



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba  
**Morongo Basin Healthcare District**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES #4**  
**May 4, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

*Convened on the La Content campus. The public is invited to attend on campus,  
or by Microsoft Teams, an electronic, remote-site platform.*

- **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
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Joe Ruddon, Chief Community Programs Officer
- Tele Thornett, Administrative Assistant
- Kathy Alkire, Wellness Nurse (*remote*)
- Janeen Duff, Program Development Liaison

Guests

- Ken Chawkins, NDC Consultant (*remote*)
- Reporter, Hi-Desert Star (*remote*)
- Mark Greenhouse, community member (*remote*)
- Jennifer Rendon, community member (*remote*)

**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 Evans read the mission, vision and values statements.

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

**PRESENTATION**

Ken Chawkins, Consultant to National Demographics Corporation gave a PowerPoint presentation as an overview of the transition in election formats and updated zone-election maps.

This is the fourth of five scheduled public hearings (February, March, April and May). The purpose of the first two public hearings was to educate the board and public and explain the transition process. The purpose of the third meeting was to present the drafted maps for review and discussion. Based on the required timeframe, the board will vote to proceed or decline the proposed transition at the fifth public hearing, scheduled to follow this meeting.

As background to the map configuration, the design is driven by Federal law which specifies that the five election zones (represented by five elected seats) contain equal distribution of the population (within a 10% range of each other) among the five zones. The Federal Voting Rights Act states that districting cannot disadvantage a class of people or dilute their right to vote. The disadvantaged class is typically based on linguistic or ethnic parameters but can also include a grouping of people with unique and common interests. The District defines what those unique



groupings are. As discussed in the previous public hearings, we were asked to define zones based on long-term rentals, seniors and population centers (Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and 29 Palms).

The total Basin resident population is 68,233. When the population is divided equally based on five elected seats, a zone is required to have 13,647 people with an allowed variable within ten percent. The District's zones are under a 3% variance.

Initially, four maps (green, yellow, purple and orange) were presented for discussion at the third public hearing showing possible zones. In that meeting, the Directors settled on the orange and purple maps as providing the best representation. Board members were encouraged to study the maps and make recommendations for adjustment prior to the fourth public hearing on May 4, 2023. Based upon board feedback, a small adjustment was made to the purple map (labeled Purple-B) for the zones assigned to Directors Greenhouse and Cooper at the west end of the Basin.

The interactive map found on the website was placed on the screen to allow the presentation to zoom in on the streets of the zones. CEO Cindy Schmall explained the subtle differences between the three maps under discussion (orange, purple and purple-B). Director Evans commented that she thought the Purple-B map makes the most sense geographically and the others voiced their agreement. The Directors reviewed the demographic statistics for the Purple-B map noting that it captured the rental population best. The Directors indicated they favored the Purple-B map because they were most comfortable with how it represented the interest groups they had identified.

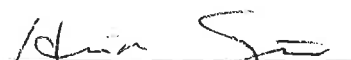
#### **CALL FOR PUBLIC INPUT**

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 6:30 p.m.

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

  
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Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary