



Morongo Basin Health Care District
Community Health Center
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

MINUTES of Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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 (*present*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper (*present*)
- Bryan Goldfarb(*present*)
- Nicola Keller (*present*)
- Jennifer Rendon (*present*)
- Cecelia St. Clair (*not present*)
- Heidi Stiemsma (*present*)
- Jackie Todd (*present*)

STAFF:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Beverly Krushat, Executive Assistant
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Tina Huff, Chief Clinical Officer
- Kathy Alkire, Patient Educator (*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:

Pat Cooper 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 24-01:** Motion by Bryan Goldfarb to approve the meeting Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Cody Briggs; the motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CHC CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion 24-02: Motion by Heidi Stiemsma, second by Cody Briggs, 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 dated December 14, 2023.

PRESENTATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM: HRSA

CEO Cindy Schmall presented District policy LD-224 Conflict of Interest and form to the board members, asking them to complete the form tonight as required by HRSA to be completed annually. Conflict includes family who are influential. There was no discussion regarding the form.

ACTION ITEMS

RATIFY DISTRICT BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO GOVERNING BOARD

Cindy Schmall referenced the co-applicant agreement between the District and CHC Governing Board that calls for two appointees from the District's board to sit on the CHC board for the purpose of collaboration between the two boards. At their January regular business meeting, the District board appointed Pat Cooper and Heidi Stiemsma to serve a second term on the CHC board.

Motion 24-03: Motion by Bryan Goldfarb, second by Jackie Todd, to ratify District board representatives Pat Cooper's and Heidi Stiemsma's appointment to the CHC governing board; the motion passed by unanimous vote. There was no discussion.

ELECTION OF GOVERNING BOARD OFFICERS

Nicola Keller turned the gavel over to Karen Graley, board clerk, to conduct the election of officers. She opened the floor for nomination for Chairperson. Cindy Schmall nominated Nicole Keller; there were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed and Karen called for the vote.

Motion 24-04: Motion by Cindy Schmall, second by Jennifer Rendon, to elect Nicola Keller as CHAIRPERSON of the board. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Karen Graley opened the floor for nomination for Vice Chairperson. Nicola Keller nominated Cody Briggs and Cindy Schmall nominated Bryan Goldfarb. After discussion, Cody Briggs declined the nomination; there were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed and Karen called for the vote.

Motion 24-05: Motion by Cindy Schmall, second by Cody Briggs, to elect Bryan Goldfarb as VICE CHAIRPERSON of the board. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Karen Graley opened the floor for nomination for Secretary. Jennifer Rendon nominated Pat Cooper; there were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed and Karen called for the vote.

Motion 24-06: Motion by Jennifer Rendon, second by Bryan Goldfarb, to elect Pat Cooper as SECRETARY of the board. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Karen Graley opened the floor for nomination for Treasurer. Jennifer Rendon nominated herself; there were no additional nominations. Nominations were closed and Karen called for the vote.

Motion 24-07: Motion by Jennifer Rendon, second by Heidi Stiemsma, to elect Jennifer Rendon as TREASURER of the board. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Nicola Keller thanked the new officers for their willingness to serve.

Cindy Schmall referred the newly elected board officers to Tab 2 in the agenda packet. She reviewed Article 3 of the Bylaws where each office's roles are defined.

APPROVAL OF 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

Cindy Schmall referred the board to Tab 3 in the agenda packet. The annual calendar lists by month action items and other points of business for the board's consideration. There was no discussion. Nicola Keller expressed her appreciation for the calendar and the work behind it.

Motion 24-08: Motion by Cody Briggs, second by Heidi Stiemsma, to approve the 2024 Annual Business Calendar as presented. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

RESIGNATION OF JACK WILLIAMS

Cindy Schmall shared that Jack Williams verbally resigned from the governing board. Minutes will reflect that his resignation was accepted by the board. Cindy Schmall stated that we are out of compliance with the HRSA requirement to seat a minimum of nine board members, of which five must be patients of the health center. She requested their assistance in recruiting board members, hopefully two additional members.

There was considerable discussion about recruitment and potential compensation as an incentive for recruitment to serve on the governing board. Cindy Schmall will research if compensation is an option and what that process would be to implement it.

Motion 24-08: Motion by Jennifer Rendon, second by Heidi Stiemsma, to accept the resignation of Jack Williams from the governing board. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Cindy Schmall provided a PowerPoint presentation that summarized community surveys administered at the 2023 health fairs in Yucca Valley and 29 Palms. Also provided were demographics for Morongo Basin based on the 2020 national census; and the 2023 health center patient census by zip code.

