



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2020**

<b>Directors Present – Video Conference</b>	<b>District Staff Present – Video Conference</b>	<b>Absent</b>
President Leticia De Lara Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja Treasurer Mark Matthews Director Carole Rogers, RN 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	Director Evett PerezGil

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>A. Call to Order</b>  <b>Roll Call</b>	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 except Director PerezGil.	
<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>	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	<b>#20-91 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve the agenda.</b> <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b> <b>AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 1 Director PerezGil</b>



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<b>D. Public Comment</b>	There was no public comment for items not listed on the agenda.	
<p><b>Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>a. Board of Directors – July 28, 2020</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>b. Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – August 25, 2020</b></p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>a. Approval of the July and August 2020 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved September 08, 2020</b></p> <p><b>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>a. Service Agreement Addendum - Magdalena Martinez dba Personnel 411 HR Consulting – \$833.33 per month</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>b. LPMP Lease Agreement – LABCORP – 3 Year Lease</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>c. LPMP – Early Lease Termination Agreement – Dennis Spurgin</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>d. LPMP - Temporary Lease Agreement – Arrowhead Evaluation Services, Inc.</b></p>	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda with the Clerk of Board noting corrections to the August 25, Special Meeting of the Board Minutes for Motion 20-96 passing 5-2 with Director Zendle abstaining.	<p><b>#20-92 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 1 Director PerezGil</b></p>
<p><b>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</b></p> <p><b>1. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review (MSR) Review Update</b></p> <p><b>2. Coordination of DHCD efforts to ensure community access</b></p>	<p>Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO, described the update of the Local Area Formation Commission (LACFO) Municipal Services Review and the comprehensive report of the District and Desert Regional Medical Center.</p> <p>Dr. Bázquez, CEO, explained the access to healthcare by federally qualified health</p>	





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<p><b>4. Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) COVID-19 Emergency Collaborative Update</b></p>	<p>Dr. Barzaga, CEO, explained that Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) has begun to engage the community with focus groups that are coordinated and scheduled. A rough draft report is available for guidance on the facts and data, how the community will react to the data, and to continue working with community participation as much as possible.</p> <p>President De Lara explained that she reached out to the CEO concerning involvement and if the Board has thoughts about organizations or individuals that are not included in the focus groups to contact the CEO.</p> <p>Director Zendle inquired on outreach to city council members and other elected officials to provide feedback with Dr. Barzaga explaining that the school districts have been contacted, and he will discuss other mechanisms with HARC.</p> <p>Dr. Barzaga, CEO, explained the organizations benefiting from the Regional Access Projects' (RAP) COVID-19 emergency collaborative funding and the funding impact with organizational operations.</p>	
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<p><b>5. DHCD 20-Year Historical Grant Report</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided an overview of the District’s 20-year historical grant report, explaining that staff has worked on the report, which is available to the public and published on the website. Approximately \$80M in grants has been awarded to the community over 20-years.</p>	
<p><b>5. Lift to Rise Rental Assistance Program – Updates and Enrollment Events</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the report that Lift to Rise provided to address the economic instability due to COVID-19, securing over \$13M, and distributing \$1M to over 4,000 households. Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director is working with Lift to Rise and is assisting with reviewing applications and providing feedback to the community.</p> <p>Public Comments: Tayor Libolt Varner, Regional and Affordable Housing Planner, Lift to Rise, thanked the District and Board, explaining the high housing costs and personal struggles of the rent burdened.</p> <p>Rubyd Olvera, Community and Engagement Coordinator, Lift to Rise, extended her gratitude to the District for their support as an option during the pandemic.</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, President &amp; CEO, reiterated the comments of the Lift to Rise staff and</p>	



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<p><b>7. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Annual “Virtual” Meeting – September 23-25</b></p> <p><b>8. Special Meeting of the Board – Board and Communications Workshop with Rauch Communications – September 23</b></p> <p><b>9. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) – DHCD Certification Presentation, Chris Palmer, Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, CSDA</b></p>	<p>thanked Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director, for his assistance.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) virtual annual meeting taking place this week.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided an overview of the upcoming Workshop on Board development and governance in terms of working together, and programs to respond to the needs of the community.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) certification program the District recently received, introducing Chris Palmer, Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator, CSDA. Mr. Palmer described the requirements listed on the District’s website, such as the financials, Board minutes, and packets, and going above and beyond with the District’s outreach with emails to the constituents and community members, including transparency and accountability. On behalf of the CSDA, Mr. Palmer presented the District with its certificate of certification.</p>	
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	<p>President De Lara thanked the staff and the community for their work and interest in the District’s endeavors.</p>	
<p><b>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</b></p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, provided an update explaining the fabulous work of the District and congratulating to the Board and Staff on their CSDA certification. The COVID positivity and PUI census are in the single digits, there is not an influx from the holiday, and several units have returned to standard operations. Pediatrics reopened to admissions and is currently staffed with Loma Linda University Medical Center pediatric hospitalist. The Acute Rehab Unit was moved back to its home location, and the Family Residence program is resuming the backpack medicine program and visiting those in need at parks and churches. DRMC welcomed a new Assistant Chief Nursing Officer, Kathleen Moore, with 20-years of ICU, ED, and Pediatrics experience. Ms. Moore will focus on working with the Quality and Safety Officers on clinical practice and protocol advancement to elevate the overall practice of nursing. The county is moving from Tier 1 to Tier 2 for reopening with DRMC monitoring the trend and reevaluating some of the visitor restrictions, including</p>	



