

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 7, 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 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
- Jacquelin Todd

- Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer,
Desert Care Network

Administrative Staff:

- Cindy Schmall, CEO
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Beverly Krushat, Executive Assistant
- Janeen Duff, Grants & Special Programs Manager
Tricia Gehrlein, CPE/CO (*remote*)
- Mark Greenhouse, CHC board member
- Bryan Goldfarb, CHC board member

CALL TO ORDER

Director Evans 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 platform.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCES

Director Greenhouse read the mission and vision statements. Director Todd led the assembly in the flag salute.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 24-68: Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; second by Director Todd and passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- **Motion 24-69:** Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as presented; second by Director Todd and passed by unanimous vote.
 - Minutes: Regular meeting of the Board of Directors, October 3, 2024
 - Minutes: Special meeting of the Board of Directors, October 21, 2024

PRESENTATIONS

DESERT CARE NETWORK UPDATE –

Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer for Desert Care Network provided the following information on behalf of CEO Karen Faulis, Hi-Desert Medical Center (HDMC):



Surveys:

- Trauma Level 4 - HDMC received its redesignation by San Bernardino County.
- HDMC also received the Get with the Guidelines Silver Stroke Award
- The Full Scope Audit/SOX Audit - Successful

People / Recruitment:

- New ED and OR leader—Rob Malone
- New CCC Administrator—Ronn Ellenich
- Searching for permanent CNO with Kathleen Moore transferring to Abrazo West, AZ. An interim CNO is in place.
- Searching for permanent Labor & Delivery Director. Interim in place

Local Event Participation:

- Paint the Desert Pink - Community awareness of importance of yearly mammograms. Two physicians spoke at the event and an artist led the participants through a painting class.
- Desert Survival Class- Added a second day due to community demand. Multiple speakers from DCN and the community provided information regarding first aid in the desert (i.e. heat exhaustion/stroke, snake bites).
- HDMC continues to hold blood drives with LifeStream as do the other Desert Care Network hospitals. The need for blood remains critical.
- Walks/Parades: Paint El Paseo Pink, DAP Health Equity Walk, Pride Parade, Heart Walk, Veterans Day Parade, Festival of Lights Parade

Trauma Update:

- Next week marks two years since HDMC obtained Level 4 Trauma designation.
- 11/16/2022 – 12/31/2022 - 15 patients - Majority were traffic collisions and geriatric falls – via EMS
- 2023 – 268 patients. The majority continue to be traffic collisions and geriatric falls
 - Adults (15-64) - 152
 - Pediatric (birth – 14 yo) - 18
 - Geriatric (65+) – 98
- YTD through 9/30/2024 - 176 patients (projected 235 through 2024)
 - Majority involved in traffic collisions and geriatric falls
 - Adults- 94
 - Peds- 9
 - Geriatric- 73

Capital Project Update:

- Acute Hospital
 - New centralized telemetry monitoring system project operational in September
 - Acute hospital emergency generator project in process. Anticipated completion Q4 2024
 - EV Charging Station project to begin construction December 2024
 - Bulk O2 Replacement almost complete

COVID-19 Update: No trends; very infrequent admissions.



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

- Results to date: 71.72% YES, 28.28% NO
- Thanks to the MBHD board and staff for their support, engagement, and education to its district members regarding the impact of Measure AA for the Coachella Valley and Morongo Basin

REQUESTED REVIEW OF HDMC HOLDINGS, LLC LEASE AGREEMENT

CEO Cindy Schmall stated that, as requested by the Directors, the attorney's overview of the lease agreement has been emailed to the board for reference. Ms. Schmall asked the Directors to review the information and direct questions to her.

ACTION ITEMS

SPLIT ROCK CAPITAL EXPENSE

The panels that transfer the electricity from the SCE pole to the building is delayed in production. The requested monies will expedite the process to keep the project on track, otherwise the delay will be 52 weeks. This expense will be paid from the District's reserve account.

- **Motion 24-70:** Motion by Director Cooper to approve the capital expense of \$71,000 for the Split Rock project's electrical equipment, second by Director Greenhouse; motion passed by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT – Debbie Anderson, CFO

Ms. Anderson reported on behalf of Ms. Anderson that the consolidated financials for the month of September show income of \$219,537 and year to date income of \$1,561,110. Non-clinic financials for September show income of \$327,632 and year to date income of \$1,907,931 (new fiscal year). Clinic financials for the month of September show a loss of \$(108,095) and year to date loss of \$(346,821).

Overall, clinics are doing better than budgeted, even though the clinics are showing a negative. Part of this is due to savings on salaries and benefits and staff turnover as some budgeted positions remain unfilled. There are variances in supplies and IT due to equipment being bought for the unbudgeted ARP equipment grant. Purchased services showed a variance due to an increase in legal fees.

Quality income was less than projected due to complexities of timing, bundled scores and other factors. Year to date patient visits were 9,094. Prior year to date visits for the same period were 8,546.

The HIV grant has been extended for another year. Staffing will be adjusted to account for grant requirements. There was discussion around the 340B program and the restrictions imposed by the pharmaceutical companies.

CEO Cindy Schmall stated IEHP announced that the Pay for Performance quality program will reduce its reimbursement rate because of organization financial difficulties. There was no specific information about how big the reduction in reimbursement will be. This reduction will impact the health center's operating budget. Additionally, there may be an impact in receiving QAF funding. It was noted that QAF monies were projected into the current CHC budget.

- **Motion 24-71:** Director Stiemsma motioned to accept the financial report as presented, second by Director Todd; motion passed by unanimous vote.



CEO REPORT – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

CEO Cindy Schmall referred Directors to her written report under Tab 4 in the agenda packet. Additionally, she highlighted:

- Human Resource update: In the last month there were five new hires and three terminations (one compulsory and two voluntary).
- HIV grant: \$478,000 dollars; primarily for advertising, community and provider education. The focus of the grant includes HIV, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), and related medications. She said she has spoken with Dr. Frascchetti, and he is onboard for an adolescent clinic for preemptive education for STD prevention.
- Employee holiday lunch is December 13, directors are invited.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

- November 14 Special meeting: CEO Performance Evaluation Committee: changed to November 13.
- December 5: Public Hearing for community feedback on stipend increase for Directors

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

DIRECTOR COOPER: Thanked Debbie Anderson for the financial report.

DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: “It’s thrilling that Linda Evans was reelected as Mayor of La Quinta, and that Measure-AA passed.”

DIRECTOR TODD: No comments.

DIRECTOR STIEMSMA: Said she wishes the best for the health center with the coming changes in the reimbursement rates and with the projected changes that may come from the national election and appointments.

DIRECTOR EVANS: Speaking to staff, she said, “We show up for each other and our community no matter what the outcome is from the financial future. We are here as your board to support you in the delivery of healthcare to our community. We thank staff for all that you do.”

ADJOURN MEETING TO CLOSED SESSION

The Directors adjourned from open session at 6:44 p.m. They convened to closed session at 6:51 p.m. after a brief break, pursuant to Government Code Section 32106 involving trade secret. The purpose of the closed session was for the CEO to update the Board of Directors as instructed at the October 21, 2024, special meeting. Expected time of full disclosure remains January 2025.

ADJOURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Directors adjourned at 7:16 p.m. to open session. Director Evans reported that no action was taken.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.



Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary of the Board