



VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 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/87450361974?pwd=zHji1NR4CyyPpnFcGZLYjFq5my5tUm.1>

Webinar ID

874 5036 1974

Passcode: 783174



VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

October 22, 2025

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

Erria Kaalund

- *The mission of Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) is to support people with developmental disabilities as they enrich their lives through choices and inclusion. VMRC is committed to securing quality, individualized services in collaboration with families and the community.*

B. Review of the Meeting Agenda

Erria Kaalund

C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2025

Erria Kaalund

Action

D. Public Comment

Erria Kaalund

- *Each member of the public may have 2 minutes for comment. If an interpreter is needed, 4 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). Public comment will be heard for up to 60 minutes in total.*

E. Human Resources Update

Amanda Verstl

F. Consent Calendar Items

Erria Kaalund

Action

1. Finance Committee Minutes of September 10, 2025 and October 8, 2025.
2. Executive Committee Minutes of September 10, 2025.
3. Consumer Services Minutes of September 24, 2025.

G. Committee Reports *(Each committee will be given 3-5 minutes maximum to report)*

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
 - A. Early Start Update – Tara Sisemore-Hester
4. Finance Committee – Dr. Steven Russell
 - A. VMRC Financial Reports – Aiko Blancaflor
 - B. WINDES Audit Report – Aiko
 - C. Increase Line of Credit – Aiko

Action

5. Consumer Services Committee – Crystal Enyeart
6. Legislative Committee – Kenneth Huntley
7. Bylaws Committee – Jody Burriss
8. Nominating Committee – Erria Kaalund
9. Popplewell Review Team – Erria Kaalund

H. Executive Director’s Report – Mayra Ochoa on behalf of Leinani Walter

I. President’s Report – Erria Kaalund

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

K. Adjournment – Erria Kaalund



Minutes for VMRC Board of Directors Meeting

August 27, 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, Jody Burriss, Lisa Utsey, Dr. Steve Russell, Alicia Schott, Jeff Turner, Crystal Enyeart, Jose Lara, Kenneth Huntley, Kyle Cox, Dominique Mellion, Candice Bright, Gabriela Castillo, Jessica Quesada

Board Members Not Present: Marisela Cruz (uninformed absence)

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Christine Couch, Claire Lazaro, Leinani Walter, Mayra Ochoa, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Jason Toepel, Lizzie Valerio, Sean Keyes, Donna Sioson, Midori Perez, Gabriela Lopez, Emelia Vigil, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Gina Ramsey, Lauren Roseman, Blanca Avalos, Josie Craig, Michele Poaster, Jenne Bielby, Sandra Smith, Victoria Moreno, Bridget Martinez, Maria Pedraza, Stephanie Cavan, Kim Rdriguez, Rafael,

Public Present: Irene Hernandez, Isela Bingham, Delia Sanders, Megan (SDS Program), Carolina Arzate, Jeannet Cardenas, Catherine Blakemore, Carolina y Juan de Dios, Maria Elena Diaz, Dora Contreras, Carmen Ponce, Hery, Oscar Mercado, Lisa Culley, Ana Martinez, Jose Flores, Adriana Acuna, Maria Del Rosario, Erika Cibrian, Deissy Vega, Mariana Guerrero, iPhone2093319663, Marcela Sanchez, Griselda Estrada, Maribel Falcon, Heraclia, Beatriz Chavez

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm 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.

C. Review and Approval of the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 6/25/25

Erria asked for a motion to approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of 6/25/25. Crystal motioned to approve the minutes. Kenneth seconded. The Board of Directors meeting minutes of 6/25/25 were approved.

D. Public Comment

1. Emily Orth, VMRC Intake Coordinator (San Andreas) and Union President – Shared concerns about caseload ratio. She shared struggles of colleagues and asked for support in doing their job, caseload ratio relief and supporting families.

