

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**  
**GOVERNING BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

*Convened on site for board members and staff; public invited to attend 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.*

- **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.*

## **PRESENT**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

- Greg Brown
- Pat Cooper
- Marge Doyle
- Misty Evans Sharma
- Dianne Greenhouse
- Dale Mondary (*remote*)
- Alex Penalva (*remote*)
- Beverly Scott (*remote*)
- Cassie Souter (*remote*)
- Cecelia St. Clair

### **STAFF**

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Joe Ruddon, Director Community Programming

### **GUESTS:**

- Mark Lukacs, Rokos Group
- Greg Rokos, Rokos Group
- Paul Hoffman, community (*remote*)
- Stephanie Eigner, CHC manager (*remote*)

### **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:**

- Maria Aguirre
- Kathy Alkire
- Emily Jimenez
- Niko Lunetta
- Norma Maldonado
- Karmollette O'Gilvie
- Walter Quigley
- Robert White
- Domonic Wilson
- Michelle Zaccaria

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Misty Evans called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. The meeting was convened physically on the La Contenta campus and by using the electronic platform of Go-To-Meeting.

## **ROLL CALL**

Karen Graley, Board Clerk, conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

## **OBSERVANCES**

Marge Doyle led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were presented.



## APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

General consensus to approve the agenda as presented.

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Misty Evans introduced the recognition of District employees who were instrumental for the COVID-19 testing and vaccination programs to our community.

## PRESENTATION

### STAFF PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN AS IT RELATES TO THE COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

As an introduction to the presentation, Jackie Combs reviewed the previous shared meeting where board members reviewed the Community Health Needs Assessment update 2020 (CHNA) and came to a consensus for the direction staff should take in developing the next strategic plan. Strategies were relative to the social determinants of health as defined in the CHNA. She reviewed the strategies and their tactics as follows:

- **Strategy #1: IMPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE MORONGO BASIN**
  - **Tactic 1.1:** Reinstate the Morongo Basin Behavioral Health collaborative to complete a gap analysis of Morongo Basin services and to improve equitable access to quality mental health services in clinical and community settings.
  - **Tactic 1.2:** Expand Morongo Basin Community Health Center's existing behavioral health program to meet community needs.
  - **Tactic 1.3:** Participate in Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) HRSA planning grant led by Reach Out.
  - **Tactic 1.4:** Develop collaborative education and social support systems to improve resilience of individuals while reducing mental health stigma.

Discussion: none

- **STRATEGY #2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**
  - **Tactic 2.1:** Improve access to care for school age children
    - 2.1.1 Explore opening school-based clinics for primary and behavioral health care.
    - 2.1.2 Provide parent education such as preventative care, child development and health lifestyle
  - **Tactic 2.2:** Reduce hypertension in our health center population.
    - 2.2.1 Implement HRSA hypertension grant to include patient participation, use of blood pressure monitors and patient education
  - **Tactic 2.3:** Improve primary care HIV prevention
    - 2.3.1 Increase HIV testing for health center patients
    - 2.3.2 Connect newly-diagnosed patients with HIV treatment
    - 2.3.3 Educate providers and patients about HIV testing and PrEP
    - 2.3.4 Educate the community about the importance of HIV screening
  - **Tactic 2.4:** Explore new ways to improve the District's transportation program
    - 2.4.1 Collaborate with Reach Out Morongo Basin (5310 Cal Trans) mobility gran
    - 2.4.2 Explore how transportation can expand telehealth such as providing temporary internt hotspots
  - **Tactic 2.5:** Improve maternal health outcomes
    - 2.5.1 Improve early entry into prenatal care
    - 2.4.2 Improve participation into prenatal care education program



Discussion: Marge Doyle noted that the CHC board talked about the HIV grant at their recent regular business meeting; she asked if the Tactic could be broadened to sexual health, including HIV. Jackie Combs suggest that sexual health could be incorporated under women’s health. Joe Ruddon noted that if a person is at risk for STI, then would also be subject to HIV exposure. Further discussion explored adding a new tactic to include sexual health.

Misty Evans Sharma asked about the behavioral health Desert AIDS Project analysis. Jackie Combs stated that anybody who provides behavioral health services would be invited to the table.

