



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 26, 2023**

<b>Directors Present</b>	<b>District Staff Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
President Evett PerezGil Vice-President Carmina Zavala, PsyD Secretary Carole Rogers, RN Treasurer Arthur Shorr Director Les Zendle, MD Director Leticia De Lara, MPA Director Kimberly Barraza	Chris Christensen, Interim CEO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, Chief of Community Engagement Jana Trew, Senior Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Andrea S. Hayles, Board Relations Officer  <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>A. Call to Order</b>  <b>Roll Call</b>	President PerezGil called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.  The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors present except Vice-President Zavala who joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.	
<b>B. Pledge of Allegiance</b>	President PerezGil led the pledge of allegiance.	
<b>C. Approval of Agenda</b>	President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	<b>#23-51 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the agenda.</b> <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b> <b>AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 0</b>
<b>D. Public Comment</b>	Letters emailed from Edward Kissam, Co-Trustee, Werner-Kohnstamm Family Giving Fund, Brad Anderson, Rancho Mirage Resident, and Sergio	



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	<p>Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD, Director, Center for Reducing Health Disparities, UC Davis, are attached to the meeting minutes.</p> <p>The following individuals provided public comments supporting former CEO Conrado Bárzaga, MD:</p> <p>Ricardo Loretta, Executive Director, Dr. Carreon Foundation</p> <p>Belen Navarro, Promotora, Vision y Compromiso</p> <p>Heather Vaikona, CEO of Lift to Rise</p> <p>Joey Acuna, Jr., Board Member, CVUSD</p> <p>Greg Rodriguez, deputy director of Housing and Workforce Solutions, Riverside County</p> <p>Debbie Arthur, read a letter on behalf of Maria Lemmus, Executive Director, Vision Y Compromiso (attached to the meeting minutes)</p> <p>Ezra Kaufman, a Palm Desert Resident, provided his concerns with the Tenet lease renewal proposal as presented at the September 18 special meeting of the Board.</p>	
<p><b>E. Consent Agenda</b></p> <p><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>a. Board of Directors – July 25, 2023</b></p> <p><b>2. FINANCIALS</b></p> <p><b>a. Approval of the Preliminary June 2023 and July and</b></p>	<p>President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.</p>	<p><b>#23-52 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Baraza and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the consent agenda except item E.3.a., E5.a., and E.7.e. Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>



