



Morongo Basin Health Care District  
Community Health Center

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES of Thursday, May 13, 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 facemask 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 (*on-site*)
- Beverly Scott, Vice Chairperson (*remote*)
- Barbara "Cassie" Souter, Secretary (*absent*)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Treasurer (*remote*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper, Member (*on-site*)
- 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 Rudson, Director Community Programming
- Janeen Duff, Mobile Dental Manager (*on-site*)
- Stephanie Eigner, Clinic Manager (*remote*)

#### GUESTS:

- Paul Hoffman, community member
- Greg Brown, MBHD board member

**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.
- Cecelia St. Claire read the mission and vision statements.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Community member, Paul Hoffman, presented public comment. He had presented his comments to the Board Clerk prior to tonight's meeting, addressing the April meeting discussion about retaining a standing quality committee in the CHC Bylaws; and the process of CEO selection relative to the co-application agreement.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:**

- **Motion 21-25:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the meeting Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Dale Mondary; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

**Motion 21-26:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair, second by Alejandro Penalva, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated April 22, 2021; the motion passed by unanimous vote

### **PRESENTATION**

#### TAKE A HIKE PROGRAM – *Joe Ruddon, Director Community Programming*

Mr. Ruddon reviewed the Take A Hike Program with a PowerPoint presentation. The program is in partnership with Joshua Tree National Park and came out of the National Park's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Purpose was to highlight national parks as community assets and create programs where wellness resulted from park use, bring community value. The Take A Hike partnership was the first among 25 such programs in the nation. The partnership is between the healthcare District and the Department of the Interior.

Our program is designed for patients who desire to improve their overall health. The healthcare provider fills out the 90-day prescription, which is printed on safety paper and cannot be duplicated. The patient gains free access to the park for 90 days. Patients receive a handbook with rated hiking trails and maps for the 270 miles of trail in the park.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### APPROVE CHC OPERATIONS BUDGET FOR FY22 – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson presented a brief verbal summary of the budget. Dale Mondary asked about the budget deficit of \$55,000; she explained that the budget was conservative in projecting patient volumes; with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, we are anticipating a greater volume than projected in the budget, which should cover the \$55,000 deficit. Mr. Goldfarb continued the discussion about the deficit. Ms. Anderson pointed out that the CHC receives financial information just for the CHC; the CHC is a department of the District, and the District's overall bottom line is positive and absorbs the negative CHC bottom line. However, the history shows that each year the CHC's negative bottom line has diminished with each year.

- **Motion 21-27:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the CHC Operations Budget for FY22; second by Dale Mondary; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### APPROVE HRSA GRANT H8F BUDGET– *Deborah Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson presented an overview of the HRSA American Rescue Plan Act grant with a PowerPoint presentation. HRSA requires the CHC board to approve the grant budget. The grant provides for a variety of applications: COVID-19 vaccination capacity, response and treatment capacity, maintaining and increasing capacity, recovery and stabilization, infrastructure: minor alteration/renovation, mobile units and vehicles.

Total proposed grant award is \$1,849,250 with a maximum of \$500,000 allowed for infrastructure. Grant period is April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023.

Proposed applications for CHC is:

- Maintaining and increasing capacity: physician, psychiatrist, women's health nurse practitioner (\$733,229)
- COVID-19 vaccination capacity: RNs for the vaccination program (\$223,912)

- Create a new mobile medical unit (MMU) and school-based clinic team (\$392,229): pediatric / adult nurse practitioner; medical assistant/registration; and a new dental specific mobile medical unit (\$500,000). The current MMU would become specific to medical.

Discussion: Beverly Scott asked about the COVID-19 prominence in the grant guidelines. Jackie Combs explained that the COVID focus does not necessarily extend over two years but is positioned to provide immediate support of the COVID programs. The money will support the MMU medical services (pediatric vaccinations) at the school sites.

- **Motion 21-28:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the budget for the HRSA Grant H8F as presented; second by Bryan Goldfarb; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE CHC BYLAWS– *Misty Evans, Chairperson*

Misty Evans presented an overview of the action item based on April's meeting. She noted that the quality committee will be removed from the bylaws as indicated in the text. There was no discussion regarding eliminating the quality committee from the bylaws.

Cecelia St. Claire asked about the CHC's approval of the CEO. Jackie Combs explained the history and infrastructure of the CHC and District and why the District CEO also serves as CEO for the CHC.

Bryan Goldfarb asked about the CEO recruitment process and CHC board member participation. Misty Evans reviewed the board discussion and action from April's meeting wherein Dale Mondary and Misty Evans were instructed to represent the CHC board in the CEO process; no other CHC members offered to participate in the process. The process has followed what is delineated in the bylaws and co-applicant agreement, and was confirmed by legal counsel that the process is appropriate and meets the language of the co-applicant agreement. Dale Mondary spoke to the issue stating that the boards are following the bylaws and the co-app agreement. There are other board members representing the district board and Misty Evans and Dale Mondary are representing the CHC board.

Misty Evans stated that two CEO applicants have been chosen and will introduce themselves and present at a shared board meeting. This entire process has been transparent and public. The CHC board was given every opportunity to be collaborative. Initially the recruiting company narrowed 20 applicants down to nine; the MBHD board interviewed the nine and chose two qualified candidates to present to both boards.

