

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 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 (*remote*)
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Mondary
- Director Savitt

Administrative Staff:

- Mitch Hall, CEO (*not present*)
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk
- Cindy Schmall, COO
- Deborah Anderson, CFO
- Joe Ruddon, Director Community Programming

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet (*remote*)
- Pat Cooper, CHC board member

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 by electronic platform using Go-To-Meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCES

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were initially presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 21-61: Director Savitt motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion 21-62: Director Brown motioned to approve the minutes the Board of Directors with changes; motion seconded by Director Mondary; motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular meeting of the Board of Directors, October 7, 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.



COVID-19 Update:

- HDMC acute hospital currently has four positive COVID-19 patients. Note: Last two months were five then six. CCC has zero COVID-19 positive residents and zero PUIs. Last two months were also zero.
- DRMC currently has 27 positive COVID-19 patients and zero PUIs (seven were vaccinated so breakthrough cases are still presenting). Last month was 27 then 35.
- JFK currently has 12 positive COVID-19 patients and two PUI patients in-house (zero were vaccinated). Last month was five and prior was 17.
- Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at all facilities.
- Vaccine clinics for employees and providers remain in place and have increased in frequency for easier access and convenience. All hospitals are providing booster clinics for staff and physicians.

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 complete. Purchasing new front lobby furniture.
- The sterile processing department air handler replacement project is in process with an anticipated completion date late November.
- Completion of the hospital roof project will follow completion of the air handler project.
- Plans are in the works to replace the remaining floor at the hospital with the same new flooring as on med surg.
- Upgrading telephone system and cellular system

Other News:

- David Cooke, COO/CNO, last day with HDMC is November 24. He is leaving Tenet for a regional director opportunity with another healthcare corporation. We wish him well.
- Hospital is in its TJC Stroke-Ready survey window.

Medical Staff Foundation/Primary and Specialty Care Clinic – Yucca:

- GI, Cardiology and Neurology services are now available.

Director Savitt asked Ms. Evans about COVID-19 vaccinations and breakthrough cases. Director Mondary asked about spending down of the capital monies; she stated HDMC is on track as per the schedule. Director Brown also asked if Desert Care Network was experiencing staffing shortages due to COVID-19 impact; she stated that staff at HDMC has not been impacted; Desert Hospital has had some difficulty depending on census; but overall, staffing is not as great a difficulty as originally projected.

PRESENTATION

Directors attended the ACHD Conference by remote platform in September. Directors were asked to share something of value that they received as a board member from that conference.

- **DIRECTOR MONDARY:** Several excellent classes were offered; ACHD staff did a great job. I attended a Brown Act education and the Unconscious Bias class which was insightful and raised my awareness to be more sensitive in the professional setting. To keep attendees engaged online, they used competitive tasks for attendees to accumulate points and win a swag bag (he garnered the second most points and received a bag).



- DIRECTOR MISTY EVANS: Staff did a wonderful job with the presentations. I liked the focus of the information they provided (i.e., social determinants, collecting data for underserved populations, etc.). Nicely done.
- DIRECTOR BROWN: Good information was presented. There was an in-depth presentation that gave a realistic perspective on chemical dependency and phobias, and the factors that influence fear. It was excellent.
- DIRECTOR SAVITT: She enjoyed the presentation by the triathlon athlete and her fight against cancer and how she overcame her fears by shifting her thinking. She also enjoyed the presentation on data collection.
- DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: The work behind changing the conference from physical to remote was an impressive effort; staff did a wonderful job in delivering the conference.

ACTION ITEMS

RESOLUTION TO RE-RATIFY GOVERNOR NEWSOME’S PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE HEALTHCARE DISTRICT – *Karen Graley, board clerk*

Ms. Graley introduced the action item, explaining that the attorney and guest speaker at the October shared board meeting, Thomas Rice, wrote the resolution being presented at this meeting. The law requires that the state of emergency be ratified every 30 days; he crafted the language to allow ratification through the meeting minutes rather than presenting a physical resolution at every meeting. A roll call vote is required to approve this resolution.