2. Shauna Molotch, SOT (San Andreas)/ part of bargaining team – Shared that the bargaining team sent out a survey to staff. She read anonymous responses from staff regarding satisfactory issues to address.
3. Heather Smith, SC (San Andreas) – She shared that the Mountain Counties (Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne) is often overlooked and forgotten. Limited staff covering the area, reports, services aren't getting requested and follow-up isn't being done in a timely manner. They have limited resources in the Foothills, she would like to see hiring a priority in the Foothills.
4. Jenessa Stone, Children's Unit SC (San Andreas) – Shared Mountain counties are severely underserved. She shared she recently met with a family that is Spanish speaking, and the parent voiced her concern with communication as SC does not speak Spanish, she can offer support with a translator or a Stockton staff member. She relayed that when she took that back to her PM, she was told a barrier to communication with a family is not a valid reason to transfer to Spanish speaking SC. She asked for a priority to have Spanish-speaking SCs, we are under-resourced, and cases are growing every month.
5. Sherri Sally, Early State Intake (Modesto) – Reported to be a mom of 3 and loves her job, able to connect with parents who have concerns with their child. Intake has its own needs, early start intake must be done in 45 days. Flexibility is important, intake portion can be done over the phone with parents and then an in-person component is done in office. They are in the office often and she would like to work from home for initial steps. She understands the request to be 1-day in office to 2-day eventually, but she has to adapt to family needs and cannot always be remote. She is asking for flexibility as it's important to meet the deadline and meet at all offices but in some cases, she can't have her set day.
6. Maria Pedraza, SC (Stockton) – She shared concerns about the direction VMRC is heading regarding remote work policy. Caseload should be 62 but currently at 81, tries to give her families the attention they deserve, often times has to rush which causes risk to create mistakes. She serves children outside caseload range because there is no SC that can cover – unable to provide details to their questions because she is not familiar with the age she has to cover. She mentions new hires are likely backfills, continue to receive additional cases, and now another day in office will cause issues where to sit. She feels an additional day will fix caseloads or improve services. Being remote avoids burnout, frustration and is unnecessary, we may lose staff because of this.
7. Deanna Fantulin – Community Services Liaison (Stockton) – She was in case management prior to her current position and shared an example of case management. When she was in her new position, her previous manager asked her to work out of class and support case management. She was doing two jobs at once to offer support for her old team, she loves VMRC and wants to ensure she helps her old team and families.
8. Casey Robertshaw, SSC (San Andreas) – Read off survey responses.
9. Megan Gaskin, SC (San Andreas) – Shared story about staff who will no longer be working at VMRC, she had a caseload of 80 and is a Spanish speaking SC. All Adults SC were given notice they will have to take over cases. Expectations of

caseloads are unreasonable; we are losing amazing people. Additionally, she shared, adults are on quarterly basis, she has 30+ meetings approximately a month: quarterly, annual, IPP, traveling, supporting consumers. She loves her job but wanted to share that information. She read survey responses.

10. Veronica Waldo, SC (Modesto) – Reported her caseload was at 70, she has had situations where she is not able to book rooms. Parents wanted to have an in-person meeting, they are unable to take their child 3-5 years old in the community. She reported meetings are extended as they are unable to meet in a timely manner. It affects us, it looks like we aren't doing our job. She met with coworkers today and discussed a cubicle, 3 people cannot share 1 cubicle, there are not enough spaces in Modesto. She reported that a lot of parents are barely getting diagnosis, not sure what to do, how to take care of a child with autism, they can only do so much.
11. George Lewis, SCDD Northern Hills – Shared they are wanting to complete our state plan for 2027 – 2032, they are asking for input on SCDD.CA.GOV and folks can give input there. Shannel Murray from SCDD, will be presenting a training on August 29 for Medicare and will send out flyers. They are getting ready to send out National Core Indicator surveys via mail for family members, adults, adults in family home and board and care and children ages 3-17. SCDD has a contract with DDS, and he is the representative, he shared a survey measuring outcomes and systems in regional centers are and working with Christine to attend new hire opportunities.
12. Dora Contreras, ICC organization – She reported to the board they have families who cannot access social recreation activities which are needed by the children because they have to pay out of pocket. Some activities they are interested in parents cannot afford the fee, many businesses want the pay before service, 2-3 months in advance. We need an FMS in the area to take them on.
13. Carolina Arzate, ICC member – She listened to what a lot of the service coordinators shared and how it affected us as families. Families report the SCs call them one or two times, and then they don't answer, and families don't hear back, or SC is laid off. It's out of control, trying to contract SCs. We try and help families, if they go to meetings alone, we see no results, it worries us to hear everything on the inside and how it's affecting us on the outside. Another concern is that there is a lot of barriers in Self-Determination, there is a lot of money to spend but they are not using it.
14. Shannon Hernandez HCBS CBO – We're all here for the same reason, the consumers. Reports as a team, if we're broken, we can't help our consumers. Right now, we are hearing "we don't want to come in the office as much, I want more flexibility to work from home". As a QA we go into group homes, our SCs need to go out to the programs more often. If SC had more time, they can see their consumers and the environment they are living in. Reported to be an SC in transition unit started with a caseload of 56 ended with 76, its rough. Lets not lose focus on the consumers.
15. Gricelda Estrada, ICC Member – Families are reporting two behaviors in SCs, opposite from what she has heard this evening. Service Coordinators threaten families if they are not let into family home to see their client, they will not provide

