



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 3, 2022 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 Evans
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Savitt
- Director Sirihekaphong

Guests:

- Yen Ang, DrPH, MS, MPH, RD; Chair, Food Rescue Anti-Hunger Coalition, Department of Public Health, San Bernardino County (*remote*)
- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet (*remote*)

Administrative Staff:

- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Ana Nunez, Administrative Assistant
- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Deborah Anderson, CFO
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Angela Wilhite, Director HR
  
- Pat Cooper, CHC board member
- Janeen Duff, Grants Administrator (*remote*)
- Kathy Alkire, Sr. Manager Quality (*remote*)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Evans 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 Greenhouse led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were initially presented.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion 22-12:** Director Supinda motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Savitt; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion 22-13:** Director Savitt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, January 6, 2022
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, January 20, 2022



- 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 has nine positive COVID-19 patients and no persons of interest (PUIs) with two in ICU; three were vaccinated. CCC has one COVID positive resident.
- DRMC currently has 71 positive COVID patients and zero PUIs. eight in ICU; 31 were vaccinated. Last month was 47 COVID patients; DRMC hit a high of 102 during the month.
- JFK currently has 13 positive COVID patients and five PUI patients in-house. Of those, five are in ICU; three are vaccinated. Last month was 15 COVID patients.
- Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at all facilities.

Capital Project Update:

- The work on the Cerner EMR Long Term Care (LTC) Module for CCC continues with an anticipated go-live of March 28. This will allow for CCC to also be fully connected for Cerner documentation.
- Hospital roof project is anticipated to start within the next few months; waiting for reopening of project from OSHPD.
- Floor replacement project at the hospital is expected to be completed within the next few months; waiting material and supplies.
- Upgrading telephone system begins February/March 2022.

Trauma Update:

Hospital is collaborating with San Bernardino County and DRMC Trauma Coordinator to be the first hospital in the county to receive Trauma Level 4 designation. *Application submission planned for Q2/Q3.*

**PRESENTATION**

FOOD INSECURITY – *Yen Ang, DrPH, MS, MPH, RD; Chair, Food Rescue Anti-Hunger Coalition, Department of Public Health, San Bernardino County*

Cindy Schmall introduced Dr. Ang. The county health department oversees the program Cal-Fresh (food, healthy living, work force development, education). Her program is specific to education and providing resources and support to recipients, that they have knowledge and resources to eat healthy. Eating healthily should not depend on socioeconomic status. Six years ago, the State of California expanded its program to incorporate healthcare.

The intent is to address diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, etc. that can be impacted by healthy diet. Chronic diseases: heart disease, cancer, stroke, diabetes Alzheimer's,

Mixed treatment (food and medicines) are more effective in treating chronic disease. Without food, medicine will not work. Many of the people in our community are food insecure. SBCo 1 in 8 go to bed hungry. It's important for clinicians to ask questions to identify food insecurity. Hunger Vital Signs (two questions) are asked of patients, built into the routine patient check-in procedure using evidence-based questions.



Dr. Ang presented data:

- 6 in 10 adults in the United States have a chronic disease; 4 in 10 adults have two or more. Chronic disease is the leading cause of death and disability and drives the nation's \$3.8 trillion annual healthcare costs.
- Poor diet is the leading cause of chronic diseases. Primary diseases are heart disease, cancer, chronic lung disease, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease.
- What is the impact of food insecurity on chronic disease and healthcare costs? 53% are more likely to develop chronic conditions; 200% are more likely to develop Type-2 Diabetes; and the cost for low blood sugar hospitalization is \$17,000.
- Social determinants of health such as food insecurity, social isolation, inadequate housing, poverty and public safety impact health, leading to the clinical conditions of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, anxiety and depression.
- Without food, medicine will not work. Food insecurity is the most neglected determinant in healthcare. Food insecurity screenings are being built into the routine patient check-in procedure at Morongo Basin Community Health Center, using validated and evidence-based questions. Patients are offered immediate relief with a bag of food.
- CHC tracking food insecurity data began April 2021. Dr. Ang presented statistics for the county and for the CHC patient population: 87% of CHC patient population is below poverty level but CalFresh enrollment average is only 26%; only 5% of CHC patient population has requested immediate food-bag relief.

CHC is one of two clinic systems that are working with the county to address food insecurity. This is the medical practice of the future. She's looking forward to working with the District.

Director Evans thanked Dr. Ang for her presentation. She expressed her appreciation for the data that has been collected and for the partnership. Director Greenhouse asked about poverty levels, Dr. Ang said that Cal-Fresh and Medi-Cal use different measurements to determine eligibility for support, based on household income and size. The application and renewal process has been streamlined and requires less documentation to qualify for benefits. Director Sirihekaphong asked if CHC provides assistance to apply for Cal-Fresh, Cindy Schmall said we have Sheree Fansler and partner with FIND Food Bank to enroll patients in the program. She also asked about patient education; Kathy Alkire, RN has been trained and works with patients. Dr. Ang said the county offers education and cooking classes online.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **APPROVE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN**

- **Motion 22-14:** Director Supinda motioned to approve the 2022-25 Strategic Plan as presented; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

There were no questions.

### **APPROVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Cindy Schmall introduced the action item, stating that Debbie Anderson reviewed, edited and made changes related to the auditors requirements; additionally new policies were created to fill



missing components. They were last updated three years ago. They were edited to reflect the changes within the financial system and reorganization.

