



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 4, 2020 at 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-19-19 pandemic. No physical site was available for the assembly.*

- **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 Evans, Secretary
- Director Markle-Greenhouse, Vice President
- \*Directors Armstrong & Sullivan were not present

Administrative Staff:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Debbie Anderson, Controller
- Cindy Schmall, Director Operations
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Dev
- Cassidy Zimarik, Z107fm, media
- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet

Guests:

- Paul Hoffman, CHC board member
- Jenna Hunt, Hi-Desert Star, media

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. The meeting was convened using the electronic platform of Go-To-Meeting; there was no physical assembly.

**ROLL CALL**

Karen Graley, Board Clerk, conducted roll call and declared a quorum; Directors Armstrong and Sullivan were not present.

**OBSERVANCES**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Office, Desert Market, Tenet: Ms. Evans gave an update on behalf of Karen Faulis, CEO, Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC).

- She reported two positive COVID-19 patients at the CCC continue to test positive despite being asymptomatic for weeks. There have been no positive inpatient COVID-19 cases at HDMC since mid-April. Visitor restrictions remain in effect at both facilities.
- HDMC is following the California Department of Public Health guidelines and are accepting admissions to the subacute, SNF and long term care units at the CCC.
- We have expanded telemedicine capabilities to include neurology, cardiology, pulmonary and ID. We have the potential to expand further with psych and GI. A second telemedicine cart was received to potentially deploy at CCC for specialty coverage needs.
- The out-patient neurology clinic continues servicing our community at the Primary and Specialty clinic (FCPP) in Yucca Valley, along with cardiology.



She commended the board on the action taken to assist the community for food security. The Community Needs Assessment supports your decision. It is a memorable action.

Director Doyle, as President of the Board of Directors, made a statement regarding COVID-19 precautions and District board meetings:

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious viral droplet borne disease that is new to our planet. What that means is that no human was born with immunity to this virus nor were they able to acquire immunity through breastfeeding. Droplet transmission is an airborne transmission that extends at least six feet from its source. The Center for Disease control has issued guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission. These include good handwashing, social distancing and the use of masks to prevent infection.

In mid-March the State of California was put on a stay-at-home order to prevent transmission and bend the curve of the infection rate. The governor also relaxed the Brown Act compliance for public meetings and allowed virtual meetings for the same. As a result, our April meeting and a special meeting were held online. Some of the board members were not comfortable with that process. As a result of that perspective, the special meeting of May 21 was scheduled as an in-person meeting with CDC guidelines applied.

At that in-person meeting, one board member exercised his right to not wear a mask. Subsequently, Board members, staff and community members expressed to me their fears and concerns about their personal vulnerability to contracting COVID-19. As a registered nurse, board member and president of the healthcare district board I have a duty to promote health and protect the board, staff and the community from contracting a potentially deadly virus.

In order to accommodate individual liberties as well as infection control practices, meetings of this board will be held on line until further notice.

Director Evans said she supports Director Doyle's statement 100%. ~~District policy states those District practice has been~~ those coming onto District property will wear a cloth mask. And as leadership of the healthcare District, *we should follow CDC guidelines* (minutes amended at July 2, 2020 meeting).

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

**Motion 20-29:** Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Evans; the 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, May 7, 2020
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, May 19, 2020
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, May 21, 2020
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, May 21, 2020 (budget workshop)

**Motion 20-30:** Director Evans motioned to approve the consent agenda; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; motion passed.

#### **PRESENTATION**

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION LINE ITEMS** – *Debbie Anderson, Controller*

Ms. Anderson presented PowerPoint slides to inform the board as to what will be charged to the food distribution project: District employee salaries and wages who work the food-box assembly line; and



#### CHC SERVICE LINE COST PER VISIT – *Debbie Anderson, Controller*

Ms. Anderson presented health center service line costs as requested at previous board meetings. She explained that each facility is paid at a different rate based on expenses to care for the patients. Currently, we bill under a temporary rate determined by Medi-Cal. At some point, Medi-Cal will audit the history of actual cost versus the temporary rate to finalize the reimbursement rate. Their finding will determine if the District then reimburses Medi-Cal for over payment or if the District receives additional monies for under payment by Medi-Cal.

