



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2020**

Directors Present – Video Conference	District Staff Present – Video Conference	Absent
President Leticia De Lara Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja 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	Treasurer Mark Matthews

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President De Lara called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors' present except Director Matthews	
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.	#20-99 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Roger and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews



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<p>D. Public Comment</p>	<p>Evett Edens, Executive Director, Desert Cancer Foundation, introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Desert Cancer Foundation, thanking the Board for prior support, and she looks forward to working with the District.</p> <p>Kristal Granados, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of the Desert, described her candidacy to Zone 3, introduced herself, and thanked the Board for their hardwork, especially during the pandemic.</p>	
<p>Consent Agenda</p> <p>1. BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>a. Board of Directors – September 22, 2020</p> <p>b. Special Meeting of the Board of Directors Workshop – September 23, 2020</p> <p>2. FINANCIALS</p> <p>a. a. Approval of the September 2020 Financial Statements – F&A Approved October 13, 2020</p>	<p>Director Zendle’s described his request for clarity on his comments concerning PCR testing and a modification to the minutes.</p>	<p>#21-00 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Zendle to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p>
<p>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <p>1. Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Services Review (MSR) Review Update and Recommendation –</p>	<p>Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained that the final Local Area Formation (LAFCO) review of the Municipal Services Reviews (MSR) is forthcoming.</p>	



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<p>2. Consideration to authorize the CEO to apply for a vacancy and appointment to the Association to of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Board of Directors</p>	<p>President De Lara described the invite from the Association of California Healthcare Districts CEO for the District CEO to apply for the vacancy and appointment to the ACHD Board of Directors.</p>	<p>#21-01 MOTION WAS MADE by President De Lara and seconded by Director Zendle to authorize the CEO to apply for a vacancy and appointment to the Association to of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p>
<p>3. Coordination of Efforts to Ensure Community Access to COVID-19 Testing and Healthcare</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that there are communities in the Coachella Valley that are lacking testing, and the need to reach out to those areas.</p> <p>Vice-President Borja suggested contacting FIND Food Bank. Due to quarantining measures in the community, it is difficult for some individuals and families to access food.</p> <p>Public Comments: Greg Rodriguez, Public Policy and Public Affairs Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained the difficulty in particular communities to encourage individuals to the testing sites, which now have testing results are in 72 hours. There is a Home to Harvest program and provisions to providing food and services to those in quarantine. The state is implementing testing in the Central Valley and working</p>	



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<p>4. Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan Focus Groups Update</p> <p>5. Lift to Rise Rental Assistance Program Update</p>	<p>with the county for four mobile testing teams in the next two weeks.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the community health needs assessment focus groups via Zoom, and Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, introduced Jenna LeConte-Hinely, Chief Executive Officer, Health Assessment and Research for Communities, who provided an overview of the weekly meetings with staff, the focus groups, and a completion date by March 31, 2021.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, provided an overview of the Lift to Rise rental assistance program explaining that 70% of the applicants are female heads of households, and with 20% of the applicants from black communities, it illustrates the disproportionate levels.</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, Chief Executive Officer, Lift to Rise explained that in the last 45-days the program numbers are a result of the pop up sites, and outreach staff, including Alexandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director, which allowed the program to grow to \$350,000 a week with other foundations and the county providing assistance totaling approximately \$600k in rental assistance.</p>	
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<p>6. Consideration to appoint Director Les Zendle, MD and Director Carole Rogers, RN to the Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Governing Board of Directors</p>	<p>President De Lara thanked Ms. Vaikona for the accountability with the reports.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described Director Zendle and Director Rogers reappointment to the Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Governing Board, asking the Board to consider another appointment.</p>	<p>#21-02 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director PerezGil to appoint Director Les Zendle, MD and Director Carole Rogers, RN to the Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) Governing Board of Directors.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p>
<p>7. Housing as a Social Determinant of Health Workshop – November 5, 2020</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the upcoming workshop on housing as a social determinant of health taking place on November 5.</p>	
<p>8. California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Joint Virtual Legislative Tour – December 8</p>	<p>Dr. Bárgaza, CEO, described the opportunity of the District to participate in the virtual legislative tour collaboration between the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and the Association of California Healthcare District (ACHD) on December 8.</p>	
<p>9. Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum</p>	<p>Dr. Bárgaza, CEO, thanked the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Candidate Forum for the Zone 3 candidates on October 8 with one candidate participating, Kristal</p>	



