



Morongo Basin Health Care District

Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Thursday, February 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

- Convened via GoToMeeting, an electronic, remote-site platform temporarily permitted as per the Executive Order issued by California's Governor in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Additionally, a physical meeting was convened on the District's campus at 6530 La Contenta Road, Yucca Valley, suite 700. The public was screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the building and were asked to wear a face mask while inside. Seating was limited to accommodate the six-foot distancing guidelines.

Mission Statement: To improve the health and wellness of the communities we serve.

Vision Statement: A healthy Morongo Basin.

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

PRESENT:

- Paul Hoffman, Chairperson (*on-site*)
- Beverly Scott, Vice Chairperson (*remote*)
- Barbara "Cassie" Souter, Secretary (*remote*)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Treasurer (*remote*)
- Mary Ann Shirbourn, Member (*EXCUSED*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper, Member (*on-site*)
- Alejandro Penalva, Member (*remote*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*on-site*)
- Misty Evans, Member (*on-site*)
- Marge Doyle, Member (*on-site*)

STAFF:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Janeen Duff, Manager Mobile Dental
- Viskas Sharma, community member

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Karen Graley, board clerk, conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

OBSERVANCES:

- Pat Cooper led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Marge Doyle read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion 21-09: Motion by Marge Doyle to approve the meeting Agenda; motion seconded by Cecelia St. Clair; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 21-10: Motion by Marge Doyle with minor correction, second by Cecelia St. Clair, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated December 10, 2020; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION

MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAM – *Janeen Duff, program manager*

Ms. Duff provided an overview of the Mobile Dental Program for Children’s Oral Health.

We actively implemented the First5 grant in 2018; it concluded in 2020. The state recognizes the lack of dental resources for children and implemented this pilot project. The grant pays for equipment, and salaries for key staff.

Tooth decay is the number one preventable chronic disease among children. Because of barriers related to social determinants of health, such as financial pressures, transportation and language inaccessibility, tooth decay is more prevalent among children in low-income environments. The program’s goal is to increase Medi-Cal enrolled use of innovative strategies such as the virtual dental home program.

The First5 grant was funded to eight health center and funded equipment and key staff salaries. Our program visits 110 Morongo Unified School District sites to provide on-site oral health assessment and appropriate intervention. The program uses minimally invasive dentistry.

The goal is to prevent tooth decay. If teeth are past the point of prevention or re-mineralization but tooth decay is still in its relatively early stages, use of silver diamine fluoride is recommended to the parent. It is an inexpensive, non-invasive medicament that is applied topically. This procedure has been used by Japan since 1960.

Our program also provided student outreach and education to 30 classrooms and distributed 700 hygiene kits. During summer we promoted the program during food distributions at eight schools. Because the schools were shut down for the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has shifted to working with our pediatricians to provide on-site dental service in the mobile medical unit in the clinic parking lots, recruiting pediatric patients to the dental program. The program is also providing support to the CHC prenatal program working with pregnant patients while they have Medi-Cal benefits. The local Head Start program has asked for oral care for its 400 children.

Cecelia St. Clair shared that her grandson had been traumatized at his first dental visit but when he was treated on the MMU, he wanted visit again the next day. Bryan Goldfarb applauds the District for this much needed program.

ACTION ITEMS

ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER – *Misty Evans, Chairperson*

Ms. Evans presented the action item of Paul Hoffman’s resignation from the CHC governing board.

Mr. Hoffman said he has been on healthcare boards for 20 years and is now ready to retire. “My heart and soul have been with this District. My biggest accomplishment was getting rid of Brim Management Company at the medical center, to whom we paid \$6 million. We are about programs like the dental virtual program; we need to take care of our children.” Mr. Hoffman assured the board that he would continue to follow and participate in the healthcare District’s work, just not as a board member.

