

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.**

6530 La Contenta Road, Suite 100, Yucca Valley CA 92284 | 760.820.9229

- **Mission Statement:** *To improve the health and wellness of the communities we serve.*
- **Vision:** *A healthy Morongo Basin.*
- **Core Values:** *Commitment, Collaboration, Accountability, Dignity, Integrity.*

Board of Directors:

- Director Doyle, President
- Director Armstrong, Vice President
- Director Sullivan, Secretary
- Director Hoffman, Treasurer
- Director Markel-Greenhouse

Administrative Staff:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- P.K. White, Controller
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Cindy Schmall, Director Operations
- Ron Stewart, Exec Director, CHC
- Kathy Alkire

Guests:

- Jenna Hunt, The Desert Trail
- Eric Knabe, Z107fm
- Mary Jane Binge, CHC board member
- Yolanda Brown
- Maciej Ceglowski, community member
- Prem Salhotra, MD, CHC Medical Director
- Neelam Salhotra
- Sara Lee

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Doyle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Joe Ruddon, interim Board Clerk, conducted roll call. Directors Doyle, Armstrong, Hoffman, Sullivan and Greenhouse were present for a quorum.

**OBSERVANCES**

Director Hoffman read the mission, vision and core value statements.  
Director Sullivan led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion 17-82:** Director Hoffman motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion seconded by Director Armstrong; motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda presented the following items for approval:

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, October 19, 2017

**Motion 17-83:** Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented; motion seconded by Director Hoffman; motion passed by unanimous vote.

## PRESENTATIONS

### MORONGO BASIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – *Tom Baumgarten, Superintendent*

Superintendent Baumgarten presented Multi-Tiered Systems of Support within MUSD.

Our mission is to serve all students, to educate the whole child by providing a framework of systems to address the whole child in a very systematic way. That system has four components:

- high quality classroom instruction
- systematic and sustainable change through alignment of initiatives
- integrated data system
- positive behavioral support.

Director Hoffman asked how MUSD collects data to ensure the child is successful. Superintendent Baumgarten explained MUSD uses a series of assessments to determine what the child's broad needs are which are then followed by targeted assessments to determine if more intervention is necessary.

As an example, MUSD tracks attendance and seeks to determine why a child is absent from school, whether personal or health related. SARC is a report card by school site to assess attendance and other critical data.

95% of MUSD students are required to complete testing or the district does not receive credit at the state level. There was discussion about tiered systems and interventions used by MUSD. Grade level reading is an early indicator for graduation rates. The tiers (1-3) help the student maximize their potential.

Director Doyle asked how a child moves through the tiers. Superintendent Baumgartner stated that the student may move forward or backwards based on a learning gap or attrition (absences). MUSD has a "response to intervention teacher" at each site to coordinate with teachers to help students reach targeted education goals. We pay attention as to how the individual child learns best and assess how that child receive information and what motivates them.

Parents and community members are partners in Tier 1. We see MBHD as a partner with us on this project, he said.

Director Hoffman asked if there is a process to assess the student's home environment. MUSD conducts confidential surveys. Homeless students need the most intervention, not during school hours, but after school. Wayne Hamilton is working on this process to keep the students in school.

Director Hoffman asked how great the single parent issue is for the school district. Superintendent Baumgarten said there are many factors to be considered, including the fabric and continuity of family units and the amount of time available to invest in their children. Parents are working harder and time spent with children is sacrificed. Education is key and this is why we are here today. Having the student come back to school the next day is more important than figuring out what is happening at home. Long term, chronic conditions in the home cannot be fixed quickly.

Expertise from experience is the most important kind of experience we can give them. Providing early safety nets to students is key and teach them to be independent.

Director Doyle noted the similarity of MUSD's mission to what was identified in MBHD's needs assessment document. The school and healthcare districts are exploring partnering for the benefit of the community. Ms. Combs stated that Joe Rudden, Ron Stewart and Julie Fontana have been meeting to identify collaboration opportunities, such as junior high immunization programs and dental assessments.

Superintendent Baumgarten thanked MBHD for its support and for the collaboration.



### MBHD RECOGNITION OF PREM SALHOTRA, M.D.

Director Doyle recognized Prem Salhotra, MD, medical director for Morongo Basin Community Health Center. She read the proclamation which acknowledged his personal dedication and commitment to the community and healthcare District. His career and community service span over 30 years in the Morongo Basin. The proclamation highlighted his leadership in the significant reduction of opioid prescriptions issued to health center patients, and the respect of his peers, patients and the community at large as a man of integrity and wisdom.

Director Doyle expressed her personal pleasure in recognizing Dr. Salhotra's contribution to the community and the healthcare District. She stated that he is a wonderful doctor and one of the best human beings she knows.

Dr. Salhotra reminisced about the health centers. The clinics were formed 12 years ago. He recalled that when the clinics were in the planning stage and Jackie Combs and Marge Doyle were part of the process, when the only choice for patient follow up was the medical center. He did not envision that the clinics would become such a big enterprise, and now, under MBHD has grown into a powerful institution with many services. Morongo Basin Community Health Center has changed the healthcare spectrum in our Morongo Basin. These clinics have changed from patients having no hope to patients having hope. The clinics have done far more for patients than we expected.

He thanked his wife for her part in his success, 31 years ago there was an opportunity that in the Morongo Basin. She said, "Why don't you open your clinic here and I'll work at the front desk?" We opened it in Twentynine Palms and slowly built our practice. 31 years seem like only a short time ago. These clinics can be much more to our community and need to continue to grow.