- **Motion 21-63:** Director Mondary motioned to approve Resolution 21-04 to ratify Governor Newsom’s proclamation of a state of emergency and the authorization of remote teleconference meetings of the Morongo Basin Healthcare District legislative bodies, second by Director Brown; motion passed by roll call vote.

Director Brown: Yes

Director Evans: Yes

Director Markle-Greenhouse: Yes

Director Mondary: Yes

Director Savitt: Yes

STAFF HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Director Greenhouse referred the board to Tab 3. Originally, the proposal was to consider 11 paid holidays for staff; however, after the agenda was published, it was revealed that additional research was needed. Director Greenhouse proposed to approve making the Thanksgiving holiday paid for 2021 and table the remainder of the holidays to be considered after staff prepare their report.

Director Mondary made the motion for the purpose of discussion as per Robert’s Rules of Order.

Director Mondary asked if the rate of accrued paid time off (PTO) would be adjusted to accommodate the extra pay. Ms. Schmall responded that the proposal does not address an adjustment to PTO. With the additional PTO, his concern is that employees would take an extensive amount of time off. Ms. Schmall said hourly employees accrue one full day of PTO



each pay period; use of the PTO must be approved by the employee's supervisor in order to protect the delivery of health center services.

He also asked about the additional 5-6 days of lost revenue from closing the health center for the new paid holiday schedule. Ms. Schmall explained that the existing policy defines when the health center is closed: New Year's Eve and day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas day. The proposal adds another five days of closure. Director Mondary asked if holidays could float to another day if the employee does not want to work on the scheduled holiday. Ms. Schmall stated the District hourly staff cannot float as we do not have a comp time system; however, exempt employees (managers) can negotiate to work on a holiday.

Staff requested time to research and present appropriate data at the December meeting for a fully informed decision on the proposed list of paid holidays. After discussion, the directors agreed to delay consideration of the full list but approved making Thanksgiving Day a paid holiday in 2021 (only).

- **Motion 21-64:** Director Mondary amended his motion to approve Thanksgiving Day as a paid employee holiday for 2021; seconded by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Debbie Anderson reported that staff (get Deb's statement). From current to FY2015. Audit invoices for adjustment. September's financials will change after the audit is completed.

consolidated financials for September show a negative variance to budget of **\$(284,892)** and year to date show a negative variance to budget of **\$(638,881)**. The consolidated actual loss for September is **\$(210,626)** and the consolidated actual loss year to date is **\$(438,157)**.

The non-clinic financials for the month show negative variance to budget of **\$(59,002)** and year to date show a negative variance to budget of **\$(105,634)**. The non-clinic actual income for September is \$14,680 and the non-clinic actual income year to date is \$102,170.

The clinic financials for the month show negative variance to budget of **\$(225,890)** and year to date show a negative variance to budget of **\$(533,247)**. The clinic actual loss for September is **\$(225,306)** and the clinic actual loss year to date is **\$(540,327)**.

- **Motion 21-65:** Director Brown motioned to accept the financial report, second by Director Evans; motion passed by unanimous vote.

PERFORMANCE YTD SUMMARY – *Cindy Schmall, COO*

Ms. Schmall presented the consolidated monthly July through September data. Staff has been working diligently on visits. Also presented was a service line report showing a decrease in September because of the holiday. That one holiday closure resulted in a significant loss for the month. Other factors in September were providers on vacation, a provider leave of absence; providers tacked on additional days to the holiday; and providers taking time off to recertify their licensure. However, in the overall scheme, we're closing the gap between budget versus actual.



DISTRICT UPDATE – *Mi Cindy Schmall, COO*

Mr. Hall was not present, but Director Greenhouse referred the Directors to the report under Tab 6. There were no questions.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

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

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

There were no Director comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Greenhouse adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m. The closed session was not convened due to the absence of Mitch Hall, CEO. open session at 6:59 p.m.

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


Dianne Markle-Greenhouse
President


Greg Brown
Secretary