- She presented the health assessment summary, reviewing some of the actual survey questions and the response totals. In total 148 surveys were received from health fair participants.
- She spoke to food insecurity noting that the survey indicated a greater need in 29 Palms. This information will be forwarded to FIND Food Bank who is a regional food pantry. Jennifer Rendon suggested making fresh produce available to health center patients. Cindy said they are meeting with FIND Food Bank next week and would discuss it with them. Tina Huff said that CalFresh food money is matched by the Farmer’s Market.
- 99 of 148 participants have not received health center services.
- Recommended additional services included acupuncture and services already being provided through the health center, indicating that there is a marketing/education opportunity.
- Community demographics were pulled from the 2020 national census and does not include Marine Corp Base populations.
- There was discussion about economic indicators in the demographics such as disparity of income, and property rental versus ownership.
- Regarding health center patient census

Area Zip Code	City	# Patients
92277 and 92278	29 Palms	3,058
92252	Joshua Tree	800
92256	Morongo Valley	200
92284 and 92286	Yucca Valley	2,757
92285 and 92268	Johnson Valley, Landers, and Pioneertown	456

- Regarding health center referrals to outside sources
 - 504 Dermatology
 - 518 Gastroenterology
 - 350 Cardiology
 - 650 Rehabilitation Therapies
 - 426 Orthopedic surgery
 - 300 Neurology
- Survey conclusion:
 - the community requires more education about health center services;
 - continue to pursue acupuncture as an additional service,
 - recruit a second chiropractor.

APPROVE HEALTH CENTER LOCATIONS

Cindy Schmall referred the board to Tab 4 to review the HRSA forms 5a and 5b and explained the information listed. She walked the board through the information, answering questions.

Motion 24-10: Motion by Bryan Goldfarb, second by Heidi Stiemsma, to approve the health center locations per HRSA form 5b. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion 24-11: Motion by Bryan Goldfarb, second by Jennifer Rendon, to remove from the list of locations 72724 29-Palms Hwy, City of 29 Palms (old clinic site), and 57019 Yucca Trail, #D, Town of Yucca Valley (wellness center). Additionally, relocate the mobile medical unit to 6380 Split Rock Avenue, City of 29 Palms. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE SCOPE AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH CENTER SERVICES

Health center services were reviewed. Jennifer Rendon asked about body fat testing as an available service. Cindy Schmall said staff was researching the benefits of hiring a second chiropractor.

Motion 24-12: Motion by Bryan Goldfarb, second by Jennifer Rendon, to approve the health center's scope and availability of services per HRSA form 5a. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE HEALTH CENTER HOURS

Cindy reviewed the health center hours as stated on the HRSA form 5b. There were no questions or recommendations for changing the hours.

Motion 24-13: Motion by Heidi Stiemsma, second by Cody Briggs, to approve the health center's hours of operation per HRSA form 5b. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

FINANCE REPORT

Debbie Anderson, CFO, reported that the clinic financials for November show a loss of \$ (125,679) and year-to-date of \$ (250,000).

The FY 22-23 payment reconciliations were completed in December. The total amount to be repaid 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 FY 22-23 financial statements.

The health centers continue to struggle with patient services income due to lower visit counts. As discussed in past meetings, clinics are now starting to show higher losses due to hiring of staff that has taken place. It will take a few weeks to get staffing up to speed, but hopefully visits will start to come up because of it. Overall, the clinics are losing money, but so far not as much as budgeted.

There was discussion about repayment of monies to Medi-Cal. Debbie Anderson explained the process of capitation, audit, and reconciliation of monies.

Motion 24-14: Motion by Pat Cooper to accept the financial report; second by Jennifer Rendon; motion passed by unanimous vote.

STAFF REPORT

Cindy Schmall provided the staff report for December activity, stating that typically the close of the calendar year is slow and does not have much reportable activity.

Staff received notice today that the health center was not awarded the Medi-Cal Equity grant.

HRSA has approved the health center's primary grant for another three years.

Cody Briggs asked if the District could apply for block grants. Cindy Schmall shared that during COVID we had a block grant for food distribution.

BOARD CALENDAR:

Calendars were reviewed.

- CHC meeting is February 8

- February 17 at 1:00 p.m. Special meeting of both boards for education on the California Brown Act. The attorney stated that, based on the Brown Act, this education meeting is no different from a regular business meeting, so remote attendance is not an option for board members.

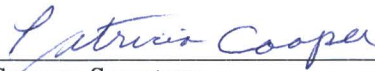
BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- RENDON: Announced the Blue Zone series on Netflix. The program presents five places / cultures where people tend to live longer than other areas of the world. She suggested that we might consider creating our own blue zone in the Morongo Basin, adopting some of the things learned from the blue zone areas.
- KELLER: "I'd like to commend staff for their ongoing, excellent work. Thank you to each of you."

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Graley, Board Clerk



Patricia Cooper, Secretary