



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 5, 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 (*remote*)
- Director Savitt

Administrative Staff:

- Mitch Hall, CEO
- Jackie Combs
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Deborah Anderson, CFO
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Janeen Duff, Manager Mobile Dental Program
- Katie Beardshear, Admin Assistant

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Mkt, Tenet (*remote*)
- Supinda Sirihekaphong (*remote*)
- Morris Hinton, community member (*remote*)

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were initially presented. An electronic request arrive mid-meeting; consent of board members to accept public comment at the conclusion of reports.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 21-48: Director Evans motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Savitt; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion 21-49: Director Evans motioned to approve the minutes the Board of Directors with changes; motion seconded by Director Brown; motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular meeting of the Board of Directors, July 1, 2021
- Minutes: Special meeting of the Board of Directors, June 29, 2021



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. She congratulated Director Savitt on being seated on the Board.

COVID-19 Update:

- HDMC acute hospital has three positive COVID-19 patients and zero Patients Under Investigation (PIU). Note: Last month was two. CCC has zero COVID-19 positive residents and zero PUIs.
- DRMC currently has 21 positive COVID-19 patients plus one COVID and Influenza: 22 total. No PUI patients in-house. Note: Last month was one positive only.
- JFK currently has six positive COVID-19 patients and five PUI patients in-house. Note: Last month was zero.
- Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at all facilities.
- With new CDPH regulations, unvaccinated employees at our hospitals will be required to be tested twice weekly starting mid-August if a hospital's overall vaccination rate is less than 70% of staff (including physicians).
- Vaccine clinics for employees and providers remain in place and will increase hours for easier access and convenience.
- Community: Vaccination clinics have concluded at HDMC and DRMC. JFK continues small clinics weekly. School clinics finished last month, and we have conducted one event-specific vaccine clinic.
- Patients are presenting with not only COVID but other issues such as flu, etc. Hospitals are experiencing a nurse shortage as we seek to prepare for the influx of sick patients. There was discussion about transfer of patients between in and out of DNC network; and the recruitment of nursing staff.

Capital Project Update:

- The Cerner EMR Long Term Care (LTC) Module for CCC work continues with an anticipated go-live early 2022. This will allow for CCC to also be completely on Cerner documentation.
- The CCC flooring replacement project is scheduled to begin in August.
- Acute hospital OR air handler project is completed. The sterile processing department air handler replacement project has begun.

PRESENTATIONS

HEALING COMMUNITIES THROUGH RACIAL JUSTICE – *Jackie Combs*

Jackie Combs provided a review of the ReachOut & Center for Civic Policy 2020, a fellowship that Jackie Combs, Joe Ruddon and Cindy Schmall are participating. An overview of the curriculum was reviewed. Additionally, ACHD is conducting a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion pilot project and MBHD was awarded participation. There are two opportunities for board, senior leaders, and staff to participate in training with ACHD program.

Director Brown asked what the objective of the program was; Jackie Combs responded, "To raise awareness as to how to interact with people, awareness of biases, and to show an openness in the clinics when providing care."



ACHD ACCREDITATION PROGRAM – *Karen Graley, Director Marketing*

Ms. Graley presented an overview of the Association of California Healthcare District (ACHD). She explained their mission and value to MBHD; the definition of a healthcare district and their role in the communities they serve; the importance of transparency in government as a healthcare district; and a tour of the MBHDistrict.org website that demonstrates compliance and transparency in District business.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE BANK SIGNATURES

Director Greenhouse Resolution 21-02 for consideration. There was no discussion

- **Motion 21-50:** Director Mondary motioned to approve Resolution 21-02 to add Debra Savitt and Mitch Hall to the bank signatures, second by Director Evans; motion passed by roll call vote, 5:0.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Debbie Anderson presented the financial statements for June, noting that June is a soft close and is held open longer due to it being the last month of the fiscal year. As such, the numbers for June are not final – they are interim numbers only.

On a positive note, tax revenue for the year has been finalized, and tax revenue is up \$131,000 from budget. Additionally, due to some rate changes, hospital income going back to FY 14-15 was received for \$29,000. Also, 100% of the telehealth grant was spent.

With regards to June visits, the clinic revenue is down. Additionally, non-budgeted costs for bolstering of IT security and CEO recruitment have impacted the bottom line.

