



*Morongo Basin Health Care District*  
**Community Health Center**  
**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**  
**MINUTES of Thursday, March 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

*This meeting convened on the District's campus at 6530 La Contenta Road, Suite 400, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. 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, and Equity*

**PRESENT:**

- Cody Briggs (*present*)
- Patricia "Pat" Cooper (*present*)
- Bryan Goldfarb (*remote*)
- Nicola Keller (*present*)
- Jennifer Rendon (*present*)
- Heidi Stiemsma (*present*)
- Jackie Todd (*present*)

**STAFF:**

- Cindy Schmall, CEO (*present*)
- Debbie Anderson, CFO (*present*)
- Beverly Krushat, CHC Board Clerk (*present*)
- Jill Goodwin, Manager (*present*)
- Kathy Alkire, Patient Educator (*remote*)
- Janeen Duff, Program Dev. Liaison (*remote*)

**GUEST** – Mr. Barry Mayron (*potential Board member*)

**CALL TO ORDER** – Board meeting was called to order by Director Keller at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL** - Beverly Krushat, EA, conducted roll call and confirmed that there is a quorum.

**OBSERVANCES -**

Pledge of Allegiance – Director Stiemsma led the pledge.

Mission, Vision, and Core Statements – Director Cooper read the statements.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA -**

**Motion 24-15:** MSC (Stiemsma/Briggs) 6/0/0 motion carried to approve the agenda.

**BOARD MEMBERSHIP** - CEO Schmall introduced Mr. Barry Mayron as a potential Board member. Mr. Mayron is observing the meeting tonight to learn more about what we do.

**APPROVAL OF CHC CONSENT AGENDA -**

- Minutes of January 11, 2024
- Minutes of February 8, 2024

**Motion 24-16:** MSC (Stiemsma/Briggs) 6/0/0 motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda

## **ACTION REPORTS**

### **FINANCIAL POLICIES & SCHEDULES** – Debbie Anderson, CFO

CFO Anderson updated the Board on the following amended policies for their approval:

- CHC-FS-212 – Collections & Write Offs of Account Balances
- CHC-FS-213 – Sliding Fee Discount Program
- CHC-FS-214 – Waiver of Charges
- CHC-FS-215 – Discount Policies
- CHC-FS-216 – Refusal to Pay

**Motion 24-17:** MSC (Rendon/Todd) 6/0/0 motion carried to approve Finance Policies CHC-FS-212, CHC-FS-213, CHC-FS-214, CHC-FS-215, and CHC-FS-216 as presented.

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

CFO Anderson explained that the Fee Schedule is the fee that full patients pay. Most of our patients either have insurance or a sliding fee. If the patient's visit is \$200, and you have insurance, then insurance will dictate what you pay. However, if you are a sliding fee patient then the sliding fee will dictate what you pay. The only individuals that will pay the \$200 are the full fee patients. Factors that are considered, when developing the sliding fee schedule, are prevailing rates (charges in our area) and our cost designed to cover reasonable costs of operations.

**Motion 24-18:** MSC (Cooper/Rendon) 6/0/0 motion carried to approve the Fee Schedule as presented.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS** – Debbie Anderson, CFO

CFO Anderson reported the following on the December 2023 Financial Report:

The clinic financials for the month of December show a loss of \$(133,190) and year to date shows a loss of \$(382,369). Clinics are now approximately \$ (500,000) under budget in patient services revenue. Visits (which drives patient services revenue) remains the number one challenge when looking at clinic financial performance. However, expenses continue to remain under budget, giving some relief to the revenue shortages. Grants revenue variance is due to an unexpected transportation grant.

CFO Anderson reported the following on the January 2024 Financial Report:

The clinic financials, for the month of January, show a loss of \$(130,643) and year to date shows a loss of \$(513,012). Items of note for the month: The final payment reconciliation audit has begun for the behavioral health PPS rate. This audit should continue through the month of April 2024. Additionally, UDS reporting wrapped up mid-February. Clinics came in with a final unique patient count of 8,472 for calendar year 2023. For comparison, clinics had 8,718 unique visits for calendar year 2022. As we approach the budget cycle for next year, we need to understand current trends in the clinics.

We've discussed revenue in past meetings (need more visits), but we haven't discussed expenses at a more detailed level. Clinics have trended at about (\$130,000) loss for the past three months.

Salaries, benefits, and providers are 79.27% of expenses before allocations. Total expenses (including allocations) are \$6,603,735. Allocations as a percentage of expenses are 16.92%.

**Motion 24-19:** MSC (Stiemsma/Rendon) 6/0/0 motion carried to accept the December 2023 Financial Report

**Motion 24-20:** MSC (Briggs/ Stiemsma) 6/0/0 motion carried to accept the January 2024 Financial Report with the correction to Table 3 January 2023 change to January 2024.

**ACTION ITEM** – CEO Schmall informed the Board that we have two separate buildings on the clinic site in Yucca Valley. The offices are occupied by us along with a long-term tenant from the 1990's. A year ago we asked the tenant to vacate because we had to rent space to operate the clinic sites and the tenant's rent was very low and hadn't been updated in multiple years. As of the end of February the tenant has vacated the property. The tenant in building 58383 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284 has vacated the building. This extra space will provide the health centers with the much-needed space to expand our services in pediatrics so that two (2)

providers can function at the same time. We will also be able to have a separate space for Chiro and Dermatology or other specialties to clear up space for our providers. This was followed by a brief discussion with the Board.

**Motion 24-21:** Move YV Peds from 58375 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284 to 58383 29 Palms Hwy., Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

**MSC:** (Cooper/Rendon) 6/0/0 motion carried to approve the building move as described above.

### **STAFF REPORT**

CEO Schmall reported the following updates:

- The Split Rock Project has received the go ahead from the City of 29 Palms. Grading will be scheduled and will begin as soon as possible. We are still waiting on approval of our request to change our grant funding to a capital project only. HRSA has not approved our requests as of yet.
- The UDS reports were successfully filed to HRSA on February 12, 2024. We have received feedback, and some information was requested from HRSA representatives, and we will be responding to these requests this week.
- We signed a contract with Dr. Keerthy Sunder who will be the Medical Director for Behavioral Health and comes to us with many years of experience in Psychiatry. He will provide oversight of our Nurse Practitioner and our other Psychiatric staff as well as helping to build the program to better meet our community needs.
- Additionally, we are working with a contract physician for medical on helping us identify and set up templates for provider documentation. Dr. Judi Binderman has begun this week and will work with the providers and leadership to establish processes and ensure documentation is reflective of the work our provider team is doing.

**CALENDAR REVIEW** – CEO Schmall reviewed the March and April calendars with the Board.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Briggs commented on attending the Flying Doctors event that was held on March 9, 2024, at CMC. He gave accolades and congratulations to all involved. Janeen gave me a tour of everything, and Joe introduced me to everyone. He stated that it blew him away.

Director Cooper also commented on what a great event Flying Doctors was.

Director Stiemsma stated that it is a really proactive move on the hiring of Dr. Binderman, and because of Cindy and her team initiating this move, we will see a financial benefit.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

  
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Pat Cooper, Secretary of the Board

*Minutes recorded by Beverly Krushat, CHC Board Clerk and Executive Assistant*