services. There is a law that families can request virtual meetings, SCs do not offer this option. She also reported SCs are not answering the calls, although they are bilingual or English, they try to translate the email, and they don't answer. Regarding recreational services, we are dealing with SCs who state that due to budget cuts they can only have rights to three recreational services and not camps, while we are aware cuts have not been reported yet.

16. Oscar Mercado, Self-Advocate, VMRC consumer and 2nd year SDP participant – He here's what everyone is saying, he wants to emphasize this system is about collaboration between system and community. He also reported about the Self Determination Program Advisory Committee, which needs more collaboration with CBOs or Grassroot levels organizations, they are working directly with families navigating the system. How do we work best with regional center, graceful resource to support individuals who have specialized needs. We have to collaborate more between systems and CBOs.

E. Calendar Consent Items

1. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2025
2. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2025
3. Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2025

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

F. VMRC Policy – Mitigating COI for Delegated Conservatorships (Aug 2025)

Jason reported on the policy for delegated conservatorships, DDS wanted edits made and Jason shared edits in section 4.0 and 3.0.

Kenneth Huntley made a motion to approve the action item, Kyle Cox seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Committee Reports

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

Candice shared she did not receive minutes. The next meeting will be on September 22 at 10:00am.

2. Self-Determination Advisory Committee

Kenneth read his report. He reported Sue Collie is the family advocate for Tuolumne County. Fernandez Gomez from ICC went over numbers of individuals served on the "Expressway pilot project", which is a pilot project to get individuals on SDP, current total of 14 individuals, 119 sessions and 28 total surveys.

Currently there are 129 SDP Participants as of July 10th

48 female & 81 males

Nearly half are Latinos/Hispanic
39 participants are white
20 as other
9 as African American
7 Multicultural
79 in San Joaquin County
41 in Stanislaus County
9 from the mountain counties

Two people have exited the program since last report, one placed in care home, other per their request, 11% increase in participants since beginning of year

3. Consumer Advisory Council, SAC6 – Crystal Enyeart

August 7th Sac6 members joined the SCDD Zoom on Medicaid Training.

August 8th -Sac6 had their Mountain County Area meeting. Thank you to Brian and Aaron for presenting on Emergency Preparedness Training. Thank you to Christine and all the VMRC team for your support.

August 14th Sac6 Consultant Jessica attended the OAHA on zoom.

August 15th Sac6 consultant Lisa attended the Bylaws meeting on zoom.

Sac6 also RSVP for a table at the VMRC Cultural and Disability Resource Fair for October 10th

Upcoming events:

September 15th Remembrance Day Ceremony.

4. Finance Committee –

- a. Aiko presented the Contract Status and reported that we received funding for fiscal year 25-26, but typically initial funding every year does not cover expected expenses, both on operation and purchase of service side. We are expecting an additional allocation in the coming weeks to cover the remaining funds. There are no known cuts to our operations budget but are spending cautiously as there could possibly be changes in October and January related to the state budget situation.

Aiko reported DDS issued their final report for their audit of fiscal year 22-23 & 23-24 which has been posted on our website and is being shared. There are two buckets of findings, one is credit card charges by employees no longer with VMRC and lack of support for surveys due to staff turnover. Secondly, as everyone is aware the CPA audit by WINDES is close to wrapping up the two fiscal years we were behind. They are working to complete prior to the October board meeting.

Dr. Steve stated it comes as motion. Alicia seconded the motion. This motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

5. Consumer Services Committee – No Report

6. Legislative Committee –

Kenneth shared it was his first meeting, he was supported by Lynda Mendoza and Dena Hernandez. On July 22, the committee went over the language of Assembly Bill 143, the state budget for the upcoming fiscal year and ARCA's Grassroots Day.

