



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2020 at 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-19-19 pandemic. No physical site was available for the assembly.

- **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 Doyle, President
- Director Evans, Secretary
- Director Markle-Greenhouse, Vice President
- Director Armstrong, Treasurer
- Director Sullivan, Member at Large

Guests:

- Paul Hoffman, CHC board member
- Beverly Scott, CHC board member

Administrative Staff:

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

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet
- Greg Brown, community member

CALL TO ORDER

Director Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The meeting was convened using the electronic platform of Go-To-Meeting; there was no physical assembly.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet addressed the board, reporting on behalf of Karen Faulis, CEO, Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC):

- HDMC hospital currently has three positive COVID-19 patients and one PUI patients in-house. No CCC residents have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Desert Regional Medical Center currently has 50 positive COVID-19 patients and five PUI patients in-house. JFK currently has 70 positive COVID-19 patients and one PUI patients in-house (as of this morning). Eisenhower Medical Center COVID-19 patient count is about 40.
- All of our Desert Care Network hospitals have registered with California Department of Public Health for COVID-19 vaccinations and have prepared a "Vaccination Implementation Plan".
- Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at both HDMC and CCC.
- Modified outdoor visitation continues at the CCC.
- Governor's announcement regarding COVID-19: hospitals must now report daily patient data to the County and State. The day following the report, the state will give the hospital a dashboard and a regional percentage to determine tier status and compliance. If the county is moved to a



“stay at home” status it will require a three-week recovery period to move to a less restrictive tier. HDMC’s ICU department is filled with non-COVID patients. They expect to hear the first daily percentage feedback on Monday. The goal of the new program is to deter holiday travel through mid-January and encourage people to stay home. Our region has a lot of people (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) and our focus will be wearing masks and implementing the COVID-19 vaccination program.

- The negotiations with ancillary union continues; no 10-day strike notice has been issued.
- Ms. Evans thanked Directors Sullivan and Armstrong for the opportunity to work with them; and for their leadership in the District. She thanked the board for their collective work in the community.

All directors expressed their appreciation for receiving the update report.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 20-54: Director Evans motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Greenhouse; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion 20-55: Director Armstrong motioned to approve the minutes the Board of Directors for November 5, 2020 as presented; motion seconded by Director Evans; motion passed.

REPORTS

UPDATE FEEDING MORONGO BASIN PROJECT – Jackie Combs, CEO

Ms. Combs introduced the PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the project. The Board of Directors approved \$500,000 in May, 2020 to provide food distribution within the Morongo Basin. Distribution has been monthly in Yucca Valley and 29 Palms, beginning in June. To date (June-November) 2,485 boxes have been distributed via the monthly drive-through distributions. With the help of volunteer organization, a 100 boxes are distributed each hour.

The Hunger Help Line food boxes are distributed by the LIFT Transportation team. 482 boxes were distributed between June and November.

18 local food agencies received up to \$5,000 to augment their existing food distribution programs, totaling \$84,000.

\$50,000 was awarded to Waste Not Morongo Basin / Basin Wide Foundation for the purchase of a solar powered refrigerated shipping container. \$30,000 has been funded to Basin Wide Foundation to begin the construction for the unit. Delivery is expected any day, now.

Ms. Combs is seated on the San Bernardino County Vital Signs committee. The District is collecting food-insecurity data at the monthly food distribution in Yucca Valley and 29 Palms to share with the county committee. The health center stocks food bags to provide immediate food relief to our patients.

The District is known across the county for the its food distribution project and collection of data in the Basin. Ms. Combs will be co-presenting with the county at a national conference on food insecurity.

The District was awarded the County CDBG-CV1 Food Assistance Program grant for \$331,400. Program development is underway. A final plan will be presented to the Board in the future.



Ms. Combs thanked the board for their action in May to assist Basin residents who experience food insecurity, and specifically called out Director Armstrong for his initiative in challenging the board to step up and support Basin residents with the project.

DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG: “Great job, Jackie. I hope the board continues with the food insecurity project in the future. Staff really rose to the occasion when the opportunity was presented. We’ve taken a real leadership role in this. Ultimately, I feel this project will help the health center grow as people become more aware of the District.”

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: “It’s impressive how this project has engaged community organizations.”

DIRECTOR SULLIVAN: He thanked Jackie for the presentation. “It’s good to hear we’re getting some recognition from the county, and now even national recognition. I want to repeat what’s been said by giving credit to Bob who instigated the discussion about food insecurity. I hope the next board will continue and even expand the program. Thank you everyone for your hard work and I’m glad to see the outcome of such hard work.”

DIRECTOR EVANS: “It was such a great idea, thank you Bob; and thank you staff. It is an innovative program. It’s great to see how many people are being impacted through the program. Glad to see that the new grant will sustain the program.”