Dr. Salhotra thanked the board of directors for this honor.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### DISTRICT'S MEMORIAL OF MARA CANTELO

At previous meetings, the Board of Directors had expressed a desire to memorialize the life and service of Mara to the community and to the healthcare District as a member of the MBCHC governing board.

CEO Jackie Combs gave a visual presentation of the proposed memorial at the District's new property on Split Rock in Twentynine Palms. The conceptual design is proposed for the east side of the facility on Split Rock where it would be visible and accessible; the conceptual design for the memorial includes "Christmas trees," a plaque with Mara's photo and brief testament, and public respite with seating among desert landscaping. Discussion followed Ms. Combs presentation.

Director Doyle spoke to Mara Cantelo's contribution to the Morongo Basin, stating she was a fixture in our community for 30 plus years, making Christmas Day an amazing experience, providing access to a great meal and holiday gifts for the most underserved population in the Basin.

Discussion continued. Director Hoffman expressed hope that all of the Basin communities do something significant to memorialize her life and contribution. He announced an organization meeting was being convened tomorrow night in Yucca Valley and encouraged participation.

The board asked staff to provide updates on the project.

## REPORTS

### MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT UPDATE – Jackie Combs, CEO

Ms. Combs provided a verbal report to the Board of Directors.

- She thanked Joe Ruddon for serving as the interim Board Clerk for tonight's meeting.
- Ms. Combs announced that Joe Ruddon was instrumental in the MBTA awarding a passenger van to MBHD for its LIFT Transportation program. Mr. Ruddon provided a PowerPoint slide of pictures of the new transport van. The new vehicle can accommodate up to three wheelchair patients. Director Doyle thanked Mr. Ruddon for his efforts and stewardship in bring this opportunity forward. Director Sullivan acknowledged that transportation is a linchpin to healthcare access in our community and expressed his appreciation for Mr. Ruddon's work and to the MBTA for their generosity.
- Ms. Combs presented a handout on Executive Leadership from ACHD and called out the information health determinants and their impact on community health.
- Ms. Combs also provided a handout about the County of San Bernardino's county-wide plan, and stated that she and Mr. Ruddon had attended an environmental impact report where she learned of the document. She has connected with the County who is interested in weaving MBHD's health needs assessment information into the broader County plan. The County's plan will be available after the first of the year.

### DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT, AUGUST 2017 – P.K. White, Controller

Ms. White presented the consolidated financial report for the month of September, 2017.

- Overview: The financial results for the month of September were below projections as the operating net surplus (EBITDA) was \$109,650 compared to a budget of \$143,352. The difference to budget was due to the fact that Health Center September total revenue was 14% lower than had been projected.
- Revenue: Health Center patient revenues were \$45,319 below budget due to a decrease in patient volume. Actual patient revenues were \$587,153 compared to a budgeted \$632,472. HRSA grant revenue was on budget. District and Transportation revenues were on target to budget.
- Expenses: Transportation expenses were overall below budget, although repairs were, per month and year-to-date, above budget. Health Center operating expenses were 6% below budget. District expenses were 9% below budget.
- Net Income: The consolidated net income for the month was a positive \$36,629. This reflects the deduction of depreciation and other non-operating expense from the operating net surplus of \$109,650.

Ms. White stated that the Airway Behavioral Health facility has incorporated into the September report. The board requested a register of all payments during the month and their categories. Investments cash in bank gained \$8,000.

### ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Motion 17-84**: Motion by Director Hoffman, second by Director Armstrong to accept the financial report as presented; motion passed unanimously.



## CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

The calendars for November through December, 2017 were reviewed and coordinated.

- Special meeting November 9 at 3 p.m.
- Foundation's annual meeting is scheduled for December 14.

## NEXT/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- November 16: Tom Dingas / audited financial report and MBCHC Overview
- Mara Cantelo memorial update
- MBTA acknowledgement of van / thank you

## DIRECTOR COMMENTS

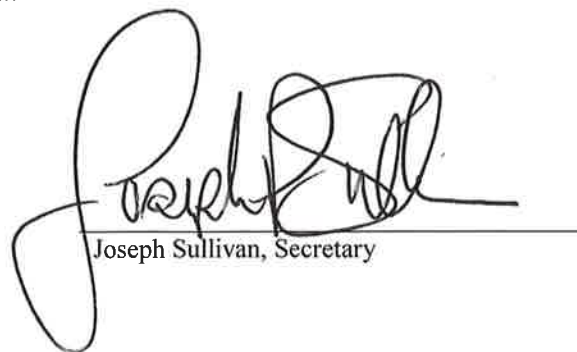
- Director Greenhouse: Expressed her appreciation to Dr. Salhotra for his many years of service.
- Director Hoffman: No comment.
- Director Sullivan: Thanked Dr. Salhotra, stating, "Sometimes key players don't get recognized as they should." Thanked the board for indulging his absence in October.
- Director Armstrong: "Dr. Salhotra is my personal physician. In my entire life I've never known someone as compassionate or soft hearted as him." Regarding the presentation by MUSD, the healthcare District is positioning itself to partner with MUSD and make a significant impact on our communities.
- Director Doyle: Expressed her appreciation of Dr. Salhotra, stating her admiration and love for him. "I have nothing but good things to say about you and the good things you have done for this community." She spoke to the great work MUSD has done in terms of meeting the needs of our children which is wonderful; that it's great to be partnering with them. "Joe Rudden, you are amazing. Thank you for taking and shepherding the transportation program the way you have."

## MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Director Doyle adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

*Board meeting minutes recorded by J. Rudden.*

  
Marge Doyle, President

  
Joseph Sullivan, Secretary