



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Thursday, September 16, 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:

- Alejandro Penalva, Member (*remote*)
- Misty Evans Sharma, Chairperson (*not present*)
- Beverly Scott, Vice Chairperson (*remote*)
- Bryan Goldfarb, Treasurer (*not present*)
- Denise Cullum (*on-site*)
- Supinda Sirihekaphong (*remote*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper (*on-site*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*on-site*)
- Dale Mondary (*not present*)

STAFF:

- Mitch Hall, CEO
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Karen Graley, board clerk
- Joe Ruddon, director public programming
- Stephanie Eigner, manager, behavioral health (*remote*)

CALL TO ORDER: Beverly Scott, vice president, called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Misty Evans was not available for the meeting.

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

OBSERVANCES:

- Beverly Scott led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Alejandro Penalva read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

- **Motion 21-43:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the meeting Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Alejandro Penalva; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC MEETING MINUTES:

Motion 21-44: Motion by Cecelia St. Clair, second by Supinda Sirihekaphong, to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated August 12, 2021; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH VACCINATION MANDATE FOR EMPLOYEE VACCINATION – Mitch Hall, CEO and Cindy Schmall, COO

Mitch Hall introduced the presentation stating compliance with the California Department of Health (CDPH) mandate for all healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 30 is a challenge for the District. It had been projected that the District could lose as many as 30 employees who did not comply with the mandate for various reasons. However, as the deadline drew closer only a small number of employees terminated employment with the District.

He explained that the District has not presented for approval a policy requiring COVID-19 vaccination for employees as we expect additional information on the mandate from the CDPH.

Cindy Schmall stated a letter had been issued to all employees explaining the mandate's requirements and listed the two available exemptions from compliance. Of the 30 employees who initially indicated they would not comply with the mandate, six chose religious exemption. If exemption is granted, the employee must be tested weekly for COVID exposure. Two of those six employees chose to be vaccinated; four were granted exemption. No one has applied for the medical exemption. We are working with employees who are still vacillating about taking the vaccination. Compliance is required by September 30; those who are late in complying may not work until fully vaccinated.

Supinda Sirihekaphong asked if any staff were tested as positive for COVID. Cindy Schmall stated that we do not test employees unless the exposure is related to work. There have been non-work-related exposures. All persons entering a clinic are screened for COVID symptoms.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT— *Deborah Anderson, CFO*

Mitch Hall introduced the report and explained the change in the report presentation; more detail is available upon request. He stated executive staff are focused on interventions to improve the financial picture. Last meeting, department managers were introduced to the board; they will provide updates regarding their efforts. He explained his strategy for not only the financial intervention, but regarding quality and improving the patient experience.

The July visits reflect the continuing variance, which is almost all due to lower than budgeted visits. This resulted is a negative variance to budget of **\$(166,469)**.

Net Income Clinic	Actual Mth	Budget Mth	Over/(Under)	% of Budget
Patient services (net)	480,334	677,925	(197,591)	-29.15%
Grant Revenue	127,742	189,419	(61,677)	-32.56%
340B Revenue	55,297	33,225	22,072	66.43%
Capitation Fees	26,283	24,716	1,567	6.34%
Records & Interest	50	137	(87)	-63.53%
Other	7,776	2,484	5,292	213.06%
	697,482	927,906	(230,424)	-24.83%
Salaries - Clinic	370,712	424,608	53,896	12.69%
Fringe - Clinic	70,491	78,109	7,618	9.75%
Phys Fees - Clinic	143,738	153,662	9,924	6.46%
Purchases Services - Clinic	66,061	58,375	(7,686)	-13.17%
IT, Network & Phones - Clinic	17,399	16,605	(794)	-4.78%
Supplies - Clinic	30,557	33,047	2,490	7.53%
Supplies - 340B	15,800	18,950	3,150	16.62%
R&M - Clinic	5,220	5,110	(110)	-2.14%
Leases/Rentals - Clinic	25,516	25,563	47	0.18%
Utilities - Clinic	7,490	6,524	(966)	-14.81%
Ins - Clinic	123	125	2	1.26%
Other - Clinic	6,696	7,302	605	8.29%
Depreciation	10,921	11,148	226	2.03%
	770,724	839,127	68,403	8.15%

