



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
February 2, 2023 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 Cooper
- Director Evans
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Savitt
- Director Stiemsma

Administrative Staff:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO (*remote*)
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Joe Rudson, Director Business Development
- Kathy Alkire, Wellness Nurse (*remote*)
- Tele Thornett, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Market, Tenet (*remote*)
- Ken Chawkins, NDC Consultant (*remote*)
- Cecelia St. Clair, CHC board member
- Jack Williams, CHC board member
- Doug Johnson, President, NDC

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 Microsoft Teams.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCES

Director Cooper read the mission, vision and values statements.

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

Director Greenhouse read from the Notice of Public Hearing.

PRESENTATION

Ken Chawkins, Consultant to National Demographics Corporation gave a PowerPoint presentation as an overview of the transition in election formats. His purpose was to frame the rules and parameters of the transition. The California Voting Rights Act was written to encourage "by District" elections, designed to give greater representation to historically disadvantaged groups. The system is designed to give a fair opportunity to the less represented in the election process. The financial exposure for non-compliance is significant. If a defendant loses the challenge, it must pay the fine as well as the legal fees of the plaintiff.

The purpose of these first two public hearings is to educate the public and explain the transition process. Thereafter, maps are drafted and presented in another two public hearings. Based on the required timeframe, maps should be presented in May 2023.



Federal law specifies districting for equal population (within a 10% range). The Federal Voting Rights Act states that districting cannot disadvantage a class of people. It also states no racial gerrymandering, meaning you can't "cut through" a population grouping. The targeted end result is a balanced population without disadvantaging any group of people. The law does not address redistricting by voters, only by residents.

Redistricting principles can be specified by the board. It's important that the reasoning is recorded to defend the board's right to draw the redistricting lines.

The board must decide what are the neighborhoods or communities of interest to be considered for districting. Misty Evans said historically the board wanted a representative from the three key urban areas, YV, JT and 29 Palms. The Basin is now facing a renters' crisis with the growth of AirB&B interests. Seating a long-term renter group could be an important representative on the board. Age groups as a community of interest was discussed.

Cindy Schmall asked the board to take the information home and study it and be prepared to return for discussion at the second public meeting on March 2. Forward questions to board clerk, Karen Graley who will email the information to Ken Chawkins.

BOARD DISCUSSION

The Board of Directors asked questions throughout the presentation and dialogued about possible communities of interest. There were no specific parameters determined by the Board.

CALL FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Board Clerk, Karen Graley, stated that no email or printed correspondence had been received from the public to present to the Board of Directors for consideration.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. It was noted that a second public hearing will be convened on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Graley stated that the public hearing has been announced in the newspaper prior to both meetings and the notice of public hearing was sent to local media for public announcement.

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



Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary