



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2020**

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

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President De Lara called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors' present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President De Lara asked those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#20-86 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda. 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



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<p>Special District Selection Committee Elections</p>	<p>was selected as a nominee, and Director Shorr as an alternate to serve on the LAFCO Special District Committee. The ballots were returned, with Mission Springs Water District as the primary candidate, and Western Municipal Water District as the alternate.</p> <p>Director Zendle requested a tutorial on LAFCO’s work and the purpose of the committee.</p>	
<p>3. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review (MSR) Update</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the terms of the contract are underway with a final draft of the Municipal Services Review (MSR) in the Fall. There is a new section to the MSR related to COVID-19, which should be received in the next few weeks.</p>	
<p>4. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Annual “Virtual” Conference – September 23-25</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) annual meeting in September, and the theme of the virtual conference – Meeting the Moment.</p>	
<p>5. Special Meeting of the Board Study Session on FY 20-21 Grant-making Process – August 25</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the Board is normally dark in August, and at the Board’s request, a study session on the grant-making process will be conducted with an efficient transparent process.</p>	
<p>6. Special Meeting of the Board – Board and Staff</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the September 23, Special</p>	



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<p style="text-align: center;">Communications Workshop with Rauch Communications – September 23</p>	<p>Meeting of the Board Communications Workshop, a continuation from the prior meeting every quarter.</p>	
<p>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, provided an update explaining the increase in inpatient COVID-19 activity with 85 Average Daily Census (ADC), and a peak of 107 during the month, currently leveling off in the 70 ADC range, which is consistent with the county’s positive rate. JFK Memorial Hospital has a 45 ADC range; however, in the hospitals, there are fewer patients presenting for care, but more admissions for a longer length of stay, which is driving up the census levels. JFK has secured supplemental RN and Respiratory Therapy staff through agencies, and as of today DCN has 103 agency staff, with an additional 64 expected in the next few days, totaling 167 additional nursing and respiratory therapy resources. Staying a step ahead with equipment needs with additional orders for increasing ventilator and high flow capacity, High Desert and JFK Hospitals submitted to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for staffing ratio waivers, which were granted. The COVID-19 Navigator is a new position and the ability to obtain in-house COVID positive care, convalescent plasma, and</p>	



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	<p>qualifying for treatment therapy. There is a 5-7-10 day result for outsourcing testing; however, in-house testing with the Rapid 15-minute testing and another test with a 2-4-hour turnaround is prioritized for tests. The emergency room expansion includes seven additional treatment areas with a total of 44 treatment locations, including gurneys and chairs, and another refurbishing forthcoming, such as flooring that will commence soon.</p> <p>The California Nursing Association (CNA) and the SEIU are under contract negotiations, which is state-wide with notifications of an informational picket event this Thursday at 6:30 a.m. CNA will have an information picket event on August 5, and the staff positivity rate is lower than the community rate.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors Report</p>	<p>Director Zendle provided an overview of the Governing Board meeting, explaining that the 2019 annual report of the comprehensive cancer center illustrated 85k visits, a drop after February, and the April and May patient flows have since increased. The Governing Board reviewed the quality report on various measures and the medical staff report on credentialing.</p>	
<p>I.1. Program Committee</p>		



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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2020 2. Funding Requests 3. Grants Payment Schedule 	<p>Director PerezGil provided an overview of the July 14, meeting minutes, and Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, outlined the funding requests and grant payment schedule.</p> <p>Director Zendle suggested the addition of all the grantees on the grant’s payment schedule, an accumulative report in the last seven years. President De Lara suggests once a year with Director Zendle requesting that staff provide their recommendations.</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Consideration to approve \$500,000 from FY 20-21 Grant Budget to the Foundation to further Advance the District’s Role in Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities in the Coachella Valley – Strategic Focus Area: Healthcare Infrastructure and Services 4. Expanding Racial Diversity in the Health Profession Workforce - \$100,000 5. Access to Healthcare Strategies - \$400,000 6. Long-term comprehensive strategies to advancing the District’s role in addressing the healthcare needs of the Black communities in the Coachella Valley 7. Collaborative Efforts 	<p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained the role of the Program Committee and the five Board approved strategic focus areas, also describing the various partnerships and collaborations.</p> <p>Public Comments in support of the grant were the following: Greg Rodriguez, Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez Gary Rotto, Consultant, Borrego Health</p> <p>Dr. Barzaga, CEO, explained the site visit of the Nobel Ranch and the Desert Highland Gateway Community with Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) as a collaborator in advancing the District’s role.</p>	<p>#20-88 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Rogers to approve \$500,000 from FY 20-21 Grant Budget to the Foundation to further Advance the District’s Role in Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities in the Coachella Valley – Strategic Focus Area: Healthcare Infrastructure and Services.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>I.2. F&A</p>		



