



Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 2, 2024 at 6:30 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, Equity.*

Board of Directors:

- Director Cooper
- Director Evans
- Director Markle-Greenhouse
- Director Stiemsma

Administrative Staff:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Deborah Anderson, CFO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Joe Ruddon, Community Programs Officer
- Janeen Duff, Program Dev. Liaison (*remote*)
- Dianna Anderson, Outreach Manager (*remote*)
- Shauna Tucker, Community Health Worker

Guests:

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network
- Mark Greenhouse, community member

CALL TO ORDER

Director Evans called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was convened on the La Contenta campus and by electronic platform using Microsoft Teams platform.

ROLL CALL

Karen Graley, Board Clerk, conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

OBSERVANCES

Director Evans read the mission and vision statements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 24-27: Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; second by Director Greenhouse and passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion 24-28: Director Greenhouse motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; second by Director Stiemsma and passed by unanimous vote.

- Minutes: Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 4, 2024
- Minutes: Special Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 4, 2024

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

CEO Cindy Schmall announced that Mr. Ruddon resigned from the District.



Joe Ruddon, Chief Community Programs Officer was recognized for his service to the healthcare District. Mr. Ruddon resigned and will exit his employment May 10. The Board of Directors acknowledged his influence and performance that contributed to the success of the organization. Director Evans read a prepared letter of appreciation and presented a certificate of appreciation that read: “This certificate of appreciation is presented to Joe Ruddon on May 2, 2024 for his many years of service to Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District, for his passion to fulfill our mission to improve the health and wellness of Morongo Basin residents, and for his dedication and influence in representing the healthcare District. You have inspired us to be diligent in fulfilling our mission and responsibility to the communities we serve. We are grateful for your example.”

Mr. Ruddon said his decision was not easy. “It’s been 20 years with the District and it’s family. There’s great leadership in place and I know the District will continue to do well.”

PRESENTATION

Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network presented a quarterly update.

- The Continuing Care Center received a successful annual state survey.
- SEIU-UHW collective bargaining agreement was ratified by members and is in effect.
- We are preparing for a fun-filled Hospital Week and Nursing Week this month to show our appreciation to the staff for their hard work and compassionate care for our patients
- Successful ‘Desert Survival Event’ in April with over 100 participants. The second event was held May 2 with 85 in attendance.
- Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC) and Desert Care Network (DCN) participated in the District’s Community Health and Resource Fair on April 27. Nurses attended to provide blood pressure checks and stroke information.
- HDMC continues to hold blood drives with LifeStream as do the other Desert Care Network hospitals. Last drive was April 19; next drive is June 12 and August 14 at the Helen Gray Education Center from 10am – 2pm. The need for blood remains critical. Appointments can be made at www.lstream.org – walk-ins are also welcome.
- The emergency department participated in the filming of “Every 15 Minutes” for 29 Palms High School. This is an impactful education session on personal responsibility for decision-making.

Trauma Update:

- Designation on November 16, 2022 - 15 patients through year-end. The majority were traffic collisions and geriatric falls – via EMS.
- Calendar Year 2023 – 268 patients. The majority continue to be traffic collisions and geriatric falls. First Quarter 2024 – 72, again, trend continues with a majority of traffic collisions and geriatric falls

Capital Project Update: Acute Hospital

- New nurse call light system replacement in the acute hospital scheduled for Q3-4 2023 - Phase 1 complete (LDRP and ICU).
- New centralized telemetry monitoring system project approved and with the vendor for scheduling installation.
- Acute hospital emergency generator project in process. Anticipated completion Q4 2024.
- In-building cellular upgrade project started - in process.
- 6 new lab analyzers scheduled for replacement Q4/Q1—in process.
- EV Charging Station project approved by SCE.
- Bulk O2 Replacement Q2 in process.



