



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
December 15, 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 Director Carmina Zavala	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 5:40 p.m. due to technical difficulties. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors' present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President De Lara asked Director Zendle to lead and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#21-15 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0



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<p>D. Public Comment</p>	<p>There was no public comment for items not listed on the agenda.</p>	
<p>E. Consent Agenda</p> <p>1. BOARD MINUTES</p> <p> a. Board of Directors Meeting – November 24, 2020</p> <p>2. FINANCIALS</p> <p> a. Approval of the November 2020 Financial Statements – F&A Approved December 08, 2020</p> <p>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA FIRE SPRINKLER PROJECT</p> <p> a. Professional Services by Chris Mills, Prest Vuksic, Greenwood Architects, for the interior fire sprinkler system installation at the Las Palmas Medical Plaza– Estimated \$12,000</p> <p>3. GRANTS</p> <p> a. Consideration to approve Grant #1149 for \$40,000 – Voices for the Children – Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program</p>	<p>President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.</p>	<p>#21-16 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>F. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, opened the annual election of officers with nominations for President.</p> <p>Vice-President Borja nominated President De Lara; President De Lara nominated Vice-President Borja with Vice-President Borja declining the nomination. Director PerezGil</p>	<p>#21-17 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Shorr to nominate President De Lara to a second term. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil,</p>



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	<p>motioned, moved by Director Zendle, and second by Director Shorr to nominate President De Lara to a second term.</p> <p>Director Rogers nominated Vice-President Borja to a second term as Vice-President, moved by Director Zendle, and seconded by Director Shorr.</p> <p>Director Zendle moved for Director Shorr to serve as Treasurer and seconded by President De Lara.</p>	<p>Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p> <p>#21-17 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Shorr to nominate Vice-President Borja to a second term. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p> <p>#21-18 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by President De Lara to nominate Director Shorr as Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>G. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <p>1. COVID-19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) – Update</p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained the 18% COVID positivity rate and the importance of the work with the collaborations in underserved areas with a 23% positivity rate. The FQHC’s are assessing the challenges and funding from the District to deploy the COVID vaccines for equity and access to</p>	



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<p>2. Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan – Update</p> <p>3. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) CEO Appointment to the Board of Directors</p> <p>4. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Legislative Tour</p>	<p>healthcare as illustrated in the staff report of the Board packet.</p> <p>Director Zendle inquired about additional funding by the District to provide grants to the non-profits as an agenized item in January. Director Shorr requested to include agencies that directly distribute food due to the lack of financial resources by the federal government and the growing need of food insecurity. President De Lara and the Board directed the CEO to include funding to FIND Food Bank or another entity in addition to the non-profit agencies. Consideration of a special meeting instead of waiting until the end of January is also an option.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) has completed over thirty focus groups and is currently analyzing the data with community members and service providers.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Board unanimously approved his appointment to the ACHD Board of Directors. President De Lara and Director Zavala congratulated Dr. Bárzaga considering his involvement with other numerous activities.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that approximately sixty attendees attended the virtual legislative tour. Dr. Bárzaga provided details at the tour of the District's role in the pandemic, the importance of modifying the deadline for the hospital's retrofit, including the inequities between the</p>	
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	<p>east, and west concerning tax collections, and building a healthcare infrastructure in parts of the District.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, congratulated the Board members on their reelections and explained that since the December Board meeting is earlier in the month, the DRMC Governing Board will meet later in the month, there are limited updates at this time. Describing prior conversations concerning contract negotiations, a tentative agreement was reached in early December with SEIU, and the negotiations were completed without a strike. On December 10, the contract was presented to the members with ratifications, and a new contract is currently in place through 2023.</p> <p>The hospital is anticipating receiving 1,140 COVID-19 vaccines in the coming week describing the ultra-cold freezer capabilities directly from the manufacturer. A vaccination plan is developed that includes the flow of vaccinations with prioritization and consent or declination forms. The side effects require staggering departments in the event of injection site pain, headache, fatigue, chills, diarrhea, or fever, which is similar to COVID symptoms.</p> <p>Mrs. Finney described several newspaper articles concerning some facilities COVID care levels exceeding their peak census levels than initially encountered in July. DRMC had a peak census of 106 COVID positive PUI patients. In December, month-to-date, the peak census has been 61 COVID</p>	



