



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Convened at the District Offices

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

Administrative Staff:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- P.K. White, Controller
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Cindy Schmall, Director Operations
- Ron Stewart, Executive Director, CHC
- Tricia Gehrlein, Director Community Populations

Guests:

- Jenna Hunt, Desert Trail
- Eric Knabe, Z107fm
- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet
- Mary Jane Binge, retired CHC Board
- Ruth Hill, presenter
- Stan Helgesen, President, HDMC Auxiliary

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Karen Graley, Board Clerk, conducted roll call. Directors Armstrong, Hoffman, Sullivan and Greenhouse were present for a quorum. Director Doyle was not present.

OBSERVANCES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT None presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 18-10: Director Hoffman motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Greenhouse; 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, January 18, 2018
- Policy: LD-215 Capital Expenditures (*revised*)



Motion 18-11: Director Hoffman motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented; motion seconded by Director Sullivan; motion passed.

PRESENTATIONS:

RECOGNITION: Mary Jane Binge, retired member of the Morongo Basin Community Health Center Governing Board. Director Armstrong recognized Ms. Binge for her years of service on the health center's governing board. She was a charter member of the governing board which formed in 2013, and has served uninterrupted terms of office. Additionally, Executive Director Stewart expressed his appreciation for her and her influence in the success of the clinics.

OVERVIEW OF MEDICAL CANNABIS, Ruth Hill, RN

Joe Rudson introduced Ruth Hill, subject expert on medical cannabis.

She personally had medical issues and researched the use of medical cannabis. She presented the long history of cannabis and the science behind its properties, such as treatment in neurological and autoimmune diseases. Medicinal doses are approximately 1mg of product.

Science discovered in 1990 the endocannabinoid system which has important regulatory functions in the heart. Receptors are throughout the human body.

Use of medical cannabis has equivalent risks as conventional pharmaceuticals and has a relatively low dependence liability (9%), less than alcohol (13%). Cannabis is not lethal and has minimal side effects. The medicinal cannabis is expensive and is a cash only product. A cannabis physician's recommendation is to provide permission to purchase the cannabis, but it is not a prescription. Effective January 2018, an additional County Recommendation is required to purchase cannabis from a medicinal dispensary.

Ms. Hill provided educational resources for more information.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 2017, P.K. White, Controller

The financial results for the month of December were below projections as the operating net surplus (EBITDA) was \$94,858 compared to a budget of \$143,352. The difference to budget was due to reduced patient revenues during the month of December. Year-to-date operating net surplus is 27% above budget.

- **REVENUE:**
 - ♦ Health Center patient revenues were 15.4% below budget due to a 15% decrease in visits from the previous month. Holiday closures and provider vacation time in December contributed to the lower visit count. Contractuals, recognized in December but determined to be by higher billing in previous month, were 36.5% above budget.
 - ♦ District operational revenue was on target to budget. A worker's compensation dividend of \$26,177 was received to nonoperational District revenue.
 - ♦ Transportation revenues were above budget by \$2,197 due to the allocation by month of the MBTA grant.
- **EXPENSE:** Transportation expenses were 10% below budget. Health Center operating expenses were 5% below budget. District expenses were 13% below budget.



- **NET INCOME:** The consolidated net income for the month was a positive \$38,556. This reflects the deduction of depreciation and other non-operating expenses of \$82,480 from the operating net surplus. Year-to-date consolidated net income is \$669,282.

Ms. White presented a supplemental report that included the check register for the month; the Balance Sheet for December 31, 2017 and June, 2017. Current assets are just over \$25 million with \$1.3 million in liabilities.

- **Motion 18-12:** Motion by Director Sullivan, second by Director Greenhouse, to accept the financial report as presented; motion passed by unanimous vote.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT UPDATE, Jackie Combs, CEO

Ms. Combs referred the Directors to Tab 3 in the agenda packet and provided the following additional information:

- She attended the ACHD Leadership Conference to present the Take A Hike program at the Bright Spot breakfast meeting. She noted that the focus of ACHD is shifting from hospital based care to preventative care.

DISCUSSION

Correspondence from LAFCO was presented in the agenda packet for discussion, specifically requesting nominations for the Special Districts Selection Committee for LAFCO and the Selection Committee for Countywide Redevelopment Oversight Board. Should the board decide to respond, the action would be placed on the March 1 meeting agenda. There was discussion about LAFCO's meeting location. Ms. Combs asked the board members to advise her if they want to nominate someone to these LAFCO opportunities.