Due to a billing error, revenue adjustments through the contractual allowances associated with the payments, will have to be paid back. This payback is being worked on currently so that this liability will show on the current year financial statements (that payback is not reflected in these interim financial statements).

Finally, stimulus recognition work under the new guidance is underway. Originally, the revised calculations were expected to have a negative impact due to the inclusion of 340B pharmacy income, but since then we've learned that instead of just 2020 quarters being eligible for lost revenue, 2020 quarters and the first two 2021 quarters will be eligible. Since most of our losses for the fiscal year have taken place in the first two 2021 quarters, it is hoped this will have a positive impact in the lost revenue calculation.

CONSOLIDATED CHANGE IN NET POSITION

Consolidated June 2021 operating loss after allocation came in at \$(66,482), which was below budgeted expectations, and the change in net position came in at \$174,504, which was above budgeted expectations.

NON-CLINICS CHANGE IN NET POSITION

Operating income after allocation came in at \$57,639 and the change in net position came in at \$298,627, both of which were above budgeted expectations. Year to date non-clinic operating



income after allocation came in at \$259,954, and the change in net position came in at \$1,052,547, both of which were below budgeted expectations.

CLINIC CHANGE IN NET POSITION

June 2021 operating loss after allocation came in at \$(124,121), and the change in net position also came in at \$(124,123), both of which were below budgeted expectations. Year to date clinic operating loss after allocation came in at \$(574,019), and the change in net position came in at \$(604,426), both of which were below budgeted expectations.

Motion 21-51: Director Savitt motioned to accept the financial report as presented, second by Director Brown; motion passed by unanimous vote.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT UPDATE – Jackie Combs

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

She also presented that last Thursday she attended a dinner along with other community members hosted by Senator Groves. This week ACHD representatives visited the District with Assemblyman Thurston Smith to meet with senior staff. The visit included a tour with FIND Food and a tour of the mobile medical unit. Discussion focused on legislation to support alleviating food insecurity, and an awareness of broadband access in the Morongo Basin.

She spoke about a new CHC program for school-based health program expanding on the mobile dental program to include well-child visits and childhood vaccinations. She and staff members visited the manufacturer who built the MMU to discuss building a second mobile unit specific to dental services. They are backlogged in production, and we can expect the second unit to be available next summer.

Director Savitt asked about the homeless initiative on the strategic plan. Jackie shared that Joe Ruddon sits on a community committee that is looking to assess the scope of the homelessness in the Basin.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

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

- August 19 Shared meeting: focused on the CHC
- September meetings shifted one week to District on September 9 and CHC on September 16
- October is the District's health fair in 29 Palms at Luckie Park

PUBLIC COMMENT: Community member Morris Hinton requested to speak on an issue not on the agenda. He thanked the board for hearing him. He is a CHC patient at the 29Palms clinic and has been treated by Dr. Pafford. He recently heard that Dr. Pafford is leaving. He spoke to the importance of continuity of care with a single physician. He stated he will follow Dr. Pafford to wherever he goes.

Director Greenhouse thanked Mr. Hinton for speaking to the board and reiterated that the board is prohibited from taking any action not published on the agenda.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- Director Mondary: He welcomed Mitch Hall to the District as CEO. He thanked Linda Evans, Jackie Combs and Karen Graley for their presentations. He asked if the financial reports could be displayed during the financial report. He asked about COVID related issues



such as documentation of booster shots. Cindy Schmall provided background information on the COVID registry process.

- Director Evans: She thanked staff for their reports and welcomed Mitch Hall. She wished Supinda Sirihekaphong happy birthday; and thanked Mr. Hinton for speaking to the board. Regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, she said, “Our country has been split a long time, and we need to not judge people because that makes them reluctant to hear what we are trying to convey. You should make the best decision for you and your family; we should be comfortable doing that. The more we support each other, the better it will be. I am not judging whether you get vaccinated, but I encourage you to research the issues to make the best decision for you.”
- Director Brown: He stated that it was a very informative meeting.
- Director Savitt: She thanked Jackie Combs and Karen Graley for their presentations, and thanked Debbie Anderson for answering her email questions on the financial report.
- Director Greenhouse: “Welcome, Mitch. And, as I’ve said before, we could not do all that needs to be done without the incredible work of staff.” Mitch responded, “I am impressed with the senior staff, they are some of the best I’ve seen in 35 years.”

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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


Dianne Markle-Greenhouse
President


Greg Brown
Secretary