



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Tuesday, November 14, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

District Administrative Offices: 6530 La Contenta Road, Suite 200, Yucca Valley CA 92284

Mission Statement: To provide affordable, quality healthcare to the communities we serve.

Vision Statement: A healthy Morongo Basin.

Core Values: Commitment, Collaboration, Accountability, Dignity, Integrity

PRESENT:

- Paul Hoffman, Chairperson (Present)
- Joe Sullivan, Vice Chairperson (Present)
- Mary Ann Shirbroun, Secretary (Absent)
- Marge Doyle, Treasurer (Present)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper, Member (Present)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Member (Present)
- Aaron Kyle, Member (Absent- no excuse)
- Alejandro Penalva, Member (Present)
- Beverly Scott, Member (Present)
- Barbara "Cassie" Souter, Member (Present)

STAFF:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Alexandra Barba, CHC Board Clerk
- Karen Graley, Director Communications
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Debbie Anderson, Controller
- Austin Puglisi, CHC Psychiatrist
- Janeen Duff, CHC Dental Manager
- Denise Gessaman, Registered Dental Assistant

GUESTS:

- Ernest Figueroa, Z107.7 Media

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Quorum was met.

OBSERVANCES:

- Mr. Paul Hoffman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Ms. Beverly Scott read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion 19-66: Motion by Marge Doyle to approve the meeting Agenda with moving the action item prior to the board presentations; motion seconded by Beverly Scott; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 19-67: Motion by "Cassie" Souter, second by Beverly Scott, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated October 10, 2019; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS:

APPROVAL OF CHC BOARD MEMBER

Ms. Combs explained that Cecelia St. Clair had not been able to continue as a CHC Board member back in January 2019 because there was a conflict with the CHC Bylaws. (Ms. St. Clair was related to an employee

that recently retired.) Ms. Combs recommends that Ms. St. Clair be reinstated by the Board.

Motion 19-68: Motion by Marge Doyle, second by Bryan Goldfarb, to reinstate Cecelia St. Clair as a CHC Governing Board member; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

BOARD PRESENTATIONS

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE –*Austin Puglisi, M.D., Beh. Health Director*

Psychiatrist, Dr. Austin Puglisi, gave a presentation to the Board on the Behavioral Health department. He introduced himself and shared that he is one of two medication management providers. The second medication management provider is a Nurse Practitioner by the name of Lauren Cobb. The services offered by the Behavioral Health team include diagnostic and medication management and psychotherapy services, which is counseling. The psychotherapy services are provided by Dorothy Clemmons who is the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Dr. Dorit Ilani, the Psychologist who was recently hired. The LMFT and Psychologist see patients on a weekly and biweekly basis. Dr. Puglisi noted that psychotherapy services slowed down for a few months earlier this year because of the Licensed Clinical Social Worker's (LCSW) resignation. However, he also noted that we are actively recruiting a new LCSW, which will help expand services and better serve the community. The providers work mainly out of the Behavioral Health office on the Yucca Valley campus. Each provider sees patients at the 29 Palms location once a week which amounts to four working days on the 29 Palms campus. Dr. Puglisi added that some conditions are not treatable with medications and require specialized services and/or equipment that are not available in the Hi-Desert area; dementia and substance abuse are two examples. Ms. Doyle asked Dr. Puglisi what his "wish list" of things/resources he needs would entail if money was not an issue? Dr. Puglisi replied, "Services for children and adolescents, services for substance abuse, more transportation, and more providers—especially therapists." Dr. Puglisi did highlight that transportation in this area has gotten a lot better and transportation as a resource has become more available to the community. He also added that he understands that space and funding are what is ultimately needed for his wish list to come true. Ms. Scott asked Dr. Puglisi if he and his staff could possibly put on presentations for the community about behavioral and mental health issues; She stated "Schizophrenia" as a potential topic. Dr. Puglisi stated that he would discuss the community presentations with the rest of the Behavioral Health team, but believes it can be done. Mr. Hoffman thanked Dr. Puglisi for his presentation to the Board.

340B DRUG PRICING PROGRAM –*Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs presented to the Board on the 340B Drug Pricing Program. She explained that it is a federal program that allows manufactures to provide discounted prices to covered entities, such as our Community Health Center. The local Walgreens, Walmart, Vons and New Pharmacy are all contract pharmacies that the 340B program is provided through. Ms. Combs emphasized that any patient of the health center is covered through the 340B program, except for Medi-Cal fee-for-service patients. Contract pharmacies cannot use 340B pricing for Medi-Cal fee-for-service because such pharmacies already receive Medi-Cal drug discounts. Ms. Combs further detailed how exactly the center is billed at a discounted rate and explained the difference between a Medi-Cal patient and a Medi-Cal fee-for-service patient.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – *Deborah Anderson, Controller*

Ms. Anderson shared her report for the month of September. She noted that per the District Board's request, the positive variances are now in a green ink and the negative variances are still in a red ink. Ms. Anderson reported

that overall, the Clinics are showing positive operating income. Operating income year to date (July 2019 – September 2019) is \$48,594 and the Change in Net Position for the same period is at \$41,452. Contractuals were the main reason for variance for the month. On July 15th, 2019, both the Yucca Valley and the 29 Palms clinic received an increase for their Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate for Medi-Cal services. For Yucca Valley, the rate increased from \$160.60 to \$198.71 and for 29 Palms the rate increased from \$160.60 to \$179.88. Due to this, the clinics are starting to receive the higher payments, which means the contractual amounts (the difference between the billing rate and what is paid) are less (since the billing rates did not change). Other variances include the 340B revenue, which remains volatile and capitation fees, which are higher than expected. Year to date operating income is 3% over budget, a dollar amount of \$70,727. Monthly operating expenses for September 2019 are 4% over budget, a dollar amount of \$24,036. Physician Fees are over budget due to more services performed, mostly in chiropractic. Other clinics are over budget due to the payment of recruiting fees to an outside employment agency. Year to date operating expenses are 1% under budget, a dollar amount of \$10,814.

