



DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2023

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
President Evett PerezGil Vice-President Carmina Zavala, PsyD Carole Rogers, RN, Secretary Treasurer Arthur Shorr Director Les Zendle, MD Director Leticia De Lara, MPA Director Kimberly Barraza	Conrado E. Bázaga, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Chief of Community Engagement Will Dean, Communications and Marketing Director Andrea S. Hayles, Board Relations Officer	
AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President PerezGil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President PerezGil led the Pledge of Allegiances.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#23-51 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Barraza to approve the agenda. 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
D. Public Comment	There were no public comments for matters not listed on the agenda.	
E. Tenet Proposal for Future Operations of Desert Regional Medical Center 1. Introduction by Steve Hollis, Consultant, and Tenet Presentation of the Proposal	Conrado Barzaga, MD, CEO, provided an overview of the lease outlining the relationship with Tenet and their proposal for consideration to the Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors.	



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<p>2. Public Comments</p>	<p>Saum Sutaria, MD, CEO, Tenet, provided an overview of the history between the District and Tenet, new access points of care, growth over the next 30 year, including the expansion of healthcare services, operating at the highest level for providing healthcare services, seismic issues in the state of California with solutions for investments of development without disruption of services, the fair market value and proposed lease terms, the vision for Desert Regional Medical Center, capital investments at JFK Memorial Hospital and in the East Valley, and reasons for moving forward now.</p> <p>Christie Rivera, Program Coordinator, Lift to Rise, read a letter on behalf of Heather Vaikona, CEO Lift to Rise.</p> <p>David Brinkman, CEO of DAP Health, described his appreciation of the District's work and his support of Tenet.</p> <p>Caroline Nana, ICU Nurse at Desert Regional Medical Center, described capital infrastructure and staffing concerns.</p> <p>Kim Jakab, CNA Labor Representative, California Nurses Association, described Tenet's profits with their current model of care. Ms. Jakab's statement is attached to the meeting minutes.</p>	
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<p>3. Board Member Comments, Discussion, and Direction</p>	<p>Richard Twist, Chairman of the Governing Board at JFK Memorial Hospital, described Tenet’s commitment and engagement in the community.</p> <p>Karen Borja, Indio Resident, provided an overview of a personal testimony associated with several family members health concerns while visiting Tenet-owned facilities and describing the consideration for the continuous need of care for resident’s relying on JFK Memorial Hospital.</p> <p>Sheila Thorton, CEO of OneFuture Coachella Valley, described the importance of supporting the future workforce within the Coachella Valley with Desert Regional Medical Center.</p> <p>Ezra Kaufman, Palm Desert Resident, expressed concern with the \$279M offer for lease terms over 30 years, describing the 2017 net operations and other issues with Tenet’s assets versus the VMG Health hospital appraisal and valuation report.</p> <p>Doug Morin, Executive Director of Volunteers in Medicine, described Desert Regional Medical Center’s support for their organization and access to primary care.</p> <p>Steve Hollis, consultant, described a fair starting point for the discussion with public input and others throughout the Valley before making a concrete decision.</p>	
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	<p>The Board inquired about the circumstances without an option to purchase Desert Regional Medical Center at the end of the lease, Tenet’s specific plans for investment, and details for not proposing an identical lease to the current terms and thanking Tenet and the public for their comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil asked for a motion to consider the proposal with further discussion at a future Board meeting.</p>	<p>#23-52 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Rogers to consider the Tenet proposal with further discussion at a future Board meeting. 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>F. Immediate Issues and Board Comments</p>	<p>There were no immediate issues and Board comments.</p>	
<p>G. Adjournment</p>	<p>President PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</i></p>

ATTEST: _____

 Carole Rogers, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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