Director Greenhouse thanked Ms. Anderson for the report. Director Doyle asked why the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) is incorporated into the 29Palms site. Ms. Combs explained that the 29 Palms facility has both medical and dental services lines and the MMU became an extension of those services; the Yucca Valley office does not have dental services on the campus.

#### NEW SERVICE LINES AT CHC – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs reported that two new service lines were added to clinic services.

1. VISION: we've established an agreement with Acuity Five who is compensated as a professional service. Health center patients are seen in Acuity's clinic but are billed as our patients.
2. COMPREHENSIVE PRENATAL SERVICES PROGRAM (CPSP): HRSA mandates that the health center provide obstetrical care. We have an agreement to refer patients to Dr. Kasko's office for obstetrical care. Through CPSP, we will provide educational courses to the patient for prenatal care; labor and delivery; postpartum care; breastfeeding and nutrition; and early parenting and child development. This service is billed under the Yucca Valley campus rate and project revenue between \$50-\$75 per visit. We expect it to operational by August. This program has the potential to bring about 20 new patients a month.

#### ACTION ITEMS

##### FY-2021 DISTRICT OPERATING BUDGET– *Debbie Anderson, Controller*

Ms. Anderson reported that the Community Health Center (CHC) governing board approved the CHC operations budget but recommended that the District use a two-percent factor rather than the three-percent factor. The factor adjustment reduced the budget approximately \$51,000. There were no questions regarding the budget.

**Motion 20-31:** Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the FYI-2021 Operating Budget as presented; second by Director Evans; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### POLICY LD-240: PROCUREMENT (revised) – *Debbie Anderson, Controller*

Ms. Anderson gave an overview of the policy. The OMB made changes in 2018. These current changes reflect the OMB changes for language and limits. Director Doyle clarified that the policy update does not affect the District's finance.

**Motion 20-32:** Director Evans motioned to approve policy LD-240; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

##### FEEDING THE MORONGO BASIN PROJECT – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs presented the resolution which allows the CEO or her designee to spend up to \$500,000 of District monies on the Feeding Morongo Basin project and to seek reimbursement from available funding sources to replace those District funds.



**Motion 20-33:** Director Evans motioned to approve Resolution #20-03 for the Feeding the Morongo Basin project; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; the motion passed by roll call vote 3:0.

## REPORTS

### FINANCIAL REPORT – Presented by Debbie Anderson, Controller

Ms. Anderson reported that health center units are still significantly down in April and is reflected in the net patient service revenue, which is approximately \$(200,000) under budget. However, as mentioned last month, clinic operations have received grants from HRSA as well as stimulus/rural health monies from the federal government to offset the loss. Also, as previously mentioned, monies deposited into the bank account have been placed into deferred revenue until the stipulations surrounding the grant monies have been performed/incurred. April accounting began the recognition of these monies in the P&L. As a result, the change in net position for the clinics, despite the lack of services performed, is landing at a positive \$39,199.

Consolidated April 2020 operating income after allocation came in at \$266,999, and the change in net position came in at \$204,361, both of which exceeded budgeted expectations.

April 2020 District operating income after allocation came in at \$222,850 and the change in net position came in at \$165,162, both of which exceed budgeted expectations.

**Motion 20-34:** Director Evans motioned to accept the financial report as presented; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

Ms. Combs referred the Directors to Tab 6 of the agenda packet for her written report and provided additional information as follows:

- Behavioral Health has continued to do visits by telephone and telehealth; their visit volume is up fifty-percent. Pediatric visits are booked well into June; Dr. Salhotra is booked three weeks out; and the mid-level practitioners are also seeing more patients.
- This was the first week of low-aerosol treatments in dental. Dental exam rooms are being modified as per the American Dental Association (ADA) and CDC guidelines to contain all aerosol contamination. Special equipment and filters have been purchased to manage the aerosol contamination. We are expecting to provide full dental services by late June. Director Doyle asked about protecting the facility's HVAC system; Ms. Combs stated that staff has made provision for the HVAC system.
- LIFT Transportation Services has changed their management of the program to accommodate COVID-19 precautions. Patients are screened and social distancing is maintained in the van.
- We continue to screen employees every day for symptoms. Everyone wears a mask when in a room with another person.
- The mural is complete at Split Rock. We have reached out to Carol Barret to schedule her visit and a recognition ceremony. It's a memorable and wonderful memorial for the Kinney family.
- Feeding Morongo Basin Project:



