

**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, REAL ESTATE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 01, 2010**

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A Special Meeting of the Finance, Administration, Real Estate and Legal Committee of the Desert Healthcare District was held in the Arthur H. "Red" Motley Boardroom, Palm Springs, CA

Attendance:

Members

Mark Matthews - Chair

Kay Hazen – Member

Staff

Lenny Pepper, Chief Executive Officer

Peter Young, Chief Operating Officer

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer

Tricia Wheeler, Executive Administrative Assistant

Guests

Rick Daniels, City of Desert Hot Springs

Jan Pye, City of Desert Hot Springs

Jason Simpson, City of Desert Hot Springs

Laura Green, City of Desert Hot Springs

Gary Christmas, Riverside County Executive Office

Dan Martinez, Riverside County EDA

Bruce Hebets, Borrego Community Health Foundation

Xxxx; Borrego Community Health Foundation

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm by Chairman Matthews.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Matthews asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**It was moved and seconded (Hazen, Matthews) to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**OTHER MATTERS**

**1. Desert Hot Springs Clinic**

Director Matthews reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which was to review the status of efforts by the County of Riverside ("County"), the City of Desert Hot Springs ("DHS"), Borrego Community

Health Foundation (“BCHF”) and others in regards to enhancing access to primary care and developing a permanent Health Clinic in DHS.

Director Matthews gave a power point presentation, giving a chronologic history of the District’s involvement in supporting health services and pursuit of a health clinic in DHS. Director Matthews and Director Hazen reiterated the District’s commitment to providing enhanced health services and a permanent clinic facility to the residents of DHS.

Mr. Martinez and Mr. Christmas stated the County remains prepared to build a clinic facility. They have \$2.8 million remaining in committed funds (after purchasing land and developing plans for the clinic), \$1million in District funding as outlined in the 2005 Housing Authority Purchase Agreement and \$5 million in available bond financing needed to complete the project. The County has postponed the start of construction waiting for BCHF to receive federal funding to establish a FQHC. The city and BCHF asked the County to wait for BCHF to be notified of the status of a second round of Federal Grant Funding as stated in the new health reform legislation. BCHF did not receive the first round of Federal grant monies, which would have been utilized to build a clinic in DHS (instead of the County.)

The County advised the Committee that some sort of direction must be provided by June 30, 2010 in order for the County to maintain their option to purchase low interest bonds for the County’s financing portion. According to Mr. Martinez and Mr. Christmas, the clinic could be completed 18-36 months from the start of construction. An additional County concern is that monies set aside for the clinic project may be redirected if not utilized soon.

Mr. Daniels reviewed the history of city efforts to increase availability of healthcare for its residents. With the County and others focusing on building of a medical clinic and expansion of primary care, the City has taken the lead on the provision of community health and prevention via the expansion of parks and the development of a Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Hebets reviewed the history of BCHF’s efforts to obtain Federal funding to establish a family clinic in DHS. While BCHF did not receive the last grant award applied for, Mr. Hebets is hopeful that the new Federal Health Care Reform Bill will enable BCHF to obtain funding this year.

Following discussion regarding the highly competitive nature of federal grants and the need to identify whether federal funding would be possible prior to the County bond deadline, staff was asked to work with County staff and lobbyists to make an assessment of the likelihood of federal grant funding and, if appropriate, work with stakeholders as needed to develop and implement an advocacy plan in the next 90 days to gain federal funds for a permanent clinic facility.

The County asked whether the agreement which makes available \$1 million for property acquisition could be extended given the various options currently under consideration and the deadline of the agreement coming up. Staff was asked to bring an amendment extending the agreement for 2 years to the next Finance Committee meeting for consideration.

Director Matthews discussed the need for a short-term solution (until a permanent health clinic is available ). The group discussed various options and staff was asked to evaluate short term options and report back to the Committee

## **2. Supplemental Medi-Cal Reimbursements –**

Mr. Pepper reviewed a proposal relayed from Legal Counsel to pursue “Supplemental Medi-Cal Reimbursements” funds which may be available to the District as owners of Desert Regional Medical Center (“DRMC”). The potential reimbursements would require an agreement from Tenet, as operators of DRMC, to pursue the funds jointly. There may be other requirements as well.

The proposal included a deadline of mid-April for filing. Committee members and staff were concerned that while the proposal may have merit, the deadline for filing did not leave sufficient time for full vetting of the proposal.

Staff was directed to:

1. Contact the ACHD to investigate the issue further, including if (and how) other Districts participate in the program.
2. Alert Legal Counsel that the mid-April deadline for filing for reimbursement for calendar year 2009 will not be met, but the District is interested in pursuing this option in the future following further investigation and discussion. .

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting was adjourned at 4:05p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Hazen, Vice President/Secretary  
Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Tricia Wheeler, Executive Administrative Assistant*