COVID-19 Update: Zero COVID, flu, RSV at acute and CCC for past month

Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Lease/Purchase Proposal Update:

- Initial proposal presented to Desert Healthcare District Board (DHCD) in July 2019. Updated proposal presented to District Board on 9/18/23. Counter proposal presented to District in January 2024. District completed 5 Public Information Sessions to obtain community input. MBHD provided and presented a Letter of Support to District at the 4/30/24 session. DHCD commissioned a public opinion poll; results showed favorably towards a lease renewal and purchase of DRMC
- Mutual consultants continue discussions which are enlighten by public and legal guidance. Tenet remains committed to the Desert Care Network as we continue this process. Goal: District Board reaches agreement with Tenet; and a ballot measure will go to the voters on the November 2024 election

DISCUSSION

CEO Cindy Schmall announced the resignation of Director Savitt on April 21, 2024. She articulated the legal requirements to fill the vacant seat. A Notice of Vacancy will be posted to the community to recruit candidates for appointment to the seat. A special meeting is required to interview candidates and to appoint the vacant seat. The proposed date for the meeting is Saturday, June 15. The legal deadline to fill the vacancy is June 20. Discussion followed her introduction. The board agreed to the proposed special meeting on June 15.

Cindy clarified that the appointment must live within voting-zone 3 on the redistricting map which had been assigned to Director Savitt.

ACTION ITEMS

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICE – VICE PRESIDENT

With the resignation of Director Savitt, the board office of Vice President is vacant and an election is required to fill the vacant office.

- **Motion 24-29:** Motion by Director Stiemsma to elect Director Greenhouse to the office of Vice President; second by Director Cooper; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

ANNUAL QUALITY PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Schmall gave a PowerPoint presentation of annual quality statistics. The Unified Data Set is a list of benchmarks required from all health centers. The data showed 2023 accumulated scores for prescribed measurements. Scores exceeded the set goal for childhood BMI, adult BMI, tobacco screening, statin therapy, controlling high blood pressure, and controlling hemoglobin A1c.

No trends were identified for patient grievances received in 2023. Patient satisfaction results for 2023 showed 13,445 surveys were sent by the third-party provider and 1,028 were returned. Accumulative satisfaction scores were 78.94% for the medical department, 79.75% for dental services, and 70.70% for behavioral health services.

MARKETING & OUTREACH REPORT – *Joe Ruddon, Chief Community Programs Officer*

Mr. Ruddon's report covers activity for both March and April. Outreach efforts included:

- Community talks on COPD and asthma were held in April at the Yucca Valley and 29 Senior Centers. The same topic will be offered May 20 at the Joshua Tree Community Center.



- Flying Doctors, the all-volunteer event providing free dental and vision services, was held Saturday, March 9. The event served 202 community members and provided an estimated \$123,000 in free health care. The Morongo Basin Healthcare District was a lead sponsor of the event. Our dental and outreach teams were all present that day in a show of our mission in action!
- The Yucca Valley Healthy Hearts Walk and Run was held Saturday, March 23. The Morongo Basin Healthcare District was a lead sponsor of this event. Outreach coordinated an all-employee team of walkers at the event and had District information on site.
- HIV GRANT: I met with Assistant Superintendent of Morongo Unified School District, Amy Woods, to discuss incorporating HIV education into high schools this fall. Kathy Alkire, MSN, MA, RN, will be participating in health curricula around STIs and HIV. Additionally, the outreach workers will be supplying HIV and STI pamphlets and educational materials for the schools' resource centers. This is just another example of our partnership with MUSD that is benefiting our community.

HIV community health workers continue to meet with community groups and organizations. Most recently, outreach included Hi-Desert Child and Family Services, Indian Canyon Nursing and Rehab Services, Joshua Tree Community Center, SBC Sheriff's office and the Probation office, State of CA Welcome Center, Reach Out, Adobe Villas in 29 Palms, Morongo Unified School District, Boys and Girls Club, Sunnyslope Apartments in YV, Davita Dialysis, MBTA, JT, Wonder Valley Community Centers and several businesses including restaurants, smoke shops and barber shops.

