



Minutes for VMRC Executive Committee Meeting June 4, 2026 | 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, Crystal Enyeart, Kenneth Huntley, Alicia Schott

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

VMRC Staff Present: Amanda Verstl, Christine Couch, Gabriela Lopez, Leinani Walter, Nathan Sioson, Donna Sioson, Lizzie Valerio, Brian Bennett, Merrell Wilson,

Public Present: Xavier Chin, Evelyn Ledesma, Kiara Grace

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

Erria Kaalund called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 3/11/26

Erria asked for a motion to approve the board minutes of March 11, 2026. Kenneth made a motion to approve, Dr. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Public Comment

There is no public comment.

D. Items for Discussion Menu

1. Executive Director's Report

Leinani thanked the partnership of Kyle Cox, VMRC board member and his leadership with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians who are coordinating a Tribal Engagement event with Acorns to Oak Trees and VMRC will be on June 12. The flyer was sent to all board members, all are welcome to attend. Clinicians will be on site to conduct assessments and evaluations.

Annual ARCA dinner and events conflict with the scheduled Board June Meeting. There is a proposed date to meet the week prior, June 17th. Performance Contract, Caseload Ratio dinner will be held in July, it is an event to thank our outgoing board members and incoming new members

2. Consumer Updates:

There is no report. Christine and Tara at are ARCA meetings.

3. Community Services

Brian shared updates: VMRC is updating Special Incident training and materials for service providers due to changes in DDS requirements. Updated information is on the website.

He shared an update on the Blue Envelope program, a program in place with local law enforcement to better support individuals with autism and developmental disabilities during traffic stops and other interactions. The Lodi Police Departments approached VMRC as they would like to implement the system. There is a small group of staff that will be inviting individuals in local service providers, day programs and residential providers in Lodi to participate. The goal for the police department is to launch the program in April 2027.

Leinani the benefits of strengthening relationships with the local law enforcement, increasing awareness of individuals with developmental disabilities including input from self-advocates and public input from the community. Kenneth added that it would be good to include SAC6 for input, it would be a good program to input county/statewide to increase awareness that individuals with disability do drive and lead independent lives. Alicia asked if Lodi PD is doing the pilot project or is it being brought to other counties/police departments are waiting, Brian shared it's not a pilot project, but an opportunity to learn from existing partners and more about using their resources.

4. Self Determination:

Leinani reported on behalf of Mayra who is at an ARCA meeting. She shared participant information and summary report. DDS in partnership with the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), will be offering SDP Orientation sessions for RC staff starting on June 15th. Next local advisory meeting scheduled for June 18, 2026. Kenneth asked what VMRC is doing in terms of communication with FMS when they have unannounced policy changes. Leinani reported there are monthly check-in meetings with FMS where there should be discussions with RCs and if there are issues to share with Mayra to address.

5. Human Resources:

Amanda shared employee updates, including promotions and open positions. She provided an update on a question by Dr. Steve from a previous meeting regarding service coordinator growth from last year to current and informed the committee there has been an additional 41 hired. Leinani informed that there will be

a meet and greet for new Clinical team. Amanda reported that the new staff orientation has been split up into two sessions per feedback from training committee and participants. In addition, they are on track to finalize service coordinator learning path and on track to roll out in the new fiscal year.

Alicia asked whether there will be a hiring freeze or reduction in hiring based on current budget. Aiko shared there will be a bit of growth funding, but there will be no funding for new programs. Amanda added that caseloads and case reviews are done quarterly to see identify priority of funding. She noted that although we are in a two-year contract, there will be a reopener specifically on compensation in November, which is taken into consideration. Aiko also shared that they are focused on improving efficiencies of our policies. Leinani added the leadership looks at what is working, what is not. Hiring additional staff doesn't make it more efficient, it may help but we need to review the demand and meet goals efficiently.

Kenneth shared that he hopes the SDP training and hiring of service coordinators will increase the number of participants and experience what SDP offers.

E. President's Report – Erria Kaalund

Erria shared that the board meeting will shift to June 17, 2026, due to ARCA meeting conflicts for Leinani and board delegates. Letters have been sent to applicants that applied. The annual board dinner will be held in late July. She shared she attended the Native American picnic event with Kyle (VMRC Board member). The next scheduled meeting will be July 8th pending coordination with new board president.

G. Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (In Person and Zoom)

H. Adjournment at 5:44 p.m.