Putting it all together, September 2019 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) is 312% over budget, a dollar amount of \$84,068. Ms. Anderson emphasized that the clinics received a revised PPS rate, which should really help with the bottom line. In fact, in a few months, it might be significant enough to consider revising the budget for.

Lastly, Ms. Anderson explained that for the last few months, the district has been working on changing over the payroll service. This new service will allow the district to import the real time hours of the staff. For example, if a medical assistant, who has a home department of YV adult, ends up working the day out in 29 Palms Peds, this employee's time breakdown will now be able to be imported directly into the General ledger. This should enable accounting to better isolate labor costs to the various departments, and should facilitate a deeper understanding of what the true labor costs are for each service line. The new payroll service is expected to generate a cost savings of approximately \$25,000.

Ms. Anderson also provided the board with a FINAL Report for June 30, 2019, in which she detailed the final audit for FY 18-19. She explained that in years past, there had been differences between the June reporting and the final year end numbers. Her report served to recap those differences so that the board is aware of the final year-end numbers for FY 18-19. The biggest adjustment was for the FY 13-14 final County of San Bernardino cost report payment due. The second biggest adjustment was in regards to Tenet adjustments. The third biggest adjustment was for the final eCW reconciliation to the general ledger. This accounted for any FY 18-19 claims that were not created at the time the initial June reconciliation was performed.

Ms. Doyle thanked Ms. Anderson for her reports and shared that she is pleased to see that the budget will soon be out of a negative balance. Ms. Doyle also asked Ms. Anderson to report on the results of the financial audit. Ms. Anderson stated that the auditors had no feedback on the internal controls and had no audit adjustments. The Board was delighted to hear that the financial audit went so smoothly and Mr. Hoffman noted that this is the second year in a row that the MBHD has an audit with no adjustments.

Motion 19-69: Motion by Beverly Scott to accept the Finance Report; second by Bryan Goldfarb; accepted by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT – Jackie Combs, CEO

Ms. Combs referred the Board to her written report. She highlighted the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) and reported that the medical team had gone to Copper Mountain College (CMC) earlier today to administer flu vaccines and saw fifteen students. She also highlighted that Mr. Ruddon received another \$25,000 grant and will be buying a smaller transportation vehicle, which he will be picking up tomorrow, November 15. Ms. Combs was also very happy to share that she and other members of the leadership team interviewed a few candidates for the LCSW position and will be extending an offer to one of the candidates tomorrow as well. She believes the candidate will be accepting the position. Ms. Combs also spoke about the new Psychologist, Dr. Ilani, whom she will soon invite to a CHC Governing Board meeting so she may introduce herself to the

Board. She added that Dr. Ilani can currently only see Medi-Cal patients due the credentialing process. Ms. Combs also highlighted the Split Rock ribbon cutting event and said it was very well received by those who attended. Lastly, Ms. Combs shun light on Dental Manager, Janeen Duff's, weekly efforts in the schools to get parents and their children involved. Ms. Doyle asked Ms. Combs if perhaps in the summer months (once school is out), Ms. Duff could be invited to a meeting to present on how the year went for the dental team. Ms. Combs agreed to set this up and asked Ms. Anderson to help have that data available for both the Dental and Medical MMU.

BOARD CALENDAR:

- Foundation Board meeting on November 21, 2019 at 6:00pm
- MBHD Board meeting on December 5, 2019 at 6:00pm
- MBHD Holiday Party on December 6, 2019 at 6:00pm
- Regular CHC Board meeting on December 12, 2019 at 6:00pm

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- Audit PowerPoint Presentation

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Mr. Sullivan sees the board evolving. He sees the tremendous amount of progress that has been made and looks forward to the coming year.
- Ms. Doyle was grateful to have Dr. Puglisi attend the meeting and present to the Board. She believed his presentation was very informative and will help the Board plan for the future. She welcomed Ms. Cecelia St. Clair back and said she was proud of the Split Rock ribbon cutting event.
- Ms. Scott stated that she enjoyed attending the Split Rock ribbon cutting; The presentations were well prepared.
- Mr. Goldfarb is excited to see that services are expanding. He would like to do more to cover the gaps that are present in the Behavioral Health needs of the community.
- Ms. St. Clair shared that she has stayed up to date about the Morongo Basin Healthcare District by reading the paper and she is very happy to be back. She asked if the Split Rock location was open yet, but Ms. Combs explained that the new site still has to be approved by HRSA. Once it is approved, staff will be able to work in the building and it will be open to the public.
- Ms. Souter shared that she appreciated Dr. Puglisi's presentation. She is excited about the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU). She added that she likes the green and red colored ink on the finance reports.
- Ms. Cooper thanked Debbie for her reports. She welcomed Ms. St. Clair and recognized Mr. Raddon for the LIFT program.
- Mr. Hoffman read the letter he drafted on behalf of the Board thanking Ms. Barbara Newman (former Board member) for having served on the Community Health Center (CHC) Governing Board. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED:

Mr. Hoffman adjourned the open session at 6:59 p.m.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION:

The Governing Board convened at 7:03 p.m. to Closed Session:

- *Pursuant to section 32155 of the Health and Safety Code: report involving Quality Assurance Matters.*

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:


The Board reconvened to open session at 7:39 p.m. Mr. Hoffman reported that the Board received the Quality Assurance report and no action was required.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hoffman adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Alexandra Barba, Board Clerk


Paul Hoffman, Chairperson


Marge Doyle, Treasurer