7. Bylaws Committee –

Jody shared the bylaws committee met on August 13th and went over proposed changes to the Bylaws. She went over sections that had edits made which include language edits, combining committees, clarifying board limit terms.

Jody reported it comes as motion. Board Members were called one by one for a vote. 9 - Yes, 2 – No, 1 – Abstain, 2 - Unaccounted for. This motion passed unanimously, motion carries.

8. Nominating Committee –

Erria is working on recruiting for board members.

9. Popplewell Review Team –

Will start meeting in September \$21,073.11. No activities we are coming up. We are going to receive holidays requests for meals soon.

H. Executive Director's Report

Leinani shared she attended ARCA meetings in Irvine, CA she will bring policy changes and bring back to the board. The budget was a topic of discussion for the state of California for Medi-Cal State Budget Deficits. We are bracing for whatever may come in January or October revise. We at VMRC needed to be conservative with challenges that we are in compliance with our audits. Intake rate has increased at all 21 centers, and we cannot keep up with new consumers coming in. This is not easy work, I appreciate all the voices we heard tonight. Where we go as a system will require us to figure out budget challenges but also high need and increase of people served. She shared the Strategic Plan to share the survey with SAC6 leaders, State Council leaders, day programs, families, staff and different communities. We hope it will help implement challenges. Catherine Blakemore thanked the Board Members and Strategic Planning Committee for all their help and support. She shared the intention is to go out to the community and vote with plain language. A complete version will be on the website and there will be an outreach to different stakeholders groups for input.

I. President's Report

Erria shared they will be going out to meet in the community for the Strategic Committee. If board members can join in person or zoom to help engage. She attended ARCA meetings takeaway were that the onboarding and competency report was ratified by ARCA. They send out appreciation to board members and executive directors. ARCA Academy will be November 13-15. Three focus areas will be service and support for people with disabilities and their families for the 25-26 year, support for a viable provider network and how regional centers to better support their community.

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

K. Adjournment



Minutes for VMRC Finance Committee Meeting September 10, 2025 | 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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

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

Committee Members not Present: Jose Lara, Thomas Crooker

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Mayra Ochoa, Athena Jurado, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Nathan Sioson, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Emelia Vigil, Lizzie Valerio

Public Present: Delia Sanders (ASL), Xavier Chin (ASL Interpretation), Rachelle Munoz, Isela Bingham, Irene Hernandez

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

Dr. Steve called the meeting to order at 4:38pm.

B. Review and Approval of the Finance Committee Minutes of 7/27/25

Dr. Steve made the motion to approve the finance Committee Minutes of July 27, 2025. Alicia motioned to approve. Lisa seconded the motion. The Finance Committee minutes were approved unanimously.

C. Public Comment

No public comment

D. Fiscal Department Update

Aiko presented the financial report with the same report from the August 27th Board meeting as the month-end close is on the 15th of each month. August will be finalized on September 15th we also did not receive any new allocations from DDS for any of the three open fiscal years.

CPA audit is closer to being done. She has been asking Windes for a timeline and is hoping to have it finalized before 10/22 Board meeting. The bank is asking for a copy of the report as the line of credit expires in November. There may be a special meeting if the report is not done by a certain date. We will public notice the meeting and would be a cause for a special session.

Alicia asked with tax season being over what is the reason why Windes is pushing the completion of the report until now. Aiko informed that Windes has certain weeks that they allocation for continuing education events, staff time off and two levels of review. Depending on other tasks or calendar we have to account for that. Leinani shared because of the depth of audits not having been done in three years, having to get it this quickly, we are ahead of schedule. They have done three audits in less than a year, with support and commitment from Brenda Crisler, Pete Tiedemann and VMRC staff helping to make this a priority.

In regard to caseload ratio, they are regularly monitored. The caseload ratio reported to DDS is calculated differently than how we do internally for recruiting purposes. DDS categorizes based off funding category. Medicaid waivers for example is based on different age groups. In our internal, it's based off age group and location. It's calculated very differently. Dr. Steve asked if employees are aware of this. Aiko mentioned they have an upcoming All-Staff and the opportunity to share with them will be done there. Connie asked if by location they mean where consumers live, Leinani shared it's based off the VMRC office.

Dr. Steve asked if they have heard about budget cuts. Aiko reported to have received a draft allocation, but revisions needed to be done. The second allocation doesn't report any cuts, we are aware October and January is coming up.