Beverly Scott asked if the CHC board may ask the applicants questions during the shared meeting. No, Dale Mondary and Misty Evans are representing the CHC board. The candidates will introduce themselves but it will not be a time for open questions. The committee will conduct a second interview in private; it is not appropriate to interview applicants in a public forum. The shared meeting will be the opportunity to meet the candidates but not interview them.

Cecelia affirmed Misty Evans and Dale Mondary as representing the CHC board, expressing her confidence in them.

The plan is to convene a shared meeting to introduce the candidates. Jackie Combs reviewed the full background and process to date.

Misty Evans called for the vote.

- **Motion 21-29:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the CHC Bylaws as presented; second by Pat Cooper. Bryan Goldfarb voted no; Beverly Scott abstained; Misty Evans, Cecelia St. Clair, Pat Cooper, Alejandro Penalva and Dale Mondary voted in favor of the motion; motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT – *Deborah Anderson, CFO*

March and April have been busy months! The FY 21-22 budget is completed and is awaiting presentation. In addition, we heard back from the consultant for what should be recognized for the stimulus funding. The revised methodology was incorporated into the presented financial statements, which includes lost income of \$300,679 and COVID-19 related healthcare expenses. However, we had to back out expenses related to ‘maintaining health center operations’. This has caused the clinic financial statements to reflect a loss. Additionally, it has recalculated the amount in deferred revenue (\$326,118 remains of the stimulus funding). Based on the new criteria, management has come up with a game plan to try to spend down the rest of the monies.

Visits were up for March 2021. This is reflected in the revenue for the clinics as well as some of the expenses (physician fees are up, salaries are up, and benefits are up). Visits for March landed at 3,437. Average visits prior to COVID were 3,595 per month.

All Medicare cost reports and Medi-Cal payment reconciliations for FY 19-20 have been completed, along with the YV behavioral health PPS rate setting report.

Finally, the Medi-Cal Prospective Payment System (PPS) rate audit completed for Yucca Valley and 29 Palms. The final rate for Yucca Valley landed at \$228.72 (up from \$198.71), effective October 1, 2020 and the final rate for 29 Palms landed at \$206.78 (up from \$179.88), effective October 1, 2020. Not sure how long it will take Medi-Cal to implement the change, but it should be coming at some point in the future.

February 2021 operating loss after allocation came in at \$(39,908), and the change in net position came in at \$(70,313), both of which were below budgeted expectations. February 2021 operating income after allocation came in at \$4,820, and the change in net position came in at \$4,820, both of which were below budgeted expectations. Year to date clinic-operating loss after allocation came in at \$(51,313), and the change in net position came in at \$(81,718), both of which were below budgeted expectations.

- **Motion 21-30:** Motion by Cecelia St. Claire to accept the CHC financial reports for February and March 2021; second by Bryan Goldfarb; 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:

- She asked Joe Ruddon to speak to the mural unveiling event tomorrow at Split Rock; and Saturday’s emergency preparedness fair at the WalMart parking lot where CHC will provide COVID-19 vaccinations. This is a community hosted event, not a District event. He stated that the MMU will be at sites throughout the Morongo Basin to provide COVID-19 vaccinations on Wednesdays, for the remainder of May and all of June.
- Jackie Combs noted that Cindy Schmall runs our COVID-19 vaccine program, ordering vaccine, coordinating staff, and reporting statistics to HRSA.

Cecelia St. Clair asked for clarification on the FIND Food Bank program. Jackie Combs explained that FIND assists community members to sign up for CalFresh (food stamps), and our outreach staff are cross training with FIND staff to provide assistance to our patients to access the program.

**BOARD CALENDAR:**

- Mural unveiling, May 14 at 1 p.m., Split Rock clinic, 29 Palms
- May 24 shared board meeting at 7 p.m.

- May 25 shared board meeting at 7 p.m.
- June 10 regular CHC business meeting

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**

- None presented

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- BRYAN GOLDFARB: No comment.
- PAT COOPER: Thanked Joe Rudson for the Take A Hike presentation; thanked Misty Evans for her leadership; and Debbie Anderson for the financial report.
- BEVERLY SCOTT: Said she was happy to hear about the Take A Hike program; the park offers a soothing environment.
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: "So glad to be part of a group that is so competent."
- DALE MONDARY: Thanked Joe Rudson for the Take A Hike presentation. "The District does a lot but I think this program is my favorite." He thanked Debbie Anderson for her report. He also thanked Cindy Schmall and Karen Graley for their "behind the scenes" consistent delivery in providing for smooth running meeting. "I'm proud to be a part of this board and to see the inter-workings of the organization and the wonderful things we are doing for our community."
- ALEJANDRO PENALVO: No comment.
- MISTY EVANS: Thanked staff for their reports. "The board asked good questions tonight. We are definitely doing our due diligence on the issues at hand. Please reach out to me if you have concerns and questions relative to the board meetings; we try to be transparent in all we do. Every time the public brings something forward we give their concerns due attention; we have nothing to hide. We are here to serve and there is no behind the scenes collusion. Choosing a new CEO is a big decision and we need to keep the process moving forward. Dale Mondary and I representing this board is taken seriously by both of us."

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk*

  
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Misty Evans, Chairperson

  
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Pat Cooper, Secretary