



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Convened on site restricted to board members and staff; public invited to attend 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.

- **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 Brown (*remote*)
- Director Doyle
- Director Evans
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Mondary

Administrative Staff:

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

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet (*remote*)
- Paula Durrant, community member (*remote*)
- Debbie Espinoza, CEO, FIND Food Bank
- Beverly Scott, CHC board member (*remote*)
- Janeen Duff, Mobile Dental Program manager

CALL TO ORDER

Director Greenhouse called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was convened on the La Contenta campus and using the electronic platform of Go-To-Meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 21-22: Director Doyle motioned to approve the meeting agenda with the removal of the Closed Session quality assurance item; motion was seconded by Director Evans; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion 21-23: Director Evans motioned to approve the minutes the Board of Directors for March 4, 2021 as presented; motion seconded by Director Mondary; motion passed by unanimous vote.



DESERT CARE NETWORK UPDATE – *Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet*
Ms. Evans thanked the board for the opportunity to provide an update about Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC), the Continuing Care Center (CCC) and Desert Care Network (DCN), on behalf of Karen Faulis, CEO, HDMC.

- COVID-19 Update:
 - HDMC hospital has 3 positive COVID-19 patients and one PUI patient in-house (as of this am).
 - 4 CCC residents have tested positive for COVID-19. All with mild or no symptoms and remaining at CCC for recovery.
 - DRMC currently has 3 positive COVID-19 patients and 0 PUI patients in-house (as of this am).
 - JFK currently has 2 positive COVID-19 patients and 1 PUI patient in-house (as of this am).
 - Vaccination clinics are continuing at the DCN hospitals with future clinics anticipated once vaccine allocation is available.
 - DCN is now contracted with the State BSC & MyTurn program (effective April 1) and will be holding multiple vaccination clinics in CV and Morongo Basin.
 - Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at all facilities.
 - Outdoor and indoor visitation continues at the CCC under state and county infection control guidelines.
- Lease Agreement capital projects update:
 - HDMC continues to prepare for the Cerner/PBAR EMR and financial platform conversion on May 18. Employee and Provider in-person training started March 29th and the second round of integration testing is the week of April 12th. DRMC and JFK will be upgrading their version of Cerner on May 11, so all 3 facilities will be on the most upgraded version (Cerner Millennium) on May 18.
 - Main hospital, CCC and OP Behavioral Health wireless upgrade scheduled for April 22.
 - The hospital main sewer line construction project is scheduled to be completed in early May. New flooring in the med surg/ICU area is scheduled for completion in early May.
 - Air handlers 1&2 replacement project is on schedule to be completed in May.
 - The CCC flooring replacement project is scheduled to begin in May.

Director Doyle commented that she was at the medical center and saw the new flooring which looks great; her friend received excellent care from staff.

PRESENTATIONS

MORONGO BASIN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE – *Paula Durrant*

Director Greenhouse introduced the topic and Ms. Durrant. Last June the county Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in response to racism. The local Coalition for Social Justice repeatedly placed signage on the Highway 62 which was vandalized each time. Eventually, enough support was garnered to purchase a billboard on the highway. The Coalition is looking to build community relationships to replace hatred with tolerance and hopes to become a visible presence in the Morongo Basin. The billboard has received positive response from the community. She is negotiating with Morongo Unified School District to introduce social justice curriculum.



Director Greenhouse noted that last year Director Evans introduced a resolution for the District on social justice related to healthcare. Director Evans spoke to a partnership to locally promote social justice. She requested more information from Ms. Durrant about the goals and vision of the coalition. Director Evans asked for Jackie Comb's perspective. Ms. Combs stated the District as assessing a practical partnership but is supportive in spirit.

Director Mondary spoke to his personal journey researching the social justice issues in America. He acknowledged that this issue is important to our community. He asked Ms. Durrant how she plans to respond to racism when it happens in the community. She is hoping to build such a strong base that the community will not tolerate the acts of hatred and racism. Director Mondary stated that, should the board choose to partnership with the Coalition, that we make sure we have all the facts before implementing a campaign regarding a specific event.

