



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 24, 2022**

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

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>A. Call to Order</b>  <b>Roll Call</b>	President Borja called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.  The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors present except Director Zendle, MD.	
<b>B. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	President Borja led the Pledge of Allegiance.	
<b>C. Approval of Agenda</b>	President Borja acknowledged the horrors of the mass shootings throughout the nation over the past months and weeks, pausing for a moment of silence.  President Boja asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	<b>#21-95 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda.</b> <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b> <b>AYES – 6 President Borja, Vice-President PerezGil, Secretary Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, and Director De Lara</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 1 Director Zendle</b>
<b>D. Public Comment</b>	Brad Anderson, Rancho Mirage Resident, described the qualms of virtual public participation since he uses a pre-paid phone service, requesting an 800	



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	<p>number for expense purposes also to ease the financial burden on others. Mr. Anderson asked for consideration to dissolve the district, explaining that he believes the purpose and mission are corrupted from the district's original mission, also requesting public comment on consent agenda item 6. a.</p>	
<p><b>E. Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b></p> <p>    a. Board of Directors Meeting – April 26, 2022</p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p>    a. Approval of the April 2022 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved May 10, 2022</p> <p>    b. FY2022-2023 Annual Budget</p> <p><b>3. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA</b></p> <p>    a. Las Palmas Medical Plaza – Early Lease Termination – Suite 1W 104 – Dr. Bencheqroun</p> <p><b>4. AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>    a. Consulting Services Agreement for NPO Centric – Education and Training for Results Based Accountability (RBA) and Clear Impact Platforms – NTE \$48,000</p> <p>    b. VMG Engagement Letter – Desert Regional Medical Center Appraisal Report – NTE \$137,000 plus expenses</p> <p>    c. Simpson Gumpertz &amp; Heger (SGH) Proposal for Consulting Services Seismic Compliance Evaluation Phase 1 – NTE \$26,800 plus expenses</p> <p><b>5. GRANTS</b></p>	<p>President Borja pulled item 6.a. from the consent agenda for public comment purposes of Mr. Brad Anderson.</p> <p>Director De Lara requested pulling item 4.a. due to a conflict of interest and recusing herself from the vote.</p> <p>Public Comment: Brad Anderson, Rancho Mirage Resident, described item 6.a. related to remote meetings, his opposition, requesting that the Board does not accept the resolution for emergency meetings since board members are attending public events and not achieving their civic duties by not having public participation at a venue. Although there is legislation in Sacramento that will allow the Board to continue with remote meetings – it is a morally wrong issue and votes may be suspected of corrupt action.</p>	<p><b>#21-96 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director De Lara to approve the consent agenda pulling items 4.a. and 6.a.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 6</b> President Borja, Vice-President PerezGil, Secretary Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, and Director De Lara</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 1</b> Director Zendle</p> <p><b>#21-97 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President PerezGil and seconded by Director Rogers to approve consent agenda item 4.a.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 5</b> President Borja, Vice-President PerezGil, Secretary Zavala, Director Shorr, and Director Rogers</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>RECUSAL – 1</b> Director De Lara</p> <p><b>ABSENT – 1</b> Director Zendle</p> <p><b>#21-98 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Rogers to approve item 6.a. of the consent agenda.</b></p>



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<p>a. <b>Grant #1314 Voices for Children: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program – \$60,000. Goals 2 and 3 – Access to primary and specialty care and Access to behavioral care. Strategies 2.7 and 3.7 Utilize and equity lens to expand services and resources to underserved communities and collaborate/partner with community providers to enhance access to culturally sensitive behavioral/mental health services.</b></p> <p><b>6. RESOLUTIONS</b></p> <p>a. <b>Subsequent Emergency Resolution #22-10 Re-Ratifying the State of Emergency and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings</b></p>		<p><b>Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President Borja, Vice-President PerezGil, Secretary Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Rogers, and Director De Lara NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Zendle</b></p>
<p><b>F. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</b></p> <p><b>1. COVID-19 Coachella Valley Update</b></p> <p><b>2. Seismic Legislative Affairs</b></p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, described the increase in COVID-19 cases and collaborations with Riverside County Public Health to promote vaccinations with events for underserved populations, and an anticipation of an escalation of activities since the approval of the booster shot recommendation for younger children.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described collaborations with other district CEOs and legislative efforts for funding the seismic</p>	



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	<p>retrofit. Assemblymember Garcia has submitted a budget request of \$1B to support the seismic retrofit efforts to assist district hospitals in financing the mandate for the 2030 deadline. Staff is monitoring the request and contacting local legislators for their support.</p>	
<p><b>3. CEO Community Engagements and District Media Visibility</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the monthly participation of events for his community engagements.</p>	
<p><b>4. Board Policies and Resolution Update</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the budgeting process and updating policy BOD-21 for increasing the monthly meeting stipends from \$105 to \$110, which requires an ordinance for approval at the June board meeting. In the meantime, notification will be published in the local newspaper. The healthcare insurance premium will require an update to the policy for an annual increase from \$10,000 to \$10,600, that requires a resolution for approval at the June board meeting.</p>	
<p><b>5. In-Person Board Meetings</b></p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, explained as directed by the board for a report enabling the return to in-person meetings, describing the existing law for virtual meetings through January 1, 2024, and the importance of public participation. The district has acquired technology to allow for a hybrid model of</p>	



