

COMMUNITY & GOVERNANCE

What is a healthcare district?
The pursuit of health
and wellness.



NO ONE KNOWS THE NEEDS OF A COMMUNITY BETTER
THAN THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.

LOCAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Healthcare districts are the most responsive, local form of government, directly accountable to the communities they serve.

They are operated and controlled by local voters who best understand their community's healthcare needs.

OUR HISTORY

In 1962, Basin residents voted to create Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District. By 1975 the healthcare district built and operated Hi-Desert Medical Center. In 2015, due to an economic crisis, the medical center operations were sold to Tenet Healthcare. The District changed its name to Morongo Basin Healthcare District (MBHD) and now operates two federally qualified health centers located in 29 Palms and Yucca Valley.

VOTER CONTROL

Voters elect the public board that oversees the spending of their local tax dollars in pursuit of improved community health. The close connection between voters and the healthcare district ensures openness and transparency. The monies from property taxes are directed back into the community through healthcare services and programs as directed by the elected Board of Directors.

As a government agency, MBHD submits an annual financial report to the California State Controller. MBHD complies with all state laws governing public records, record keeping, elections and public access to documents.

DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITY

Healthcare districts have the power to do any and all things that are necessary for, and to the advantage of, any type of health promoting service or healthcare facility. They are responsible to improve access to healthcare services for the local communities they serve.

BENEFITS OF LIVING IN A HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

The following are representative of how MBHD strives to fulfill its mission of "Improving the health and wellness of the communities we serve."

- **CONVENIENT ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES:** Living in a healthcare district provides access to medical professionals and services close to home without traveling down-the-hill for primary care. Morongo Basin Community Health Centers in 29 Palms and Yucca Valley are owned and operated by MBHD and offer primary care physicians and nurse practitioners for adults and children, dentists, chiropractic care, onsite lab services,



and behavioral health services to its patients as a comprehensive, preventive care program.

In making healthcare accessible, it also provides

free transportation to medical and dental appointments for its patients.

- **AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE:** The healthcare district receives federal funding to provide health services to the uninsured and underserved populations within its geographic boundaries. A discounted fee is offered to qualifying patients based on household size and income. The financial services department works with patients who may need a comfortable payment plan. The health centers accept IEHP, Medi-Cal, Medicare and most private insurances.
- **COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION:** The District promotes health literacy by hosting free community lectures on health-related topics at senior centers in Yucca Valley, 29 Palms and Joshua Tree.



The District sponsors two annual health fairs in the Basin to bring local and regional resources for community members and to provide health information and screenings.

The District secured grant monies to educate local medical professionals and the community about HIV. The campaign emphasized the importance of testing for the virus and issued free at-home test kits.

- **COLLABORATION FOR BETTER OUTCOMES:** Over its many years, MBHD has partnered with agencies and organizations to benefit Basin residents. Its current strategic plan calls for engaging local, regional, state and even federal entities to bring resources and solutions to benefit Morongo Basin residents.

MBHD is active at the county and state levels, serving on committees and boards to advocate for healthcare in the Basin. Locally, MBHD partners with local agencies such as the Town of Yucca Valley, City of 29 Palms, and Morongo Unified School District to bring health related resources (health fairs, Flying Doctors and other community events).

MBHD pursues federal, state and county grant monies in support of health services, including partnering with ReachOut, Kaiser and MBTA for transportation to medical and dental appointments.

- **ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Healthcare districts stimulate the local economy, not only through creating employment, but also career pathways that support families and stimulates economic activity.

MBHD has 100 employees covering a wide variety of skills, from health professionals to the many support departments for the delivery of patient care. The District actively recruits medical and dental professionals to the Basin in support of health services.

It also collaborates with Morongo Unified School District, Copper Mountain College and Community Health Association Southern Inland Empire to develop programs and opportunities for students pursuing a career in medicine, such as preparing to work as a medical assistant.

MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Improving the health and wellness of the communities we serve.

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