



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Convened on the La Contenta campus; the public was invited to attend the meeting on campus or via 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 (*not present*)
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Savitt (*remote: health emergency*)
- Director Stiemsma

Administrative Staff:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Beverly Krushat, Executive Assistant
- Kathy Alkire, Education Nurse (*remote*)

CALL TO ORDER

Director Savitt, Vice President, 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 Greenhouse read the mission, vision, and core value statements.
Director Cooper led the assembly in the pledge to the American flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 24-01: Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the meeting agenda; the motion was seconded by Director Stiemsma and passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion 24-02: Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by Director Greenhouse and passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, December 7, 2023.

ORIENTATION

Board officers were elected at the December 2023 regular business meeting. As part of the transition to new officers, CEO Cindy Schmall provided a review of the role of board officers as presented in the Bylaws.



ACTION ITEMS

APPROVE ANNUAL BUSINESS CALENDAR FOR 2024

Cindy Schmall reviewed the 2024 annual business calendar, providing explanation for the list of milestones presented in the document. Director Greenhouse stated her appreciation of the calendar and the work it represents by staff to organize the board's business agenda. CEO Cindy Schmall invited the Directors to suggest changes. None were presented.

- **Motion 24-03:** Director Cooper motion to approve the 2024 annual business calendar for the Board of Directors, second by Director Stiemsma; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CHC GOVERNING BOARD

The Co-Application agreement between the District's Board of Directors and the CHC Governing Board provides for two District board members to sit on the CHC Governing Board. Directors Cooper and Stiemsma were representatives for the 2023 term of office. Directors Stiemsma and Cooper stated that they enjoyed serving on the CHC Governing Board and would be willing to serve a second term.

- **Motion 24-04:** Director Cooper motioned to appoint Director Cooper and Director Stiemsma as representatives to the CHC Governing Board as specified in the Co-Applicant Agreement; second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE EXCEPTION TO CAPITAL BUDGET

The air compressor for dental services at Split Rock failed. It was determined that replacing this vital equipment was the best practical solution. The \$7,000 capital expenditure was not reflected in the annual capital budget and therefore is being present for approval now as per policy FN-AP-04.

- **Motion 24-05:** Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the capital expenditure of \$7,000 for replacement of the dental air compressor at Split Rock health center; second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE DISTRICT POLICIES

CEO Cindy Schmall presented six District policies for review and approval.

- HR-217 Paid Sick Leave (new). Changes made to this policy are regulated by the state of California. Options were to accrue the benefit or make a one-time award. Cindy Schmall explained that staff decided to make the policy a one-time award as it is simpler to manage.
- HR-218 Paid Time Off (revised). This policy was revised to separate the sick leave language from the PTO policy. No other changes were made to the policy.
- HR-239 Equal Employment Opportunity. This is an update. We are mandated to be an equal opportunity employer. The policy was edited to reflect required language.
- HR-244 Rest and Meal Breaks (new). With new state regulations related to the five-hour meal break rule, and as per federal rules for meal periods, employers must provide a meal break to non-exempt employees or pay the employee a penalty of one-hour wages. The District's internal system is now in place and we are compliant with California and federal standards.
- HR-297 Workplace Violence (new). We are required by law to have a policy that prohibits workplace violence, applicable to employees, patients, visitors, vendors, etc.



- FN-PR-100 Payroll Process (new). This new policy defines the current payroll process.
 - **Motion 24-06:** Motion by Director Stiemsma to approve policies HR-217, HR-218, HR-239, HR-244, HR-297, and FN-PR-100 as presented; second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

The consolidated financials for the month of November shows income of \$881,690. The non-clinic financials for November shows income of \$748,109 and year to date income of \$1,130,869. The clinic financials show a loss of \$(125,679) and year to date a loss of \$(249,179).

Tax revenue has started to come in and investment income was positive this month, which means the non-clinic financials came in with a large amount of net income for the month. Additionally, the revenue in non-clinics shows the transit-authority funds (LIFT program) that were awarded to the District last month.

The FY22-23 payment Medi-Cal reconciliations were completed in December. Total amount to be reimbursed to Medi-Cal is \$1,486,395, comprised of \$354,857 for Split Rock, \$418,104 for behavioral health, and \$713,434 for Yucca Valley. These amounts will be booked into FY22-23 financial statements.

The health centers continue to struggle with patient service income due to lower patient volumes. As discussed in past board meetings, the clinics are now starting to show increased financial loss due to hiring of additional staff. It is expected that as staff meet productivity goals, patient volumes will increase to offset the losses. Again, the health centers continue to lose money but not as much as budgeted.

There was discussion about the capitation process and the repayment to MediCal.

- **Motion 24-07:** Director Greenhouse motioned to accept the financial reports as presented, second by Director Stiemsma; motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO STAFF REPORT

Ms. Schmall referred the Directors to her written report under tab 5, stating that there is little to report as December is a very slow month with so many people on vacation.

- Reviewed bids for the grading project at Split Rock and hope to start that project by the end of January.
- Interviewed a full-time nurse practitioner and physician for future expansion of services. The doctor will be visiting us again in January.
- Received notice that the grant for the Equity and Practice Transformation Program to assist providers of all types with funding as the Medi-Cal program moves to a managed care model has been delayed.
- Update on 58383 29 Palms Hwy. The physician hopes to be in new offices by mid to late January.



- Received notice that our HRSA grant was accepted for another three-year term from February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2027.
- There were no corporate compliance issues this quarter.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

- District special meeting January 21 at 9:00 a.m.
- Joint boards education February 17 at 1:00 p.m. Cindy Schmall clarified with the attorney that remote access by board members does not comply with the Brown Act.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

DIRECTOR COOPER: Thanked everyone for coming tonight.

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: “Once again, thank you to staff for the fabulous job. Love the newsletter photos of the holiday lunch. It’s going to be a great 2024.”

DIRECTOR SAVITT: “Congrats on the HRSA grant award.”

DIRECTOR STIEMSMA: “Congratulations on the HRSA grant award and working so well as a team.”

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.



Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary of the Board

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