



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

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

<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 5:30 p.m.  The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors present except Secretary Barraza and Director De Lara who joined the meeting at 5:33 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>#24-06 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Zavala to approve the agenda.</b> <b>Motion passed unanimously.</b> <b>AYES – 4 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, and Director Rogers</b> <b>NOES – 0</b> <b>ABSENT – 2 Secretary Barraza and Director De Lara</b>
<b>D. Public Comment</b>	Matthew Skipped, Local Homeowner, and owner of the neighboring building on Indian Canyon, provided public comments about SB	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

	<p>752 related to Desert Regional Medical Center and the discharge of homeless patients.</p> <p>Ezra Kaufman, Palm Desert Resident, provided public comments related to his request for additional information on the \$570M of intercompany transactions at Desert Regional Medical Center in the fair market valuation.</p>	
<p><b>E. Consent Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. BOARD MINUTES</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Special Meeting of the Board – January 22, 2024</li> <li>b. Board of Directors Meeting – January 23, 2024</li> <li>c. Board of Directors Meeting – Revised December 20, 2023</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. FINANCIALS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approval of the January 2024 Financial Statements – F&amp;A Approved February 14, 2024</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. AGREEMENTS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP)/Desert Healthcare District Study Consulting Services Agreement – The Regional Economic Impacts of DHCD’s Community and Clinical Social Needs Goals and Implementation for Recommendations – NTE \$80,000</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>President PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.</p>	<p><b>#24-07 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the consent agenda with changes to the December 06 meeting minutes.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously.</b></p> <p><b>AYES – 6</b> President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Rogers</p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 1</b> Secretary Barraza</p>



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

<p><b>b. Consideration of Board Consent to Desert Regional Medical Center’s Funding of Elevator Modernization Project – \$3,055,900</b></p> <p><b>4. POLICIES</b></p> <p><b>a. Policy #BOD-02 – Elections and Appointment of Board Officers</b></p> <p><b>b. Policy #BOD-15 – Conflict of Interest</b></p> <p><b>c. Revised Grantmaking Flow Chart – Supplement to Policy #OP-05 – Grantmaking Policy</b></p> <p><b>d. Policy #OP-16 – CEO Discretionary Fund</b></p> <p><b>e. Policy #FIN-01 – Financial Operations</b></p> <p><b>f. Policy #FIN-04 – Budget Policy</b></p>		
<p><b>F. Presentations</b></p> <p><b>1. Carmela Meyer, MBA, EdD and Christine Redovan, MBA, MLIS, GME Consultants, Partners in Medical Education, Inc. – GME Feasibility Analysis in the Coachella Valley</b></p>	<p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, introduced Carmela Meyer, Partners in Medical Education, and described the background information on the Board-approved GME assessment. Ms. Meyer provided an overview of her presentation on the GME feasibility analysis.</p> <p>The Board discussed a working group to incorporate all the collaborative partners, the financial aspects, competitive grants, the 5-year cap for CMS reimbursement, forming a committee to explore the GME residency program, the District’s</p>	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

	<p>support role, and directing staff to provide their recommendations for the next steps, including allocating resources and meeting with the partners to work with Partners in Medical Education.</p> <p>Ms. Myers recommended organizing the sponsoring institutions to determine the next steps, such as the number of rotations and other roles.</p>	
<p><b>G. Strategic Funding</b></p> <p><b>1. Grant #1429 - Desert Cancer Foundation – Patient Assistance (PA) Program and Community Outreach: \$163,750 – Goal #2 Proactively expand community access to primary and specialty care services/Strategy #2.7 and Goal #3 Proactively expand community access to behavioral/mental health/Strategy 3.6 – HIGH PRIORITY GOALS</b></p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning Desert Cancer Foundation’s \$163,750 grant request.</p> <p>Mark Scheibach, Executive Director, Desert Cancer Network, provided an overview of the grant requests patient assistance program and community outreach.</p>	<p><b>#24-08 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve Grant #1429 - Desert Cancer Foundation – Patient Assistance (PA) Program and Community Outreach: \$163,750.</b></p> <p><b>Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Director Shorr, Director Zendle, Director De Lara, and Director Rogers</b></p> <p><b>NOES – 0</b></p> <p><b>ABSENT – 1 Secretary Barraza</b></p>
<p><b>H. Reports</b></p> <p><b>1. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report – Michele Finney, CEO</b></p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, DRMC, DCN, provided an overview of her report describing events, operations, quality, and capital construction projects, including the elevator modernization plan. Mrs. Finney described the recent application submission to the Accreditation Council for</p>	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

