



DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
September 28, 2021

Directors Present – Video Conference	District Staff Present – Video Conference	Absent
Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja Director Arthur Shorr Director Carole Rogers, RN Director Les Zendle, MD Director Evett PerezGil Director Carmina Zavala	Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Chief of Community Engagement Jana Trew, Senior Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Eric Taylor, Accounting Manager Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Erica Huskey, Administrative and Program Assistant Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	President Leticia De Lara

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	Vice-President Borja called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in President De Lara’s absence. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all except President De Lara.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	Vice-President Borja led the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	Vice-President Borja congratulated Director Carmina Zavala, recognized as Trustee of the year by the Association of California Healthcare Districts, announced during the annual meeting. Vice-President Borja asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#21-59 MOTION WAS MADE by Director PerezGil and seconded by Director Zavala to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 President De Lara
D. Public Comment		



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<p>E. Consent Agenda</p> <p>1. BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>a. Board of Directors Meeting – July 27, 2021</p> <p>b. Special Meeting of the Board – August 25, 2021</p> <p>c. Special Meeting of the Board – September 9, 2021</p> <p>d. Special Meeting of the Board – September 11, 2021</p> <p>2. FINANCIALS</p> <p>a. Approval of the July and August 2021 Financial Statements – F&A Approved September 14, 2021</p> <p>3. POLICIES</p> <p>a. BOD-12 – Minutes of Board Meetings</p> <p>b. BOD-13 – Memberships in Organizations, Training, Education, Conferences, and Reimbursement Procedure</p> <p>c. BOD-14 – Ethics Training and Education Training Related to Workplace Harassment</p> <p>d. OP-11 – Procurement of Purchase Contracts and Professional Services</p> <p>e. OP-12 – Compensation</p> <p>f. OP-14 – Staff Expense Authorization</p>	<p>Vice-President Borja pulled items 3.a. and 3.d. from the consent agenda for discussion, and item 1.a. by Director Rogers is intended for the Foundation consent agenda.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, CAO, described the minor modifications to 3.a., Policy BOD-12 – Minutes of the Board, such as removing language for the recordings in a locked fire-resistant cabinet and noting late arrivals and early departures in the minutes.</p> <p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, described the modifications to item 3.d. and the \$50k threshold for professional services contracts. Vice-President Borja also requested an explanation of the Professional Services – CEO Authorized Services up to \$25k with Chris Christensen, CAO, and Dr. Bárzaga outlining the circumstances when the policy would apply. After discussion concerning fiduciary duties and emergency situations, the Board and Vice-President Borja agreed to leave the policy language as it stands without any additional adjustments.</p>	<p>#21-60 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the consent agenda with the pulling of items 3a. and 3.d. Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 President De Lara</p> <p>#21-61 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 President De Lara</p>
<p>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <p>1. COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign for Underserved</p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, described the update on</p>	



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<p>Communities in the Coachella Valley</p>	<p>COVID-19 related to the high case rates; however, the numbers are lower with an increase in the vaccination rates at 76% and closer to 80% for the two-dose vaccinations for the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley also has a higher vaccination rate than the county but lacks equal distribution in some communities, such as the city of Coachella with the lowest vaccination rates, the highest COVID cases, and mortality rates.</p> <p>Director Shorr recommended a press release for releasing the District’s vaccination data with Dr. Bárzaga explaining that he and Will Dean, Communications and Marketing Director are working on an updated release as the Coachella Valley approaches the 80% vaccination rate.</p>	
<p>2. Financial Audit & A-133 Audit Update</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the financial audit is in the final draft review stages with completion by September 30. The financial audit will be presented at the October 12 F&A Committee meeting with consideration for board approval at the October Board meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Rezoning Update – National Demographic Corporation (NDC)</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained the most recent meeting with NDC concerning the census data, which is still being reviewed with a better understanding to</p>	



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<p>4. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Pilot Program</p> <p>5. Special Meeting of the Board – Third and Final Strategic Planning Session – Saturday, October 9 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.</p> <p>6. Governance Workshop, Martin Rauch, Rauch Communications – November 2021</p> <p>7. Community Engagements and Presentations</p>	<p>present the maps by October 15 in advance of the October Board meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that some Board members and all staff will participate in the Association of Healthcare Districts (ACHD) October Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) training, further outlining the prior session and the upcoming training.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the final strategic planning session with a definitive version, discussion with recommendations, and a final vote in October.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained that the next Governance Workshop facilitated by Rauch Communications is on November 8.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the community engagements and presentations highlighting meetings with partners to increase the vaccination rates.</p>	
<p>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) provided an update describing the decline in the COIVD average daily census at Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC) and JFK Memorial Hospital. A 35 Average Daily Census (ADC) rate was reported for the month of</p>	



