in Stanislaus County; we had about 80 advocates there and Jennifer Stone gave a great presentation on affordable housing. Also, Robert Fernandez gave a great presentation on Employment. People wore purple in honor of our dear friend and advocate, Lisa.
- November 13th Sac6 consultant Jessica attended the OAHA committee on zoom.
- October 7th sac6 Leadership had their quarterly meeting with our VMRC Liaison. Also, on November 4th we had the second half of this meeting.

F. Resource Development Update

Brian reported the RD and QA team will be supporting service coordinators and program managers for training tomorrow related to rate reform changes for residential and day program settings. There will also be information sessions for the RFPs that are currently open.

Robert reported on 11/13 VMRC held Supported Living Services orientation, 14 attendees and offered to new SLS vendors. They are working towards a standardized vendorization, DDS is having all regional centers follow the same process.

G. Quality Assurance Update

Katina reported data on incoming alert report, a total of 65 reports. She reported on a new Quality Assurance manager, Anna Sims – they are excited for her new role.

H. Transportation Update

Anel shared transportation updates for October:

- Total service providers vendored with VMRC is 49
- Total number of riders is 2,2057, an increase of 34 individuals.
- Total of trips was 97,822.

Anel shared they are reaching out to day program regarding additional closures other than upcoming holidays and ask riders to contact if they don't need transportation. As a general reminder, if you receive transportation to and from day program and have concerns, please contact the office. Contact Number: 1-888-695-8848

I. Fair Hearing Update

Jason reported there have been 23 appeal requests, regarding eligibility and service appeals.

J. Coalition of Local Agency Service Providers (CLASP) Update

Liz reported she will send over minutes from the meeting and shared brief updates.

- 24 paid members
- over \$20,000 in the account
- a vote was held for Lisa Utsey's memorial
- Next meeting: Monday, November 24, 2025
- They continue to meet for day program work groups as well, the next meeting is December 12.

K. Clinical Update

Claire reported that ARCA Clinical Directors met on November 6, shared the legislation to provide seizure medication has been signed, individuals living in residential care homes can now receive rescue seizure medication. Some will need training, this is a big win. In addition, she shared the respiratory care board and changes in LVN requirements of what they can do in homes is still a discussion. There is a statewide need in psychologists and what regional centers rates are in order to meet the need.

L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 4:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

M. Adjournment at 4:31pm

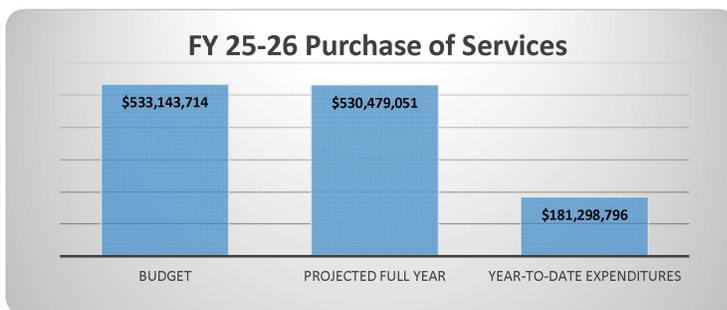
**Valley Mountain Regional Center
Contract Status Report
October 31, 2025**