- Food distribution sources will transport pallets of food with 18-wheel rigs but need a loading dock to transfer the food on site. Stater Bros agreed to drop a rig at La Contenta for unloading pallets with a fork lift. Delivery will be tomorrow, Friday.
- Staff is planning how to layout the food-box assembly line. The first run will be by District staff so we can discover a workable system. We plan to do clinic distributions on Saturdays; inside the box will be a letter from the Board of Director with the \$25 gift card so recipients know where the food is coming from, gift card. Also in the box will be clinic information and assistance with insurance enrollment.
- The Hunger Help Line not ready to launch but received a call from a home bound person asking to be placed on the list for when distribution begins. Staff agreed to deliver the sample box food; the recipient called to thank the District and was very grateful and excited.
- The application for food pantry financial support has been sent to known pantries and a news release was issued. The application form is available on the District website. Ms. Combs asked for two board members to screen the applications; general consensus that whomever is available will review the applications.

Director Evans thanked Ms. Combs for sharing the story about that food box delivery and asked that she keep board members updated between meetings.

#### **CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION**

The calendars for the Board of Directors were reviewed and coordinated.

- Ms. Combs announced that the CHC meeting on June 11 will offer both a physical and remote meeting access.

#### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

- Director Armstrong: not present
- Director Evans: “Thank you for the updates; I’m very happy how the Feeding Morongo Basin is moving forward.” She then stated, “I want to speak to the racism and social injustice in America. As a board member of a healthcare District, we have a higher responsibility to serve our community by our example and our leadership. I would like to call a special meeting of the board as soon as possible in order to adopt a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis. Our constituents have the right to know this board recognizes the systemic inequality and health disparities caused by racism. Black lives matter. George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery’s lives mattered as well as so many of the other lives gone from the evilness that is racism.” There was discussion about scheduling a special meeting; Ms. Combs requested time to consult with legal about the resolution and then coordinate a special meeting.
- Director Greenhouse: “Thank you, staff for all you do, especially now in the community. Morongo Unified School District stopped their meal distribution program on Wednesday. They will implement another program but its schedule will be drastically changed, so our food distribution is very timely.”
- Director Sullivan: not present
- Director Doyle: thanked everyone for attending tonight, thanked staff for their on-going work, thanked Debbie Anderson for adjusting the budget per CHC recommendation; and thanked Jackie Combs, saying there are a lot of things happening at the District level. She acknowledged Staff acting quickly on the food project, saying, “We know that our community members are



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struggling and we want to be a resource for them during this time of food insecurity.” She thanked the board members who were there and said she missed both of the board members who were unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Director Doyle adjourned the open session at 7:20 p.m.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session convened at 7:25 p.m.

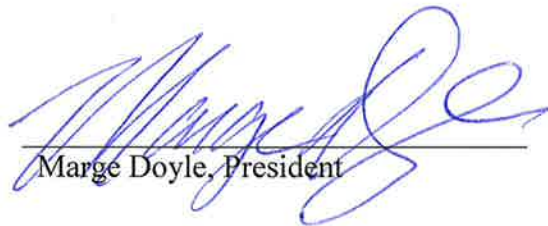
- *Pursuant to Government Code section 54957 of the Health and Safety Code: Report involving Personnel: Employee Performance Evaluation, CEO.*

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION** at 7:47 p.m. to receive Closed Session report. Director Doyle reported that the CEO employee performance evaluation will continue in closed session at the July regular business meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

*Board meeting minutes recorded by K. Graley, Board Clerk.*

  
Marge Doyle, President

  
Misty Evans, Secretary