Grant-to-date statistics: 920 HIV kits have been distributed, reaching approximately 5,450 persons.

- LIFT TRANSPORTATION: The LIFT Transportation program currently has 2,064 clients in our database (a new high). The team is averaging over 200 one-way trips a month within the Basin and 100 one-way trips outside the Basin to higher levels of care. A new driver with a "Class A" license has joined the team. He will cross train to drive the Mobile Medical Unit.
- MARKETING: The spring Community Health and Resource Fair was held Saturday, April 27 at the Yucca Valley Community Center complex. More than 650 community members attended. 64 people took advantage of free health screenings including blood pressure, glucose, A1C testing and body mass index. The County of San Bernardino dispensed four (COVID and or Flu) vaccines and handed out 180 COVID test kits. 38 local and regional nonprofit organizations offered resources and information. A dietician from the County of San Bernardino conducted drop-in lectures on "Healthy Eating on a Budget" and reading food labels. The LifeStream blood mobile collected 14 units of badly needed blood (which can benefit 42 people). During the event, the Yucca Valley Youth Commission hosted their popular "Teen Zone" in the ball field, including giant inflatable slides, obstacle courses and free snow cones. Box lunches were provided for the vendors and volunteers, and street tacos were given to nearly 250 health fair attendees. 85 HEALTH SURVEYS

The spring issue of Spirit Magazine, which mails to 1,500 persons and is an insert in the Hi-Desert Star and Trail, features our second advertorial spread. Articles include the mobile school dental program, Covered CA information, health fair promotion and an article about the healthcare District's Narcan harm reduction program.



Kaiser Permanente held a ribbon cutting for the debut of their seventy-two-foot mobile medical vehicle, April 19 at our Yucca Valley clinic. The vehicle will be on-site twice monthly offering services to Kaiser Permanente patients in our Basin.

Director Evans called out kudos to Cindy Schmall for allowing Kaiser to access the Yucca Valley health center parking lot to provide care to their 3,000 patients in the Morongo Basin.

FINANCIAL REPORT – *Debbie Anderson, CFO*

Ms. Anderson reported that the consolidated financials for the month of March show a loss of \$(141,315) and year to date of \$1,886,338. The non-clinic financials for the month of March show income of \$281,287 and year to date income of \$2,682,395. The clinic financials for the month of March show a loss of \$(139,971) and year to date loss of \$(796,056).

- The District is losing approximately \$135,000 a month. Director Evans noted that as the budget process begins for the next fiscal year, that the board needs to look closely at service lines. Ms. Schmall stated that staff was already focused on a solution and will come to the June budget meeting with recommendations.
- Sliding fee updates went into effect April 1st with the updated poverty guideline levels for 2024.
- The final PPS rate audit for behavioral health has been extended until June 30, 2024 and continues to be ongoing.
- Budget prep for FY 24-25 is underway.
- Investments overall were positive for this month, so we now have had seven months of positive investment earnings and only two months of negative investment earnings.
 - **Motion 24-30:** Director Greenhouse motioned to accept the financial report as presented, second by Director Stiemsma; motion passed by unanimous vote.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

- Special meeting to appoint to the vacant board seat June 15 at 10 a.m.
- The first Thursday in July is the Independence Day holiday. The regular July business meeting has been scheduled for July 18.
- July 19 Foundation event, 5:30 – 9 p.m.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

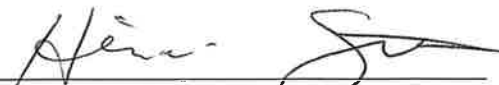
DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: Thanked staff for their continued excellent work.

DIRECTOR STIEMSMA: Thanked Joe Ruddon for his many years of service and his positive influence within the Morongo Basin on behalf of the District..

DIRECTOR EVANS: “Thank you to Joe for all that you’ve done; all the best to you. The UDS statistics were impressive.”

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.


Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary of the Board
Board meeting minutes recorded by K. Graley, Board Clerk.