- FN-AP-101 Cash Disbursements & Accounts Payable
- FN-AP-102 Cash Accrual of Vendor Invoices
- FN-AP-103 Credit Memo
- FN-AP-104 Levels of Authorization
- FN-AP-105 Procurement
- FN-AR-101 Cash Receipts
- FN-AR-102 Charge Capture
- FN-AR-103 Collection of Account Balances
- FN-AR-104 Patient, Grant & Other Billings
- FN-CA-101 Bank Reconciliation & Positive Pay
- FN-CA-102 Petty Cash & Cash Drawers
- FN-CA-103 Voided Checks
- FN-CA-104 Investment of District Funds
- FN-FA-101 Capital Expenditures
- FN-FA-102 Deletion of Fixed Assets
- FN-FA-103 Elimination of District Surplus Real Property
- FN-GA-101 Chart of Accounts
- FN-GA-102 Allocations
- FN-GA-103 Financial Statements
- FN-GA-104 Grants & Compliance with Cost Principles
- FN-GA-105 Budgets
- FN-PR-100 Payroll Process

- **Motion 22-15** Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the listed policies and procedures as presented; motion seconded by Director Savitt; the motion passed by unanimous vote

#### APPROVE POLICY LD-244 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Cindy Schmall introduced the action item and explained that in preparation for the upcoming HRSA survey, it was discovered that everyone (employees, providers, boards) were required to sign a conflict of notice form. However there was a pre-existing policy that primarily covered the required filing of IRS form 700. The edits to this policy incorporate both policies and forms. After discussion it was suggested that the policy indicate both forms are filed annually.

- **Motion 22-16** Director Sirihekaphong motioned to approve LD-244 Conflict of Interest policy with the added time frame; motion seconded by Director Savitt; motion passed by unanimous vote.

### REPORTS

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Debbie Anderson presented the financial report for December, 2021.

- The consolidated financials for the month of December show income of \$557,125 and year to date shows a loss of \$(90,440).
- The non-clinic financials for the month of December show income of \$358,472 and year to date shows income of \$552,226.
- The clinic financials for the month of December show income of \$198,653 and the loss year to date is \$(642,666).
- The financial statements for December reflect the YTD PPS adjustments for July 2021 – December 2021 for the Twentynine Palms and Yucca Valley clinics. Prior year PPS adjustments are recognized in the June 30, 2021 financial statements and equate to about \$4 million.

There was discussion about PPS and the anticipated adjustment from Medi-Cal. Debbie Anderson reviewed the process for the benefit of Directors Savitt and Sirihekaphong who were unfamiliar with the process.



- **Motion 21-17:** Director Savitt motioned to accept the financial report, second by Director Sirihekaphong; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **DISTRICT UPDATE – Cindy Schmall, CEO**

Ms. Schmall stated that two staff have been hired as community health workers for the HIV grant fulfillment; and that there has been great collaboration with DAP Health.

A marketing and outreach person has been hired to help with events.

LIFT continues to do a great job providing transportation for medical appointments.

Director Evans asked about the progress on the vaping campaign; Joe Ruddon reported that we are waiting for information from MUSD and are ready to collaborate with them.

Director Evans inquired about the San Bernardino County COVID Equity Grant that was not awarded. Cindy Schmall said staff focus is on two grants: HIV and another for pediatric services. She explained that staff has learned that grants are complicated and cumbersome when funding a new service. The huge effort to start a new service detracts from existing services. Staff is focused on applying for grants that support the existing programs and services of CHC.

Joe Ruddon is applying for the CAL-TRANS 5310 seniors and disabilities grant, and is collaborating with Reach Out Morongo Basin. It is a very competitive state-wide grant.

Cindy asked Angela Wilhite to give an update on employee health related to the COVID upsurge. She reported that during the months of December and January we did have multiple employees and physicians out due to COVID. This resulted in a decline in visits at the clinics. Employees testing positive for COVID or having signs and symptoms has declined and all employees should be back to work next week. I feel we are moving forward from COVID. Employees are getting their boosters and the dates for that changed from Feb. 1 to March 1. The tracking system and process Michelle and have setup is really working.

Director Sirihekaphong asked about the food insecurity program in the clinics. Cindy Schmall shared that we have a CBD grant with the county; implementation includes providing food boxes to patients. The outreach team will also distribute food boxes to community centers and organizations in the valley.

#### **CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION**

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

#### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

**DIRECTOR SAVITT:** “The work being done by the county on food insecurity is impressive.”

**DIRECTOR BROWN:** “The presentation by Dr. Ang was outstanding.”

**DIRECTOR SIRIHEKAPHONG:** “It was great to hear from Dr. Ang.” She thanked Debbie Anderson for the detailed financial reports and said she is looking forward to a strategic plan update.

**DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE:** Thanked Linda Evans for the updates; she thanked staff who attended tonight’s meeting. “Great information was presented tonight and we need to follow through with our communities.”






DIRECTOR EVANS: She thanked Pat Cooper for attending. “Dr. Ang’s presentation was informative and passionate.” She thanked Cindy Schmall for her leadership and the changes she is seeing. “We have a great strategic plan.”

**ADJOURN MEETING**

The board adjourned their meeting at 8:02 p.m.

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

  
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Misty Evans  
President

  
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Greg Brown  
Secretary