

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC HEARING
November 6, 2025 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 (*not present*)
- Director Stiemsma

Administrative Staff:

- CEO Cindy Schmall (*remote*)
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Tricia Gehrlein, CPE&CO (*remote*)
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Beverly Krushat, Administrative Services Manager
- Kelly Hedges-Wehner, Director Patient Care Services.
- Geoff Baker, Building Projects Specialist

Guests

- Jackie Todd, CHC board member

CALL TO ORDER

Director Stiemsma 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. Director Greenhouse was not present.

OBSERVANCES

Director Evans read the mission and vision statements. Director Cooper led the assembly in the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Motion 25-62: Director Evans motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented; second by Director Cooper and passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Stiemsma asked board clerk Karen Graley to speak to the purpose of the public hearing. She stated that the public hearing is convened per California Health Law and is required for the increase in stipends from \$110 per meeting day to \$115.50 per meeting day. The Notice of Public Hearing was published as prescribed in the local newspapers on October 22 and 29, inviting the public to attend tonight's hearing and provide feedback on approving the resolution for the stipend increase.

She noted that she posted the legal notice on the District's Facebook page where a dialogue developed. She called it "an opportunity to educate the community" that the District is not associated with nor has influence over Tenet Health and the operation of Hi-Desert Medical Center; that board members are not employees of the healthcare District and do not work eight hours a day; and basically explain the roll of



the board and what a stipend was. She also invited the Facebook commentors to speak at tonight's public hearing. None have joined this meeting, nor has any other comment been received from the community.

Resolution #25-03 to increase the stipend amount will be considered in the regular business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Graley asked if the Directors had any questions about the resolution or the process. Ms. Graley explained that there is a 60-day waiting period to provide the community further opportunity to contest the stipend increase. If the resolution is passed at the 6:30 p.m. meeting, the stipend increase would be effective January 6, 2026.

The Directors thanked Ms. Graley for the way she fielded the Facebook dialogue and kept the board members informed. It was also noted that community response to District issues, such as recruiting to the board's vacant seat, has been minimal.

ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. to the Foundation's meeting.



Patricia Cooper, Secretary of the Board

Board meeting minutes recorded by K. Graley, Board Clerk.