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	<p>meetings for the public to attend in-person or virtually. Staff will be testing the technology in the coming weeks for returning to in-person board meetings.</p>	
<p><b>G. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</b></p>	<p>Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), Desert Care Network (DCN), provided the CEO report in Michelle Finney’s absence. There’s a slight increase in patients with COVID; 11 positives at DRMC, 1 at JFK Memorial, 1 at the continuing care facility, and Hi-Desert Medical Center has no cases. All facilities have plentiful PPE on hand, and vaccinations are continuous for employees and providers.</p> <p>A new physician advisor has been promoted within Tenet Health, focusing on regulatory compliance, efficient utilization of services, and documentation of integrity efforts. DRMC has improved the ability for more local recruitment of staff physicians’ knowledgeable of the community with multiple hires and referral bonuses. A new diversity council is established with 13 employee volunteers to explore policies, practices, and educational opportunities for diversity and inclusion.</p> <p>Capital projects are ongoing, the removal of the palm trees is complete, and the replacement trees will begin</p>	



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	<p>over the weekend. The installation of the security system in labor and delivery is complete and a second CT scanner in the x-ray room is underway with completion in the coming months. The Pyxis and Omnicell automated pharmacy medication replacement system is near completion, and the cath labs are in the design phase, with construction commencing later in the year. The wireless network is being enhanced campus-wide, in Sinatra 4 and 5 DRMC is awaiting approval from Health Access and Information (HCAI), formerly OSHPD, for the isolation rooms, operating room lights replacement, and additional cameras in the parking garage, emergency department, and inside the facility. After an assessment from staff, EKG machines, transport monitors, ultrasounds, new sleep sofas and gliders in the labor and delivery area, high-frequency ventilators for the NICU, and other equipment are underway for replacement and add-on.</p> <p>DRMC completed a successful Riverside County STEMI survey, DCN has engagement sponsored and attended numerous events in the community, and an American flag unveiling at the Stergios building similar to the Pride flag in honor of Memorial Day.</p>	
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<p><b>H. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board</b></p>	<p>Director Rogers, RN, described the report on the status of the trauma center by the trauma center director. DRMC trauma covers a large area, such as the AZ and Mexico borders, with a comparable number of trauma patients as UCLA Medical Center. JFK Memorial is a level 4 trauma center, licensed as level 3 in the coming months, and DRMC is a level 2 trauma center also soon advancing to a trauma 1. The successful Riverside County STEMI survey for acute heart attacks, as described by Mrs. Evans, is judged on several items, such as the time of arrival of the patient to the emergency room and time of treatment or surgery, which are important components. A report on the California Hospital Association accounted for 51% of hospitals in the nation operating in the red with a workforce dilemma labeled the great resignation with physicians and nurses retiring. 2.6M more nurses are needed over a 7–10-year recovery period related to the impact of COVID.</p>	
<p><b>I. Committee Meetings –</b></p> <p><b>I.1. Finance, Legal, Administration &amp; Real Estate</b></p> <p><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2022</b></p> <p><b>2. District &amp; RPP Investment Reports 1Q22 –</b></p>	<p>Director Shorr, Chair, F&amp;A Committee, described the low return on investments in the past and foreseeable future.</p>	



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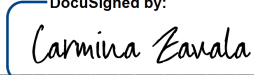
<p><b>3. Consulting Services Agreement – Prest/Vuksic/Greenwood (Chris Mills) – Architectural/Engineering Services for Clinical Projects – Hourly NTE \$5,000</b></p> <p><b>I.2. Program Committee</b></p> <p><b>1. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2022</b></p> <p><b>2. Grant Payment Schedule</b></p> <p><b>3. Grant applications and Request for Proposals submitted and under review</b></p> <p><b>4. Progress and Final Reports</b></p>	<p>Chris Christensen, CAO, provided a brief overview of the architectural consulting services agreement for possible opportunities to enhance the Coachella Valley healthcare infrastructure.</p> <p>Vice-President PerezGil, Chair, Program Committee, described the committee’s authorization of the \$60k grant to Voices for Children, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, which the board approved in the consent agenda.</p>	
<p><b>J. Old Business</b></p> <p><b>1. CV Link Q1 Progress Report</b></p> <p><b>a. CV Link FY2022 Invoice – \$1.67M</b></p>	<p>Erica Felci, Assistant Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), updated the board on the various groundbreaking ceremonies while also outlining the economic factors as requested by President Borja.</p>	
<p><b>K. Legal</b></p>	<p>There were no legal updates.</p>	
<p><b>L. Immediate Issues and Comments</b></p>	<p>Director De Lara described the Mecca Sports Park groundbreaking ceremony as a representative of the district, thanking Vice-President PerezGil, Director Zavala, and others that attended the event.</p> <p>Director Rogers, RN, summarized a link to the public</p>	





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	<p>health association on a study about affordable housing proposing to expand and augment the homelessness and behavioral health initiatives by \$1M for both while describing her conversation with Linda Barrack, CEO, Martha’s Village &amp; Kitchen, and suggestions for a matching fund to offer to the entire community with potential donors. Director Rogers inquired about a consensus from the board to allow staff to report back at the June meeting. Further, Director Rogers explained the unspent grant funds during this fiscal year. President Borja directed staff to produce a recommendation to present at the June meeting.</p>	
<p><b>M. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>President Borja adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Audio recording available on the website at <a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a></b></p>

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
DocuSigned by:  
  
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 Carmina Zavala, PsyD, Secretary  
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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