<p><b>2. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board Meeting – President Evett PerezGil and Director Les Zendle, MD</b></p> <p><b>3. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report – Chris Christensen, Interim CEO</b></p> <p><b>a. Hospital Lease negotiations informational status meetings – 5 public forums throughout the Valley</b>  <b>i. Op-ed submission to the Desert Sun in response to the Editorial Board’s January 14, 2024, article.</b></p>	<p>Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) for a twelve-resident transitional year program, further illustrating the program acceptance, the positive outcome of the survey, and a July 1 start date. An 8-8-8 internal medicine program application is also submitted while securing a program director.</p> <p>Director Zendle, MD, described the most recent governing board meeting, highlighting the DRMC transfers from other hospitals, such as Imperial Valley, seventy-one postgraduate physicians with an increase in July, the 2023 nursing students, and the community benefits from charity care.</p> <p>Chris Christensen, Interim CEO, thanked Jana Trew for her service to the District as she advances on to a new opportunity, also providing an overview of the background of the Behavioral Health Initiative.</p> <p>Mr. Christensen read the Op-Ed for publication in the Desert Sun in response to their January 14 article, further describing the informational community public forums throughout the Valley.</p>	
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**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

<p><b>b. Consideration to approve Gibbins Advisors’ proposal to determine the implications of reassuming operational responsibility for the hospital.</b></p>	<p>Mr. Christensen provided background on identifying a consultant for potentially reassuming the operational responsibility of the hospital. The Board discussed and requested the inclusion of seismic upgrades for asset purchases on item 9 of the Gibbins Advisors proposal. Additionally, the Board also requested that staff review and reassess the Development Director position to assist with fundraising for the 2030 seismic funding, although it is a low strategic priority.</p> <p>Public Comments: Ezra Kaufman, Palm Desert Resident, provided public comments on the Gibbins Advisors proposal.</p>	<p><b>#24-09 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to approve Gibbins Advisors’ proposal to determine the implications of reassuming operational responsibility for the hospital. Motion passed 5-1.</b> <b>AYES – 5 President PerezGil, Vice-President Zavala, Director Shorr, Director De Lara, and Director Rogers</b> <b>NOES – 1 Director Zendle</b> <b>ABSENT – 1 Secretary Barraza</b></p>
<p><b>c. Ballots – Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) Eastern County Special District Member</b></p>	<p>Mr. Christensen described the nominations and election for the LAFCO Eastern County Special District Member, with President PerezGil representing the District’s vote on the ballot.</p>	
<p><b>d. CEO Engagements and District Media Visibility</b></p>	<p>Mr. Christensen described the details of his CEO engagements throughout the month highlighting the District's visibility and role in providing \$10k to the Chance Initiative and \$40k to TODEC for assisting the residents of Cathedral City and the farmworker community connecting residents to</p>	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

<p><b>4. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott</b></p>	<p>behavioral health services related to Tropical Storm Hilary, further illustrating the recognition at the recent mixer from the Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce mixer honoring the District and other agencies for their efforts after Tropical Storm Hillary.</p> <p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, described the article in the San Diego Union Tribune on Palomar Healthcare District, the state’s largest public health district, concerning the use of GO Bonds, fiscal year loss, and the board’s approval of an agreement that gives oversight of the C-Suite to a private company.</p>	
<p><b>I. Committee Meetings –</b></p> <p><b>I.1. Strategic Planning Committee</b></p> <p><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2024</b></p> <p><b>b. FY2021-2026 Strategic Plan – Updates and Developing Grants Allocated to the Strategic Plan Goals</b></p> <p><b>I.1.2. Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee Meeting</b></p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the February 8 Strategic Planning Committee meeting minutes, including item b on the updates, and developing grants allocated to the strategic plan goals.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the February 12 Board and Staff</p>	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

<p><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024</b></p> <p><b>I.1.3. Program Committee Meeting</b></p> <p><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2024</b></p> <p><b>b. Health Career Connections (HCC) Summer Intern Project – Hosting an intern for a 10-week period in the Summer 2024 – NTE \$9,100 program fee.</b></p> <p><b>c. Progress and Final Reports Update</b></p> <p><b>d. Grant Applications and RFP Proposals Submitted and Under Review</b></p> <p><b>e. Grant Payment Schedule</b></p> <p><b>I.1.4. Finance, Legal, Administration, and Real Estate Committee</b></p> <p><b>a. Draft Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2024</b></p>	<p>Communications and Policies Committee meeting minutes.</p> <p>Director De Lara, chair, highlighted the discussion about ensuring appropriate translation services of Spanish and English languages.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the February 13 Program Committee meeting minutes and items b – e.</p> <p>Director De Lara, chair, recapped the possibility of an opportunity for dispersing additional funding to Health Career Connections for ensuring program availability to benefit other nonprofits.</p> <p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the February 14 F&amp;A Committee meeting minutes.</p> <p>There were no questions or comments.</p>	
<p><b>J. Old Business</b></p> <p><b>1. Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) CV Link Q4 Project Report</b></p>	<p>President PerezGil inquired about any questions concerning the CV Link Q4 project report.</p>	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 27, 2024**

	There were no questions or comments.	
<b>K. Board Member Comments</b>	Director Rogers provided the Board with a report on the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Housing Report and an update on the Word of Life \$10k mini grant from the District, including her volunteer work of providing food and housing.	
<b>L. Adjournment</b>	President PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 7:50 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>

DocuSigned by:  
*Donna Craig*  
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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer  
Desert Healthcare District and Foundation

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