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	<p>Granados, also reminding the public to vote early and safely.</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 two parts to the report with an update on DRMC and an introduction of Javed Siddiqi, MD, DPHIL (OXON), FRCSC, FACS with an update on the Neurosurgery Residency Program, and his work with the District.</p> <p>DRMC is Stable in the COVID census levels for approximately the last 6-8 weeks with between 15 and 20 patients per day, JFK Memorial Hospital between 7 and 10, and a reduction since July and August. Thus far, there is not an influx in flu patients and census levels are low for this time of the year. DRMC has secured a new instrument, the Roche Liat, to perform combined flu and COVID testing. Staff is in training with scheduling for the next week.</p> <p>Before the county returned to the widespread purple tier, DRMC held an outdoor, masked, physically distanced dedication ceremony of the Orthopedic Units in honor of Dr. David Duffner, Orthopedic Surgeon who suddenly passed in February.</p>	



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	<p>DRMC participated in a successful Zoom reaccreditation survey by DNV for the Comprehensive Stroke program with one minor recommendation resulting from the survey.</p> <p>The medical center is continuing with the upgrade and replacement of the nurse call systems, the 3 Sinatra Unit will be completed this week, and, thereafter, the work will commence on the 4 East Unit. Refurbishing work, flooring, paint, and laminates in the Emergency Department are still underway.</p> <p>October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and the Center is promoting to the community the need to continue regular mammography screenings, emphasizing safety while offering extended hours through October.</p> <p>Continuing to offer virtual seminars in areas, such as stroke signs and symptoms, heart attack, joint pain, health weight loss, air quality concerns, heat stroke, and heat exhaustion.</p> <p>The Chief Nursing Officer accepted, on behalf of DRMC, the Equality California Golden State Equality Award during their annual event in September.</p>	
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	<p>Director PerzeGil inquired on a potential strike with Mrs. Finney explaining that the current negotiations are related to the contract on a month-to-month basis, and as the SEIU moves into the economic components, there are measurements of the members to see if they will call for a strike action, which requires a 10-day notice that has not been received, although it could happen with plentiful strike action measures in place, further describing the statewide contract with 11 Tenet facilities in California.</p> <p>Dr. Javed Siddiqui, Neurosurgery Residency Program, provided an update on the program stating that during his arrival 16-years ago from Arrowhead Medical Center, he brought the program with him as the first foundation, and or DRMC's program outlining other specifics of the program.</p> <p>The Neuro Intervention Fellowship program has 6 members, but it is not fully funded with plans to apply the comprehensive stroke center with a mechanism to sustain funding once the District funding is not available, further explaining that 3 fellows are still serving the community as the others have moved on to other locations.</p>	
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	<p>Director Zendle and President De Lara thanked and acknowledged Dr. Siddiqui's work at DRMC, with Mrs. Finney echoing Dr. Siddiqui's work and gratitude.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors Report</p>	<p>Director Zendle provided an overview of the October Governing Board meeting explaining that the Board reviewed the residency program that Dr. Siddiqui outlined, and complaints from the staff, public, or anonymous persons are reviewed and discussed similar to in the most recent meeting. In March, there were 12 or 13 COVID patients at DRMC, in July up to 86 or 87, last month at 22 or 23 while remaining at that level. The medical executive committees' minutes were reviewed, including the credentialing for every physician, physician assistant, and peer reviews for cases evaluated by the doctors for any potential improvements.</p>	
<p>I.1. Program Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2020 2. Funding Requests 3. Progress and Final Report 4. Grants Payment Schedule 5. Policy Map – Website Placement 	<p>Director PerezGil provided an overview of the draft October Program Committee meeting minutes.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the funding requests, the list of LOI's reviewed by the grants team, and the update on the approved grants from grantees, including the reports</p>	