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<p><b>August 2023 Financial Statements– F&amp;A Approved July 19, 2023 &amp; September 13, 2023</b></p> <p><b>3. APPOINTMENTS</b></p> <p><b>a. Appointment of Chris Christensen as Interim Chief Executive Officer</b></p> <p><b>4. LEASE AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p><b>a. Las Palmas Medical Plaza – Lease Renewal – Dr. Awad – Suite #3W-105 – 5 years</b></p> <p><b>5. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING</b></p> <p><b>a. Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District – Medical Trailer for Filling Medical Prescriptions and Providing Healthcare to the Underserved Populations in the Coachella Valley with an emphasis on Agricultural Workers - \$140,000</b></p> <p><b>6. AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p><b>a. Termination of the agreement between Magdalena Martinez dba Personnel 411 Consulting and the Desert Healthcare District</b></p> <p><b>7. POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>a. Policy #BOD-04 – Attendance at Meetings</b></p> <p><b>b. Policy #BOD-05 – Basis of Authority</b></p> <p><b>c. Policy #BOD-07 – Board Meeting Agenda</b></p> <p><b>d. Policy #BOD-12 – Minutes of Board &amp; Committee Meetings</b></p>	<p>Director De Lara pulled items E3.a. and E5.a., and Director Zendle pulled item E.7.e.</p> <p>Director De Lara thanked former CEO Conrado B�rzsaga for his leadership, especially during the pandemic.</p> <p>Director Barraza described Dr. B�rzsaga’s value to the community, thanked him for his service, and encouraged the public to support the District in the executive search for a new CEO.</p> <p>Director Shorr described Interim CEO Chris Christensen’s work as the CFO and CAO and highly qualified as the Interim CEO.</p> <p>Director De Lara described the efforts of staff in leading the supplemental mobile unit and the partnership with the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District as noted in the staff report for item E.5.a. The Board discussed the operations of the mobile unit and a modification to the MOU excluding filling medical prescriptions as a component of providing healthcare to the underserved populations and additional options for future proposals with a minimum of two choices.</p> <p>Director Zendle described the recent discussions and referencing item 1.6 of E.7.e.</p>	<p><b>AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, Director Barraza</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSTAIN – 0</b></p> <p><b>#23-53 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Rogers to approve item E.3.a.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed 5-0.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 5 President PerezGil, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, and Director De Lara</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSTAIN – 2 Vice-President Zavala and Director Barraza</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> <p><b>#23-54 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Barraza to approve item E.5.a. as submitted to the Board.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed 4-1.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 4 Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Zendle, and Director De Lara</b></p> <p><b>NOES –1 Director Shorr</b></p> <p><b>ABSTAIN – 2 President PerezGil and Director Zendle</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> <p><b>#23-55 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers for the Policy Committee to review Policy</b></p>
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<p>e. Policy #BOD-13 – Memberships of Organizations, Training, Education and Conferences</p> <p>f. Policy #BOD-14 – Ethics &amp; Sexual Harassment Training</p> <p>g. Policy #FIN-06 – Financial Reserve Policy</p> <p>h. Policy #OP-11 – Professional Services</p> <p>i. Policy #OP-12 – Compensation</p> <p>j. Policy #PROC-01 – Purpose of Board Policies</p>	<p>and the Board official duties and attendance at meeting with more definition and clarification for consideration for District business.</p> <p>Director Zendle motioned for the Policy Committee to review item E.7 once again for further discussion and clarification.</p>	<p><b>#BOD-13 once more for further clarification.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7</b> President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSTAIN – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>F. Strategic Funding</b></p> <p>1. Consideration to approve Grant #1400 Desert ARC – \$271,307 for one year to support one LVN salary for Day Program; AEDs for buses and vehicles in transportation program; and contracted Behavior Health Analyst</p> <p>2. Consideration to approve Grant #1404 Martha’s Village and Kitchen – \$369,730 for two years to cover staffing costs for outreach and wraparound services in Indio</p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Desert ARC’s \$271,307 grant request.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Martha’s Village and Kitchen’s \$369,730 grant request.</p>	<p><b>#23-56 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Zendle to approve Grant #1400 Desert ARC – \$271,307 for one year to support one LVN salary for Day Program; AEDs for buses and vehicles in transportation program; and contracted Behavior Health Analyst.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7</b> President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p> <p><b>#23-57 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Barraza and seconded by Director De Lara to approve Grant #1404 Martha’s Village and Kitchen – \$369,730 for two years to cover staffing costs for</b></p>



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<p>and 4 targeted cities; staffing for Employment Specialists; staffing for a Case Manager and other operating costs, printing, and mileage.</p> <p><b>3. Consideration to approve Grant #1405 Variety Childrens Charities of the Desert – \$120,852 for one year to support hiring two bilingual full time Program Specialists to expand the organization’s Caring Connections program.</b></p>	<p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Variety Childrens Charities of the Desert \$120,852 grant request.</p> <p>Upon inquiry from Vice-President Zavala, Heidi Maldoon, Executive Director of Variety Childrens Charities of the Desert, indicated that the agency does not charge for services and receives no funds from the Inland Regional Center (IRC).</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, inquired with Vice-President PerezGil for the benefit of the grantee concerning her declination of the grant. Vice-President Zavala described the \$50k supplies, resident workshops, and program specialists, with Ms. Craig clarifying that the total project budget is \$50k,</p>	<p>outreach and wraparound services in Indio and 4 targeted cities; staffing for Employment Specialists; staffing for a Case Manager and other operating costs, printing, and mileage. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p> <p><b>#23-58 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to approve Grant #1405 Variety Childrens Charities of the Desert – \$120,852 for one year to support hiring two bilingual full time Program Specialists to expand the organization’s Caring Connections program.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed 6-1. AYES – 6 President PerezGil, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza NOES – 1 Vice-President Zavala ABSENT – 0</b></p>
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<p><b>4. Consideration to approve an agreement with Partners in Medical Education, Inc., NTE \$17,000 to lead a feasibility study on Graduate Medical Education (GME) opportunities in the Coachella Valley</b></p>	<p>with the funds deriving from other sources.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Partners in Medical Education’s \$17,000 feasibility study for Graduate Medical Education (GME) opportunities in the Coachella Valley.</p> <p>The Board expressed their support for the feasibility study due to the shortage of physicians and nurses.</p>	<p><b>#23-59 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Zendle to approve an agreement with Partners in Medical Education, Inc., NTE \$17,000 to lead a feasibility study on Graduate Medical Education (GME) opportunities in the Coachella Valley</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>G. Training and Development</b></p> <p><b>1. Addendum #1 – Activate Inclusion Continuation of Board and Staff Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Training – NTE \$51,500 through July 2024</b></p>	<p>President PerzGil inquired with the Board concerning any questions about the Activate Inclusion DEI Training.</p> <p>After discussion, the Board agreed to pause the training until a permanent CEO is hired, including additional details about the training.</p>	<p><b>#23-60 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to pause the training until a permanent CEO is hired, including additional training details.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 0</b></p>
<p><b>H. Reports</b></p> <p><b>1. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report – Michele Finney, CEO</b></p>	<p>Linda Evans, CEO, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), provided and overview of the CEO report in the absence of Michele Finney, CEO,</p>	



