



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2023**

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
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 - Virtual 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	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order	President PerezGil called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.	
Roll Call	The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President PerezGil led the pledge of allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#23-77 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	The following individuals provided public comments concerning the hospital lease negotiations:	



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	<p>Chad Mayes, Partner, Capitol Advocacy, provided public comments on behalf of client Eisenhower Medical Center.</p> <p>Rachel Garcia, ICU, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Debra Edwards, NICU, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Cyd Greenhorn, ICU, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Ezra Kaufman, Palm Desert Resident (statement attached to the minutes).</p> <p>Tracy Nolte, Clinical Manager, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Angel Perez, RN, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Sarah Antle, Clinical Manager, Neuro Stoke Unit, Sinatra One, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Denise Perez, NP, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Marissa Ramos, Director of Critical Care, Desert Regional Medical Center</p> <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, thanked the public speakers and described the parameters concerning the lease negotiations with public input and a vote from the District residents – a legal requirement, inviting the public to the Special Meeting of the Board on December 6.</p>	
<p>E. Consent Agenda</p>		



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<p>1. BOARD MINUTES a. Board of Directors Meeting – October 24, 2023</p> <p>2. FINANCIALS a. Approval of the October 2023 Financial Statements– F&A Approved November 15, 2023</p> <p>3. AGREEMENTS a. Consulting Services Agreement – Addendum #1 – TWC Consulting – \$6,833.33 per month – Terminating June 30, 2024 b. Consulting Services Agreement – Deveau Burr Group – \$9,500 per month – Terminating December 31, 2024 c. Consulting Services Agreement – Strategic Planning Continuation – Veralon Health – NTE \$5,000 d. Consulting Services Agreement – Addendum #3 – NPO Centric – NTE \$29,400 – Terminating October 31, 2024 e. Purchase Agreement – Budget Blinds of Coachella Valley – NTE \$8,920.03</p> <p>4. LEASES a. LPMP Lease Renewal – Desert Family Medical, Suite 2W 203-204 – 5-years</p> <p>5. POLICIES a. Policy #BOD-01 – Swearing in of Board Members b. Policy #BOD-08 – Board Meetings c. Policy #BOD-11 – Board Actions and Decisions</p>	<p>President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.</p> <p>Director De Lara pulled items E.2.a. and E.3.b. describing the correction on page 32 of the financial statements related to lodging for the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Annual Meeting and a forthcoming credit applied to the financial statements.</p> <p>Director De Lara recused herself from E.3.d. by leaving the room. There was no Board discussion on the matter.</p>	<p>#23-78 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the consent agenda without E.2.a. and E.3.b. 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>#23-79 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Shorr to approve E.2.a. – the October 2023 Financial Statements. 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>#23-80 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve E.3.d. – Consulting Services Agreement – Deveau Burr Group – \$9,500 per month – Terminating December 31, 2024. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, and Director Barraza NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0 RECUSAL – 1 Director De Lara</p>
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<p>d. Policy #BOD-13 – Memberships of Organizations, Training, Education and Conferences</p> <p>e. Policy #OP-05 – Grant & Mini Grant Policy</p> <p>Policy #OP-14 – Expense Authorization</p>		
<p>F. Presentations</p> <p>1. Blue Zones Program Overview – Kimberly Saruwatari, MPH, Director, Riverside University Health System – Public Health and Geoffrey Leung, MD, EdM, Public Health Officer and Ambulatory Medical Director, Riverside University Health System</p>	<p>Kimberly Saruwatari, MPH, Director, Riverside University Health System – Public Health, provided an introductory overview of Blue Zones.</p> <p>Dr. Shunling Tsang, Family Medicine Department Chair, RUHS, provided a presentation on the Activate Blue Zones in the cities of Palm Springs and Coachella, with Dr. Leung, EdM, Public Health Officer, and Ambulatory Medical Director, RUHS, further discussing aspects of Blue Zones in those communities.</p> <p>Tsang described the \$4M to commence Blue Zones in the City of Coachella and a \$2M contribution from the District, answered questions from the Board, discussed a possible initiative, and submitting a proposal through the usual grant process, analysis, and a proposed budget.</p> <p>Public Comment: Celina Jimenez, Director of Economic Development, City of Coachella, described</p>	