FY	Amount Description	Operation	Purchase of Services (POS)	CPP/CRDP POS	LACC Grant	Service Access & Equity	Foster Grandparents & Senior Companions	Total
23-24	Allocation - E-4	\$ 58,373,022	\$ 413,167,983	\$ 848,855	\$ -	\$ 91,714	\$ 578,369	\$ 473,059,943
	YTD Expenses	57,808,688	402,038,945	223,557	-	-	503,913	460,575,104
	Balance	\$ 564,334	\$ 11,129,038	\$ 625,298	\$ -	\$ 91,714	\$ 74,456	\$ 12,484,839
24-25	Allocation - A-2	\$ 64,236,563	\$ 504,398,061	\$ 2,427,489	\$ 659,403	\$ -	\$ 589,019	\$ 572,310,535
	YTD Expenses	64,067,721	496,293,136	2,189,008	635,040	-	552,836	563,737,742
	Balance	\$ 168,842	\$ 8,104,925	\$ 238,481	\$ 24,363	\$ -	\$ 36,183	\$ 8,572,793
25-26	Allocation - B-2	\$ 67,402,973	\$ 532,932,594	\$ 211,120	\$ 707,066	\$ -	\$ 601,444	\$ 601,855,197
	YTD Expenses	19,131,839	181,298,796	-	184,221	-	100,992	200,715,848
	Balance	\$ 48,271,134	\$ 351,633,798	\$ 211,120	\$ 522,845	\$ -	\$ 500,452	\$ 401,139,349
Amount Change FY 23-24 to FY 24-25		\$ 5,863,541	\$ 91,230,078	\$ 1,578,634	\$ 659,403	\$ (91,714)	\$ 10,650	\$ 99,250,592
Amount Change FY 24-25 to FY 25-26		\$ 3,166,410	\$ 28,534,533	\$ (2,216,369)	\$ 47,663	\$ -	\$ 12,425	\$ 29,544,662
% Change FY 23-24 to FY 24-25		10.04%	22.08%	185.97%	N/A	-100.00%	1.84%	20.98%
% Change FY 24-25 to FY 25-26		4.93%	5.66%	-91.30%	7.23%	N/A	2.11%	5.16%

The contract status report provides information on the total amount of contract allocations received from DDS, the expenditures, and remaining balances for the current and two prior fiscal years. The report also compares the contract allocations between fiscal years in both dollars and percents.

FY 25-26 Operations & Purchase of Services Expense by Category as of October 31, 2025

OPS Expense Category	YTD Expense	POS Expense Category	YTD Expense
Salary & Benefits	\$ 16,769,393	Out of Home	\$ 54,690,954
Facility Rent and Maintenance	\$ 1,457,231	Day Programs	\$ 4,519,094
Information Technology	\$ 540,006	Respite & Day Care	\$ 26,953,808
General Expenses	\$ 67,105	Non-Medical Services	\$ 15,183,252
Communication	\$ 166,766	Supported Living Services	\$ 15,111,446
Insurance	\$ 459,182	Transportation	\$ 11,420,471
Accounting & Legal Fees	\$ 52,093	Prevention Services	\$ 7,136,979
Consultants	\$ 184,438	Other Services	\$ 11,718,013
Staff Mileage/Travel	\$ 111,758	Personal Assistance	\$ 12,071,069
ARCA Dues	\$ 125,303	Medical Services	\$ 21,486,412
Equipment	\$ 53,923	Supported Employment	\$ 848,856
Board Expenses	\$ 7,424	Camps	\$ 158,442
ICF Admin Fee, Interest, & Other Income	\$ (862,785)	CPP/CRDP	\$ -
Total YTD Operations Expense:	\$ 19,131,839	Total YTD POS Expense:	\$ 181,298,796



As of October 31, 2025, we have used 34% of our Purchase of Service (POS) allocation and 28.4% of our Operations funding. Our fiscal team is actively implementing rate reform changes, processing retro payments, and completing the FY 24-25 CPA audit, which remains on track. We are closely monitoring our cash flow so we can notify the Department early if support is needed. While cash flow concerns usually arise near the end of the fiscal year, the required retro payments have prompted us to pay closer attention sooner. For reference, we have issued about \$2.6 million in retro payments to personal assistant vendors for services from January to October 2025, and about \$3.6 million to our transportation broker for services from April 2022 to September 2025. Based on current projections, we have enough cash through February 2026, when we expect to receive additional cash receipts from DDS.

A new federal budget has been approved, providing funding for several programs—including CalFresh and WIC food assistance—through September 30, 2026. Other programs, such as Medi-Cal, are funded through January 2026. We will continue to monitor any budget changes and their impact to our community.

