



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 29, 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
- Director Evans
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Mondary

Administrative Staff:

- Jackie Combs, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Katie Beardshear,

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet (*remote*)
- Beverly Scott, CHC board member
- Jene Estrada, Star
- Vikas Sharma, community member

Candidates:

- Pat Cooper, candidate
- Dense Cullum
- Bryan Goldfarb
- Debra Savitt
- Supinda Sirhekaphong

CALL TO ORDER

Director Greenhouse called the meeting to order at 6:06 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 Mondary read the mission, vision, and core value statements.
Director Brown led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 21-39: Director Evans motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

Director Greenhouse welcomed and thanked the candidates for seeking this office on the District's Board of Directors. She explained the interview process. The board members will ask the same question of each candidate and thereafter will discuss the selection to fill the vacancy.



Pat Cooper	Denise Cullum	Bryan Goldfarb	Supinda Sirihekaphong	Debra Savitt
#1: Tell us what you know about the role and responsibilities of being a board member.				
<p>She shared she served on the District hospital board for 8 years. The board provides leadership and long-range planning, they do not direct operations but work with leadership to provide guidance.</p>	<p>She listed the services provided through the CHC and the District. She highlighted the vaccination services and the district's ability to meet the needs of the community during a crisis.</p>	<p>Currently serves on the CHC board and is the longest serving member of that board. He knows the responsibilities and won't repeat what has already been stated. He understands the fiscal responsibility of a board member. He is happy to serve on the CHC board, but is offering his services to the District board.</p>	<p>This board is responsible for upholding the mission of the District. A board member should be responsible to represent the community, including the most vulnerable, as well as those who serve the community such as nurses and EMT staff. The board must understand the nuances of the community by speaking with staff and looking at the most effective delivery of care. We need to reach out.</p>	<p>The board reviews the community needs assessment document and creates goals to help the community. The current programs are well rounded and impressive in meeting the needs of community. The board works toward the broad support of staff in delivering the strategic plan and expanding services to the community.</p>
#2: Tell us about the operation of the healthcare District and what services are provided.				
<p>The District is designated as a special district by the state and receives federal funds to deliver care to the community and underserved populations through the community health center.</p>	<p>She listed the services provided through the CHC and the District. She highlighted the vaccination services and the district's ability to meet the needs of the community during a crisis.</p>	<p>Listed services provided by the CHC and District.</p>	<p>The District runs two health centers with federal financial support, offering multiple programs as defined on the website. She asked how many people are taking advantage of the programs. Are there folks in the community who don't listen to the radio or read the paper who need to know about these services? Need to make sure the community is informed about the programs and services.</p>	<p>She spoke with multiple staff, including Karmolette O'Gilvie who shared about the prenatal program and education given to mothers; she also spoke about the Take A Hike program and other main services provided by the District.</p>



Pat Cooper	Denise Cullum	Bryan Goldfarb	Supinda Sirihekaphong	Debra Savitt
#3: What skills, attributes and experience do you bring if appointed to the District board?				
<p>I've served on the hospital board for 8 years and have years of experience in the community serving on non-profit organizations.</p>	<p>Since 2004 I have served on multiple boards in all offices for both for-profit and non-profit. She is dedicated to the mission and stays calm under pressure. "It's not about me but about the big picture and the community."</p>	<p>He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration, and an IT certification in healthcare security. He has volunteered in other non-profit organizations; currently sits on the CHC board. I may not always agree with other board members, but I continue to respect those who volunteer to serve the community.</p>	<p>15 years' experience in non-profit program: such as an East Harlem project; responsible to raise \$800,000 in support of the program. Transitioned to a college advisor to international students. Eventually realized that personal security is necessary for success, from food to housing to self-actualization. I have a doctorate in educational leadership, not afraid to look at a spreadsheet or financial statement. Appreciate the diversity of ideas and strategies. I have worked in large and small institutions. I prefer the personal interaction with patients.</p>	<p>I bring a new and fresh perspective to the board. I am a Doctor of Chiropractic medicine with my own private practice and understand the business component. I currently work with hospice patients as chaplain; I'm a holistic health practitioner. Have been working with the medical field for a long time. I blend all those aspects for the benefit of the patient. I'm active in the community: participated in a project in Indio to bring medicine to the homeless and the streets. It was a fabulous experience. Helped raise money for the project. I have a heart for the community.</p>
#4: The appointment is a one-and-a-half-year commitment. Are you able to dedicate the time to monthly and special meetings as needed?				
<p>As a current member of the CHC board, I attend the meetings physical, not remotely.</p>	<p>Yes, able to make the commitment.</p>	<p>He has demonstrated excellent attendance at the CHC board meetings.</p>	<p>The beauty of being a free agent is the flexibility of your schedule. I have excellent time management skills and can commit to the term of office.</p>	<p>Yes, absolutely</p>
#5: If you are not chosen to be appointed to the District board, would you be interested in serving Community Health Center board if needed?				
<p>I already serve on this board.</p>	<p>Yes, I would consider serving on this board.</p>	<p>"It's an honor to serve on that board."</p>	<p>Yes, eager to participate.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>



