



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES of Thursday, April 14, 2022, 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 convened on the District's campus at 6530 La Contenta Road, Yucca Valley, suite 700. A face mask is required while inside.

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:

- Greg Brown (*on-site*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper (*on-site*)
- Denise Cullum (*remote*)
- Bryan Goldfarb (*not present*)
- Nicola Keller (*not present*)
- Alejandro Penalva (*remote*)
- Debra Savitt (*on-site*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*on-site*)
- Jackie Todd (*on-site*)
- Jack Williams (*on-site*)

STAFF:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO (*on-site*)
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Debbie Anderson, CFO (*on-site*)
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development (*on-site*)
- Angela Wilhite, Director Human Resources (*on-site*)
- Kathy Alkire, Senior Manager Quality Program (*on-site*)
- Janine Duff, Grants Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Greg Brown at 6:00 p.m.

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

OBSERVANCES:

- Debra Savitt led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Jackie Todd read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion 22-37: Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the meeting Agenda with corrections (Debbie Anderson will present the action item, Evaluation of Sliding Fee Program); motion seconded by Debra Savitt; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion 22-38: Motion by Pat Cooper, second by Jackie Todd, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion passed by unanimous vote. There was no discussion.

- Minutes of the Governing Board regular business meeting March 10, 2022
- Re-ratify Governor Newsom's proclamation of state of emergency and authorize remote teleconference meetings of the legislative body, CHC Governing Board.

ACTION ITEMS

EVALUATION OF SLIDING FEE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Debbie Anderson, CFO, stated that 14 patient surveys have been collected. Staff will continue to administer the survey until enough have been collected to give an accurate patient assessment. Results regarding the sliding fee discount program will be presented at a later date. The survey asked if the patient saw the program as inhibiting access to healthcare and if the nominal fee currently being charged is creating a barrier to care.

- **Motion 22-39:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to defer evaluation of the Sliding Fee Discount Program until a bigger sample of surveys can be presented; second by Debra Savitt; motion passed by unanimous vote.

EVALUATION OF CLINIC FEE SCHEDULE

Debbie Anderson, CFO, introduced the Clinic Fee Schedule for discussion. The schedule sets the fee for patients who are able to pay full-fee. If the fees are too low the clinic loses money and cannot cover costs; if the fee is too high then patients may choose to seek care elsewhere. The fee schedule is required by HRSA. The fee is based on the prevailing charges of clinics in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, and calculates Medicare and Medi-Care reimbursement rates; it is based on Medicare's formula for setting rates.

Ms. Anderson explained CPT codes and reference sources to use in the formula (Medicare, Fee Book and relative value units), stating the resource rates were averaged and compared to current CPT rates.

Jack Williams asked if the resources took into consideration inflation; she stated they were taken from current resources which would take inflation into consideration. Denise Cullum asked if we planned to reduce current fees where the average rate is below the resources listed; we will reduce the clinic rate.

Ms. Anderson presented the spreadsheet for dental services. There were no questions about the data presented.

- **Motion 22-40:** Motion by Alejandro Martinez to table approval of the Clinic Fee Schedule to May so board members have time to review the spreadsheets; second by Cecelia St. Clair; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

QUALITY REPORT – *Kathy Alkire, quality senior manager*

Ms. Alkire presented the UDS Quality Measures 2021 Comparison and 2022 Target Goals. Where 2021 statistics were below par, staff is following up with telephone calls to patients. Goal fall out is primarily related to screenings. Medical assistants are being educated to ask the appropriate questions and provide the related educational materials. All clinical departments have been assigned a specific focus for patient improvement (i.e. pediatric team is assigned immunization compliance). A status poster will be affixed in the medical assistant work areas to incentivize their performance.

FINANCE REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson presented the financial statement for February. (January's report was not included in the agenda packet.) In February the health center made \$200,000 which offsets the previous loss of \$600,000. Patient visits remain under budget. The primary reason the health center is over budget is because the cost of supplies is up.

- **Motion 22-41:** Motion by Denise Cullum to accept the Chief Financial Officer's report as presented; second by Jack Williams; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall referred the Board to Tab 4 of the agenda packet for her written report. She highlighted the Flying Doctors event on April 30 (the District is sponsoring the event); and the annual health fair at the Town of Yucca Valley Community Center on May 7.

BOARD CALENDAR:

- The board calendar was reviewed and noted that the meetings for July and September were moved on the calendar to accommodate staff and the preparation of the agenda relative to these two holidays.
- Cindy Schmall asked the board if they would consider moving the regular monthly business meeting to 5:00 p.m. There was discussion regarding individual availability. Conclusion was to leave the monthly business meetings at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- PAT COOPER: Thanked staff for their continuing efforts.
- DENISE CULLUM: Thanked staff for their reports.
- ALEJANDRO PENALVA: Said he appreciated the detailed explanation on the financial report.
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: She introduced her grandson who was present. "The dentist and chiropractor have done a great job taking care of me and my family."
- DEBRA SAVITT: Thanked staff for their informative reports.
- JACKIE TODD: no comment
- JACK WILLIAMS: Thanked staff for the reports.
- GREG BROWN: He acknowledged the excellence of staff and thanked Debbie Anderson for her fee schedule and the work that went into preparing it.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk



Greg Brown, Chairperson



Cecelia St Clair, Secretary