Alicia asked that another complaint about Mountain Counties, are there people starting resources. Christine shared there are 3 day programs currently being developed in the counties. Leinani shared that it's a result of the CPP grant that Brian's team has been working closely with. Christine shared one day program that is being developed in Tracy as well.

Aiko shared an update on Modesto office space, it has been in the works for a while but held off due to transitioning spaces for more workspace for staff equals dollars and resources we need to allocate. We have been working with contractors and obtaining quotes and looking for long-term solutions. We have identified conference rooms that can be opened for staff to meet with families. Alicia asked if that complaint was for Modesto or other offices. Aiko reported she has not heard concerns about Stockton, there is plenty of space. Amanda added there have been concerns about Tracy, but much less than Modesto.

Alicia thanked everyone for addressing the union complaints. They wanted an update on the concerns so this was great.

E. Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. in-person and Zoom

F. Adjournment



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting September 10, 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, Jody Burriss, Lisa Utsey Steve Russell, Alicia Schott, Crystal Enyeart, Kenneth Huntley

Committee Members Not Present: Crystal Enyeart

VMRC Staff Present: Leinani Walter, Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Mayra Ochoa, Athena Jurado, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Nathan Sioson, Gabriela Lopez, Midori Perez, Emelia Vigil, Lizzie Valerio

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

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:07pm. 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 7/27/25

Kenneth made a motion to approve, Dr. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

C. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

- Leinani thanked the board for being so patient for listening to the public comment at the board meeting. It's an important time and we are in the middle of Union negotiations and it's important to hear the challenges. We are thinking about how to address budget challenges, not only for our staff but for our families as well. As a team we want to prepare for 2026 as well as the Public Records Act which will begin January 1, 2026. ARCA has been helping all 21 regional centers with the budgets and PRA.

2. **Consumer Updates:**
 - Christine thanked Community Services and Aaron McDonald for all of their work these last few weeks, there have been many fires in our catchment area and they have been providing support to our families.

3. **Consumer Services:**
 - No report

4. **Self Determination:**
 - 131 SDP Participants as of August 11, 2025
 - 51 Females & 80 Males
 - 3 Participants are under 5 years old
 - 42 people between the ages of 6 to 15
 - 44 between 16 to 23
 - 42 between 24 and up
 - Latinos make up 41% of all program participants at 54, followed by Caucasians at 30% (39), Other at 15% (20), African American at 7% with 9 participants, and multi-cultural at 5% with 7 participants
 - 78 of program participants live in San Joaquin County, 43 in Stanislaus and 9 in the mountain counties.

5. **Personnel Update:**
 - Amanda reported there are 587 total employees, year to date turnover is 4.32%, actively recruiting for 12 open positions-four (4) are internal, eight (8) are external. From hire in progress, we have 9 external hires in progress, with an average of 4 weeks from time of offer, to background to then two weeks' notice. She shared internal promotions, active recruitment in San Andreas – looking of where to promote.
 - We are in current union negotiations; economic proposals were received and working collaboratively as we move in negotiations and will have a closed session when the time comes.
 - Training update: DDS released new Service Coordinators training 20 sessions withing their first year. DDS has given the topics but not the content.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria reported she has been meeting with Amanda regarding Leinani's review, reaching out to other regional centers. The outside process is not working, processes seem to work internally. Proposal to create something similar and will use survey monkey. Erria asked Amanda for additional input. Amanda reported Erria has met with regional center board colleagues as well as her own, there

were no recommendations for external agencies and range is \$5,000 - \$15,000, other regional centers reported they did not like it. Regional Centers were happy to share their templates. They both spent time together to review and evaluate performance overall. The timeline is to have everything ready and be brought to the board on January 14th Executive Committee meeting and be brought to February Board of Directors meeting for a vote. She reminded everyone they are taking board photos for the new website at the next Board Meeting 10/22. She shared in addition Dominique Mellion was able to get Stockton Port tickets and Erria took it to day programs where consumers were able to go. She reminded everyone about the PRA session one more session being held on 9/18.

Alicia shared feedback on the PRA that some of the topics were beyond what the board needed to know. Leinani will share with ARCA. Kenneth also informed everyone that as someone with a disability, it needed to be simplify for everyone to understand.

