MORONGO BASIN
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
A SERVICE OF MORONGO BASIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Morongo Basin Healthcare District

Morongo Basin Community Health Center
Minutes of the Governing Board Meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2026

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 MEMBERS PRESENT
- Cody Briggs *(present)*
- Gloria Cabrera *(present)*
- Pat Cooper *(present)*
- James Flynt *(present)*
- Marc Greenhouse *(present)*
- Sean Loomis *(present)*
- Lisa Ryan *(present)*
- Jackie Todd *(present)*
- Esther Watson *(present)*

STAFF PRESENT
- Cindy Schmall, CEO *(remote)*
- Tricia Gehrlein, CAO
- Debbie Anderson, CFO
- Karen Graley, Board Clerk *(remote)*
- Tela Thornett, Operations Manager
- Caitlyn Marmon, Administrative Assistant
- Kelly Hedges-Wehner, Director Pt Care Services
- Jill Goodwin, Care Team Manager
- Sherri Tincher, Patient Financial Services Manager
- Angie Villaluz, EHR Manager *(remote)*
- Tina Huff, Behavioral Health Director
- JJ Greer, Assistant Clinic Manager
- Mia Fisher, Dental Clinic Manager
- Fredi Levitt, Behavioral Health Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Sean Loomis called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Board Clerk Karen Graley took roll call and declared a quorum for the meeting. Mr. Loomis led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the mission and vision statements. There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- Motion 26-182: Motion by Cody Briggs to approve the meeting agenda with the deferment of board education; second by Esther Watson; motion carried by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- Motion 26-183: Motion by Lisa Ryan to approve the Governing Board meeting minutes dated September 3, 2026; second by Gloria Cabrera; motion carried by unanimous vote.

ACTION ITEMS

RELOCATION OF YUCCA VALLEY DENTAL SERVICES – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

- Motion 26-184: Motion by Cody Briggs to relocate dental services in Yucca Valley from 57810 Yucca Trail, suite C to 58295 Twentynine Palm Highway, suite A; second by Jackie Todd; motion carried by unanimous vote.

CEO Cindy Schmall explained the plan for health center services and the relocation of Yucca Valley dental services. Currently, the dental office is in the Green Building on Yucca Trail. The District has had a monthly lease for ten years. The lease expires in April 2027, and we understand she has a

potential buyer for the property whose intent is to occupy the entire building. The proposed new site is the District-owned ancillary building which is close to the Yucca Valley main campus. The new location will be more convenient for our patients as well as reduce costs with the elimination of the lease fee.

The new location requires some renovation to accommodate the unique needs of a dental office. Jackie Todd asked if it will be a bigger space than the Green Building. CEO Schmall stated it will be substantially bigger and much more functional.

APPOINT REPRESENTATION TO THE CEO ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION COMMITTEE – *Cindy Schmall, CEO*

- Motion 26-185: Motion by Marc Greenhouse to appoint two board members, Sean Loomis and Marc Greenhouse, to represent the CHC Governing Board on the joint-board committee for CEO annual performance evaluation; second by Lisa Ryan; motion carried by unanimous vote.

CEO Schmall explained the process for the annual CEO evaluation. The co-application agreement calls for two representatives from this governing board to sit on the joint-board evaluation committee. Pat Cooper and Jackie Todd are on the District board and already seated on the committee. We prefer two other members of this board to be seated on the committee to provide full representation.

Cody Briggs asked about when the committee would meet. Discussion followed regarding the process and that December is most likely when the committee will convene. Sean Loomis and Marc Greenhouse volunteered to sit on the ad hoc committee. Tela Thornett will email the performance evaluation tool to board members which the committee will then use to prepare the evaluation.

REPORTS

Monthly Financial Report:

- Motion 26-186: Motion by Marc Greenhouse to accept the August 2026 financial report as presented; second by Lisa Ryan; motion carried by unanimous vote.

CFO Debbie Anderson presented the financial report for August 2026. She referred the members to the agenda packet for the published report. Clinic financials for the month of August show a loss of $(16,940) and a year-to-date loss of $(64,273). The clinics did show losses for the month, but not as much as budgeted due to patient visits being a few hundred over budget (3,330 actual number of patient visits vs 3,012 budgeted visits). Additionally, quality is higher than budgeted although grant revenue is less than budgeted.