Public Meeting: 2024-25 Performance Contract Year End Report

November/December 2025

VALLEY
MOUNTAIN
REGIONAL
CENTER

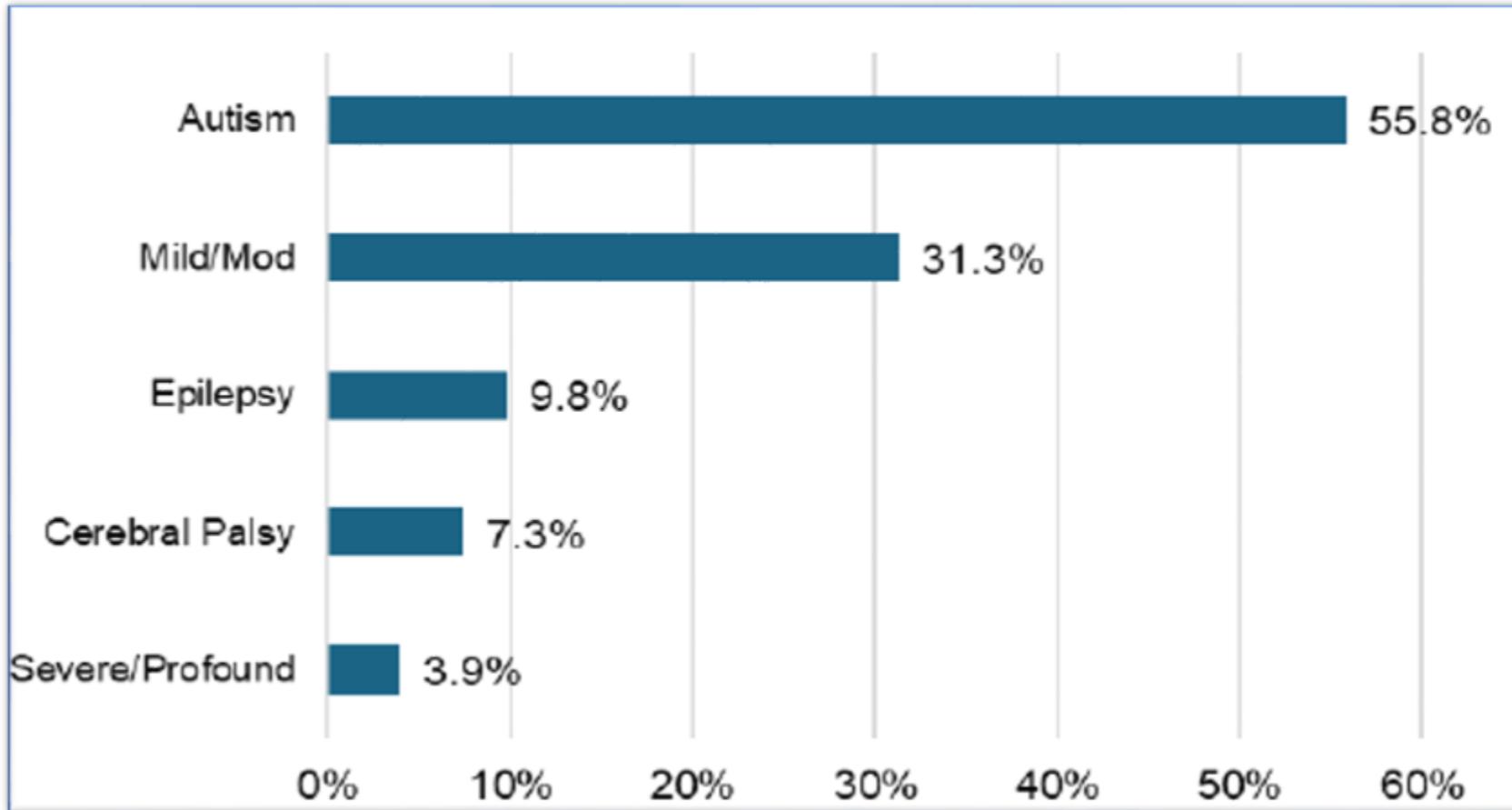


Why are we meeting?

