



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 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 Markle-Greenhouse, Secretary
- Director Sullivan, Treasurer
- Director Hoffman

Guests:

- Jenna Hunt, Desert Trail
- Eric Knabe, Z107fm
- Beverly Scott, community member

Administrative Staff:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Deborah Anderson, Controller
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Cindy Schmall, Director Operations
- Ron Stewart, Executive Director, CHC
- Tricia Gehrlein, Director Population Health
- Kathy Alkire, Education Director

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, Doyle, Sullivan, Hoffman and Greenhouse were present for a quorum.

OBSERVANCES

Director Greenhouse read the mission, vision and core value statements.

Director Hoffman led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT None presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 18-41: Director Sullivan motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Hoffman; 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, June 7, 2018
- Policy: HR-221 Job Opportunity Program (*retired*)
- Policy: HR-223 Promotions and Transfers (*revised*)
- Policy: HR-248 Prohibition Against Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace (*revised*)



Motion 18-42: Director Doyle motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented with removing policy HR-248 for discussion; motion seconded by Director Hoffman; motion passed.

DISCUSSION OF POLICY HR-248: Director Doyle asked Ms. Schmall, Director Operations, if the policy meets federal and state laws; Ms. Schmall stated it was taken from the National Association of Human Resources and is specific to California.

Director Hoffman suggested that we define who our employees are. He will provide her the language provided by human resource attorneys that he has worked with.

Director Armstrong spoke to the personal experience with administering harassment policy; his concern is that the policy delegates the human resource (HR) director as the point person, and he would prefer that the Chief Executive Officer be the point person for complaints and delegate to appropriate staff. Ms. Schmall noted that her experience in the HR field was the HR Director is the point person and is responsible to apprise the CEO and work closely with her to manage the complaint.

Director Sullivan had same concerns as Director Armstrong and prefers that the CEO be the point person. Director Doyle pointed out that when the complaint is against the CEO, the HR Director becomes the point person. Director Hoffman countered that it would be the board president. The directors requested clarification from attorneys.

ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL AUDIT OF DISTRICT FINANCES – Jackie Combs, CEO

The agreement letter to contract for services with Dingus, Zarecore & Associates PLLC was presented in the agenda packet. Director Doyle asked if there is a limit as to how long the same company should be engaged. Debbie Anderson said 5-10 years is common. You don't want the auditors to become overly familiar and comfortable with the process for your organization. Director Armstrong requested that next year's audit go out to bid.

Motion 18-43: Director Doyle motioned to approve the Engagement Letter for Dingus, Zarecore & Associates PLLC to complete the District's annual financial audit for 2018; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; motion passed.

REPORTS

2018 NATIONAL INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE – Director Greenhouse

Director Greenhouse distributed information about the recent conference she and Joe Ruddon attended. The presenting organization was state-wide Reach Out with an office in Yucca Valley; this was their ninth conference. Director Greenhouse was astounded at the depth and reach of the organization.

The purpose of this report is to highlight the importance of visibility and networking as an organization. A take away was the need for more healthcare professionals in the community and exposing high school-aged students to a career path in the healthcare industry. There is a critical shortage of healthcare providers and a large portion of the current population of providers are approaching retirement.



Healthcare access is another problem in the Inland Empire (Morongo Basin is considered an extension of the Inland Empire), and MBHD is a valuable resource in the Morongo Basin. Mental health is a crisis issue for communities.

Telehealth, or artificial intelligence, is a growing influence. Again MBHD is ahead of the curve with its moving to use telehealth as a tool.

She presented other resource information that can be considered by MBHD for incorporating into its operations and program expansions.

2018 NAT'L INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE – *Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development*

Mr. Ruddon attended the workshop on “Demystifying the Funding World.” A key take away was the perception of networking, being visible at these kind of events communicates that we are active and involved. Funding agencies are interested in proof of collaboration between organizations so being visible is important.

He also attended the workshop hosted by the Riverside Food Systems Alliance from the City of Riverside. The “Farm to Fork” food system promotes raising foods locally, preserving land for agriculture and growing the Riverside’s economy. They are teaching people how to be local farmers, creating jobs through sales and farmers’ markets.