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<p>1. Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2020</p> <p>I.3. Strategic Planning Committee</p> <p>1. Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2020</p> <p>2. Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan Update</p>	<p>Director Matthews described the minutes of the July 14, F&A Committee meeting.</p> <p>Director Zendle described the interim strategic planning and possible delays with the Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan, explaining that a contingency may be necessary moving forward.</p>	
<p>J. Old Business</p> <p>1. 2020 Census – Coachella Valley Update</p> <p>2. Production and Publication of the District’s History Book – Update</p> <p>3. Consideration to approve Lift to Rise Economic Protection Plan and Support Fund Budget Modification for Grant #1080</p>	<p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that the Coachella Valley falls behind on their response rate to the census, with lower response rates in the east.</p> <p>Director Rogers inquired on a \$5 gift card to encourage the community to complete the census. Staff will investigate the gift cards and will determine how the District can assist with the efforts.</p> <p>Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director, explained that the first draft of the history book was received in June with a review committee underway, and an additional draft in mid-August.</p> <p>President De Lara left the meeting and recused herself from the discussion and votes. Dr. Barzaga, described the economic protection plan, and the necessity of expanding the</p>	



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	<p>program in the Coachella Valley.</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, President and CEO, Lift to Rise, described the implementation of the program, the uncertainties with the costs, the doubled workload without a pool of resources, and averaging telephonically one message per minute.</p> <p>Matthew Gonda, External Consultant, Lift to Rise, explained that the expenses are increasing for staffing and outreach and the number of households served, receiving \$500k from the county and the CARES Act, a new grant by the end of the program, and \$100k from another organization, which is short another \$500k.</p> <p>Araceli Palafox, Deputy Director, provided an overview of the day-to-day activities and the additional roles staff has implemented, such as verifying landlord and tenant details.</p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez described the CARES Act restrictions and the eviction moratorium, including providing legal assistance referrals and addressing poor living conditions.</p>	
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	<p>Dr. Barzaga highlighted the project as a collaborative active with other organizations that are contributing with less flexibility on how the funds are deployed and the benefits of the community.</p> <p>Director Zendle explained the he will not support 85% of the \$500k for overhead costs and shoulder the entire shortfall and administrative costs of the program.</p> <p>Director Rogers motioned and seconded by Director Shorr, explaining that the program will not work unless the District supports it, Lift to Rise received funding from other sources, but to assist with balancing their budget, and accommodate their requests the District’s funding is necessary.</p> <p>Director Zendle motioned to amend the original motion to increase the share of overhead from 5% to 30%, totaling \$150,000 towards administrative costs, recommending that Lift to Rise request the same of other funders.</p>	<p>#20-89 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to amend Director Rogers motion to increase the share from 5% to 30% totaling \$150k of the administrative costs. Motion passed 5-2. AYES – 5 Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 1 Director Rogers RECUSAL – 1 – President De Lara</p> <p>#20-90 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to increase the share from 5% to 30% totaling \$150k of the administrative costs. Motion passed 5-2. AYES – 5 Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 1 Director Rogers RECUSAL – 1 – President De Lara</p>
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<p>K. New Business</p> <p>1. Consideration to approve the Amendment to CEO Employment Agreement increasing his annual salary by 5% and extending the term to July 31, 2023</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, presented for the Board's consideration the amendment to Conrado's employment agreement for an additional 2 years from July 2021 to July 2023 with a 5% increase.</p>	<p>#20-90 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the Amendment to CEO Employment Agreement increasing his annual salary by 5% and extending the term to July 31, 2023 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</p>
<p>L. Legal</p>	<p>There were no legal updates.</p>	
<p>M. Immediate Issues and Comments</p>	<p>There were no immediate issues and comments.</p>	
<p>N. Adjournment</p>	<p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting Adjourned at 8:01 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</p>

DocuSigned by:

A digital signature of Karen Borja in cursive script, enclosed in a blue DocuSign signature box.

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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