Erria shared she attended 175th Anniversary for the Board of Supervisors in Stockton and was happy to have VMRC represented there. She encouraged board members to get out in the community.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)
Erria Kaalund

H. Adjournment at 5:47 p.m.



Minutes for VMRC Consumer Services Committee Meeting

September 24, | 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, Kenneth Huntley, Lisa Utsey, Gabriella Castillo, Sarah Howard, Jessica Quesada, Megan Ybarra

Committee Members Not Present: Dominique Mellion, Marisela Cruz, Liz Herrera-Knapp (Informed Absence), Sarah Howard

Public Present: Irene Hernandez, Isela Bingham, Anel Renteria, Rachelle Munoz, Dena Hernandez, Angelina Sulamo, Elizabeth Kenyon, Sarah's Notetaker (Otter.ai), Tamra Hernandez

VMRC Staff Present: Brian Bennett, Evelyn Ledesma-Solis, Athena Jurado, Aaron McDonald, Christine Couch, Lizzie Valerio, Claire Lazaro, Robert Fernandez, Libby Contreras, Tara Sisemore-Hester, Libby Contreras

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

Crystall Enyeart called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Lizzie took roll call, a quorum was established.

B. Review and Approval of the Consumer Services Committee Meeting Minutes of 7/23/25

Crystal asked for a motion to approve the minutes of 7/23/25. Kenneth Huntley made a motion, Lisa Utsey seconded the motion. Motion carried minutes were approved.

C. Public Comment

1. Dena Hernandez – California State Council on Developmental Disabilities thanked VMRC for their collaboration along with SAC6, Valley Caps and Office of Client's Right Advocacy for the annual Memorial project held on the Stockton Campus and Manteca cemetery. She shared the State Council will be holding their meeting on September 30th where they will be honoring Eric Ybarra, past VMRC board member and Governor appointee to the state council. Information is on the website and there will be a tribute on November 11, 2025. They are currently working on their 5 year state plan, we have a campaign where folks can fill out a survey. She thanked SAC6 for hosting in person and their support. A new campaign Medicaid Watch platform is being launched on Monday. Choices Conference will be March 28, theme is "Power if you Choice".

D. Intake, Early Start, and Case Management Update

1. Tara reported for Intake they are starting a new process in October. There will be two intake appointments for an all-Spanish-Speaking team for intake assessment in the Modesto office.
2. Tara reported on behalf of Christine. She shared that for the month of July, POS exceptions were for the categories in the personal assistance and respite. For special incident reports, hospital internal infections were the highest numbers reported. Katina reported that for unplanned and scheduled hospital admissions are related to cardiac, seizures and involuntary psychiatric admissions.

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

- August 8th – SAC6 had their meeting in the Mountain Counties in several SAC6 members
- August 5th – SAC6 members joined SCDD “What are the new laws” meeting via zoom
- August 9th – Some SAC6 members joined the SCDD Medicaid training on zoom
- August 18th – SAC6 members joined the SCDD “Hands off my Money” training
- August 27th – Angelina, SAC6 Chair attended Statewide Self-Advocacy on zoom
- August 14th – SAC6 member, Jessican attended the OAHA Committee on zoom
- August 15th – SAC6 consultant Lisa attended the VMRC Bylaws meeting on zoom
- August 28th – SAC6 had their quarterly finance meeting
- August 29th – SAC6 members worked on making a contact list of day programs to contact on August 30th.

F. Resource Development Update

Brian shared a quick update to the department. Every year all regional centers have to gather information on unmet needs to build community resource development plans. It gives regional centers startup money to entice providers to provide those services. Proposed are 3 infant developments early start programs (Foothill Counties), 3 specialized children care homes, 3 coordinated career pathway programs. And two specialized 3-bed residential homes (deflection unit, needed 24-hour care).

On October 16, Community Services will be hosting two information sessions for residential service providers.

Robert reported that in development going into effect January 2026, standardized vendorization, lots of work and looking forward to new process. New Senior Office technician started in their department.

Libby shared that they are launching new providers for our early start, we have launched 10 new companies. We have a new company that will translate documents translated to braille. In addition to the companies, 30 new therapists are starting (OT/PT, Early Intervention Specialists, Speech Therapists) this last month. Lastly with special assessment providers, we are reached out to see who is qualified to provide special assessments (feeding special assessments, infant massage, DME).

G. Quality Assurance Update

Katina shared alert report and breakdowns. She shared Anna Sims will be new QA manager. QA also hosted, "What is OCRA?" on September 10th.