- **Motion 21-11:** Motion by Bryan Goldfarb to accept the resignation of Paul Hoffman from the CHC Governing Board; second by Pat Cooper; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE HRSA GRANT ENDING HIV EPIDEMIC – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs introduced the action item. We were placed on a listing of qualified facilities to participate in the grant to end the HIV epidemic. HRSA will issue 300 grants. It will provide for increased testing

of patients; connect positive testing patients to resources; education for providers; and outreach in the community. She is asking for permission to apply for the grant as per the HRSA compliance manual.

Paul Hoffman asked if we had an HIV issue in the Basin; Ms. Combs stated we do not know because we haven't done extensive screening. Marge Doyle noted that the disease is primarily transmitted by sexual activity though other factors, such as needle sticks; medications can prevent the transition from pre-HIV to full HIV. Getting patients into treatment can prevent death.

There was a general discussion about other sexually transmitted diseases and which STI patients could be tested for. Strategy for patient and community education was discussed.

- **Motion 21-12:** Motion by Marge Doyle to approve acceptance of the HRSA grant: FY2021 Ending the HIV Epidemic for \$275,0000 each year for two years; second by Beverly Scott; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson reported that patient volume for December was 3,355 visits which is 93% of regular historical pre-COVID visits. Revenue is down based on the reduced volume. Grant revenue is up.

The financial statements for clinics continue to remain adjusted to \$(16,225) so that the calendar year to date net income for the clinics remains at \$0.

We have hired a consultant to assist with sorting through the new federal stimulus grant regulations for calculating income as specified by grant parameters. The federal regulations frequently shift. The outside assistance will help position the District for best compliance.

- **Motion 21-13:** Motion by Cecelia St. Claire to accept the finance report for December, 2020; second by Marge Doyle; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs referred the Board to Tab 5 of the agenda packet for her written report. She presented the following additional information:

- We finished distributing the 200 doses of COVID-19 vaccine received from the County. 35% of CHC staff chose to receive the vaccine. We have not been notified by the County if or when we will receive additional doses.

BOARD CALENDAR:

- Food Distribution event Saturday, February 20, 8 a.m. at 29 Palms and Yucca Valley clinics.
- Shared Board Meeting: February 18 at 6 p.m.
- Quality Committee: Tuesday, March 9 at 6 p.m.
- Misty Evans asked to move the shared meeting on April 15 to April 22. General consensus to move the meeting date.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- None presented.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- BRYAN GOLDFARB: "Paul Hoffman will be sorely missed and fill his shoes." He thanked Paul for his service.

- BEVERLY SCOTT: “Glad to hear that the Head Start Program will be using our mobile dental program. I admire the healthcare District for championing child dental care.” She thanked Paul for his volunteering with the district, saying, “You’ve done so much for our community. Good luck.”
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: “It’s been a real privilege to work with Paul; it’s a disappointment you have resigned.” She thanked Janine for her presentation, saying, “I’m so grateful for the vision for the pediatric mobile program.”
- PAT COOPER: “Another great meeting with valuable information presented.”
- PAUL HOFFMAN: Thanked the board for their support. “Janeen did a marvelous job presenting tonight. It’s a great program for the District and needs to be promoted. Little kids need that support for good dental health. I wish everyone the best and happy trails to you.”
- MARGE DOYLE: Thanked Paul for his years of service and told him to enjoy putting his feet up. “I, too, think that the dental program can be generationally impacted. To train a child so they don’t fear going to the dentist can have long term impact for generations to come. I’m quite pleased and proud of this program.” She thanked Debbie Anderson for her forward vision to hire a financial consultant for the stimulus grant and compliance. Marge stated she had a significant job conflict with the CHC governing board meetings and will be resigning from the board. “The District board will appoint another District board member to serve on this board.”
- MISTY EVANS: Thanked Paul for his service and wished him the best in future endeavors. “Good oral health impacts overall wellness and health. This program is great.” She thanked Debbie Anderson for her intervention with the stimulus grant.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Evans adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk


Misty Evans, Chairperson


Pat Cooper, Secretary