



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 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:

- 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*)
- Kathy Alkire, Sr. Manager Quality Program
- Pat Cooper, CHC board member
- Janeen Duff, Grants Administrator
- P.K. White, community member

CALL TO ORDER

Director Greenhouse called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Brown led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were initially presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 21-69: Director Savitt motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion 21-70: Director Evans motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Director Mondary; motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 4, 2021
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 4, 2021
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, November 18, 2021
- Re-ratify Governor Newsom's proclamation of state of emergency and authorize remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of MBHDistrict.



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 five positive COVID-19 patients. CCC has zero COVID-19 positive residents and zero PUIs. Last two months were also zero.
- DRMC currently has 19 positive COVID-19 patients and zero PUIs.
- JFK currently has five positive COVID-19 patients.
- 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 was not completed in November due to unforeseen delays, but it's still in process.
- 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:

- Kathleen Moore, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer at DRMC, has accepted the position of CNO/COO for HDMC, effective November 29, 2021.
- Hospital is in its TJC Stroke-Ready survey window.

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

- GI, Cardiology and Neurology services are available.

Director Evans offered a welcome greeting to the new CNO. Director Greenhouse expressed appreciation to Ms. Evans for her informative reports.

PRESENTATION

OVERVIEW HYPERTENSION GRANT – *Kathy Alkire, MA, MSN, RN*

Kathy Alkire gave a PowerPoint presentation of the HRSA three-year grant, California FY2021 Supplemental Funding for Hypertension. The \$120,360 grant covers blood pressure monitors to be distributed to patients and covers a portion of the program manager's salary.

The purpose of the grant is to increase provider and staff engagement to improve controlled hypertension. Implementation is through evidence-based practices and through advanced self-measured blood pressure technology.



We have engaged CHC patients who have been diagnosed with uncontrolled hypertension to participate in the program. The program includes access to and support use of Bluetooth self-measured blood pressure monitors; the data is downloaded into the manufacturer's app and into the patient's electronic record where staff monitor and follow up with the patient. Patient outcomes are reported semi-annually to HRSA for program compliance.

45 patients are currently enrolled in the program. Patients meet with the program manager; the machine app is downloaded to their smart phone as well as the app to record information directly to the health record. The grant parameters require we enroll 513 patients over the course of three years. Hypertension is one of the top four diagnoses in the clinic. Participating patients are excited and engaged.

Director Evans asked that the CEO reports include statistics of the new program successes, such as the hypertension grant. Director Brown asked about recruiting patients to the program; Ms. Alkire stated that patients are recruited based on the UDS statistics reported to HRSA once a year.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF CEO CONTRACT

Greenhouse announced the resignation of Mitch Hall. She announced the appointment of Cynthia Schmall as CEO and read the specifics of the contract. Director Evans noted that the approval of Ms. Schmall as CEO must also be approved by the CHC Governing Board as per the co-applicant agreement.

- **Motion 21-71:** Director Evans motioned to approve the employment contract for the newly recruited CEO; motion seconded by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote

(This action is disclosure of the closed session meetings for December 2, November 4 and 18)

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Debbie Anderson, CFO

Debbie Anderson presented the financial report for October.

- From current to FY2015. Audit The consolidated financials for the month show a loss for October of \$(92,626) and the loss year to date is \$(530,782). Losses can be contributed to three factors: investment losses, overage of expenses, and lower than budgeted encounters.
- The non-clinic financials for the month show income for October of \$(24,243) and the non-clinic income year to date is \$79,599. Significant negative variances to budget include increased legal fees, increased investment income losses and higher than anticipated IT contract costs.
- The clinic financials for the month show a loss for October of \$(68,383) and the loss year to date is \$(610,382). Significant negative variances include encounters continue to be lower than anticipated, and supply costs have gone up. Significant positive variance includes adjustments from a Medi-Cal cost report which was completed.

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



DISTRICT UPDATE – Cindy Schmall, CEO

Ms. Schmall presented statistics on encounters for the month of October. There was discussion about the Prenatal Education Program. Ms. Schmall reported that the mobile medical unit has returned to visiting school campuses for dental care.

She shared that the senior leadership team met today to review and refine the Strategic Plan strategies and tactics. Staff will present an overview of the strategic plan at the January meeting.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

The calendars for the Board of Directors were reviewed and coordinated. Ms. Schmall stated that for the holiday, employees will be treated to a BBQ box lunch as a celebration point.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

DIRECTOR SAVITT: She appreciates the patience and computer expertise of Cindy Schmall as demonstrated at tonight’s meeting.

DIRECTOR BROWN: He thanked Kathy Alkire for the update on the hypertension grant; He’s looking forward to working with Cindy Schmall as CEO.

DIRECTOR EVANS: “Every organization goes through growing pains; I’m proud of our staff and the delivery of services to the community.”

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: “Thank you to our wonderful staff; congratulations to Cindy. Thank you board members for being supportive.”

DIRECTOR MONDARY: “Congratulations Cindy, know you are going to do a great job.” He announced his resignation from the board effective tonight. He’s changing his residency to Florida and will no longer be qualified to serve on the board. He thanked various board members for their support during his short time on the board. He thanked Cindy Schmall for her support; thanked Joe Ruddon for many years of friendship; Debbie Anderson for her professionalism and expertise; and Karen Graley for keeping him informed, and being respectful and professional. He thanked community members who supported him in the election. “I hope I served you well. Circumstances now dictate that I cannot complete my term of office. I am comforted that the board will find a good replacement and that Cindy’s leadership will serve the District well.”

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:06

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


Dianne Markle-Greenhouse
President


Greg Brown
Secretary