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	<p>August now declining to between 20-25. JFK's average daily census is 15 and above and decreasing to 10 ADC. 80% of the patients requiring hospitalization are the unvaccinated population.</p> <p>Healthcare workers' and hospitals' vaccination requirements deadline is September 30, with DRMC and JFK employees currently meeting the deadline at 80%. 100% of DRMC's medical staff is compliant, some vaccine clinics are onsite, and the upcoming booster shot will be available to staff.</p> <p>JFK is the first facility designated as a level 4 trauma center in Riverside County with a 24/7 resource facility to secure higher levels of care while also working closing with the county.</p> <p>DRMC's hip and knee program had a review by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JACHO) for the standards of care with 100% compliance and no recommendations for improvements with the quality care continuing to evolve.</p> <p>The new director of pediatrics for DRMC and JFK is Board Certified and a member of Loma Linda University Medical Center's (LLUMC) faculty physician to elevate pediatrics</p>	
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	<p>care in the community, and DRMC contracts with LLUMC).</p> <p>The onboarding of a new member of the marketing team was hired at DRMC who previously worked with Supervisor Perez’s Office as the marketing coordinator for community outreach and events.</p> <p>Refurbishing and upgrades at DRMC and JFK include an instant security system at DRMC, a CT scanner addition to the Cancer Center, and a replacement at JFK totaling two CT scanners and operating room renovations with the lighting.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board</p>	<p>Director Zendle described the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and JACHO reports from the Quality Department, a presentation on the peer-review process that occurs each month as outlined on care to ensure patient safety and protect the due process of each practicing physician. The Governing Board also explained that 80% of the hospitalized COVID patients are unvaccinated, with higher rates for critical care units at 90-95%.</p>	
<p>I. Board and Staff Communications & Policies Committee</p> <p>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021</p>	<p>Director Zendle, Chair, Board and Staff Communications & Policies Committee, inquired on any questions concerning the minutes of the meeting,</p>	



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<p>I.2. Finance, Legal, Administration & Real Estate</p> <p>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021</p>	<p>explaining that Policy OP-16, the tabled item, will be brought back to the Committee and Board at a later date.</p> <p>Director Shorr provided an overview of the F&A Committee meeting minutes highlighting the CARES Act audit and realigning the Retirement Protection Plan accrual.</p>	
<p>J. Old Business</p> <p>1. Q2 CV Link Progress Report</p>	<p>Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), provided an overview and update of the Q2 CV Link Progress Report highlighting the next quarterly report and describing a grand opening in Palm Desert on October 23 at 5 p.m., further answering questions of the Board.</p>	
<p>K. Legal</p> <p>1. AB-361 - Open meetings: state and local agencies: Teleconferences</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, provided an overview of AB 361, describing the emergency ordinances related to teleconference meetings, explaining the timing of the bill, which requires two resolutions due to the suspension on September 30, AB 361 effective October 1, further describing the resolutions.</p> <p>Director Zandle explained the importance of in person Board meetings when reasonably possible.</p>	



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<p>2. Consideration to approve Resolution #21-03 authorizing remote teleconference meetings for the Desert Healthcare District during periods of Emergencies in accordance with the Brown Act.</p>		<p>#21-62 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the Resolution #21-03 authorizing remote teleconference meetings for the Desert Healthcare District during periods of Emergencies in accordance with the Brown Act. Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 Vice-President/Secretary Borja, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, Director Zendle, Director PerezGil, and Director Zavala NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 President De Lara</p>
<p>L. Immediate Issues and Comments</p>	<p>Director Rogers provided an overview of the Association of Healthcare Districts (AHD) Annual Meeting explaining the studies and findings, including highlighting the speaker and the possibility of obtaining the links to the recordings. Director Rogers also provided details on SB 9 and SB 10 related to housing, planning, and zoning signed by the governor to help alleviate the affordable housing crisis.</p>	
<p>M. Adjournment</p>	<p>Vice-President Borja adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</p>

DocuSigned by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carole Rogers". Below the signature is a blue DocuSign verification code: "1558BA6E4BDD4C1".

ATTEST: _____

Carole Rogers, Acting Vice-President/Secretary
Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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