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<p>I.2. Finance & Administration</p> <p>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2020</p> <p>2. Gary Dack, Managing Partner, Lund & Guttry LLP – FY 2020 Audit Reports – District & Retirement Protection Plan (RPP)</p> <p>3.</p> <p>a. Communication Letter & Internal Controls Report</p> <p>b. District Audit Report</p> <p>c. Retirement Protection Plan Audit Report</p> <p>d. Desert Healthcare Foundation (Informational Purposes)</p>	<p>as required in the grant contracts.</p> <p>Director Zendle suggests considering the individual buckets for grant requests, and as we move through the year, a total of the amount of money that has been granted in each bucket for the requests, such as how much historically the District has expended on homelessness and how many grants have been approved for homelessness, including food, and the other groups of the strategic goals on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>In Director Matthews absence, President De Lara provided an overview of the October draft meeting minutes.</p> <p>Dr. Bázquez provided a summary of the FY 2020 audit and introduced Gary Dack, Managing Partner, Lund & Guttry, who provided an overview of the communication letter and internal controls report, the District audit, Foundation audit, and the retirement protection plan, further lauding Chris Christensen, CAO, the staff and the District for remarkable handling of the financial statements and documents with no findings.</p>	<p>#21-03 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Vice-President Borja to approve the District Audit Report. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p> <p>#21-04 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Zendle to the approve Retirement Protection Plan Audit Report.</p>
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<p>3. LPMP Landscape Renovation Fire Alarm Electrical Re-bidding</p>	<p>Chris Christensen, CAO, described the Las Palmas Medical Plaza Landscape renovations for underground fire sprinkler systems and the drought process that has affected the landscape. The Board some time ago approved a bidding process to replace the landscape and upgrade the structure. Mr. Christensen provided an overview of the bid tabulations and the requirements for a general contractor's license with the low bidder, which was discussed with the F&A Committee that included three options, and the committee selecting option c for rebidding with the same requirements. The bid results will be provided at the next November meeting.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PereGil, Director Zendle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p>
<p>J. Old Business 1. Workshop and Training on Governance and Policies – Upcoming Board and Staff & Communications Policies Committee – November 9, 2020</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained the workshop and training on governance and policies during the month and the upcoming Board and Staff & Communication Policies Committee meeting on November 9.</p>	



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<p>2. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) – CV Link Q3 Quarterly Progress Report</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga described the Coachella Valley Association of Governments CV Link Q3 quarterly progress report.</p> <p>Erica Felci, Assistant to the CEO, CVAG, explained that there was a bidding process, and the executive committee awarding a contract to the lowest bidder for segment 1 - 13 miles and another 3-4 miles of alternative bids part of the 20 miles in 2020, breaking ground in December.</p>	
<p>K. New Business</p> <p>1. Communications and Media Updates</p> <p>a. DHCD and Volunteers In Medicine (VIM) Eastern Coachella Valley Vaccination Event</p> <p>b. DHCD and Borrego Health Alpha Media COVID-19 Live Stream Event</p>	<p>Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director, provided an overview of the District communications and media updates that included the community service work of the grantees conducting flu vaccine events in the Eastern Coachella Valley. This Friday, another flu event will take place with walk-in's welcome, and to date, 138 flu vaccines were provided to the community.</p> <p>Alpha Media conducted a live stream Facebook event to raise awareness on COVID-19 testing, with over 400 people participating and listening. The following day testing was set-up in the Desert Highland Gateway Estates community with low turnout.</p>	
<p>L. Legal</p> <p>1. Legislative Update – SB 855: Wiener: Health</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described the legislative</p>	



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Coverage for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder	update for SB 855, which passed, also explaining additional legislative updates.	
M. Immediate Issues and Comments	There were no immediate issues and comments.	
N. Adjournment	President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.	Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents

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