



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 2020**

| Directors Present - Telephonically  | District Staff Present - Telephonically   | 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. Bárzaga, MD, CEO<br>Chris Christensen, CAO<br>Donna Craig, Senior 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>Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board<br><br><u>Legal Counsel</u><br>Jeff Scott |        |

| AGENDA ITEMS                   | DISCUSSION  | ACTION   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>A. Call to Order</b>        | President De Lara called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.                |  |
| <b>Roll Call</b>               | The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors' present.       |  |
| <b>B. Pledge of Allegiance</b> | President De Lara asked Director Zendle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. |  |
| <b>C. Approval of Agenda</b>   | President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.               | <b>#20-55 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda.</b><br><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b><br><b>AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b><br><b>NOES – 0</b><br><b>ABSENT – 0</b> |
| <b>D. Public Comment</b>       | Public comments were made by the following:                               |  |



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|  | <p>Debbie Espinoza, President &amp; CEO,<br/>FIND Food Bank<br/>Leslie Martinez, Policy Advocate,<br/>Leadership Counsel for Justice and<br/>Accountability<br/>Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer,<br/>Desert Care Network</p> |  |
| <p><b>E. Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. Board Minutes</b></p> <p><b>a. Board of Directors Meeting – February 25, 2020</b></p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p><b>a. Approval of the February 2020 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved March 10, 2020</b></p> <p><b>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA</b></p> <p><b>a. Landscape Plans, Estimated Costs, and Phasing Plan - estimated at \$312,854 over 2 years</b></p> <p><b>4. BYLAWS</b></p> <p><b>a. Revised to include Board &amp; Staff Communications and Policies Committee as a Standing Committee – Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee Approved February 27, 2020</b></p> <p><b>5. POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>a. Policy #OP-5 Grant Policy</b></p> <p><b>b. Policy #OP-14 Expense Authorization</b></p> <p><b>c. Policy #OP-15 – Engagement of the</b></p> | <p>President De Lara described the consent agenda items for approval.</p>  | <p><b>#20-56 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President Borja and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the consent agenda.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES –6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director PerezGil, Director Zandle, and Director Shorr</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 1 Director Rogers</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> |



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| <p><b>Community, Public, and Subject Matter Experts</b></p> <p><b>d. Policy #BOD-8 Board Meetings</b></p> <p><b>e. Policy #BOD-15 Conflict of Interest</b></p> <p><b>f. Policy #BOD-17 CEO Compensation and Performance Evaluation</b></p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</b></p> <p><b>1. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Nominations for a Special District Member and an Alternate Special District Member of the LAFCO Commission</b></p> <p><b>2. Community Health Needs Assessment Update</b></p> <p><b>3. Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)</b></p> <p><b>a. Consideration to Approve an Allocation of Emergency Resources to the Safety Net Community</b></p> | <p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained that the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) nomination for a special district member and an alternate special district member. Vice-President Borja has an interest in the nomination, and Director Shorr requested an alternate member.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained the Feasibility Report that the Board requested for the Community Health Needs Assessment, which is available for review in the packet.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided an overview of staff's work on COVID-19, the challenges, such as the lack of testing, and the shortage of healthcare infrastructure.</p> <p>President De Lara explained that since the Regional Access Project (RAP) Foundation is mentioned in the matter, she will recuse herself from any discussions, asked that</p> | <p><b>#20-57 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve Vice-President Borja as a nominee and Director Shorr as an alternate to serve on the LAFCO Commission. Motion passed unanimously. AYES –6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</b></p> |



