



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 5, 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

Administrative Staff:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Ana Nunez, Administrative Assistant
- Deborah Anderson, CFO
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Angela Wilhite, Director HR
  
- Janeen Duff, Grants Administrator (*remote*)

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet (*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 Sirihekaphong led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were presented.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**Motion 22-38:** Director Savitt motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Sirihekaphong; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion 22-39:** Director Savitt motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with a correction to the April 7 minutes; motion seconded by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 7, 2022; edit to show that Director Savitt abstained on the first LAFCO ballot.
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 9, 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 Market, 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.

COVID-19 Update:

- All Desert Care Network hospitals (Hi-Desert, Desert Regional, JFK Memorial & CCC) have had near zero COVID patients for the past month.
- Personal Protective Equipment remains in adequate supply at all facilities.

Capital Project Update:

- The Cerner EMR Long Term Care (LTC) Module for CCC work went live on March 15 (earlier than initially planned 3/28).
- Upgrading telephone system – cabling work in process; hardware/software in the coming months
- Additional equipment approved and on order:
  - CCC – Replacement Beds
  - Rapid Infuser – Trauma Program Required
  - Operating Room Equipment
  - Sterile Processing Department – New Washer
- Approved to move forward with an emergency generator purchase and installation for the acute hospital to supplement the existing generator and allow more areas to be accessible to emergency power in the event of a power loss. *Supply chain issues will delay this project for many months.*
- 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. A DCN Trauma summit was held in February to share information and support Hi-D’s efforts. *Application submission planned for April.*

Residents:

- Both the DRMC Family Medicine and Pharmacy Residents will begin rotating at Hi-Desert on June 1st.

Other:

- We are participating in your *Community Health and Resource Fair* this Saturday, offering “Hands On CPR” demonstrations and training. Our marketing manager and stroke coordinator will be in attendance. Thank you for the invitation!
- Various leaders have attended the HQI Cares: Implementing BETA HEART® workshops. BETA HEART is a new initiative DCN will launch that encompasses a comprehensive, principled and systemic approach to reducing patient harm in healthcare while focusing on our caregivers. We will provide updates on BETA HEART as we progress with the initiative.

Cindy Schmall asked about recent newspaper articles about nurses picketing. Ms. Evans said they are in negotiations. It has not disrupted patient care.



## **ACTION ITEM**

### ACCEPT HDMC, LLC ANNUAL REPORT FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

This action item was presented at the April 7 business meeting. The Board of Directors chose to defer accepting the report until they had opportunity to review the spreadsheet provided by HDMC, LLC (Motion 22-29). Cindy Schmall introduced the action item; there was no discussion.

- **Motion 22-40:** Director Savitt motioned to accept the capital improvement report presented by HDMC, LLC at the April regular business meeting; second by Director Brown; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### APPROVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Cindy Schmall introduced the action item stating that policy *LD-224 Conflict of Interest* had been presented for approval at the March business meeting but was presenting again tonight because of the specific language the HRSA surveyors required. The redline copy in the agenda packet showed the changes.

- **Motion 22-41:** Director Sirihekaphong motioned to approve the changes to policy LD-224 Conflict of Interest as presented; second by Director Greenhouse; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

## **DISCUSSION**

### MBHD BYLAWS REVIEW

Director Evans presented the discussion, saying that recommended changes are noted in redline. She presented options for moving forward with approval. There was discussion and questions to clarify Bylaw articles. Consensus to discuss proposed changes at the June meeting.

## **REPORTS**

### QUALITY REPORT: UDS Goals for 2022

Cindy Schmall presented a grid of the Uniform Data Set (UDS) measurements for 2020 and 2021, and the target goals for 2022. She highlighted some of the goals and provided background information and history. She noted that measurement goals have been incorporated into employee department goals and personnel evaluations. Directors asked for clarification throughout the report.

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

Debbie Anderson presented the March financial information:

- The consolidated financials for the month of March show income of \$(245,764) and year to date income of \$(39,407).
- The non-clinic financials for the month of March show income of \$(156,031) and year to date income of \$304,725.
- The clinic financials for the month of March show income as \$(89,733) and year to date income at a loss of \$(344,132). Negative variances are mainly attributable to legal fees and investments. Investment losses have been significant. Investigation indicates it is because interest rates are up, thereby making the valuation of the bond go down; if you sold it, you would have to offer a discount to entice a buyer to buy the bond.

She stated patient visits were better in March at 3,275 visits. She noted that the IEHP contractual changes implemented in January 2022 are now impacting the bottom line with reduced



reimbursement. Even though patient visits have increased, net patient revenue is less than previous months. The Medi-Cal reconciliation at year end will take into consideration both the capitation and lesser payments.

Debbie Anderson stated she had an in-depth conversation with the RBC investment manager and shared those unrealized investments resulted in another loss-month. Our investment manager indicated that this is related to investing in bonds. Interest is up due to inflation and other factors; the bonds are adjusted to fair market value discounts.

There was discussion about future investment reports and their frequency. Debbie agreed to present an in-depth investment report every few months. There was also mention of the investment manager returning to present to the board of directors.

- **Motion 21-42:** Director Sirihekaphong motioned to accept the March financial report as presented, second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### STAFF REPORT – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall referred the directors to the written report under tab 6 in the agenda packet. An overview of the ACHD recertification process was provided in the packet; Directors asked for clarification of some line items. She also shared information about the recent visit to Sacramento to meet with legislators, and gave perspective on the bills coming before the Senate that affect FQHC facilities in California.

Cindy Schmall presented the service line visit summary for March. Adult visits are still below budget. The prenatal program has picked up patient visits. 29 Palms adult and dental visits were down because of changes in providers.

The Governor's state of emergency closes July 15. We are expecting additional information for continuing on-line meetings.

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

- ACHD Conference, September 14-16, 2022. Director Greenhouse sits on the ACHD education committee; she encouraged the directors to attend. The event will take place in Anaheim.

#### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

DIRECTOR SAVITT: Thanked staff for clarification on issues to help better understand operations.

DIRECTOR BROWN: Thanked staff for their reports.

DIRECTOR SIRIHEKAPHONG: Thanked staff for their on-going hard work.

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: "Once again, it's our staff who make it happen and you do it so well. Thank you."

DIRECTOR EVANS: Wished all our nurses a happy Nurses Week; and thanked staff for their work.

#### **ADJOURN MEETING TO CLOSED SESSION**

The board adjourned to closed session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 of the Health and Safety Code:




*Real Estate: 58383 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley and 72724 Twentynine Palms Hwy, 29 Palms; Negotiator Cindy Schmall. Discussion regarding negotiation of lease status.*

**ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m. Director Evans reported that there was no reportable action on the District property located at 58383 Twentynine Palms Hwy, Yucca Valley; and that staff was directed to move forward with the expansion and relocation of health center services from the property located at 72724 Twentynine Palms Hwy, 29 Palms to the 6380 Split Rock, 29 Palms property.

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

  
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Misty Evans  
President

  
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Greg Brown  
Secretary