Pat Cooper	Denise Cullum	Bryan Goldfarb	Supinda Sirihekaphong	Debra Savitt
#6: Is there anything you would like us to know?				
I have a long history with the District and would welcome the opportunity to serve on the District board again.	I'm a great person for the job; been in the community 25 years; served church administrator; holds a doctorate in Christian counseling; understands the military community. Has a strong interest in the District's prenatal program.	I've worked in healthcare a long time. I am loyal to the District. I bring technical expertise. I'm willing to serve.	MBHD doing an awesome job; the mission, vision and community health needs assessment is great. She is not afraid to ask if we're reaching those who benefit most from our services; what are we doing; let's engage staff and the community; let's take a hard look at ourselves. Want to make sure everyone has a fair chance at good health.	I feel that I bring a new and fresh perspective; I have creative ideas about helping the community. I have a passion for people who don't have the same opportunities. This would be another opportunity to make a difference.

There was discussion as the directors evaluated the candidates. Director Greenhouse asked each board member to name their two strongest candidates.

- Director Brown: Supinda Sirihekaphong and Debra Savitt.
- Director Mondary: thanked everyone for being here stating he was very impressed with the quality of all the candidates, and that being forced to narrow down to two candidates does not diminish anyone. He named Denise Cullum and Supinda Sirihekaphong.
- Director Evans: Stated that the District is also recruiting for board members to serve on the health center governing board, so there is opportunity to serve. She named Debra Savitt and Supinda Sirihekaphong.
- Director Greenhouse: she was impressed with the quality of the candidates. She named Debra Savitt and Denise Cullum.
- The two identified candidates are Debra Savitt and Supinda Sirihekaphong.

Director Greenhouse asked the two final candidates if they had questions for the board.

Debra Savitt asked about the COVID-19 vaccination statistics for the Morongo Basin. Based on published statistics for vaccination rates, is there a way to provide more community education and improve vaccination rates for the area? CEO Jackie Combs stated that the District administered vaccines as soon as they became available. “We’ve administered at our clinics and had the MMU out in the community. Marketing campaigns were extensive. We report weekly to the governing agencies. We’ve called health center patients to recruit recipients. We’re down to giving 20 vaccines a week with three registered nurses available. But we’ve been unsuccessful in getting additional unvaccinated people to participate. We continue to encourage vaccination.

Supinda Sirihekaphong: I trust you will choose whoever best compliments the board. My mother got COVID-19 and I assisted her with applying for Medi-Cal benefits, getting appointments and other aspects of the healthcare system. Navigating the healthcare system is a huge hurdle for a lot of people. What about those in our community who are outside the system, who don't have



access to, or understand how to use a digital device? Besides COVID-19, what is the biggest challenge the District faces? Director Evans responded that the strategic plan defines and addresses the identified issues within our community; those are our challenges. Director Mondary added resources and funding.

Director Greenhouse asked the board members to identify their number one candidate.

- Director Brown: Debra Savitt
- Director Mondary: Supinda Sirihekaphong
- Director Evans: Debra Savitt
- Director Greenhouse: Debra Savitt
- The primary candidate was identified as Debra Savitt

APPOINTMENT TO VACANT SEAT – *Dianne Greenhouse, President*

- *Motion 21-40*: Motion by Director Evans, second by Director Mondary to appoint Debra Savitt to fulfill the board vacancy for the remainder of the term, December, 2022; motion passed by unanimous vote.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY – *Karen Graley, board clerk*

Board Clerk, Karen Graley, administered the oath of office to Debra Savitt.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Brown: Thanked the candidates for applying. “All of tonight’s candidates were great, and I hope you will consider serving on the community health center board.”
- Director Evans: “Denise and Supinda, I hope you will consider serving on the CHC board.” She also thanked staff for the excellent work throughout this process.
- Director Mondary: “The CHC board is an appointment, not an election, but it is not a lesser board in anyway. In some ways it is more important than the District board. I’m very happy with the quality of the candidates who applied for the vacant seat, and I hope you will consider serving on the CHC governing board.”
- Director Greenhouse: “Thank you to our staff, we could not do this without you. Katie is training tonight as the IT tech for our meetings; the candidates are first rate, and we appreciate your interest in the healthcare District. Thank you all for being here tonight.”

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

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


Dianne Markle-Greenhouse
President


Greg Brown
Secretary