DIRECTOR DOYLE: “I did a little math with the food box distribution data. The program has provided approximately 50,000 meals in our community. I applaud staff and the board for the vision and delivery. As a board member, I am committed to continuing the project, and I want Bob to know that I will campaign to continue with it so we have a well-nourished community free from hunger.”

FINANCIAL REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson reported:

Patient volumes for **October** increased 90% over normal monthly visit activity due to additional COVID-19 patients. The net income of the clinics between January and June 2020 was \$16,225. Consolidated operating income after allocation was \$90,515; the change in net position was \$127,059; both were over budget expectations. Year-to-date consolidated operating loss after allocation came in at \$(16,841), and the change in net position came in at \$260,653, both of which were under budgeted expectations. Year-to-date district operating loss after allocation came in at \$(616), and the change in net position came in at \$276,877, both of which were under budgeted expectations.

The District’s food distribution program has accumulated expenses of \$320,534; it was projected that the \$500,000 project cap will be reached in four months. The cost of a box, including overhead, is approximately \$99 plus the expense of the \$25 grocery gift card. The report also included a list of grant activity. Ms. Anderson reported that she is in the process of revising the fiscal budget.

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: asked when the vision care will begin. Ms. Combs said that one patient has been referred. We’re close to more patient referrals.

DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG: The food boxes have an approximate 20% overhead cost. He encouraged that we focus on reducing the overhead cost. Ms. Anderson commented that initially,



staff was both assembling and distributing the boxes and were being paid for that process. But now, the community volunteer organizations are supporting the project and staff are no longer depended upon for distribution, so the cost of the boxes should be lower than the 20% through the elimination of overhead labor cost.

- **Motion 20-57:** Director Armstrong motioned to accept the financial report as presented; motion seconded by Director Sullivan; motion passed by unanimous vote.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT UPDATE, Jackie Combs, CEO

Ms. Combs referred the Directors to Tab 3 of the agenda packet for her written report and provided additional information as follows:

- She highlighted the COVID-19 testing program: staff is out on the road four days a week. Appointments are averaging 150 patients a week. I'm very proud of the team and that we are successful in testing the community for COVID-19. We also are offering flu vaccines with the testing. San Bernardino County is still doing COVID-19 testing at the senior center in 29 Palms.
- Cindy Schmall, Joe Ruddon and Jackie Combs were accepted into the Racial Justice Fellowship.
- "And, I want to thank my two board members who are leaving the board. Joe Sullivan was there when I first started as CEO and I appreciate all that you have done for me and the District. And Bob, I've enjoyed these years together talking about the board and what's best for the community. I'm saying this because I'm sincere in my gratitude."

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

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

- The next food box distribution event is December 19, 2020;
- CHC board meeting next Thursday, December 10.
- MBHD board orientation Saturday, January 30.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Armstrong: "Wow. Bittersweet. I just want to encourage the board that you are in a unique situation. Where other board are trying to work through their history, MBHD has a fresh start. I encourage you to maximize the resources and make phenomenal things happen for our community. Our staff is impressive. I've learned so much from Jackie; I appreciate Debbie's financial reports; and Cindy, Joe and Karen do such great work. No other organization in our Basin has such opportunity as MBHD. It's been a pleasure to work with Marge, Dianne, Misty, and Paul Hoffman over the years. I appreciate all you did for me. If you need any help in the future, please ask. And I'll be watching your success."
- Director Evans: "There's so many impressive things as we look back over the year. So excited to hear about the Racial Justice Fellowship. When I drive by the clinics I think of all the powerful things being done through the District and what a great future it is for our community. They have access to healthcare." She thanked Bob and Joe for their service on the board.
- Director Greenhouse: She thanked everyone for their diligence, and thanked Jackie and Debbie for their reports. "We're ending this year on a positive note."
- Director Sullivan: "I'll make my comments short. In the years I've been on the board we've made great progress. It's been a pleasure working with Jackie and staff. We've seen tremendous



change and growth in our staff and in our professionalism, and board. I encourage the board to continue the good work. It's been six years and I'm happy to move on. I'm looking for more great things from the District."

- Director Doyle: "I want to thank staff for the wonderful job you've done under tremendous pressure and difficulty in the midst of a pandemic; you have done amazing work. You did healthcare plus. I'm really proud to serve with you. Also, to my two board members: Bob, you have a legacy here through the food distribution. We've started well and we can continue; none have indicated they want to dissolve the program. Finally, Joe, you have been the longest serving on this board. You have truly made a difference; you were part of the affiliation, hiring Jackie, a part of so many of the foundational decisions made in this organization. I hope you take great pride in your accomplishments. Happy holiday and Happy New Year to all."

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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



Marge Doyle, President



Misty Evans, Secretary