ACTION ITEMS

- HDMC HOLDINGS, LLC CAPITAL UPDATE
Ms. Combs presented the Staff Report.

Motion 18-13: Motion to approve the "Capital Expenditures Schedule G" as presented by HDMC Holdings, LLC at the January 18, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Motion by Director Sullivan, second by Director Greenhouse, to approve the report as presented; motion passed my unanimous vote.

- COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER BYLAWS REVISION

Ms. Combs stated the CHC board has reviewed and revised the bylaws. The Co-Applicant Agreement requires review of the Bylaws by the MBHD board.

Director Hoffman proposed minor changes to the document for clarification and understanding.

Ms. Combs noted that the bylaws will be presented to the CHC board for ratification.

Motion 18-14: Motion to approve the Community Health Center Bylaws revision as presented with the proposed clarifications; motion by Director Sullivan, second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed my unanimous vote.



▪ COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This overview of the Community Health Needs Assessment and the presentation of the District's priorities for engagement as established by the Board of Directors provides disclosure of closed session meetings convened November 9 and 30, December 7 and 12, 2017.

Ms. Gehrlein began the presentation with the introduction of social determinants to improve healthcare outcomes. The determinants influence overall health and include health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment. They are fluid, one effecting the other. Solutions require the collaboration and support of multiple agencies and entities.

Joe Ruddon presented the statistics of the needs assessment document. He noted that collaborative interventions can impact the status and trends of social determinants.

- Food Insecurity: 72% of the population in Morongo Basin live more than one mile from a supermarket. Proximity to the food source and access to transportation are factors for access to food. Many residents purchase food at convenience stores which command a higher price and provide a narrow selection of healthy foods.
- Environment Factors: The desert environment can be harsh and impose limitations on Basin residents; sparsely populated geography creates isolation and barriers to routine health care.
- Employment & Income: Poverty is associated with poor health. Income is directly linked to health outcomes. Poverty has increased substantially in the Morongo Basin since 2007 due to the housing market crisis. Less than 60% of working age Basin residents are in the labor force. 40% of jobs located within the Basin are filled by commuters from outside the area.
- Education: Education levels impact health. Morongo Basin lags the county and state in college enrollment and graduation rates; but has a lower high school dropout rate.
- Transportation: Transportation is also a barrier in the Basin to accessing healthcare. Vehicle ownership is lower than state and county statistics for vehicle ownership. Even though the Basin has a robust transit system, it is not used by residents to commute to their jobs.
- Housing & Real Estate: Housing affordability enables households to have more resources to pay for healthcare and healthy food, which can lead to better health outcomes. Home ownership rates in the Morongo Basin have fallen to 52.3% between 2011-2015. This coincides with the income decline and unemployment statistics.

Jackie Combs summarized the presentation noting that health issues in the Morongo Basin appear strongly related to poverty, age and isolation. When individuals cannot afford gym access, lack transportation, have minimal affordable healthy food options, and lack sufficient services for support, it is difficult to effectively address their physical and mental health issues.

The Board of Directors reviewed the health needs assessment document in special meetings and proposed the following priorities for Staff to pursue in the fulfillment of the District's mission.

PRIORITIES	STRATEGIES	SOCIAL DETERMINANTS IMPACTED
Transportation for patients seeking services offered by MBHD and/or other clinics for outpatient services	Improve access to non-emergency transportation for residents of the Morongo Basin: facilitate roundtable forum with MBTA and Reach Out Morongo Basin to identify and address gaps in mobile / transportation in the Basin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation ▪ Clinical Care
Increase access to care	Improve access to primary and specialty care in the Basin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the number of medical providers based on need for specialty and type. ▪ Increase the number of primary care providers. ▪ Increase access to outpatient services through medical mobile van and/or telemedicine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clinical Care: access to care / quality of care ▪ Health Behaviors
Position MBHD as a resource hub / center and primary source of health information, education and referral	Develop a resource hub/center for the Morongo Basin: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and present routinely scheduled health and nutrition classes to the community. ▪ Develop space for a Community Wellness Center (i.e. education, child care, assistance to the homeless, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Behaviors ▪ Socioeconomic factors: employment / income / education / family & social support
Become the lead in collaborating / convening across sectors (government, public, non-profit agencies) to accomplish established community health goals	Develop collaborative relationships with government, public and non-profit agencies to accomplish community health goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children’s health: Morongo Unified School District ▪ Transportation: MBTA and Reach Out Morongo Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potentially all determinants

A community member asked about the relationship between the District and San Bernardino County. Ms. Combs stated that the County is in the process of planning and she sits on a committee to provide input for the Morongo Basin.

