



Morongo Basin Health Care District  
Community Health Center  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES of Thursday, February 9, 2023, 6:00 p.m.**

*This meeting convened on the District's campus at 6530 La Contenta Road, Yucca Valley, suite 400. The meeting was also accessible by Microsoft Teams remote platform.*

**Mission Statement:** *To improve the health and wellness of the communities we serve.*

**Vision Statement:** *A healthy Morongo Basin.*

**Core Values:** *Commitment, Collaboration, Accountability, Dignity, Integrity*

**PRESENT:**

- Cody Briggs (*remote*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper (*present*)
- Bryan Goldfarb (*remote*)
- Nicola Keller (*present*)
- Alejandro Penalva (*not present*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*present*)
- Heidi Stiemsma (*not present*)
- Jackie Todd (*present*)
- Jack Williams (*present*)

**STAFF:**

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Tina Huff, Clinical Care Manager
- Joe Ruddon, Director Business Development
- Tela Thornton, Administrative Assistant
- Kathy Alkire (*remote*)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Nicola Keller at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Karen Graley, board clerk, conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

**OBSERVANCES:**

Jack Williams led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

Jackie Todd read the mission and vision statements.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments were presented.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:**

**Motion 23-16:** Motion by Pat Cooper to approve the meeting Agenda with a change to the language for motion #23-18 to properly reflect ratification of the CEO annual performance evaluation; motion seconded by Jackie Todd; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF CHC CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motion 23-17:** Motion by Jack Williams, second by Cecelia St. Clair, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; the motion passed by unanimous vote. There was no discussion.

- Minutes of the Governing Board regular business meeting January 12, 2023
- Re-ratify the Governor's proclamation of state of emergency and authorize remote teleconference meetings of the legislative body, CHC Governing Board.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**RATIFY CEO ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION** - *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall explained that the District Board of Directors met with Jack Williams and Cecelia St. Clair in closed session at the February 2 at their monthly business meeting to review and deliver the CEO annual performance evaluation. In January, a survey tool was distributed to District and CHC

board members to receive their evaluation of the CEO's performance. Five CHC board members participated in the process (excluding the two District representatives). The outcome was a favorable review; goals were agreed upon by the committee and CEO, and a merit increase was awarded.

- **Motion 23-18:** Motion by Jack Williams to ratify the CEO performance evaluation as delivered by the evaluation committee to Cindy Schmall on February 2; second by Jackie Todd; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### REVIEW AND APPROVE HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM PARAMETERS - *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall explained that HRSA requires an annual review of health center services, locations, and scope of services. She referred the board members to the handout (from the HRSA website) showing hours of service, location and scope of services.

#### HOURS OF OPERATION:

- Yucca Valley Adult: Hours of operation are 8a-5p, Monday through Friday, closed from 12-1p for lunch. Additionally, the lab is open from 7a-3p based on Lab Corps requirement for blood sample processing. Cecelia St. Clair asked about Saturday appointments listed on the sheet. Ms. Schmall explained that no provider is seeing patients on Saturdays at this time but it is an option as needed. She also asked about the lab being open before the adult department is open; Cindy Schmall explained how the lab staff manages access to their services in the morning before the clinic opens.
- Yucca Valley Behavioral Health: Hours of operation are 8a-4p, Monday through Friday. The website is in error, Behavioral Health does not provide Saturday appointments.
- Yucca Valley Pediatrics: Hours of operation are 8:30a-5:00p, Monday through Friday with some Saturday appointments based on provider availability. Cecelia St. Clair asked about the frequency of Saturdays.
- Yucca Valley Wellness Clinic: Hours of operation are 8:00a-5:30p, Monday, Tuesday and Friday; and 8a-6p on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is the provider's preference to work the extended hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It was noted that the time listed on the HRSA website is incorrect; there was general consensus by the board to edit the site.
- Yucca Valley Dental: Hours of operation are 8:00a-5:30p, Monday through Thursday, closed Fridays. Being closed on Fridays has mitigated last minute cancellations and no-show for appointments, and there have been no patient complaints regarding the schedule.
- Split Rock Pediatric: Hours of operation are 8:30a-5:00p, Monday through Friday.
- Split Rock Adult: Hours of operation are 8a-5p, Monday through Friday.
- Split Rock Dental: Hours of operation are 8:20a-4:30p, Monday through Wednesday, closed Thursday and Friday. The provider is only available three days a week; we are recruiting for an additional provider to complete the schedule.
- **Motion 23-19:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the current health center hours of operation with the noted changes; second by Bryan Goldfarb; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### HEALTH CENTER LOCATIONS:

Ms. Schmall then presented health center locations for review. It was noted that the HRSA website page reflected the correct addresses except for the following three locations:

- 29 Palms health center: lists the old location of 72724 Twentynine Palms Hwy, suite 103; it should be changed to 6380 Split Rock Avenue, 29 Palms;
- The mobile medical unit resident address is listed at the 72724 Twentynine Palm Hwy and should be changed to 6380 Split Rock Avenue, 29 Palms.
- The Wellness clinic location needs to reflect the street address of 57019 Yucca Trail, suite D, Yucca Valley.
- **Motion 23-20:** Motion by Bryan Goldfarb to approve the current health center locations as listed with removal of the old 29 Palms address for both the health center and mobile medical unit, changing their location to the Split Rock address; and to add the wellness clinic street address in Yucca Valley; second by Cody Briggs; motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### HEALTH CENTER SERVICES:

Ms. Schmall then presented the list of services provided by CHC, noting that all of the services listed the clinic will continue to provide. That list of services is:

- We provide general primary care, sometimes we refer patients to specialists;
- Diagnostic and radiology services are outsourced;
- Health screenings may be referred depending on the type of screening;
- Immunizations, well child visits, gynecology visits but not OB services;
- Preventative dental;
- Behavioral Health services and substance use disorder;
- Pharmaceutical services through contracts and internal disbursement;
- Case management;
- Eligibility assistance;
- Health education (hypertension, HIV, COVID-19, diabetes prevention);
- Transportation (LIFT);
- Translation services;
- Additionally, other services include dental referrals; optometry referral; nutrition counseling; complementary and alternative medicine (chiropractic);
- No ophthalmology, pain management, wound care, or surgery.