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	<p>tier two's impact. The Emergency Room refurbishment with paint, flooring, and laminates is nearing completion. As the flu season approaches, DRMC is partnering with the county and other health care facilities to stress the importance of the flu vaccination, which is strongly recommended as appropriate. DRMC will be vaccinating the hospital employees and physicians starting October 5. Early indications are counties that couple flu vaccinations with masking, distancing, and handwashing are, thus far, experiencing a mild flu season. Historically, only 45% of U.S. adults receive the vaccination, and everyone needs to do their part to avoid a possible Twin-Demic. Symptoms of the flu and COVID have many similarities; thus, DRMC is prepared to test for both.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained the county tiers and shared a press release from the city of Palm Springs detailing the colored tiers.</p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Supervisor Perez's Office, explained that over 100 people attended the Supervisor's meeting concerning reopening the economy, and the matter may</p>	
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	be on the agenda at the October 6 meeting.	
<b>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors Report</b>	Director Rogers provided an overview of the Governing Board meeting explaining that the meeting agenda items for financial standards, quality reports, medical staffing, and the new approval of Dr. Levinsons' credentials to the psychiatry staff for behavioral health purposes. The four tiers from Riverside County have explained, as well as the news release from the city of Palm Springs.	
<b>I.1. Program Committee</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes - September 08, 2020</b></li> <li><b>2. Funding Requests</b></li> <li><b>3. Progress and Final Report</b></li> <li><b>4. Grants Payment Schedule</b></li> </ol>	Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, inquired on any questions concerning the meeting minutes, explaining the funding requests withdrawals due to operations and COVID. Vice-President Borja explained the committees request to add a line item for the grant program funding strategic areas.	
<b>5. Consideration to approve Grant #1139 – California State University San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus (CSUSB-PD) Street Medicine Program - \$50,000</b>	Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the one-year project for the nursing students, the street medicine partnerships, program outreach, and learning and reaching out to vulnerable populations.	<b>#20-93 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Borja to approve Grant #1139 – California State University San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus (CSUSB-PD) Street Medicine Program - \$50,000 Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0</b>





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	<p>District, staff’s past education in the community not associated with the election, educating in the entire District boundaries, the timing and impact, sponsoring a virtual town hall meeting on education with members of the community providing feedback, and the importance of educating the community, Director Rogers motioned to approved the service agreement with Strategies 360.</p>	
<p><b>J. Old Business</b></p> <p><b>1. 2020 Census – Coachella Valley – September 30, count end date</b></p>	<p>Barrett Newkirk, Communications Manager, Alianza, described the response rate, the goal of reaching the 2010 response rate, especially in the Valley due to the challenges with this particular Census, such as fears with citizenship and immigration, and with COVID, the approach was changed, further describing the due date and having an as accurate account as possible.</p> <p>Maria Lemus, Executive Director, Vision y Compromiso, provided an update on the promotoras on the project and the continuing outreach efforts.</p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained that the county implemented an</p>	





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	the District, which is more accurate.	
<b>K. New Business</b>		
<p><b>1. Consideration to approve a four (4) month no-cost grant extension for Grant #1124 – UCR School of Medicine – COVID-19 Testing for Farm working Communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley</b></p>	<p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of the no-cost grant extension with UCR School of Medicine for COVID-19 testing in farm working communities due to the challenges early-on to continue the work through February 2021.</p>	<p><b>#20-95 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Matthews to approve a four (4) month no-cost grants extension for Grant #1124 – UCR School of Medicine – COVID-19 Testing for Farm working Communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director PerezGil</b></p>
<b>L. Legal</b>		
<p><b>1. Legislative Update</b></p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described the recent legislation, including SB 758 and SB 977 that failed in the state senate.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, inquired on SB 855 – Wiener: health coverage for mental health and substance abuse disorders. Mr. Scott will follow the bill and provided an update.</p>	
<b>M. Immediate Issues and Comments</b>	<p>Director Zendle would like the board to support and get involved in the Ivy project – an old hotel on Palm Canyon housing people experience homelessness, and the importance of continuing to support the issue of homelessness when the</p>	



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	<p>matter comes forth to the city of Palm Springs.</p> <p>President De Lara would like to send an official letter from the Board to the City supporting the Ivy project.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, suggests a Workshop on affordable housing given the complex and broad issue that includes a conversation to dig deeper, and how the work of the city of Palm Springs fits with the issues of the District, such as a regional approach than merely supporting one matter.</p> <p>Public Comments: Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained that the project is 85-units that includes some efficiency components, and a letter from the District would assist, including a broader scope that Dr. Bárzaga has mentioned. It is a county project working in partnership with the city. Due to the CARES Act requests, funding must be expended by December 30.</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, President and CEO, Lift to Rise, explained that the organization would be thrilled to participate in a session on the projects in the Coachella Valley, and the Housing</p>	
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	<p>Collaborative Network (CAN) contribution in the workshop.</p> <p>The Board’s consensus is to send a letter to the City supporting the Ivy project for housing and establish a Workshop with Lift to Rise.</p> <p>President De Lara requests a policy on issues concerning the District, the options, and when it is appropriate for the CEO to act, when it is appropriated for the Board to act as a whole, and signature authority, or consensus for adherence by the Board.</p> <p>Director Zendle reminded and encouraged everyone to obtain a flu shot.</p>	
<p><b>N. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m. in memory of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her life and work, noting that she will be missed.</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>

DocuSigned by:  
*Karen Borja*  
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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*