



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Thursday, July 8, 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)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Treasurer (not present)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper, Member (on-site)
- Alejandro Penalva, Member (remote)
- Cecelia St. Clair (on-site)
- Dale Mondary, Member (remote)

STAFF:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Katie Beardshear, admin assistant
- Mia Fisher, dental manager
- Janeen Duff, manager mobile dental program
- Supinda Sirhekaphong, community member

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m. Misty Evans

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

OBSERVANCES:

- Misty Evans led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Cecelia St. Clair read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

- **Motion 21-34:** Motion by Pat Cooper to approve the meeting Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Cecilia St. Clair; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 21-35: Motion by Cecelia St. Clair, second by Dale Mondary, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated June 10, 2021; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION

CHC DENTAL SERVICE – Mia Fisher, Dental Manager

Ms. Fisher presented an overview of the in-office dental clinics. Dental services are provided in Yucca Valley and 29 Palms where diagnostic services are performed (dental exam, digital radiographs, periodontal assessment, emergency care and specialty care referrals). Preventive hygiene services are provided for adults and children; restorative services such as "white" fillings, tooth extractions, single

tooth crowns and some root canals are provided. Prosthetic services such as full, partial, and single dentures and nightguards are also available. Ms. Fisher explained the adaptations that were required to provide a COVID-19 safe environment for patients and staff. She addressed dental patient volumes, budget, and payment options for patients (Medi-Cal insurance only and cash-pay).

Beverly Scott asked if referrals were made to orthodontics and if Medi-Cal covered the services. Mia explained that referrals were made to Western Dental who also covers orthodontic services, and that Medi-Cal only covers severe situations.

ACTION ITEMS

CHC BYLAWS REVISION – *Misty Evans, Chairperson*

Misty Evans introduced the action item and explained the background for the action. Specifically, the language will be edited to read:

SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE: Members of the CHC Board shall serve terms of three years. ~~The terms of members shall be staggered such that three or four seats shall become vacant each year. Vacancy for non-members and members shall be equally staggered to permit continuity in both membership categories from year to year. Initial appointees to the CHC board shall be appointed to reduced terms to permit the establishment of such staggered terms.~~ Members shall be required to be reappointed at the expiration of each term. In the event that member is not reappointed, a vacancy shall be created. District board members serving on the CHC board shall be exempt from the three-year term and rotate as determined by the District Board.

- **Motion 21-36:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the changes to Section 4: Term of Office as presented; second by Pat Cooper; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REAPPOINTMENT OF BRYAN GOLDFARB TO BOARD – *Misty Evans, Chairperson*

Misty Evans introduced the action item explaining that the Bylaws called for a limited term of office with the option to reappoint a member to another term. There was no discussion.

- **Motion 21-37:** Motion by Cecilia St. Clair to reappoint Bryan Goldfarb to serve a second term of office on the CHC Governing Board; second by Alejandro Penalva; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE NEW CEO FOR CHC – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Jackie Combs introduced the action item.

- **Motion 21-38:** Motion by Pat Cooper to approve the appointment of Mitch Hall as CEO of Morongo Basin Community Health Center; second by Dale Mondary; after discussion, the motion passed 5:1 with Cecelia St. Clair voting against the approval.

DISCUSSION:

Cecilia St. Clair asked what the process was for hiring the new CEO. Misty Evans explained the process which included the use of an outside agency to screen candidates. The recruitment committee performed the next layer of candidate screening and presented two final candidates for consideration, noting that both final candidates were very qualified and that it was a difficult decision to make a final choice for CEO. Cecelia expressed her dissatisfaction stating she felt left out of the process with no input to the decision. Misty reminded Cecelia that the CHC board, as required by the co-application agreement, appointed two members, herself, and Dale Mondary, to sit on the selection committee and that an invitation was extended to board members to participate but none responded.

Misty asked for any additional discussion; none was presented. She called for the vote.

Cecilia asked about the transition of leadership. Jackie Combs stated Mitch Hall will begin August 2 and that she will remain part-time through the end of the year and plans to be present at every board meeting to be supportive during the transition.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT– *Deborah Anderson, CFO*

Deborah Anderson reported that May consolidated saw a (\$212,810) change in net position. A large part of this is attributed to a large drop in patient visits for May, declining to 2,689. The other factor playing into this is recognition of stimulus monies. Even though grant revenue recognized was higher than budget, it was not comparable to amounts recognized in previous months.

As an explanation, Ms. Anderson explained that expenses can be variable or fixed. Costs that are variable change in conjunction with some factors. For example, some of our larger expenses (the billing contract & the doctors) are paid based on visits and/or the revenue of the visits. So, if visits go down, than those expenses go down. Those are variable costs. Fixed costs are expenses that remain the same regardless of the number of visits. Expenses such as buildings, monthly contracts, health insurance, etc. are paid out no matter what the volume of visits. Some expenses such as salaries are fixed to a degree. A set level of visits is required to prevent losses.

In previous months, variables such as personnel, COVID related issues, and others had influence and qualified expenses were paid by stimulus monies. Those funds are no longer available, and we now see the actual impact on the bottom line. Additionally, there have been unbudgeted costs. All this influences the higher expense per visit.

Year to date clinic operating loss after allocation came in at \$(449,898), and the change in net position came in at \$(480,303), both of which were below budgeted expectations.

Motion 21-39: Motion by Cecilia St. Clair to accept the CHC financial reports for May 2021; second by Beverly Scott; motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT– *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs referred the board to Tab 4 of the agenda packet for her written report. There was no discussion.

BOARD CALENDAR:

- National Community Health Center Week begins August 9.
- Shared Board Meeting August 19.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- None.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- PAT COOPER: She thanked Mia Fisher for the presentation and Debbie Anderson for her report.
- BEVERLY SCOTT: She expressed her pleasure that the health center is moving to a healthier position.
- CECILIA ST. CLAIR: “I am always happy for the forward motion of the clinics.”
- DALE MONDARY: “I would like to thank staff for the work they do. The presentations by staff to educate the board is fantastic. Thank you to the other board members as well for allowing me to participate in the process of selecting the new CEO. I did very much enjoy the process; it was very extensive. I hope we can get some of the other board members to volunteer to be involved as well next time.”

- BRYAN GOLDFARB: Not present.
- ALEJANDRO PENALVO: No comment offered.
- MISTY EVANS: She thanked Supinda Sirhekaphong for attending tonight's meeting saying, "She has made herself available to serve on the CHC board. Her name will be presented to the board on the August agenda to be seated on the CHC board." Misty thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. "I always appreciate the dedication from the board and staff to our community."

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk



Misty Evans, Chairperson



Pat Cooper, Secretary