Mr. Ruddon’s takeaway was the opportunity to explore food options in our community. Reach Out Yucca Valley is exploring collaborating with the District on a community garden.

2018 NAT'L INNOVATIVE COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE – *Tricia Gehrlein, Director Health Population*

Ms. Gehrlein was the facilitator for day two of this inaugural meeting of the Inland Empire Healthy Cities. Mayors, city council members, public health systems, SCAG leadership and others attended for a broad audience.

Healthy communities rely on addressing the social determinants of health, such as park accessibility and safety, is there zoning that allows liquor stores near schools, limits on tobacco outlets, fast food density, etc.

They discussed plans for active transportation rather than passive, such as sidewalks and bike lanes; plans for affordable housing, food, and education within walking or biking distance; and Internet access with its large impact on the community.

The take away for Ms. Gehrlein was networking with people who are with San Bernardino County and the opportunity to improve public health in the Morongo Basin.

Director Hoffman asked if our local communities leadership attended; Yucca Valley had a civic conflict and was unable to attend; she could not confirm if Twentynine Palms was represented at the conference. There was brief discussion about engaging County representatives to meet with our local governments and organizations. Director Hoffman spoke to the need to collaborate and assist local organizations.

Director Doyle applauded Ms. Gehrlein for making connections with the County as historically we have had difficulty in building connections.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs acknowledged the hard work of staff to make these connections at the conference; she stated she is very proud of them.



Ms. Combs also presented:

- She is working on the strategic plan and is looking to incorporate some of these issues related to the homeless population.
- The Yucca Valley health center campus is making progress on its capital improvement projects; half the parking lot is completed with the second half to start Monday. The roof on the administrative building is finishing this week. Flooring in the pediatric suite is complete; and the adult side is in progress. All projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of the fiscal year.
- District offices are adapting to incorporating additional staff. The primary public entrance will now be at the board lobby; a receptionist will be in the lobby to greet and direct traffic. The other lobby now has desk cubicles to accommodate additional staff. Beginning with the June meeting, CHC board will return to the District building for its meetings.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

The calendars for the Board of Directors were reviewed and coordinated. There were no changes.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

- None presented.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Sullivan wanted to underscore the importance of the leadership team; we have an all-star team. Tricia's experience in networking and experience is invaluable to MBHD.
- Director Greenhouse has conference resources to share with staff.
- Director Doyle thanked everyone for their reports; she is pleased with the connections made with county staff and other organizations at the conference.
- Director Hoffman thanked the presenters for the important information. "I hope we can collaborate with the other organizations in the Basin to demonstrate that we can make it happen here."
- Director Armstrong thanked staff for the great reports and appreciates the effort put into the conference and reports. He had opportunity a couple months ago to speak with a physician assistant and encouraged her to apply at MBHD. She interviewed to work at our clinic. She shared that after all her years of schooling, she finally found an organization who has the same philosophy of care that she has. The health center hired her and she is very excited about the future. "I worked with this young lady; she was passionate about moving to the Basin. It's great to see her passion fulfilled through this job. What we're doing in these clinics is important. We're solving issues for our community."

OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED

Director Armstrong adjourned the open session at 6:30 p.m.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Directors convened at 6:40 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 August, 2018.
- Pursuant to Government Code section 54957 of the Health and Safety Code: Employee Performance Evaluation: Chief Executive Officer.



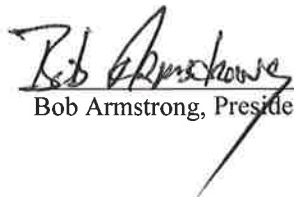
RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Board of Directors reconvened to Open Session at 7:20 p.m. Director Armstrong directed Staff to schedule a special board meeting on July 9 at 1:00 p.m. to continue the CEO evaluation. He also directed Staff to prepare additional information on the Trade Secret topic and present it when available.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Director Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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



Bob Armstrong, President



Dianne Markle-Greenhouse, Secretary