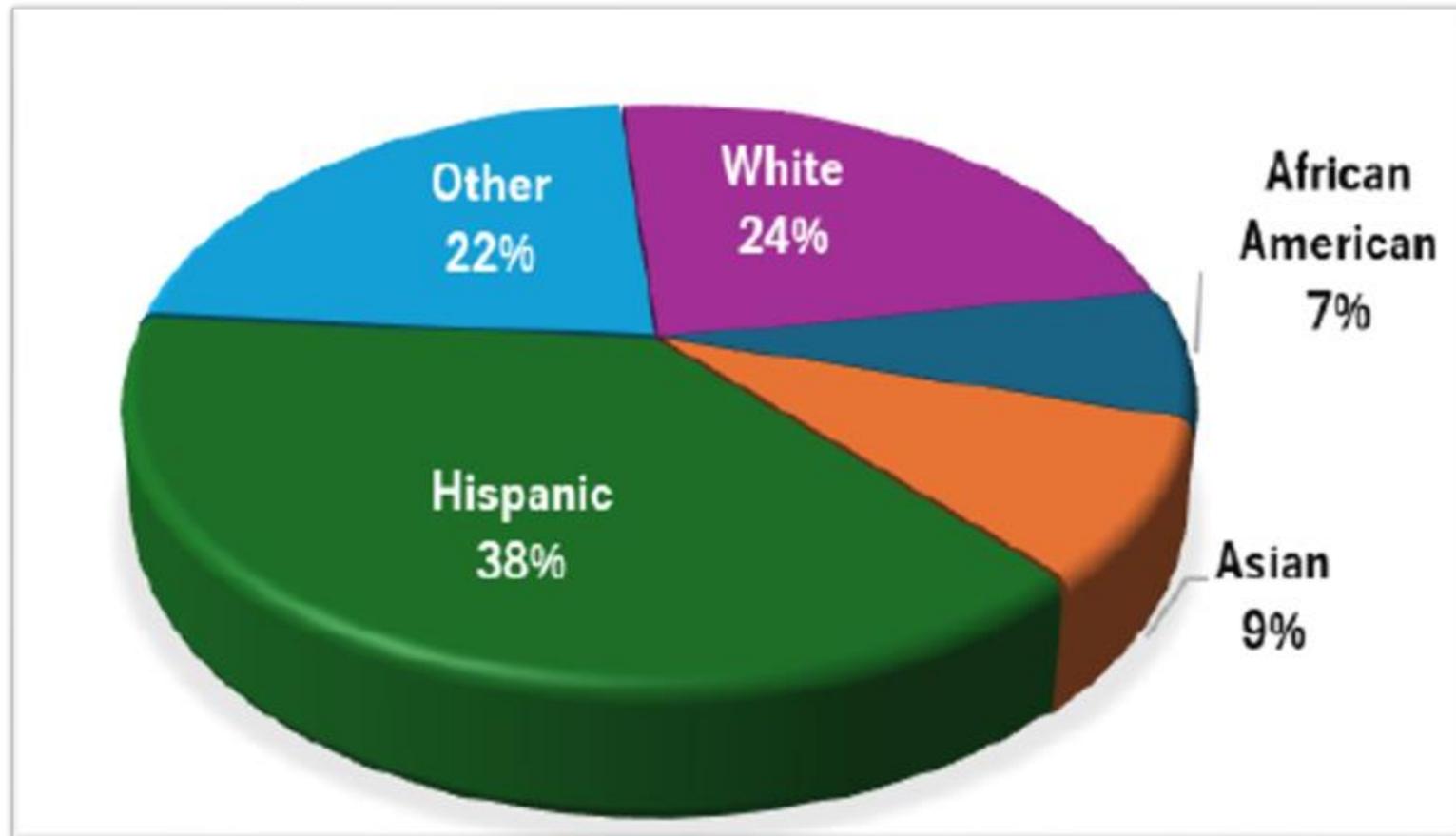
- ❖ The law requires CA Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with regional centers include annual performance objectives.
- ❖ End of year performance contract must be reviewed with the public to gather input from the community.