- **STRATEGY #3: RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE**

- Tactic 3.1: Promote equity by enhancing studies and education aiming to understand address and reduce health disparities and racism.
  - 3.1.1 Solidify and establish alliances and partnerships with other organizations and community groups to address health disparities caused by racism.
  - 3.1.2 Provide racial-equity training to all staff

Discussion: None

- **STRATEGY #4: IMPROVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD**

- Tactic 4.1: Complete gap analysis for food distribution to people in need of food.
- Tactic 4.2: Implement food distribution hub utilizing San Bernardino County Community Development Block Grant (approved by board of supers this week.)
- Tactic 4.3: Query MBCHC patient for food insecurity
  - 4.3.1 Implement food insecurity screening protocols as part of patient intake process
  - 4.3.2 Train staff as CAL-FRESH navigators to link patients to support program
  - 4.3.3 Implement small food pantries at health center to provide immediate-need food access for patients
  - 4.3.5 Explore healthy eating education collaboration opportunities
- Tactic 4.4: Collect MB data on food disparity

Discussion: Marge Doyle stated she was really glad that the plan includes collecting data for Morongo Basin; “It’s very exciting. Then, we can begin to understand the scope of the need and respond appropriately.” Misty Evans Sharma noted that collection of data presents more evidence-based results.

- **STRATEGY #5: IMPROVE MB DATA RELATIVE TO THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

- Tactic 5.1: Address the lack of available Morongo Basin data which makes future planning very challenging
  - 5.1.1 Develop a plan to collect Morongo Basin specific data related to the Social Determinants of Health

Discussion: None

- **STRATEGY #6: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

WE ARE STRUGGLING TO FIND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO SUPPORT THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY IN THE MORONGO BASIN.

- Tactic 6.1: Address the critical shortage of healthcare workers in our service area. At all levels, there are not enough healthcare workers and this is only project to worsen in the coming years.
  - 6.1.1 Explore partnering with other organizations to address the shortage in healthcare roles that we depend on in our Community Health Center (high schools, Copper Mountain College, residency programs)

Discussion: None



Beverly Scott stated that in reviewing the CHNA she noticed a drop in suicides, and wondered if we had a plan to address the issue and support the decrease. Jackie Combs stated it would fall under behavioral health expansion and would be added as a tactic.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- BEVERLY SCOTT: “This was a very good report and responds to what we believe the needs are in our community.”
- CASSIE SOUTER: “I really like the OB project and food as a medicine.”
- DALE MONDARY: Thanked Jackie Combs for her presentation and congratulated the employees who were recognized tonight.
- ALEJANDRO PENALVA: Thanked Jackie for the report and said he was still processing the information presented.
- CECELIA ST. CLAIRE: “It was a privilege to see our staff and them recognized. I enjoyed the report.”
- PAT COOPER: “Before the holidays we started the food distribution project; did we discover anything about the needs in our community?” Jackie Combs stated there was still huge needs out there. “We did some surveys at the distribution events and found that most of those participating in the program were economically challenged. We didn’t find anything we didn’t expect. Most of them get food from FIND sources. At this next distribution event I plan to ask if any of them are on Cal-Fresh. Everyone in the food distribution business in the Morongo Basin is expecting this food-insecurity to continue.”
- MARGE DOYLE: “First, I personally appreciate the team for the COVID-19 testing and vaccine programs. Staff was efficient when I got my vaccination. Second, I’d like to see us address healthcare literacy issues in the strategic plan.”
- GREG BROWN: “Excellent presentation. I’m really looking forward to seeing this plan roll out and looking forward to participating in it.”
- DIANNE MARKLE-GREENHOUSE: “Thank you to our wonderful staff. The strategic plan presented is impressive and will benefit our communities as it is implemented.”
- MISTY EVANS SHARMA: Thanked staff for their hard work and said she really liked this report tonight. She is happy to see that data collection is included in the plan. Basing it on social determinants is great. She had an opportunity to speak on Yucca Valley TV and shared about the District and all that we are doing. “It was amazing to present all that the staff is doing, our transparency in the community is important. I’m hoping it will help the community understand who we are.”

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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

  
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Karen Graley, board clerk