H. Transportation Update

Anel shared transportation updates for August:

- Total service providers vendored with VMRC is 49
- Total number of riders is 2,223, an increase of 72 individuals.
- Total of trips was 88,560 for month of August.

I. Fair Hearing Update

Jason reported as of July 1st:

We have had 24 fair hearing requests:

- 12 have been for eligibility
- 7 for case inactivation
- 5 for service

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

Tamra reported the last meeting was held on September 22nd Vendors were reminded to renew their membership for the upcoming year. Membership is \$35 per person or organization, currently 81 paid members. CLASP and VMRC continue to inform benefits of CLASP. Next meeting will be held on October 27th.

K. Clinical Update

Claire reported that on October 10, at the upcoming Cultural and Disability fair, Walgreens will be providing flu vaccinations and can bring insurance information and can still provide flu vaccines with 100 vouchers they will provide. UOP will be giving away health items for free.

L. Next Meeting - Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 PM, Hybrid (In-Person and via Zoom Video Conference)

Leinani added to Claire's remarks about the Cultural and Disability Fair which will be on October 10. We hope folks can join us, the event is Friday this year to help with transportation. She shared we will have microbusiness and would like more and shared email for contact information. Second to share, she would like to get folks to complete survey for Strategic Plan survey that is due by October 10.

M. Adjournment

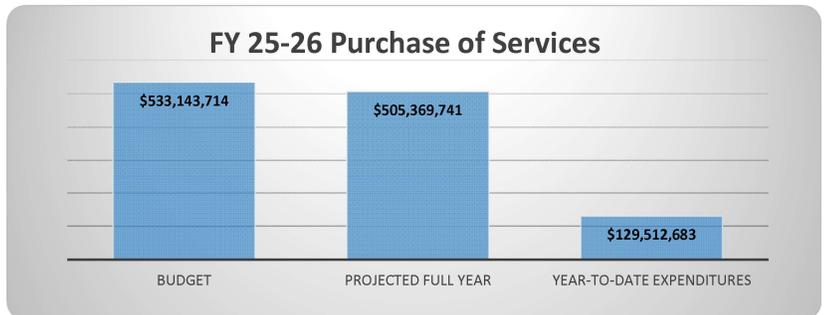
Valley Mountain Regional Center
Contract Status Report
September 30, 2025

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	57,685,876	400,965,630	194,206	-	-	503,913	459,349,625
	Balance	\$ 687,146	\$ 12,202,353	\$ 654,649	\$ -	\$ 91,714	\$ 74,456	\$ 13,710,318
24-25	Allocation - A-2	\$ 64,236,563	\$ 504,398,061	\$ 2,427,489	\$ 659,403	\$ -	\$ 589,019	\$ 572,310,535
	YTD Expenses	62,183,551	495,224,343	2,187,271	635,067	-	552,836	560,783,069
	Balance	\$ 2,053,012	\$ 9,173,718	\$ 240,218	\$ 24,336	\$ -	\$ 36,183	\$ 11,527,466
25-26	Allocation - B-2	\$ 67,402,973	\$ 532,932,594	\$ 211,120	\$ 707,066	\$ -	\$ 601,444	\$ 601,855,197
	YTD Expenses	\$ 14,315,398.16	\$ 129,512,683.23	-	\$ 164,618	-	\$ 59,437	144,052,136
	Balance	\$ 53,087,575	\$ 403,419,911	\$ 211,120	\$ 542,448	\$ -	\$ 542,007	\$ 457,803,061
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 September 30, 2025

OPS Expense Category	YTD Expense	POS Expense Category	YTD Expense
Salary & Benefits	\$ 12,452,521.60	Out of Home	\$ 39,243,268.44
Facility Rent and Maintenance	\$ 1,160,760.82	Day Programs	\$ 3,421,908.88
Information Technology	\$ 507,349.13	Respite & Day Care	\$ 19,240,022.21
General Expenses	\$ 49,211.13	Non-Medical Services	\$ 10,832,076.37
Communication	\$ 114,029.83	Supported Living Services	\$ 10,675,302.05
Insurance	\$ 232,321.00	Transportation	\$ 7,726,473.26
Accounting & Legal Fees	\$ 32,185.97	Prevention Services	\$ 4,859,245.07
Consultants	\$ 124,855.35	Other Services	\$ 8,198,925.03
Staff Mileage/Travel	\$ 82,078.57	Personal Assistance	\$ 8,938,940.30
ARCA Dues	\$ 125,303.19	Medical Services	\$ 15,612,452.33
Equipment	\$ 49,199.05	Supported Employment	\$ 614,874.59
Board Expenses	\$ 5,734.17	Camps	\$ 149,194.70
ICF Admin Fee, Interest, & Other Income	\$ (620,151.65)	CPP/CRDP	\$ -
Total YTD Operations Expense:	\$ 14,315,398.16	Total YTD POS Expense:	\$ 129,512,683.23



