



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Thursday, June 9, 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 (*not present*)
- Bryan Goldfarb (*not present*)
- Nicola Keller (*remote*)
- Alejandro Penalva (*remote*)
- Debra Savitt (*remote*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*remote*)
- Jackie Todd (*remote*)
- Jack Williams (*remote*)

STAFF:

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

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:

- Pat Cooper led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Jack Williams read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:

Motion 22-47: Motion by Pat Cooper to approve the meeting Agenda; motion seconded by Jack Williams; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion 22-48: Motion by Jackie Todd, second by Debra Savitt, 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 May 12, 2022
- Re-ratify the Governor's proclamation of state of emergency and authorize remote teleconference meetings of the legislative body, CHC Governing Board.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE REVISIONS TO HEALTH CENTER OPERATIONS BUDGET – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

The board approved the proposed CHC fiscal budget at the May meeting. After another month of data, the District’s Board of Directors asked that the overall budget be recalculated to be more conservative based on the additional capitation information. Therefore, the budget has been revised, reducing projected annual revenue by \$1.6 million, and has been brought back to the CHC board for approval of the revisions.

Board members asked questions about the changes. The bottom line shows a \$1.3 million loss; some recuperation of those funds will come through Medi-Cal processes but can be delayed as much as a year. Cindy Schmall stated that alternate sources of revenue includes IEHP incentive for meeting specific patient care targets, and the review and possible renegotiation of contracts.

- **Motion 22-49:** Motion by Debra Savitt to approve revisions to the health center’s operating budget as presented; second by Nicola Keller; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE HEALTH CENTER FEE SCHEDULE – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson explained that the health center fee schedule was first introduced to the board at the April business meeting. At that time, board members had requested to defer approval to study the fee schedule data. There were no questions from board members.

- **Motion 22-50:** Motion by Jack Williams to approve the health center fee schedule as presented; second by Jackie Todd; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICY CHC-FS-213 – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson explained that the policy, recently approved in March, has been revised to incorporate more detail, forms and language as provided during the HRSA survey.

Greg Brown asked how many use the program. Ms. Anderson stated that 470 patients use the sliding fee discount program.

- **Motion 22-51:** Motion by Jack Williams to approve revisions to policy *CHC-FS-213 Sliding Fee Discount Program* as presented; second by Pat Cooper; motion passed by unanimous vote.

EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS OF SLIDING FEE DISCOUNT PROGRAM AND APPROVE THE SLIDING FEE DISCOUNT PROGRAM – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson presented the patient survey data for the sliding fee discount program and asked for comments.

- Debra Savitt asked if a patient has numerous health issues and had to make multiple “small” payments within a small timeframe, would that be oppressive for some patients. Ms. Anderson explained that appointments can be spaced to accommodate limitations, and payment plans are available.
- Jack Williams asked if a comparison was done with other health center / clinic facilities; Ms. Anderson explained that competitive information is not available online. After additional information was provided by Janeen Duff who is an experienced hygienist, Jack Williams asked if the nominal \$10 was too low? Cindy Schmall explained that it is the board that sets the nominal charge (lowest amount which is currently \$10). Discussion included raising the most nominal amount to \$15, but the other levels remain as is.
- Pat Cooper spoke to current inflation, increase in rent and gas prices, she spoke against the increase to \$15.

- There was discussion and general agreement to raise the base amount to \$15 for a year and reevaluate at that time.
- Nicola Keller stated she was in support of raising the nominal fee. It was pointed out that only 25% of the patient census would use the nominal fee.

Conclusion: A notice will be sent to those patients using the program advising them that the change is effective August 1, 2022.

- **Motion 22-52:** Motion by Jack Williams to approve the Sliding Fee Discount Program with medical slide A be raised from \$10 to \$15, effective August 1; second by Debra Savitt; motion passed by vote of 7:1

REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson presented the financial statement for April. Ms. Anderson reported that the health center financials for the month of April show income of \$6,714 and a year-to-date loss of \$(337,418).

Visits dropped from 3,286 to 3,038 for April. Additionally, contractual allowance were about 50% (same as last month). Historically, the contractual allowances have been about 37%. This is the result of the conversion to IEHP managed care by Medi-Cal. This means that patient services revenue continues to be under budget.

Grant revenue, 340B revenue, capitation and other (quality payments) are all significant positive variances to the bottom line. Significant negative variances include patient services revenue (net) and medical supplies. Fringe benefits are climbing due to higher utilization of health insurance.

Cindy Schmall gave a more optimistic perspective stating that this dismal financial picture is a temporary thing as we adjust to capitation rates. She listed two new providers and the residency program beginning soon which will bring in additional revenue.

- **Motion 22-53:** Motion by Nicola Keller to accept the Chief Financial Officer's report as presented; second by Cecelia St. Clair; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO REPORT – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall referred the Board to her written report under Tab 6 of the agenda packet. We have received notice that HRSA has accepted the plan of care and are approved for the next three-year cycle of funding. A new behavioral health provider has been chosen who will see both adults and children via the telehealth platform.

BOARD CALENDAR: The calendars were reviewed. It was noted that the July business meeting was moved to July 21 to accommodate the holiday schedule for Staff.

MEMBER COMMENTS:

- **DEBRA SAVITT:** Thanked board members for the discussion; thanked staff for their reports.
- **CECELIA ST. CLAIR:** Expressed her appreciation for the mobile dental program.
- **JACKIE TODD:** Stated she appreciates the board members and tonight's discussion.

- JACK WILLIAMS: Asked about the internal communication calling for the remote meeting tonight; Cindy Schmall advised that COVID cases in San Bernardino County have increased 50% over February; and the District has experienced several employee exposures as well as an uptick in patient exposures.
- NICOLA KELLER: Thanked everyone for their hard work.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk



Greg Brown, Chairperson



Cecelia St Clair, Secretary