Director Evans was in agreement with the education component, but stands in agreement with Director Mondary that all the facts must be garnered before taking any action. She stated she is against public shaming but supportive of education. Ms. Durrant assured the directors that they would not escalate an event.

Director Doyle stated that the District's goal to reduce racism in healthcare aligns with the Coalition's goals of eliminating racism. She encouraged the board to continue to explore that common goal to mitigate racism as it affects people across the spectrum.

FIND FOOD BANK – *Debbie Espinoza, CEO*

Ms. Espinoza shared that FIND has a fundraising telethon tomorrow and the new partnership with MBHD will be presented at the telethon. FIND is the regional food bank for the state of California under the FDA commodities act. Feeding America Network receives donations from large donors which is distributed to communities in the region. We are also the FDA representative for eastern Riverside County and Hi-Desert. With the Feeding America Network, we make sure everyone has the most expedient access, that is why FIND has partnered with MBHD so that frontline distributors are not having to go to the Coachella Valley to access food. This partnership is a best practice in the industry. We need collaborative partners who are capable of expanding access for their communities. MBHD will be a branch operation of FIND in the Morongo Basin. We are very appreciative of this partnership and looking forward to what we can do for this community.

Director Doyle clarified that there is no conflict between FIND and Feeding America in San Bernardino. Ms. Espinoza confirmed that each organization has well-defined boundaries so there is no conflict or overlap in services. The relationship is very collaborative.

She explained there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for leasing the building (suite 300 where LIFT vehicles were parked); the second MOU relates to the block grant the District received which specified the number of meals to be distributed within the community; FIND will manage the collecting data required by the grant on behalf of the District.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE – *Cindy Schmall, COO*

Ms. Schmall introduced the new policy, HR-294 *Appropriate Use of Social Media and Contact with the Media*. These guidelines explain what is appropriate when talking about the work environment, maintaining business and patient confidentiality; and identifies that the employee is not speaking on behalf of the District, but are speaking for themselves.



- **Motion 21-24:** Director Mondary motioned to approve the policy with the inclusion of a statement about posting patient photos, second by Director Doyle; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT – No financial report was presented.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT UPDATE – *Jackie Combs, CEO*

Ms. Combs referred the board to the agenda packet for her report.

Director Evans asked if the District is accepting new behavioral health patients; Ms. Combs explained that with the new psychiatrist coming on board, we will be accepting new patients.

Director Mondary asked about the Take A Hike; Joe Rudden provided history on the partnership with Joshua Tree National Park to promote use of park lands for the health and wellness of its community members. The medical provider actually issues a 90-day prescription to enter the park and hike its trails.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

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

- CHC board meeting is Thursday, April 22, 2021;
- Shared Meeting is April 29 to April 22.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Brown: Said he was excited about the food bank partnership; he appreciated the presentations.
- Director Doyle: Stated she appreciated tonight's presentations; they highlight a vision she had for the District when it initially separated from the hospital, that the District would have a collaborative relationship with the community, which we had tonight through the presentations and the Take A Hike program. She is very proud of what has been accomplished.
- Director Evans: Thanked tonight's speakers. She likes that community members are asking to speak to the board. She is looking forward to more collaborative relationships. She thanked District volunteers who worked at the Flying Doctors' event.
- Director Mondary: He enjoyed the informative presentations tonight. He requested the purchase of new technology to facilitate improved remote participation at the District board meetings.
- Director Greenhouse: Stated, "We have a lot to be proud of, but we still have lots to do." She thanked staff for making the board look good.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION at 7:32 p.m.

- *Pursuant to Government Code section 32106 of the Health and Safety Code: Report involving Trade Secret. Estimated date of public disclosure is projected for May, 2021.*



MEETING ADJOURNED TO OPEN SESSION at 8:00 p.m. Director Greenhouse directed staff to bring more information to the Board of Directors as it becomes available.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

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


Dianne Markle-Greenhouse
President


Greg Brown
Secretary