Net Income Clinic	Actual Mth	Budget Mth	Over/(Under)	% of Budget
Operating Income/(Loss) before Allocation	(73,243)	88,779	(162,021)	-182.50%
Allocation of Overhead for Health Centers	(131,239)	(126,791)	(4,448)	-3.51%
Operating Income/(Loss) after Allocation	(204,482)	(38,013)	(166,469)	-437.93%
Non-Operating	-	-	-	0.00%
	-	-	-	0.00%
Change in Net Position	(204,482)	(38,013)	(166,469)	-437.93%
Change in Net Position No Depreciation	(193,560)	(26,865)	(166,696)	-620.50%

Line explanations:

- Patient services revenue variance due to visits being down.
- Grant revenue variance due to gearing up for personnel that meet the grant criteria
- 340B variance is due the 340B program continuing to do better than anticipated
- Salaries & fringe variance due to unfilled clinic positions
- Physician fees are lower than budget due to lower visits.
- Purchased services variance due to new IT contract that replaced the prior vendor at a higher rate.

Year to date consolidated operating loss after allocation and the change in net position are the same as in Table 1.

Motion 21-45: Motion by Pat Cooper to accept the CHC financial report as presented; second by Cecelia St. Clair; motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT – Mitch Hall, CEO

He referred the board to his written report in the agenda packet. He updated the report stating that the HIV Screening grant was awarded today; staff are moving forward with implementation. The grant amount is over \$300,000. He also noted that the University California Riverside agreement is for pediatric providers who are teaching faculty, to be onsite in support of expanding CHC pediatric services.

Cecilia St. Clair questioned the need for additional pediatric support. Cindy Schmall explained that the pediatric volume has remained consistent but one of our providers had a change in schedule and reduced his availability in 29 Palms. Supinda Sirihekaphong asked about the UCR schedule and consistency in providers for patient comfort. Cindy Schmall confirmed that currently our two pediatricians rotate patients; the patients appear to be comfortable with the scheduling.

Mitch Hall shared that the Head Start mobile dental program and the opioid grant are being implemented. Janeen Duff has taken a new position of oversight of all grants so the District can be responsive and compliant with grant requirements. Joe Ruddon is champion of the food-hub grant which supports the reduction of food insecurity in the Basin. He reported that the county accepted the required data.

Cecilia St. Clair asked about the behavioral health department. There was discussion about the program, staffing, appointment availability, patient wait list and the need for recruiting providers.

BOARD CALENDAR:

- October 9 Health Fair at Luckie Park in 29 Palms

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING AGENDA:

- None.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- PAT COOPER: stated she is impressed with the quality of the information presented tonight. She thanked staff for their continued work.
- DENISE CULLUM: She thanked staff for the reports; “I’m soaking up the information.” She appreciated tonight’s discussion and explanation of the strategy for improving finances, and she thanked Mitch and Debbie for the redesign of the financial report.
- SUPINDA SIRIHEKAPHONG: “Seems like we’re trying to work smarter rather than harder. Keep up the good work.”
- BEVERLY SCOTT: “I agree with the focus on behavioral health strategy and improvement in the patient wait list.” She is looking forward to the health fair in October.
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: “I’m very excited that we’re putting more focus on behavioral health; it’s so important in this area. I appreciate the information on resources” She also expressed appreciation for the marketing Karen Graley is doing and how informative the messaging is that is provided to the community.
- DALE MONDARY: Not present
- BRYAN GOLDFARB: Not present
- ALEJANDRO PENALVO: He thanked staff for their work and time; “Great meeting.”
- MISTY EVANS: Not present


MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk



Misty Evans, Chairperson



Pat Cooper, Secretary