



Morongo Basin Health Care District  
Community Health Center

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

**MINUTES of Thursday, March 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:

- Misty Evans Sharma, Chairperson (*remote*)
- Beverly Scott, Vice Chairperson (*remote*)
- Barbara "Cassie" Souter, Secretary (*remote*)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Treasurer (*remote*)
- Mary Ann Shirbourn, Member (*excused*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper, Member (*not present*)
- Alejandro Penalva, Member (*remote*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*on-site*)
- Dale Mondary, Member (*on-site*)

### STAFF:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Joe Ruddon, Director Community Programming
- Stephanie Eigner, Clinic Manager (*on-site*)
- Vincent Savarese, DC (*on-site*)
- Janeen Duff, Mobile Dental Manager (*on-site*)
- Paul Hoffman, community member (*remote*)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.

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

### OBSERVANCES:

- Dale Mondary led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Misty Evans read the mission and vision statements.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Misty Evans informed the board that the action item for the removal of a non-compliant board member had been resolved and will be removed from the agenda.

- **Motion 21-14:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the amended meeting Agenda; motion seconded by Beverly Scott; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **APPROVAL OF CHC MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion 21-15:** Motion by Beverly Scott with minor correction, second by Cassie Souter, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated February 11, 2021; the motion passed by unanimous vote; Dale Mondary abstained as he did not attend that meeting.

## **PRESENTATION**

### CHC CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES – *Stephanie Eigner, Health Center Manager*

Ms. Eigner stated that the chiropractic care has been so important to the clinic and its patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chiropractic is a holistic form of healthcare without drugs, surgery or invasive treatment. The number one diagnosed chronic pain for CHC patients is back pain. Doctors Vincent Savarese and David McCollum provide chiropractic care to CHC patients with Medi-cal / IEHP benefits. Services are provided at two locations: Yucca Valley and 29 Palms Split Rock campuses.

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, clinic staff discussed the risks related to providing direct patient care in the new pandemic environment; services were suspended for two weeks. The Chiropractic Professional Organization did not support suspending services but recommended continued patient treatment. The service was reinstated with Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommended precautions in place. Before COVID-19, patient volume was 4,420 visits; during the pandemic patient volumes remained consistent at 4,299 visits, a decrease of 121 visits for comparative periods.

The chiropractic profession provides for different methods of treatment. Dr. Savarese shared his approach to chiropractic care as using both traditional manipulation of the spine and new options such as ultra-sound and instrument non-forceful manipulation, among others, whereas Dr. McCollum uses manipulation exclusively. He stated that traditional western medicine and chiropractic care are provided to CHC patients with both disciplines referring to each other; a win-win for patients.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

Ms. Evans presented the action item for resignation of Marge Doyle from the Governing Board; she served as one of two District board representatives to this board. Ms. Doyle resigned because her work schedule conflicted with her attending the Governing Board meetings.

- **Motion 21-16:** Motion by Bryan Goldfarb to accept the resignation of Marge Doyle from the CHC Governing Board; second by Cecelia St. Clair; motion passed by unanimous vote.

### APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – *Misty Evans, Chairperson*

Ms. Evans presented Dale Mondary as the healthcare District's appointed representative to the Governing Board.

- **Motion 21-17:** Motion by Bryan Goldfarb to approve the appointment of Dale Mondary as the second District Board of Directors' representative to the CHC Governing Board; second by Alejandro Penalva; motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **REPORTS**

### FINANCE REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson reported that January 2021 operating income after allocation came in at \$0, and the change in net position also came in at \$0, both of which were over budgeted expectations. Year to date clinic operating income after allocation came in at \$(16,225), and the change in net position also came in at \$(16,225), both of which were under budgeted expectations.

Two fiscal projects were completed in February. The bigger of the two projects was the annual calendar year UDS reporting. This involves detailed fiscal reporting and variance explanations. As expected due to COVID, there was a lot of variances between the previous calendar year and current calendar year. Visits overall decreased by about 14%. Medical & dental visits specifically were down about 20% and chiropractic visits were down 3%. However, behavioral health visits actually increased by 21%. Also as expected cost per patient increased from the 2019 year to the 2020 year by about 22%.

The other project was the summarization of the data for the stimulus funding so it could be sent to the independent contractor for review. The results aren't back yet, but the work has been done and forwarded.

COVID-19 affected the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (the Tribe). Back in FY18-19, the District received a verbal promise from the Tribe give funding to the mobile medical unit. This promise was for five installments, one installment per year. The first two installments were received. Unfortunately, the Tribe experienced "an adverse impact from the COVID-19 pandemic and will no longer be able to continue with its donation commitment."

Finally, since there is a joint board meeting scheduled for April, the goal is to present the budget at that meeting so both boards will receive the detailed budgeted presentation.

**Motion 21-19:** Motion by Beverly Scott to accept the finance report for January, 2021; second by Cecelia St. Clair; 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 highlighted the following information:

- COVID-19 testing team has been redirected to vaccination; CHC is no longer providing testing to the public.
- She is participating in the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program. This program is funded by a HRSA grant awarded to Reach Out and is focused on Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree, and Twentynine Palms.

#### **BOARD CALENDAR:**

- No changes to the published

#### **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

- None presented.

#### **MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- CASSIE SOUTER: Said she appreciated the presentation on chiropractic services.
- BRYAN GOLDFARB: He stated that he also appreciated the presentation.
- BEVERLY SCOTT: She shared that she had occasion to see Dr. McCollum as a patient; "The guy knows his stuff."
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: Said she was grateful for CHC chiropractic services and tonight's report.
- DALE MONDARY: Thanked Dr. Savarese and Stephanie Eigner for the presentation; he thanked Jackie Combs for bringing service-line presentations to the board. "It's a shame that more Basin residents do not know about these services" He said he was amazed at the amount of work staff

was doing and the services being provided to the community. He thanked Paul Hoffman for his years of service to the District, and his encouragement for him to participate as a board member.

- ALEJANDRO PENALVO: No comment.
- MISTY EVANS: Thanked Stephanie and Dr. Savarese. She noted that these presentations help the board to learn about CHC services. She thanked everyone for being on time to the board meetings and reminded them that when the board clerk reaches out to you, please be responsive to her request as well as keep her updated on personal change of phone number or address. "I am available for any concerns or questions you may have. I value everyone's opinion on this board."


#### **ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting was adjourned to closed session at 6:46 p.m. to receive the quality report as per Section 32155 of the Health and Safety Code for report involving quality assurance matters.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned to open session at 7:14 p.m. The committee reviewed the 2020 Uniform Data Systems report to HRSA; there was no action required. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk*

  
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Misty Evans, Chairperson



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Pat Cooper, Secretary