



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 23, 2020**

| Directors Present – Video Conference  | District Staff Present – Video Conference   | Absent |
|---|---|--------|
| President Leticia De Lara<br>Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja<br>Treasurer Mark Matthews<br>Director Carole Rogers, RN<br>Director Evett PerezGil<br>Director Les Zendle, MD<br>Director Arthur Shorr | Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO<br>Chris Christensen, CAO<br>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer<br>Will Dean, Marketing and<br>Communications Director<br>Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and<br>Outreach Director<br>Eric Taylor, Accounting Manager<br>Meghan Kane, Programs and Research<br>Analyst<br>Vanessa Smith, Special Projects and<br>Program Manager<br>Erica Huskey, Administrative and<br>Program Assistant<br>Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board<br><br><u>Legal Counsel</u><br>Jeff Scott |        |

| AGENDA ITEMS                                    | DISCUSSION  | ACTION   |
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| <b>A. Call to Order</b><br><br><b>Roll Call</b> | President De Lara called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.<br><br>The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors' present except Director Rogers who joined the meeting at 6 p.m. due to technical issues. |  |
| <b>B. Pledge of Allegiance</b>                  | President De Lara asked those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.  |  |
| <b>C. Approval of Agenda</b>                    | Conrado Bázquez, MD, CEO, explained his request to pull agenda item F.6. from the CEO Report, which will be presented to the Program Committee for a recommendation of approval to the Board.                         | <b>#20-80 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda removing item F.6. from the CEO Report. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers,</b> |

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|  | <p>President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the modification.</p>   | <p><b>Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b><br/><b>NOES – 0</b><br/><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>  |
| <p><b>D. Public Comment</b></p>  | <p>Maribel Nunez, California Partnership, thanked the District for their support and shared some of the restructuring of the organization while adjusting to COVID-19.</p> <p>Public comments supporting the District advancing its role in addressing the healthcare needs of Black communities in the Coachella Valley were provided by the following: Deiter Crawford, Desert Highland Gateway Resident; Elizabeth Romero, Indio Resident; and Christopher Montgomery, Medical Student.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b></p> <p>    <b>a. Board of Directors Meeting – May 26, 2020</b></p> <p>    <b>b. Closed Session of the Board of Directors – May 26, 2020</b></p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p>    <b>a. Approval of the May 2020 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved June 9, 2020</b></p> <p><b>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA</b></p> <p>    <b>a. Las Palmas Medical Plaza - Addendum to Lease Agreements for Rent Deferral</b></p> <p>    <b>b. Las Palmas Medical Plaza – Lease Renewal Suite 1W 102-103 – Quest Diagnostics</b></p> | <p>Vice-President Borja pulled items 4a and 4e requesting changing he/she to they for 4a and 4e.</p> <p>President De Lara pulled item 4f requesting an explanation to the Board from legal counsel.</p> <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described item 4f for Board actions and decisions, explaining that a member’s abstention from a vote affirms the vote for the action or a vote in favor of most of the quorum. A quorum would not</p>  | <p><b>#20-81 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve the consent agenda with modifications to 4a and 4e.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b><br/><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> |

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| <p><b>4. BOARD AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Policy #PROC-1 – Purpose of Board Policies &amp; Adoption/Amendment of Policies</li> <li>b. Policy #BOD-01 – Swearing in of Board Members</li> <li>c. Policy #BOD-02 – Election &amp; Appointment and Duties of Board Officers</li> <li>d. Policy #BOD-04 – Attendance at Meetings</li> <li>e. Policy #BOD-05 – Basis of Authority</li> <li>f. Policy #BOD-11 – Board Actions and Decisions</li> <li>g. Policy #FIN-01 – Financial Operations</li> <li>h. Policy #FIN-02 – Authorized Check Signers, Number of Signers, Dollar Limit for Signers, Transfer of Funds</li> <li>i. Policy #FIN-03 – Statement of investment Policy</li> <li>j. Resolution #20-04 for FY 20-21 Investment Policy</li> <li>k. Policy #FIN-04 – Budget Preparation</li> <li>l. Policy #FIN-05 – Credit Card Usage             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2020 Employee Handbook</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>count for a Director outside of the District.</p> <p>President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda with the modifications to 4a and 4e.</p>                       |  |
| <p><b>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review (MSR) Update</li> </ul>   | <p>Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO, explained the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review (MSR) postponement due to COVID with an administrative draft expected</p> |  |

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| <p><b>2. Consideration to appoint the CEO to Lift to Rise’s Core Leadership Team of Connect Capital, working with the Lincoln Land Policy Institute Center for Community Investment funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</b></p> | <p>at the end of June, and a public draft review to follow.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the Lift to Rise Core Leadership Team of the Connect Capital initiative to assist, attract, and advance funding of the rent burden in Coachella Valley, collaborating with the Riverside County Housing Authority and the Riverside Economic Development Agency.</p> <p>Public Comments were made by the following:<br/>Greg Rodriguez, Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained his work with Lift to Rise’s housing community action network (CAN), and having the District CEO on board would be vital to their work.</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, President &amp; CEO, Lift to Rise, explained the dozens of partners, including the county and the importance of healthcare lens with the District’s involvement.</p> | <p><b>#20-82 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the CEO’s appointment to Lift to Rise’ Core Leadership Team of Connect Capital, working with the Lincoln Land Policy Institute Center for Community Investment funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> |
| <p><b>3. COVID-19 Funding Update</b></p>   | <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the COVID-19 funding allocations to date as illustrated in the spreadsheet.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>4. Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan Update</b></p>  | <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) work and</p>  |   |



