DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2021

Directors & Community Members Present	District Staff Present via Video Conference	Absent
Chair, Evett PerezGil Vice-President Karen Borja	Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, Chief Executive Officer Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Director of Outreach Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Erica Huskey, Administrative and Program Assistant Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board	Director Carole Rogers, RN

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
I. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m. by Chair PerezGil.	
II. Approval of Agenda	Chair PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	**Moved and seconded by Vice-President Borja and Director PerezGil to approve the agenda.** **Motion passed unanimously.**
III. Meeting Minutes 　**1. December 08, 2020**	Chair PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the December 08, 2020 minutes.	**Moved and seconded by Vice-President Borja and Director PerezGil to approve the December 08, 2020 meeting minutes.** **Motion passed unanimously.**
IV. Public Comment	There was no public comment.	
V. New Business	There was no new business.	
VI. Old Business 　**1. Homelessness Initiative** 　　**a. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) $700,000 Letter of Intent Match for the CV Housing First Program** 　**2. Behavioral Health Initiative** 　　**a. Senior Program Officer Recruitment**	During the District meeting, the committee discussed the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) letter of intent, such as the regional collaborative approach still in place with Riverside County, including the continuum of care. Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained that staff is exploring the possibility of a different pool of candidates using the recruiting firm MVP Consulting	

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	that specializes in behavioral health professionals in administrative and clinical roles. Director Zavala, with a background in mental health, is not familiar with MVP Consulting but she will research the organization.	

3. Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative
    a. Vaccination Distribution Plan
    b. Current Vaccination Phases and Tier System
	Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, highlighted the community challenges for those living in rural areas affected by COVID with a 40% positivity rate, which is 22% statewide, also describing the need to address the mental health impact. District staff is working with and meeting with the Department of Public Health Mental Health to also address the mental health impact in the high positivity rate communities. The work with the county will assist to identify resources for deploying community efforts.
	
	The Department of Homeland Security issued guidance on essential critical infrastructure for workers to continue employment and perform their jobs safely. The District is one of the essential critical infrastructures, which allows staff to obtain the COVID vaccination. Staff will forward to the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers Ability to Work During the COVID-19 Response to the Program Committee and include the document with the meeting minutes.	

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	As the county moves into vaccination efforts, the District is providing an active hands-on role in testing and working with trained promotoras as the county moves into the vaccination efforts, there is an upcoming call concerning an immunization campaign and how the District can assist. Vice-President Borja described the long lines and wait times at urgent care facilities, and the need for Rapid Testing, further explaining the importance of the small media markets to push the vaccine for accurate information. Greg Rodriguez, Government Affairs and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, explained the findings with the false-negative tests, including analysis with no change in the false-negative rates versus the curative tests.	
4. Update – Advancing the District's Role in Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities in the Coachella Valley **a. Request for Proposals (RFP) – Updated Timeline – Access to Healthcare Strategies - $575,000 ($400,000 DHCD + $100,000 Inland Empire**	Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained the adjusted timeline of the request for proposals with the due date of February 12 and various inquiries from interested parties.	

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Health Plan (IEHP) + $75,000 Lift to Rise) b. **Expanding Racial Diversity in the Health Profession Workforce – $100,000 OneFuture Coachella Valley Black and African American Healthcare Student Scholarships**	Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the background of the health workforce component of expanding racial diversity with $400k for access and $100k for scholarships; however, since the initial release of the initiative, a year is not adequate nor is $100k. Staff will request that the Board allocate an additional $100k for 2 years. Sheila Thornton, President/CEO, OneFuture Coachella Valley explained that the proposal is based on using the current infrastructure and for the capacity to build a fund. The two-part component to explore students in healthcare pathways, then using the OneFuture to build a sustaining fund in partnership with other collaborators interested in adding to the fund. Vice President Borja inquired concerning OneFuture Coachella Valley connecting with the Black student unions of the Cal State Universities and the University of California Riverside, including the District's long-term financial commitment to scholarships for Black students given the link between the socioeconomic issues Lift To Rise has reported regarding Black families. Chair PerezGil inquired about any questions of the committee	

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5. Grant Payment Schedules	members on the grant payment schedule.	
VII. Committee Member Comments	Chair PerezGil thanked the staff for their efforts with the grants and successful work in the community.	
VIII. Adjournment	Chair PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.	***Audio recording available on the website at*** http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents

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DocuSigned by:

Evett PerezGil
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ATTEST: _____
Evett PerezGil, Chair/Director Program Committee

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