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	<p>positive PUI patients. In July, the peak critical care census was 48 PUI patients with 35 in December thus far in critical care.</p> <p>The acute rehab unit was moved to a location on the orthopedic floor for physical plant space to a higher level of care as the hospital continues critical care to the patient population.</p>	
<p>I.1. Program Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes – December 08, 2020 2. Funding Requests 3. Progress and Final Reports Schedule 4. Grants Payment Schedule 5. Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund – A Bold Housing Investment Solution, Lift to Rise & Riverside County Housing Authority <p>I.2. Finance, Legal, Administration & Real Estate</p>	<p>Director PerezGil inquired on any questions of the Board concerning the minutes, funding requests, progress and final reports, and grants payment schedule with none.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the conversations in the individual committees, and from the staff’s perspective, more discussions are necessary to discuss the fit within the District and make recommendations. The report presented to the Board highlights the connection of housing as a social determinant of health, legal counsels review of the funding mechanisms, and whether a recoverable grant is in the best interest of all parties. The housing catalyst has the potential as an action item at the January Board meeting after further evaluation. The timeline for moving forward with an announcement from Lift to Rise as inquired by Vice-President Borja is February.</p>	



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<p>1. Draft Meeting Minutes December 08, 2020</p> <p>2. Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund – A Bold Housing Investment Solution, Lift to Rise & Riverside County Housing Authority</p>	<p>Director Shorr described the minutes of the December 8, F&A Committee meeting.</p> <p>Director Shorr explained the lengthy discussion concerning the Housing Catalyst Fund and the matter as outlined by Dr. Bárzaga, which was deferred to legal counsel. Counsel will produce recommendations and supposing there is a pathway for the fund, there will be an evaluation of the program as opposed to supporting other programs and the magnitude of the request, including capacity. The committee will revisit once counsel provides direction at the next meeting.</p> <p>Director Zendle explained that the Strategic Planning Committee has not discussed the catalyst fund and the importance of whether it fits in the Districts long term and short-term strategic goals for scheduling in January.</p> <p>Director Rogers inquired on the history of the District in terms of past investments in housing, such as the housing initiation of the Desert AIDS Project, or other instances that the District has made similar investments in other Special Districts. President De Lara directed the CEO and CAO to respond to the history of the District and other Districts investments in housing.</p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained that the fund is not a one-time project but the development of a long-term capital</p>	
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	fund leveraging monies from private, state, and county entities. As the discussions move forward, the District does not necessarily need to decide in January and agrees with President De Lara concerning additional education and what contributions would mean for the District.	
J. Old Business	There was no old business.	
K. New Business	There was no new business	
L. Legal		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AB 571 – Political Reform of 1974: Contribution Limits 2. AB 2151 – Political Reform Act of 1974: Online Filing and Disclosure System 	Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described and provided background on AB 571 and AB 2151. Counsel Scott will provide additional information on contribution limitations related to Special Districts.	
M. Immediate Issues and Comments	In February 2017, Director Rogers explained that the Board approved a \$2M allocation to the Behavioral Health initiative with a plan for activities and final deliveries. In March 2019, the Board approved a mental health needs assessment conducted by EVALCORP with findings and recommendations presented at Supervisor Perez’s Green Ribbon Committee Summit, and the Directors unanimous agreement in October 2019 with proactive steps for resources and accountability with direction from the Board to the CEO to include a proposal and budget for a Behavioral Health Coordinator. Given that the matters of Behavioral Health and Homelessness are tied together as District priorities, Director Rogers requested standing progress reports on Board agendas for both items. Dr. Bárzaga will provide a	



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	<p>report update next month with ongoing reports per the direction of President De Lara.</p> <p>President De Lara explained that she is pleased that Director Zavala is joining the Board and looks forward to orienting her on current matters, major issues, and future anticipated topics.</p>	
N. Adjournment	<p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</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