

Hi-Desert Memorial Health Care District dba
Morongo Basin Healthcare District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2026 at 6:15 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

Administrative Staff:

- CEO Cindy Schmall (*remote*)
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Tricia Gehrlein, CPE&CO (*remote*)
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk (*remote*)
- Beverly Krushat, Administrative Services Manager
- Janeen Duff, Director of Strategic Initiatives (*remote*)
- Geoff Baker, Special Projects (*remote*)

Guests

- Marc Greenhouse, CHC board member
- Eric Menendez, community member (*remote*)

CALL TO ORDER

Director Stiemsma called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was convened on the La Contenta campus and by electronic platform using Microsoft Teams.

ROLL CALL

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

OBSERVANCE

Director Evans read the mission and vision statements. Director Stiemsma led the assembly in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment presented.

ACTION ITEM

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Director Stiemsma turned the gavel over to board clerk Karen Graley to conduct elections for Board of Director officers. The following officers were elected:

- **Motion 26-01:** Director Cooper nominated and motioned to elect Director Greenhouse as President of the Board of Directors; second by Director Evans, motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Motion 26-02:** Director Greenhouse nominated and motioned to elect Director Evans as Vice President of the Board of Directors; second by Director Stiemsma, motion passed by unanimous vote.



- **Motion 26-03:** Director Greenhouse nominated and motioned to elect Director Stiemsma as Secretary of the Board of Directors; second by Director Evans, motion passed by unanimous vote.
- **Motion 26-04:** Director Greenhouse nominated and motioned to elect Director Cooper as Treasurer of the Board of Directors; second by Director Stiemsma, motion passed by unanimous vote.

The gavel was given to Director Greenhouse. A summary of the election is:

- President: Director Greenhouse
- Vice President: Director Evans
- Secretary: Director Stiemsma
- Treasurer: Director Cooper

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING AGENDA

- **Motion 26-05:** Director Evans motioned to approve the meeting agenda; second by Director Stiemsma, motion passed unanimously by recall vote.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- **Motion 26-06:** Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the minutes of December 4, 2025, second by Director Evans. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE RESOLUTION #26-01: California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act Procedures (CUPCCAA) -Adam Vasquez, Associate, Best Best & Krieger, Attorneys at Law

Ms. Schmall introduced Attorney Vasquez who explained the act. It allows flexibility of certain thresholds for public construction contracts. Traditionally, the District is subject to health & safety code that requires the full bidding process for public works (construction, alteration, demolition) projects over \$25,000; this Act raises the bidding ceiling to \$75,000. The District is not required to participate, it is optional. Additional administrative and accounting procedures are required when submitting to CUPCCAA. Nine other healthcare districts in California have opted in.

- **Motion 26-07** Motion by Director Evans, second by Director Stiemsma, to approve Resolution #26-01 as presented. Motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

APPROVE 2026 ANNUAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

Ms. Schmall introduced the business calendar, noting that these are known items that are recurring. Director Stiemsma asked about board education which presented as “to be determined” on the calendar. Ms. Schmall explained that Director education was ongoing, such as the CUPCCAA information.

- **Motion 26-08:** Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the Annual Business Calendar for the Board of Directors, second by Director Pat Cooper. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS TO THE CHC GOVERNING BOARD

By general consensus of the Directors, only one representative was appointed to the CHC Governing Board. Jackie Todd will be seated to the current vacant seat at the February regular meeting of the Board of Directors. The Directors intend to appoint Ms. Todd as the second representative to the CHC board. The motion was amended to appoint one representative and defer the second appointment to the February meeting.



- **Motion 26-09:** Director Evans motioned to appoint Director Cooper to sit on the Community Health Center’s governing board as stated in the co-application agreement, second by Director Stiemsma. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVE CAPITAL EXPENSE FOR TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE

Debbie Anderson, CFO, presented the background information for the capital-expenditure request. This capital expenditure was not on the approved capital budget. To be compliant with our transportation grant, we had to acquire another vehicle with a working wheelchair lift. The wheelchair compatible vehicles on hand have failed and the cost of repair is greater than the value of the vehicles. After evaluation, staff conceded it was best to buy a new vehicle. The foundation board had approved \$20,000 towards this new wheelchair lift vehicle with the remainder to come from an MBTA grant. Unfortunately, the MBTA grant was for operations only, not purchase. To be in compliance with the transportation grant, we must have one working wheelchair compatible vehicle. After discussion staff decided to purchase the required vehicle.

We are now asking the Board of Directors to approve the capital expense for the vehicle. There was no discussion. Community member Eric Menendez spoke to the action item, speaking in support of the purchase.

