



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
January 26, 2021**

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 5:30 p.m. 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 provided a report out of the closed session to discuss a trade secret matter with no action taken. President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#21-20 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers,



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		Director PerezGil, Director Zendle, Director Shorr, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0
D. Public Comment	Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained that on behalf of Supervisor Perez, he thanked the District for the successful COVID testing program at Tudor Ranch, a model that could not be accomplished without the work of the District.	
E. Consent Agenda		
1. BOARD MINUTES a. Special Meeting of the Board of Directors – December 10, 2020 b. Board of Directors Meeting – December 15, 2020 2. FINANCIALS a. Approval of the December 2020 Financial Statements – F&A Approved January 12, 2021 3. AGREEMENTS a. T-Mobile 3rd Amendment to the Communications Cell Site Lease Renewal Sublease Agreement at Desert Regional Medical Center 4. GRANTS a. Consideration to approve Grant #1147 – Alzheimer’s Association Critical Program Support – \$33,264 b. Consideration to approve Grant #1136 – Inland Empire Ronald McDonald House –	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.	#21-21 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President Borja and seconded by Director Zendle 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 NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0



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<p>Temporary Housing and Family Support Services – \$119,432</p> <p>c. Consideration to approve Grant #1162 – Cove Communities Senior Association dba The Joslyn Center – Joslyn Wellness Center Program Support – \$109,130</p>		
<p>F. Appointment of Committees</p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained that each year in January, the President appoints the Directors to various committees with the new committees illustrated in the packet, and no action is necessary.</p>	
<p>G. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <p>1. COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign for Underserved Communities in the Coachella Valley</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the communities facing a disproportionate impact from COVID, further detailing the most recent activities with numerous organizations for a community-wide strategy. The first successful vaccination event was last week, with vaccinations to communities most in need and removing as many barriers as possible for access to healthcare with culturally and linguistically competent access.</p> <p>President De Lara thanked the staff and stated that the Board is proud and fortunate to have the mobilization of the District’s vaccination efforts.</p>	



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<p>2. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) – Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that when the COVID outreach occurred, it is important that the District manage and understand its role in the community, contributing to the response of the virus. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), provided guidance on the meaning of a critical essential worker to mobilize during the stay-at-home orders, describing the organizations that are using the guidance, including the Association of California Healthcare Districts as guidance and considered a part of the essential infrastructure.</p>	
<p>3. Consideration to approve the MVP Consulting Group Proposal for recruiting a Behavioral Health Senior Program Officer</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the initial recruitment for a senior program officer and the prior offer letter to a qualified candidate, which was hindered due to COVID and impractical at the time. Dr. Bárzaga provided details on MVP Consulting, a recruiting firm specializing in behavioral health administration for consideration of approval for recruiting a senior program officer.</p>	<p>#21-22 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the MVP Consulting Group proposal. 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>H. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, explained that the last 30-days have been the busiest since the start of the pandemic, describing the highest peak</p>	



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	<p>census of COVID positive patients at 130 with a high acuity of treated patients in the facility and running at 200% of critical care capacity, 62% in ICU excluding the neonatal intensive care unit, but the numbers are currently down to the high 80% low 90% range. To sustain the activity there are temporary COVID flex approvals from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) with eleven different approvals and six on space usage for the patients presenting to the facility regardless of the licensed bed space availability, which has resulted in department moves and conversions for ICU capability. Four of the waivers are for staffing nurse to patient ratio, patient care, state ratio, extended state ratio, or overextended state ratio, which requires a team nursing model and filing a report with CDPH. Fifty traveling RN nurses have been onboarded with an additional ten respiratory therapists.</p> <p>All facility letters to CDPH include one for restricting in-patient elective procedures, and the other letter of compliance is for crisis care standards, a statewide effort, such as decision-making to allocate resources.</p>	
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	<p>A new service offered at the request of the community and medical staff is local access to the monoclonal antibiotic infusion center, which is open with appointments moving forward. Approximately 3,500 individuals have been vaccinated with the healthcare workers and first responders over 65 years of age. DRMC began vaccinating the cancer center patients over the age of 65, a task force is monitoring the next steps from the governor for the next vaccine eligibility, and staff is coordinating with the county of Riverside for potential mass vaccination sites.</p> <p>DRMC staff is fatigued and it is difficult to continue to watch individuals that succumb to the virus; thus, DRMC is issuing recognition and appreciation with live discharges back to patient environments by playing Here Comes the Sun by the Beatles as patients are discharged.</p> <p>New bills were passed in January requiring execution for compliance with AB 2537 for PPE stock on-hand, and AB 685 for exposure notification and reporting.</p> <p>In regard to standard daily hospital operations, there is a major rebuild with design and equipment for sterilizing</p>	
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	<p>instruments over the past two years with the third phases completed and commencing the fourth and final phase in the coming months.</p>	
<p>I.1. Program Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2021 2. Pending Funding Requests 3. Grants Payment Schedule <p>I.2. Finance, Legal, Administration & Real Estate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021 	<p>Director PerezGil inquired on any questions of the Board concerning the minutes, funding requests, and grants payment schedule.</p> <p>Director Zendle requested a quarterly grant payment schedule summary for last year to compare with this year, similar to the briefing on homelessness.</p> <p>Director Shorr described the extensive discussions about the operating budget, positive revenue, positive variance in salary, bank charges, the Park Imperial Lease request by the homeowners, and the T-Mobile cell site lease renewal.</p> <p>Vice-President Borja requested details concerning the history of the Park Imperial Lease with Chris Christensen, CAO, explaining the property location, the District as recipients of the master lease from a party that passed away, and granted the property to the District with a sublease by Sovereign Group</p>	