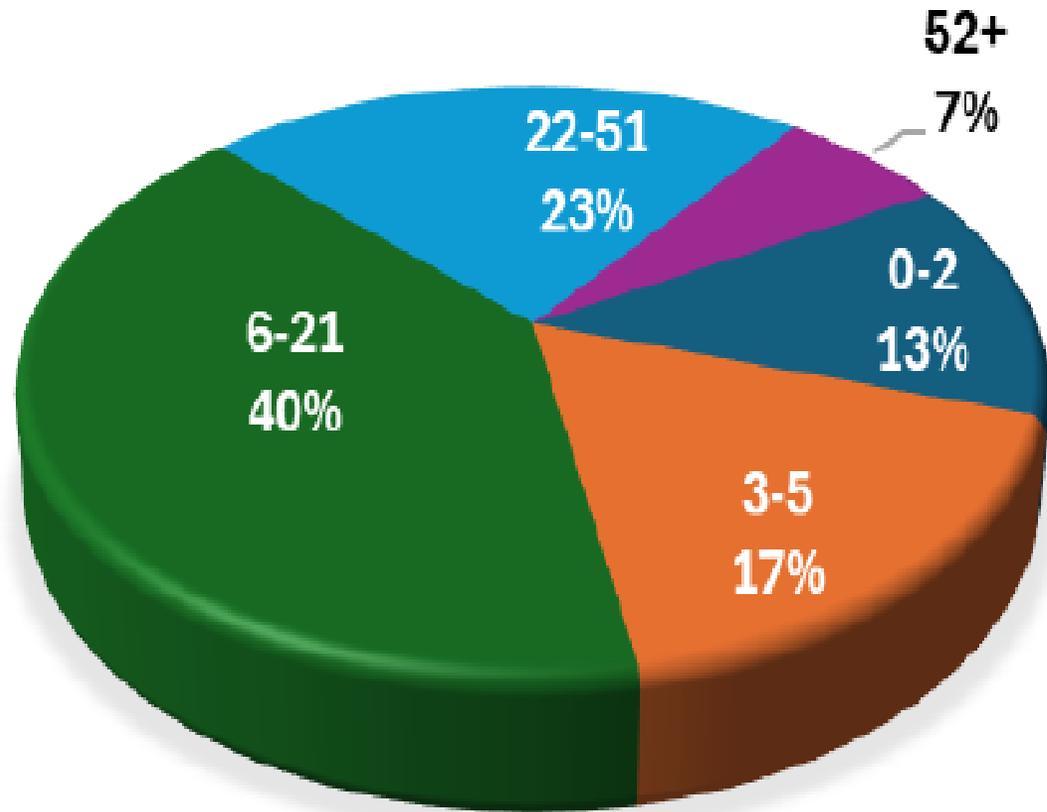
Diagnoses of People Served by VMRC



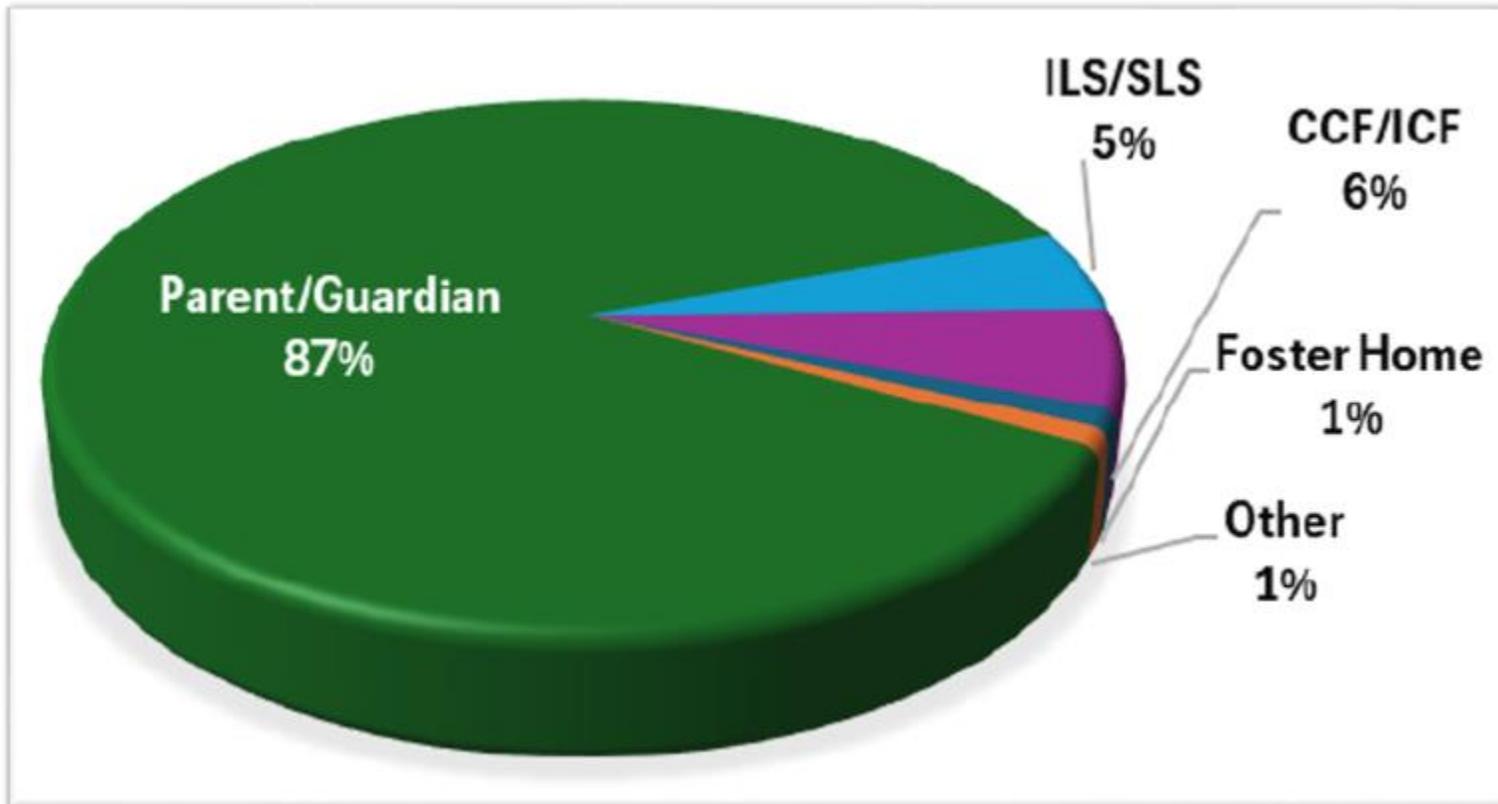
Ethnicity of People Served



Age of People Served



Where People Live



How well is VMRC performing?

Regional Center Goals (based on Lanterman Act)	June 2024		June 2025	
	State Average	VMRC	State Average	VMRC
More children live with families	99.69%	99.64%	99.71%	99.59%
More adults live in home settings	83.86%	80.66%	84.29%	81.27%
Fewer children live in large facilities (more than 6 people)	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%	0.01%
Fewer adults live in large facilities (more than 6 people)	1.46%	2.60%	1.36%	2.40%

- .05% decrease in children living with families due to increase of children with complex needs.
- VMRC received CPP funding to develop additional Specialized Children's Homes to meet the complex needs of children served.



Did VMRC Meet DDS Standards?

Areas Measured	Last Reporting Period	Current Reporting Period
Passes independent audit	Yes	No ¹
Passes DDS financial audit ²	Yes	No ³
Audits vendors as required	Partially Met ⁴	Partially Met ⁵
Didn't overspend operations budget	Yes	Yes
Participates in the federal waiver ⁶	Yes	Yes
CDERs and ESRs are updated as required (CDER is the Client Development Evaluation Report and ESR is the Early Start Report. Both contain information about individuals, including diagnosis.) ⁷	99.94%	97.95%
Intake/Assessment timelines for individuals age 3 or older met	66.24%	71.90%
IPP (<i>Individual Program Plan</i>) requirements met	95.51%	N/A ⁸
IFSP (<i>Individualized Family Service Plan</i>) requirements met	92.9%	93.0%

- October 2025 - Independent audit for FY22/23 & FY 23/24 completed.
- July 2025 - DDS audits completed for FY22/23 and FY23/24; findings issued.

How are VMRC efforts to get people working?