Motion 18-15: Motion by Director Greenhouse, second by Directors Sullivan, to approve the priorities identified by the Board of Directors; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Director Sullivan commented that the presentation reflects the discussion from the workshops. It was very concise and addresses the priorities and needs of the community. He is pleased with the outcome and noted that a lot of work went into this.



Director Greenhouse stated she was excited that, although we may not take the lead on solutions for all of the social determinants, we can create good opportunities to bring together community partners.

Director Hoffman concurred with the comments of Director Sullivan and Greenhouse. Adding, we should be concerned that 85% of our kids go to school without breakfast. And now we hear that students at Copper Mountain College are lacking in resources as well. The District can't do it alone, but we can help collaborate a robust system to support each other. Collectively we can make a difference and somehow meet the needs of our people who are hungry every day.

Director Armstrong congratulated Staff's effort and work to put this together. We've been released from operating the hospital and now we're exploring how to advocate for the community. This board wants to make a difference, we're stepping up and saying we're going to make this happen. Everyone involved in this should be applauded. This is a plan to improve health in the Morongo Basin. It is the reason that I wanted to run for the District board, but I never thought about behavioral health, or that people don't have access to a grocery store. The complexity is amazing. The fact that this board wants to make a difference and be a leader in finding solutions is fantastic.

Director Sullivan commented for the benefit of the community's background reference, when the District decided to affiliate for the continuance of the hospital, we were in serious financial straits. That affiliation has proven to be a good outcome for the community. This District then had to formulate a new purpose and mission. This needs assessment document is taking us into a new area to fill a void, making us a catalyst for change in the Basin. There are many agencies who talk about solutions but haven't delivered. We hope to effect change.

Ms. Combs announced that the Community Needs Assessment document will be posted on the District's website by March 1.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

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

- Director Armstrong will attend the February 27 CHC meeting; Director Greenhouse will attend the March 27 meeting.

NEXT AGENDA

- None presented.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Hoffman: Thanked PK White, Controller, for the outstanding financial report and the work to create the balance sheet. He thanked the presenters for being here tonight. He also announced that the Rotary is conducting their annual food drive on March 30. It is the fifth year of the project, supporting 60,000 residents. Rotary Club is also developing a way to provide support to CMC students who are in need of financial support to eat in the cafeteria.
- Director Greenhouse: Stated that at least 75% of MUSD students are on free meals. Breakfast is available at all the school sites. A pilot program has been implemented at Yucca Valley high school for severely handicapped students who can now take home a brown bag meal. MUSD is trying to address hunger within the schools
- Director Sullivan: He offered no comment.



- Director Armstrong: Shared that on January 31 he had hip surgery done at Desert Regional Medical Center. If what I experienced at Desert is where HDMC is headed, it's fantastic. The service and the care was outstanding. I have nothing negative to report about my experience. I recovered in 13 days for what typically requires 6-8 weeks for recovery. If what they are doing there is coming up here, we've got some really good stuff ahead of us.

OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED

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

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Directors convened at 7:25 p.m. to Closed Session pursuant to:

- Pursuant to Government Code section 32106 of the Health and Safety Code: Report involving Trade Secret. Estimated date of public disclosure is projected to April, 2018.

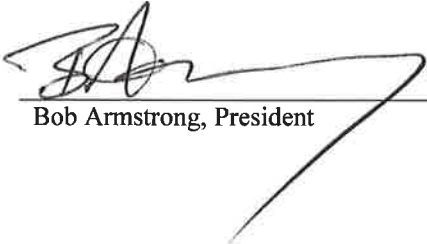
RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board of Directors reconvened to Open Session at 8:12 p.m. Director Armstrong requested additional information be brought to the board as it becomes available.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Director Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

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



Bob Armstrong, President



Dianne Markle-Greenhouse Secretary