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<p>I.3. Strategic Planning Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Meeting Minutes – January 19, 2021 2. Housing as a Social Determinant of Health – 	<p>receiving \$15k per year, and the District receiving approx. \$9k per year of the earnings. The lease of 98 years expires in 2057, is approaching the 36 years remaining, and the homeowners association is concerned about mortgage companies as the loan approaches 30-35 years with an interest in extending the lease with the District or purchasing the property from the District, further explaining that exploratory options will be presented to the Board at a later date.</p> <p>Since the District is halfway through the fiscal year, Director Rogers inquired on a more proactive approach to the nonprofits concerning grant funds availability. However, Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that there are limitations due to AB 2019 for grant solicitations, but the District is exploring and surveying community-based organizations, former grantees, and non-grantees to determine why the District does not have as many grant applications.</p> <p>Director Zendle described the minutes of the January 19 meeting, specifically the housing catalyst fund and agreement that housing is a social determinant of health; however, it was difficult to discuss without the project</p>	
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<p>Coachella Valley Housing Catalyst Fund – Lift to Rise & Riverside County Housing Authority</p> <p>3. Community Health Needs Assessment and Health Improvement Plan Update</p> <p>4. 2021 Strategic Plan Input/Feedback</p>	<p>having a proposal that is clearly defined to fit into the overall strategies, further describing the community health needs assessment and hiring a consultant to assist with the strategic plan.</p>	
<p>J. Old Business</p> <p>1. CV Link Q4 Progress Report</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) CV Link Q4 progress report is available for review in the packet, inquiring on any questions of the Board.</p>	
<p>K. New Business</p>	<p>There was no new business</p>	
<p>L. Legal</p> <p>1. Update on Applicability of AB 571</p> <p>2. Preview of 2021 Legislation</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described the AB 571 prior discussions and the contributions to Special Healthcare Districts, which do not apply to special districts; however, while not common, special district boards have the authority to pass limitations.</p> <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described the upcoming 2021 legislation and the surplus with an additional \$20B of a resiliency fund for groups suffering from the pandemic, which is listed in the report.</p>	



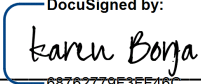
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	<p>Vice-President Borja inquired about the new \$10k release of funding for nonprofits, which Director Zendle suggested at last month's meeting, and for the District to consider supporting others or placing funding in a collective fund.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that the COVID-19 Recovery Collective Fund is developing a joint application with the nonprofits, the District will sponsor five organizations for a grant-writing course, and presenting to the Program Committee.</p>	
<p>M. Immediate Issues and Comments</p>	<p>Director Zendle described the three grants approved in the consent agenda, explaining that they were lost in the meeting and inquiring if there is a way to have the opportunity to highlight the grants the District is providing to nonprofits and move it out of consent, but with a brief overview.</p> <p>President De Lara provided an overview of the work of Fr. Francisco Valdovinos, priest at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church who recently succumbed to COVID-19, further describing Fr. Valdovinos warmth, humor, and strength as a respected community leader serving as an important ally in the efforts of Riverside County and the Coachella Valley Equity</p>	



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	<p>Collaborative by granting access to COVID-19 testing for many of the valley’s vulnerable residents and his parishioners.</p> <p>Director Shorr suggested a tribute with a plague or similar for the church as a demonstration of the District’s work with Fr. Valdovinos in a historical context.</p> <p>Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director, provided an overview of Fr. Valdovinos work, community impact, and his involvement in the District’s COVID-19 Collaborative.</p>	
N. Adjournment	<p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting in memory of Fr. Francisco Valdovinos at 7:03 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</p>

DocuSigned by:

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

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