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| <p><b>G. Desert Regional Medical Center<br/>CEO Report</b></p>   | <p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, provided an update explaining the passing of Frank Ercoli, MD, Trauma Surgeon, Desert Regional Medical Center, and the low number of COVID-19 patients with 12% of the inpatient census with the same patterns at John F. Kennedy (JFK) Memorial Hospital. The only service that has not reopened is the inpatient pediatric service. The medical staff has been working to reopen the services on July 6; however, if the increase in numbers continues, the date may change. The emergency department room renovation and expansion inspections are forthcoming and should open shortly. Desert Regional Medical Center received its approval from the Family Medicine Regional Review Board for insourcing the family medicine program under the Desert Regional Medical Center sponsorship. The resident slots were increased from 24 to 30, and the first 2 years are filled with start of the academic training the first of July.</p> |  |
| <p><b>H.1. Program Committee</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – June 09, 2020</b></li> <li><b>2. Funding Requests</b></li> <li><b>3. Grant Payment Schedule</b></li> </ol> | <p>Director PerezGil provided an overview of the Program Committee meeting, which includes the funding requests, grant payment schedule, and the Regional Access Project</p>  |  |

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| <p>4. <b>Regional Access Project Foundation Collaborative Update</b></p> <p>5. <b>Consideration to approve Grant # 1124 University of California, Riverside (UCR) – COVID-19 Testing and Public Health Education for Farm Working Communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley – \$149,976</b></p> | <p>(RAP) Foundation collaborative.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of the University of California Riverside COVID-19 testing and public health education for farm working communities in the eastern Coachella Valley.</p> <p>Public Comments was made by the following:<br/>Diane Vines, Adjunct Nursing Faculty, California State University San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus, provided remarks on behalf of the nursing students in support of the grant.</p> <p>Ann Cheney, Ph.D., University of California Riverside, School of Medicine, Department of Social Medicine and Population Health, explained the collaboration with other students, farmer workers, their families, and Riverside County Public Health.</p> | <p><b>#20-84 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President Borja and seconded by Director Matthews to approve Grant # 1124 University of California, Riverside (UCR) – COVID-19 Testing and Public Health Education for Farm Working Communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley – \$149,976 Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</b></p> |
| <p><b>H.2. F&amp;A</b></p> <p>1. <b>Meeting Minutes – June 09, 2020</b></p> <p>2. <b>Service Agreement Addendum Communications Consultants Inc. – Board &amp; CEO Roles and Relationships Workshops, NTE \$44,400</b></p>   | <p>Director Matthews described the F&amp;A meeting minutes, outlining the service agreement addendum with Rauch Communication Consultants for Board development.</p>   | <p><b>#20-85 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Shorr to approve Service Agreement Addendum - Rauch Communications Consultants Inc. – Board &amp; CEO Roles and Relationships Workshops,</b></p>  |

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| <p><b>H.3. Board and Staff &amp; Communications Policy Committee</b></p> <p><b>1. Meeting Minutes – June 17</b></p>   | <p>President De Lara described the minutes of the most recent Board and Staff &amp; Communications meeting, explaining the policies approved in the consent agenda.</p>   | <p><b>NTE \$44,400</b> Motion passed unanimously.<br/><b>AYES – 7</b> President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr<br/><b>NOES – 0</b><br/><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> |
| <p><b>I. Old Business</b></p> <p><b>1. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) – CV Link Update</b></p>    | <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, highlighted the CV Link report explaining that a new mile is complete with a plan for 20 miles in 2020.</p> <p>Erica Felci, Governmental Projects Manager, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) expressed appreciation to the District as they work through the contract and groundbreaking in 2020.</p> |   |
| <p><b>J. New Business</b></p> <p><b>1. Report of the Closed Session of the Board of Directors – June 19, 2020</b></p> | <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, explained that the Board is continuing to evaluate the Chief Executive Officer.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>K. Legal</b></p>  | <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, outlined the governors’ budget and account for the stimulus funding from the federal government, and approximately \$14M in cuts on July 1. Medicare and Managed Care rates are reduced by 1.5%, and there</p>  |   |

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|  | <p>are no cuts to healthcare from federal funds.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>L. Immediate Issues and Comments</b></p> | <p>Director Matthews requested that the meeting is adjourned in honor of Dr. Frank Ercoli, Trauma Surgeon, Desert Regional Medical Center.</p> <p>Director Zendle explained item F.6. that was removed from the agenda, everyone’s concern with the health disparities in Black and Latino communities, and the dedicated effort for funding. The District should carefully move forward, realizing the history in the past with the District, listen to the needs from those communities, develop a plan for presenting to the Board, and possibly a study session since it is a complicated and troublesome matter.</p> <p>Vice-President Borja suggested communication about the census, which is necessary with the highest corporated city in the census rates, such as Cathedral City at 56%, Desert Hot Springs with 54%, and every other city in the Valley is under those percentages which links to Medicare and Medi-Cal, reminding everyone to complete the census and encouraging the District to commence communication around the census as it relates to individuals and families healthcare. Funding is</p> |  |

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|                              | <p>committed to communities based on the census count and is important to our communities.</p> <p>Director Rogers supports the staff with any endeavors in the District’s work. She is a member of the Lift to Rise core leadership team with the housing community action network (CAN) and would like to be acknowledged as a District representative on that committee. President De Lara acknowledged Director Roger’s role as the designated member of the housing CAN for the District.</p> |   |
| <p><b>M. Adjournment</b></p> | <p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. in honor of Frank Ercoli, MD, Trauma Surgeon, Desert Regional Medical Center.</p>   | <p><b>Audio recording available on the website at <a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a></b></p> |

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Karen Borja, Vice-President/Secretary  
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board*