We have received our second allocation for the current fiscal year (FY 2025-2026). This allocation will cover our projected expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year. As of September 30, 2025, 25% of the fiscal year has elapsed. During this period, 24.3% of our Purchase of Services (POS) allocation and 21.2% of our Operations (OPS) allocation has been expended. We continue to anticipate the need for additional POS funding for FY 2024-2025 due to the implementation of rate reform. We have communicated this to DDS and currently estimate an additional need of approximately \$6.1 million. At this time, we expect the current FY 2024-2025 POS allocation to be sufficient to cover retroactive payments through December 2025.



Minutes for VMRC Finance Committee Meeting
Windes Audit Report
October 8, 2025 | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Via Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present Dr. Steve Russell, Erria Kaalund, Dr. Jody Burriss, Lisa Utsey, Alicia Schott, Jeff Turner, Connie Uychutin

Committee Members Not Present: Jose Lara, Thomas Crooker

VMRC Staff Present: Aiko Blancaflor, Amanda Verstl, Brian Bennett, Claire Lazaro, Leinani Walter, Mayra Ochoa, Tara Sisemore Hester, Lizzie Valerio

Public Present: Tom Huey, Jessica Kober

A. WINDES Audit Presentation FY 2022–2023 and 2023–2024

Tom Huey, Audit Partner, and Jessica Kober, Audit Manager at Windes, presented the financial audit results for the combined fiscal years 2023 and 2024. Tom noted that the FY 2022 audit had been delayed for three years due to challenges in retrieving and updating financial records but was successfully issued five months ago. Since then, VMRC has completed two additional audits, demonstrating significant progress in audit readiness.

Windes, a Los Angeles-based CPA firm with extensive experience auditing 12–13 regional centers, issued unmodified (clean) opinions for both FY 2023 and FY 2024—the highest level of audit assurance. Tom reviewed key audit findings with the committee, which included:

- Late submission of Data Collection Forms for FY 2023 and FY 2024, which were not filed within the required nine-month deadline to the Federal

Clearinghouse.

- Restatement of FY 2021–2022 financial statements: As part of corrective actions following the prior audit, VMRC engaged an independent actuary to prepare valuations in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) requirements beginning in FY 2022–2023. Previously, VMRC had reported its CalPERS unfunded accrued liability using CalPERS' Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) valuation for FY 2021–2022. Since VMRC is required to follow FASB standards, this discrepancy necessitated a restatement of the FY 2021–2022 financial statements.

Despite these findings, Tom confirmed that Windes encountered no significant difficulties working with VMRC management during the audit process.

He noted that material adjustments are typical among regional centers due to the DDS UFS accounting system, which records expenses as they occur rather than in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). In the Statement of Financial Position, VMRC reported a receivable position in FY 2023, while in FY 2024, DDS had advanced \$7.8 million in excess funds. These fluctuations are largely due to the timing of payments. Additionally, the FY 2024 audit included approximately \$40 million in supplemental claims from prior-year contracts submitted between July and September.

The Statement of Activities showed that revenue—mostly from state contracts—has continued to increase, consistent with trends at other regional centers. Expenses were categorized into Purchase of Services (POS) and General and Administrative costs, with pension-related adjustments reported separately. Tom also reviewed the Statement of Functional Expenses, where POS remains the largest category, and the Statement of Cash Flows, highlighting key figures related to receivables, retirement plans, and pension obligations.

In conclusion, Leinani and Aiko expressed appreciation to the VMRC staff and the Windes team for their work in completing the audits. Aiko shared that the audit for FY 2024–2025 will commence next month, with the team already preparing to ensure timely completion. She also noted that VMRC continues to work with the State on outstanding claims.

Dr. Steve asked for a motion to approve. Jeff Turner made a motion; Jody seconded the motion. Connie abstained from the motion. Motion passed.

B. Adjournment – Dr. Steve Russell