Additionally, Ms. Schmall presented that HRSA designated \$125,000 grant for COVID-19 relief, but the proposed grant is in conflict with a pre-existing grant from the California Department of Public Health that is for the same purpose. To accept both grants would be fraud. To decline, HRSA has requested that the governing board approve the rejection of the grant. Ms. Schmall informally polled the board members at this meeting; all agreed to decline the offered grant.

Bryan Goldfarb asked if we get referral fees; Ms. Schmall stated we do not, it's not a best practice. Jack Williams had asked about expanding services; she explained that the IEHP contract limits the number of HMO Medi-Cal patients each provider may see. At this point we are seeing the maximum number of IEHP patients. She explained that we are working on other HMO contracts to build that volume.

- **Motion 23-21:** Motion by Cecelia St. Clair to approve the health center's scope and availability of services and decline the HRSA COVID relief grant; second by Jack Williams; motion passed by unanimous vote.

## REPORTS

### QUALITY - *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall explained the patient grievance process. The last quarter (October through December 2022) had four patient grievances about scheduling. Patient self-scheduling has been implemented for patient convenience and satisfaction. Ms. Schmall deferred the patient satisfaction report to the next meeting to pull relevant data.

She presented a hand-out with the Uniform Data Set (UDS) quality measures and measurement status.

• Childhood Immunizations:	Goal 40%	2021: 29.35%	2022: 21.37%
• Childhood BMI:	Goal 71%	2021: 63.97%	2022: 69.88%
• Adult BMI:	Goal 89%	2021: 88.24%	2022: 81.49%
• Cervical Cancer Screening:	Goal 57%	2021: 28.20%	2022: 32.90%
• Breast Cancer Screening:	Goal 45%	2021: 39.91%	2022: 42.00%
• Tobacco Screening:	Goal 87%	2021 : 79.11 %	2022: 95.42%
• Statin Therapy:	Goal 72%	2021: 70.85%	2022: 79.75%
• IVD - Use of ASA/Antiplatelet:	Goal 78%	2021: 72.41 %	2022: 71.68%
• Colorectal Cancer Screen:	Goal 40%	2021: 35.50%	2022: 46.00%
• HIV Linkage to Care:	Goal 100%	2021: none	2022:none
• HIV Screening:	Goal 60%	2021: 29.89%	2022: 64.79%
• Depression Screening:	Goal 72%	2021: 43.66%	2022: 48.74%
• Depression Remission:	Goal 10%	2021: 01.75%	2022:none
• Dental Sealants: Goal:	Goal 95%	2021: 89.91%	2022: 90.50%
• Controlling High B/P:	Goal 64%	2021: 51.76%	2022: 66.00%
• Hemoglobin A1c Control:	Goal 31%	2021: 36.57%	2022: 34.00%

Ms. Schmall gave background information for each measurement.

- Regarding childhood immunizations: there are 6-7 vaccines that are required; if one vaccine is not timely, the score falls out of compliance. We live in an anti-vaccine community, and we are working to bring the score into compliance.
- Regarding HIV linkage to care: when a patient tests positive for HIV we refer the patient for treatment to DAP Health in Palm Springs.
- Regarding depression: no patients have gone into remission; will give it due attention this next reporting period.
- Regarding controlling high blood pressure: Congratulations to Kathy Alkire on exceeding the target goal for hypertension.
- Regarding controlling hemoglobin A1c: the lower the A1c screening the better the patient's health. We exceeded the target goal.

### FINANCE REPORT - *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall presented the financial report as Debbie Anderson was out with illness. She reported that the clinic financials for the month of December show income of \$213,470 and year to date income of \$596,271. The financial statements continue to reflect the ongoing variances discussed in months past: patient income, grant income, capitation fees income, and other (quality) income. These positive variances in revenues are driving the better than budgeted results. Operating expenses for December were less than a 1% variance from budget, and year to date is only a 2% variance from budget.

A reminder that the HRSA ARP grant is coming to an end March 31. Since we were holding onto the budget amendment from HRSA for several months, and amounts charged to the grant were smaller as

we waited for formal approval for new budget lines, this is now contributing to the clinics positive change in net income as we make up for amounts not charged to the grant previously. However, this will be a significant factor in future financials once the grant completes.

CEO REPORT - *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

Ms. Schmall referred the board members to her written report. Additionally, she highlighted:

- ▶ 72 HIV test kits were distributed in January.
- ▶ COVID-19 tests were distributed and a total of 210 vaccinations have been distributed since receiving the grant last fall. Cecelia St. Clair asked for clarification on the antiviral medication.

**BOARD CALENDAR:**

The calendars were reviewed.

- Joe Ruddon gave details about the Flying Doctors event on March 4.

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

- JACK WILLIAMS: He asked how the patient data is processed, Ms. Schmall said it goes into the patient's medical record for the doctor to review and discuss with the patient.
- CECELIA ST. CLAIR: "Great information." She stated she will not be at the meeting in March.
- PAT COOPER: Thanked Cindy for the reports
- NICOLA KELLER: "Great reports, very thorough."

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk*



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Nicola Keller, Chairperson