- **Motion 26-10:** Director Stiemsma motioned to approve the capital expense of \$18,654 for the purchase of a transportation vehicle with wheelchair lift, second by Director Evans. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES

Directors reviewed the policies which have minimal changes. Only BD-003 Annual Performance Evaluation of CEO has significant changes, documenting the new process for CEO performance evaluations. Ms. Schmall explained that the HR Manager will oversee the survey which will be presented to the Board of Directors and CHC Governing Board by email. She also noted that the evaluation measurements for the CEO are being weighted and incorporated into Manager annual evaluations.

- BD-001 Ralph M. Brown Act
- BD-002 Public Records Request
- BD-003 Annual Performance Evaluation of CEO
- BD-004 Filling Vacated Seat on Board of Directors

- **Motion 26-11:** Director Evans motioned to approve policies BD-001, BD-002, BD-003 and BD-004 as presented, second by Director Stiemsma. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

STAFF REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Anderson reported that the consolidated financials for the month of November 2025 show income of \$404,307 and year to date income of \$1,398,325. Non-clinic financials for November show income of \$386,136 and a year-to-date income of \$1,241,524. The health center financials for the month of November show income of \$17,901 and year to date income of \$156,801.

She noted that even with absences of providers, the clinics turned a profit due to the dedicated efforts of staff and providers. The full team has stepped up to fill the patient schedule, working together for this outcome.

Clinics pretty much broke even in November. Budgeted visits were 2,593 and actual visits were 2,595 – so visits were dead on. A new PT provider was hired, an internal staff member has stepped

up to cover vacancies, and some of our other providers are doing better than budgeted, all of which has tremendously helped with preventing the visits from going too far below budget.

Quality & 340B continue to bring in monies over budget, helping to bolster better than budgeted revenue. Expenses also continue to be in line with budget, with actual year to date operating expenses coming in at \$4,399,420 vs \$4,383,196 of budget, only a (.37%) variance.

Non-Clinics are also in line with budget; and the large variances on the non-clinics side all have to do with investments, which are creating the positive variances between actual and budget.

- **Motion 26-72:** Director Stiemsma motioned to accept the financial report as presented, second by Director Evans; motion passed by unanimous vote.

CEO STAFF REPORT

Ms. Schmall called out the Point In Time homeless population count and that District staff is participating in the count. She asked Janeen Duff, Director Strategic Initiatives, to speak about the San Bernardino County Vital Signs focus group on January 14, hosted at the La Contenta campus. The event has been heavily promoted in the Basin to recruit participants to provide feedback on local health. Currently the community response has been cool.

Cody Briggs and Marc Greenhouse were appointed by CHC Governing Board to sit on the CEO performance evaluation ad hoc committee.

IEHP portable mammography screening was made available December 22 for screenings. CHC has over 200 patients that have been unable to get mammograms because of staffing issues at the Hi-Desert Medical Center. Tricia advocated to IEHP and was able to convince them to bring their portable mammography equipment to Morongo Basin. Unfortunately, we only had about five days to fill the schedule. The team had 30 patients scheduled, 13 showed up and the IEHP folks were thrilled that many people actually showed. We are scheduled for another mammography event on January 30 for the community.

We continue to recruit CHC board members. And we are working with recruiters for a doctor.

The Split Rock project now has a parking lot and the ramps and stairs are installed. It's really coming together and looking very good. The parking lot has to cure for two weeks before stripe it.

CALENDAR REVIEW AND COORDINATION

Calendars for January, February and March were reviewed.

- February 5: The ad hoc committee for CEO Performance Evaluation will meet in closed session between the two board meetings.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS

- **DIRECTOR COOPER:** “Thank you for everything and all the information. It’s great that we are doing okay in the money department.”
- **DIRECTOR EVANS:** “Happy New Year to everyone. Thanks especially for all your efforts to work with the physicians and the staff at the clinics to improve the patient volumes. I completely appreciate the effort involved with that and with the mammogram project. We all know people that waited too long to get their mammogram, and we have heard sad stories about that. So, any effort we make in that area is saving somebody's life. So, thank you.”



- DIRECTOR STIEMSMA: “I’m excited the clinics are in the black! And I will say it took a lot of self-restraint not to do cartwheels. So again, Debbie, thank you. And thank you everyone on Zoom for being with us this evening.”
- DIRECTOR GREENHOUSE: “Thank you to our wonderful staff, we appreciate your time and effort. Thank you to our board members, new and old, former last year, this year. Good for us. We keep moving forward and doing good things for our community.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Heidi Stiemsma, Secretary of the Board

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