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| <p><b>Match Regional Access Project Foundation’s (RAP) allocation with \$100,000 from the District to support the regional economic protection plan managed and implemented by Lift to Rise</b></p> | <p>Vice-President Borja conduct this portion of the meeting, and suggested that the District divide the matters into three areas.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga explained that his recommendations for a \$2M allocation of funding for three areas – \$100k to support the regional economic protection plan and a support fund managed and implemented by Lift to Rise, \$100k to support human service providers, and \$50k to support the healthcare safety net infrastructure.</p> <p><b>Public Comments were made by the following:</b><br/>Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Supervisor Perez Office<br/>Natalie Garcia, Policy Coordinator, Water Programs, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability</p> <p>Director Zendle motioned and Director Matthews seconded to approve the \$100k allocation to the economic protection plan.</p> | <p><b>#20-58 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve the \$100,000 allocation of the regional economic protection plan and support fund managed and implemented by Lift to Rise. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0</b></p> |
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| <p><b>\$100,000 to support human service providers</b></p> | <p>Dr. Barzaga described the second portion of his request for \$100,000 to support human service providers with the District managing the funds distribution to the organizations.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained the unallocated funds in the budget of \$220,000 to cover the costs. Director Rogers moved to use \$220,000 of unallocated funds from the budget and leverage the funds with other community organizations.</p> <p>Director Shorr explained that the \$100k will not be enough, he recommends supporting the \$100k and authorize the CEO with discretion to come back in real-time with future recommendations.</p> <p>Director Rogers amended her motion to include comments from Director Shorr to authorize powers to the CEO to act decisively to move forward for future allocations upon advice from the Board. Director Mathews suggested amending the motion to match the information in item 2 – allocate \$100k to match the Regional Access Project Foundation’s (RAP), totaling \$200,000 and bring back to the Board for emergencies.</p> <p>Director Rogers amended her motion to incorporate item 2 of District funds to leverage with other community organization, and allocate \$100k to match the Regional Access Project Foundation</p> | <p><b>#20-59 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Mathews to approve item 2 as outlined in the staff report – to allocate \$100k to match the Regional Access Project Foundation</b></p> |
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| <p><b>\$50,000 to support the healthcare safety net infrastructure</b></p> | <p>(RAP) from the District funds for a total of \$200,000, and authorize powers to the CEO to act decisively and move forward with future allocations upon advice from the Board for emergencies to increase the amount, and which includes Director Shorr’s recommendation.</p> <p>Dr. Barzaga explained the third allocation for \$950k to match the Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) totaling \$1M to support the healthcare safety net infrastructure, and health information to combat misinformation.</p> <p>After discussion and a request to table the matter by Director Matthews until the District determines the federal government’s role in funding, Vice-President Borja motioned to support part b – \$1M allocation grants for core operation support to the healthcare safety net – FQHCs currently addressing COVID-19 outbreak (Borrego, CDSDP, and DAP) for up to \$550,000 and part d – up to \$50,000 for health education and accurate health information dissemination, and \$600k for contract approval the CEO must obtain Board approval when the funds are allocated with a</p> | <p><b>(RAP) from the District funds for a total of \$200,000, and authorize powers to the CEO to act decisively and move forward with future allocations upon advice from the Board for emergencies to increase the amount to support human services.</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 –</b></p> <p><b>#20-59 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President Borja and seconded by Director PerezGil to support part b – \$1M allocation, grants for core operation support to the healthcare safety net FQHCs currently addressing COVID-19 outbreak (Borrego, CDSDP, and DAP) for up to \$550,000, part d – up to \$50,000 for health education and accurate health information dissemination, and \$600k for contract approval the CEO must obtain Board approval when the funds are allocated with a 24 hour special or emergency meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> |
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|  | <p>24 hour special or emergency meeting.</p> <p><b>Public Comments were made by the following:</b></p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, Government<br/>Claudia Galven, Chief Government &amp; Community Affairs Officer, Clinicas De Salud<br/>Gary Rotto, Vice-President of Policy, Borrego Health<br/>Linda Sobrano, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center<br/>Sarah Bryant, Executive Director, Desert Cancer Foundation<br/>Jim, Public Health Nurse<br/>Lonnie, RN, Emergency Room, Desert Regional Medical Center</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>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</b></p> | <p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), explained the preparations at DRMC to manage the pandemic when the surge occurs in the next few weeks. DRMC is attempting to plan for the maximum capability and they are involved in daily calls concerning updates. The governing authority of DRMC is the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) and Riverside University Health System (RUHS). Deployment of the federal medical station is evolving and changing. Mrs. Finney thanked everyone assisting with the testing. COVID-19 testing will begin in-house at DRMC by March 31 with quality control checks to bring in-house for timely intervention. 144 tests were administered in a 24-hour period. DRMC adopted a limited egress restrictive to a no visitor policy. An online screening and management</p> |   |



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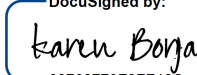
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|   | <p>have been implemented to try and drive people to alternate providers for nonacute level matters. Some services are restricted or on a reduced schedule to redeploy areas with high acuity inpatient care. The surging plan includes vast increase in room capability, ventilators, and monitors. 16 surge tents were provided by the county for emergency supplies, and over 200 army cots.</p> <p>There are many items on allocation such as the PPE that is difficult to secure. DRMC is following the CDC PPE guidelines, one mask per nurse per shift. Nurses have a face shield to protect the mask being worn, change the mask if it becomes too moist or soiled, and supplies from home are not allowed. DRMC is prepared to contend with the unknown.</p> |   |
| <p><b>H. Program Committee</b><br/><b>1. Consideration to approve Grant #1045 FIND Food Bank: Ending Hunger Today, Tomorrow, and for a Lifetime – \$401,380</b></p> | <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained the grant request for FIND Food Bank that will contribute to project produce and several other services.</p>  | <p><b>#20-60 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve Grant #1045 FIND Food Bank: Ending Hunger Today Tomorrow, and for a Lifetime - \$401,380. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0</b></p> |
| <p><b>I. Legal Comments &amp; Reports</b><br/><b>1. Brown Act Compliance and Granting emergency powers to the CEO in the pendency of a State of Emergency</b></p>   | <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, explained his report and emphasized with the changes to the Brown Act he is confident that the Board can move quickly for actions.</p>   |   |





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|   | Director Rogers inquired on concerns with unexpended District funds for grants and how the District can advise the public. Dr. Bárzaga explained that a Workshop will be necessary on AB 2019 and the District grant-making. We are currently repurposing those funds towards COVID-19 in the Valley. |   |
| <b>J. Immediate Issues and Comments</b> | Director Rogers provided a quote from Governor Cuomo regarding action and not words.<br><br>President De Lara thanked Vice-President Borja for conducting the meeting during her recusal.   |   |
| <b>K. Adjournment</b>                   | President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.  | <b>Audio recording available on the website at</b><br><a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a> |

DocuSigned by:  
  
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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Borja, Vice-President/Secretary  
Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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