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<p><b>2. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board Meeting – President Evett PerezGil and Director Les Zendle, MD</b></p> <p><b>3. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott</b></p> <p><b>4. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report – Chris Christensen, Interim CEO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Certificate of Appreciation - Alianza Nacional de Campesinas</b></li> <li><b>b. Certificate of Appreciation - California CareForce</b></li> <li><b>c. Community Investment Awards – Lift to Rise Community Anchor Award – October 14, 2023</b></li> <li><b>d. Community Engagements and District Media Visibility</b></li> </ul>	<p>describing the most recent updates at DRMC, including Quality, Capital and Construction Projects, People, and Events.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the Governing Board report.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, provided an overview of SB 525 - Durazo and the anticipated review, veto, or signature by Governor Newsom.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the certificates from Alianza Nacional de Campesinas and California CareForce while highlighting the District’s work, the forthcoming Community Anchor Award at Lift to Rise’s Community Investment Awards, and the Community Engagements and District Media Visibility.</p>	
<p><b>I. Committee Meetings –</b></p>		



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<p><b>I.1.1. Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee</b> <b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 07, 2023</b></p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the September Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee meeting minutes.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p>	
<p><b>I.1.2. Program Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023</b></li> <li><b>b. Health Career Connections (HCC) summer intern – closing paper</b></li> <li><b>c. Progress and Final Reports Update</b></li> <li><b>d. Grant applications and Request for Proposals Submitted and Under Review</b></li> <li><b>e. Grant Payment Schedule</b></li> </ul>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the September Program Committee meeting minutes, Health Career Connections (HCC) summer intern closing paper, the Progress and Final Reports Update, the Grant Applications and Request for Proposals Submitted and Under Review, and the Grant Payment Schedule.</p> <p>Director De Lara thanked and commended the staff for their work with Chloe Vartanian, Health Career Connections summer intern.</p>	
<p><b>I.1.3. Finance, Legal, Administration, &amp; Real Estate Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023</b></li> </ul>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the September F&amp;A Committee meeting minutes.</p>	





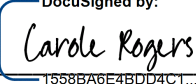
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<p><b>I.1.4. Strategic Planning Committee Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023</b></li> <li><b>b. FY2021-2026 Strategic Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i. Updates and Developing Grants Allocated to the Strategic Plan Goals</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the September Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes and the strategic plan updates and developing grants allocated to the strategic goals.</p> <p>Director Zendle reminded the Board and Staff about the upcoming November 4 strategic planning retreat.</p>	
<p><b>K. Board Member Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Lift to Rise Housing Community Action Network (CAN) Meeting Recap, Director Carole Rogers</b></li> <li><b>2. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Annual Meeting</b></li> </ul>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Director Rogers report on the Lift to Rise Housing CAN and Vice-President Zavala’s report on the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Director Barraza thanked Jana Trew, Senior Program Officer, Behavioral Health and Alejandro Espinoza, Chief of Community Engagement, for presenting and leading the project at the ACHD Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Director Rogers described the topics on technology and artificial intelligence’s role with a high success rate at diagnosing skin cancer at the ACHD Annual Meeting.</p>	



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<b>L. Adjournment</b>	President PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.	<b>Audio recording available on the website at <a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a></b>
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DocuSigned by:  
  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carole Rogers, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors  
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Board Relations Officer*