Expenses are about one percent under budget, with notable variances for professional fees due to contracted providers being over budget; purchased services: billing is up for the higher visits so the RCM contract is higher; supplies: vaccine supplies are typically bought in fall not summer; R&M: flood / biohazard cleanup and testing; and other expenses: recruiting costs have been suspended. We have received notice that the employee benefits program will increase by 10% in January 2027.

Cody Briggs asked if both employees and District take on that increase cost. CEO Schmall explained that the employee pays approximately 22% of the benefits cost, the District covers the rest of the cost as well as a portion of the spouse and dependent costs.

CEO Schmall asked CAO Gehrlein to debrief the board members about the IEHP request to accept additional patients. She stated that Dr. Thomas will be closing his office in 29 Palms. He was assigned about 659 IEHP members. We agreed to accept the patients. However, we asked IEHP to exclude these new patients from our current P4P calculations because we expect that they will have high acuity and a negative impact on our P4P performance scores. That has been our experience in the past. We are still waiting for their final decision regarding exclusion from P4P.

Even if it works against us and we lose our quality dollars, we felt it was important to take the patients for two reasons. One is access. Dr. Salhotra sees 29 Palms IEHP patients, but they are dual choice only, meaning that they are Medicare/Medi-Cal subscribers. We are now the only Medi-Cal provider for IEHP patients in 29 Palms. We are the safety net. We are there for a very good reason. And that reason is to care for these patients.

The second reason is we expect to lose patient members due to HR-1. Between March and September of next year is when the numbers will probably start to decline.
So the more members that can be assigned to us now, the better off we will be in 2027 to capture as many patients as we can. And hopefully if they do lose their insurance, they know that we are here, that we have a sliding fee program, and we can still care for them. The larger our reach, the better we can ensure that we are providing those services needed to the community.

CEO Staff Report:
Ms. Schmall referred board member to her written report in the agenda packet.

- Sheree Fansler, a long-time employee of the district and member of the community, passed away on September 24, 2026. Sheree had been ill for a while and recently resigned. However, we are hosting a potluck in suite 600/700 on October 2. Sheree loved potlucks and often spontaneously organized them for her coworkers. We felt it was the best way to honor her memory. Additionally, staff are adding to the Sharing Wall with anecdotes and photos about her. She will be greatly missed.
- The Split Rock project is still waiting for clearance from the Fire Marshall. The Fire Marshall has acknowledged that they are behind in their reviews but will get it completed as soon as possible. The Fire Marshall advised today that step two in the process is completed and they are moving on to step three.
- The remodel of the Behavioral Health department is still in process. The facilities team has moved walls, light switches and HVAC ducts and did a terrific job. Next up is painting and new flooring. The case management area is almost completed, and we anticipate the Referrals and Care Team to move into the space October 15, 2026. This will free up the Ancillary Services building to start the buildout of the Dental clinic.
- We are still looking for a full-time nurse practitioner and a full-time physician. Unfortunately, Dr Kim has resigned effective November 19. This was a decision for personal reasons and did not have anything to do with his feelings about us. We will be sorry to see him leave. Doctor Malekian begins seeing patients on Monday.
- IEHP brought the mobile mammogram program to our Ancillary Services building on September 29, 2026. We were able to schedule about 40 appointments; 15 patients were screened; this was not unexpected. We are trying to get a commitment from IEHP on a more routine schedule for this program. Tricia said last time the mobile mammogram was available, patients from IEHP offices were also scheduled for appointments. This time it was just CHC patients. Next time we will coordinate with IEHP to expand appointments.
- The health centers held an immunization clinic day on Saturday, September 12 to help us catch up on children's vaccinations. Thanks to Alyssa Burton, PA for her assistance with this much needed opportunity for parents to bring in kids for vaccines and Well Child visits. 12 children were vaccinated. We are looking to schedule another clinic day in November.

CALENDAR REVIEW:
The calendars for October and November were reviewed. Ms. Schmall encouraged board members to attend the health fair on Saturday, October 10. Tricia Gehrlein noted that SBCounty will be onsite for free flu vaccinations, CMC nursing students have volunteered to help with health screenings, and we have a full schedule of providers for the Ask the Doctor booth. Cody Briggs asked about the availability of COVID vaccinations. CEO Schmall explained vaccine is expensive and available from other sources and therefore will not be offered at the event.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:
None were offered.

MEETING ADJOURNED:
The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Lisa Ryan
Lisa Ryan, Secretary of the Board