Areas Measured	Time Period			
	CA	VMRC	CA	VMRC
Consumer Earned Income (Age 16 to 64 years): Data Source: Employment Development Department	Jan through Dec 2023		Jan through Dec 2024	
Quarterly number of consumers with earned income	32,132	940	32,936	1,014
Percentage of consumers with earned income	15.20%	11.28%	15.60%	11.64%
Average annual wages	\$14,251	\$11,994	\$14,902	\$12,780
Annual earnings of consumers compared to people with all disabilities in California Data Source: American Community Survey, 2022 five-year estimate	2022		2023	
	\$29,382		\$31,436	
Paid Internship Program Data Source: Paid Internship Program Survey	2022-23		2023-24	
	CA Average	VMRC	CA Average	VMRC
Number of adults who were placed in competitive, integrated employment following participation in a Paid Internship Program	12	2	13	1
Percentage of adults who were placed in competitive, integrated employment following participation in a Paid Internship Program	10%	22%	9%	8%
Average hourly or salaried wages for adults who participated in a Paid Internship Program	\$15.96	\$15.31	\$16.74	\$16.81
Average hours worked per week for adults who participated in a Paid Internship Program	14	19	14	12
Competitive Integrated Employment Data Source: Competitive Integrated Employment Incentive Program Survey				
Average wages for adults engaged in competitive, integrated employment, on behalf of whom incentive payments have been made	\$16.51	\$15.64	\$17.33	\$17.06
Average hours worked for adults engages in competitive, integrated employment, on behalf of whom incentive payments have been made	21	14	21	18
Total number of Incentive payments made for the fiscal year for the following amounts:	\$3,000	38	34	35
	\$2,500	40	35	40
	\$2,000	49	29	51

- VMRC received \$50K CPP funding for 3 Supported employment/CIE projects.
- Career Pathways projects provide individual vocational support in all 5 counties.
- Goal: Increase supported employment services and job opportunities.

How is VMRC doing at increasing service access and equity?

Percent of total annual purchase of service expenditures by individual's ethnicity and age

Age Group	Measure	American Indian or Alaska Native		Asian		Black/African American		Hispanic		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		White		Other Ethnicity or Race	
		22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24
Birth to 2	Individuals	0%	0%	8%	7%	5%	5%	44%	47%	0%	0%	16%	16%	26%	25%
	Expenditures	0%	0%	10%	8%	4%	5%	48%	49%	0%	0%	16%	16%	22%	22%
3 to 21	Individuals	0%	0%	10%	9%	7%	7%	45%	47%	0%	0%	21%	19%	16%	17%
	Expenditures	0%	0%	10%	10%	11%	9%	40%	42%	0%	0%	24%	24%	14%	14%
22 and older	Individuals	0%	0%	8%	9%	10%	11%	28%	34%	0%	0%	46%	38%	7%	7%
	Expenditures	1%	0%	7%	8%	11%	12%	21%	24%	0%	0%	52%	49%	8%	6%

- Hired a Director of Equity and Engagement to prioritize service access and equity throughout VMRC.
- Increased service access & eligibility for African American, Asian & Hispanic individuals 22 and older.

Ways to Improve Service Access?



Prioritized language access by creating resources in preferred languages & launching new website in 2026.



Focused efforts on recruiting more diverse service providers who speak other languages.



Expand culturally and linguistically diverse community partnerships.



Steps to Improve VMRC Performance?

Timely Audit Compliance

- Strengthen internal controls, processes, and staff training to support compliance and timely audit completion.

Service Access

- Expand Cultural Competency
- Training and work funded by LACC
- Fortify new partnerships and expand engagement

Employment Supports

- Increase supported employment providers
- Prioritize outreach & engagement with VMRC staff and community partners, potential service providers

Performance Report for Valley Mountain Regional Center

Every year, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracts with regional centers in California to serve individuals and families. And, every year DDS looks at how well the regional centers are doing. This report will give you information about Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC).

Last year VMRC served about 22,200 individuals. The charts on page two tell you about the individuals VMRC serves. You will also see how well VMRC is doing in meeting goals and in fulfilling our contract with DDS.

At VMRC, we want to improve every year, do better than the state average, and meet or exceed the DDS standard. VMRC supports people with developmental disabilities to live with the power of choice and the opportunity to succeed. We strive to empower individuals and their families by providing access to high quality services, supports, and advocacy.

We hope this report helps you learn more about VMRC. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us. To learn more about this report go to: www.vmrc.net or contact my Executive Assistant, Lizzie Valerio, at (209) 751-0732.



Leinani Walter
Executive Director
Valley Mountain Regional Center



VALLEY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL CENTER

Public Comment