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	<p>support for Blue Zones and leveraging other grant funding for health and wellness initiatives, partnerships, youths, and underserved populations in Coachella.</p>	
<p>G. Strategic Funding</p> <p>1. Grant #1358 – Consideration to approve The Foundation – Palm Springs Unified School District’s fifteen (15) month no-cost grant extension through January 31, 2025, and a budget modification request for Grant #1358</p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired with the Board about any questions concerning The Foundation – Palm Springs Unified School District’s fifteen (15) month no-cost grant extension through January 31, 2025, and a budget modification request for Grant #1358.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p>	<p>#23-81 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to approve Grant #1358 – The Foundation – Palm Springs Unified School District’s fifteen (15) month no-cost grant extension through January 31, 2025, and a budget modification request for Grant #1358.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Secretary Rogers, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Barraza</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>H. Reports</p> <p>a. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report – Michele Finney, CEO</p> <p>b. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board Meeting – President Evett</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO of Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), provided a brief overview of the CEO report describing the most recent updates on People, Services/Events, Capital Constructions, and COVID, flu, RSV, and post-acute resources.</p> <p>Director Zendle provided an overview of the November Governing Board meeting with</p>	



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<p>PerezGil and Director Les Zendle, MD</p> <p>c. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report – Chris Christensen, Interim CEO</p> <p>a. Consideration to close the District and Satellite Office between Christmas and New Year’s Day – December 26 - December 29</p> <p>b. Consideration to approve the December 16 Annual Holiday Dinner – NTE \$4,000</p> <p>c. Special District Risk Management Authority</p>	<p>discussions on the skilled nursing facility and rehabilitation inpatient and outpatient services, staffing, and a quality update.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the yearly office closure during the holidays, the national trend, and the benefits to staff morale.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the annual holiday dinner with consideration of approval not to exceed \$4k while recommending one alcoholic beverage per person.</p> <p>After discussion, the Board excluded alcohol, with the Board and Staff purchasing their alcoholic beverages if they choose.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the Special District Risk Management</p>	<p>#23-82 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the office closure between Christmas and New Year’s Day. 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>#23-83 MOTION WAS MADE by Director De Lara and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the annual holiday dinner NTE \$4,000 and excluding alcoholic beverages. 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>
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<p>(SDRMA) Acknowledgment Award</p> <p>d. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting – November 12 - November 15</p> <p>e. Strategic Planning Retreat Update</p> <p>f. Community Engagements and District Media Visibility</p> <p>4. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott</p>	<p>Authority acknowledgment award for proactive risk management and loss prevention with no paid claims.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting and the District’s presentation of a poster board on the COVID testing and vaccination efforts.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the two sessions of the strategic planning committee with Veralon Health and the outcomes to elevate goals 2, 3, and 6.1 as high priorities.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, described the community engagements and District media visibility.</p> <p>Director De Lara requested public awareness of the District’s work to support the Cathedral City residents affected by Tropical Storm Hillary.</p> <p>Mr. Scott had no legal updates.</p>	
<p>I. Committee Meetings –</p> <p>I.1.1. Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee Meeting</p>		



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<p>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2023</p> <p>I.1.2. Finance, Legal, Administration, & Real Estate Committee</p> <p>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023</p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the draft minutes of the Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee meeting. There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the meeting minutes of the November F&A Committee meeting. There were no questions or comments.</p>	
<p>J. Board Member Comments</p>	<p>Director Rogers provided a brief overview of the Lift to Rise Housing CAN and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee reports the Board Relations Officer will email the Board.</p> <p>Director Zendle explained the misinformation on the hospital lease negotiations and being proactive with accurate information, such as press releases and information on the District’s website landing page related to the negotiations process.</p>	
<p>K. Adjournment</p>	<p>President PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</p>



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Carole Rogers
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ATTEST: _____
Carole Rogers, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors
Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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