



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
Board of Directors Meeting  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 28, 2025

**Directors Present**

**District Staff Present**

**Absent**

President Carole Rogers, RN Vice-President Greg Rodriguez Secretary Kimberly Barraza Director Daniel Logsdon, MD Director Arthur Shorr Director Leticia De Lara, MPA Director Evett PerezGil	Chris Christensen, CPA, Chief Executive Officer Eric Taylor, CPA, Chief Administration Officer Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, Chief of Community Engagement Will Dean, Director of Communications and Marketing Andrea S. Hayles, MBA, Board Relations Officer	(Empty)
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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

President Rogers called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Director Logsdon, MD, joined the meeting at 6:21 p.m. due to an emergency surgical procedure.

1. Roll Call

Director PerezGil\_\_\_\_ Director Shorr\_\_\_\_

Director De Lara\_\_\_\_ Director Logsdon, MD\_\_\_\_

Secretary Barraza \_\_\_\_ Vice-President Rodriguez  
\_\_\_\_President Rogers, RN

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Rogers led the pledge of allegiance.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, reported that the Board voted unanimously in closed session to direct counsel to take appropriate action to reject Camilo Necato's claim.

President Rogers asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara

*Seconded by:* Greg Rodriguez

**Yes** Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Evett PerezGil, Kimberly Barraza, Arthur Shorr, and Greg Rodriguez

**Carried 6-0**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

At this time, comments from the audience may be made on items not listed on the agenda that are of public interest and within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the District. **The Board has a policy of limiting speakers to no more than three minutes.** The Board cannot take action on items not listed on the agenda. Public input may be offered on agenda items when they come up for discussion and/or action.

**E. CONSENT AGENDA**

All Consent Agenda item(s) listed below are considered routine by the Board of Directors and will be enacted by one motion. *There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member so requests, in which event the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda.*

Consent Action

President Rogers asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

*Moved by:* Greg Rodriguez

*Seconded by:* Evett PerezGil

**Yes** Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Evett PerezGil, Kimberly Barraza, Arthur Shorr, and Greg Rodriguez

**Carried 6-0**

1. BOARD MINUTES
  - a. [Board of Directors Meeting – December 17, 2024](#) 
2. FINANCIALS
  - a. [December 2024 Financial Statements – F&A Approved January 14, 2025](#) 
3. AGREEMENTS
  - a. [Consulting Services Agreement Addendum #2 – Dale E. Barnhart, Facilities Inspector, Hospital Safety and Compliance Inspections – December 31, 2024, through December 31, 2026](#) 
  - b. [Consulting Services Agreement – Regional Government Services \(RGS\) for Human Resource Services – January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025 – NTE \\$25,000](#) 
4. GRANT EXTENSION
  - a. [Grant #1358 – The Foundation for Palm Springs Unified School District – School-based Wellness Centers 14-Month No-Cost Grant Extension Amendment #2](#) 

**F. PRESENTATION**

1. [OneFuture Coachella Valley Black & African American Healthcare Scholarship Program – Video Update](#) 

Cristina Gregorio, Associate Vice President of College & Career Success, OneFuture Coachella Valley, provided a presentation, that included an overview of the OneFuture Coachella Valley Black & African American Healthcare Scholarship Program. Additionally, Ms. Gregorio shared a video featuring Karizayeye Ruwange, a nursing student from the Class of 2023 at CSU San Bernardino.

**G. REPORTS**

1. [Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report – Michele Finney, CEO](#) 

Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Regional Medical Center and Desert Care Network, described the clusters of flu cases observed in December and January. Ms. Finney also highlighted recent modifications to the graduate medical education programs, announced the full approval of level one trauma accreditation, and addressed immediate maintenance issues. Ms. Finney responded to questions from the board and staff.

2. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board Meeting Report – President Carole Rogers and Vice-President Greg Rodriguez

President Rogers summarized the Governing Board meeting that took place on January 23. Mrs. Rogers highlighted several reports, including updates from the director of government relations at Tenet Healthcare, the medical director of Desert Regional Medical Center, and the chief quality officer. Additionally, she the Governing Board received an update from the peer review committee and announced the

appointment of community member Dr. Les Zendle, a former District director.

3. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report – Chris Christensen, CEO
  - a. Palm Springs Health Run and Wellness Festival – January 25, 2025

Will Dean, Director of Communications and Marketing, provided an overview of the Palm Springs Health Run and Wellness Festival. Mr. Dean highlighted the attendees, board members present, and the award luncheon honoring Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network; Dr. Diane Vines, Executive Director, CSUSB Nursing Street Medicine Program; and Michelle Cirone-Collier, Executive Producer, Retired, City of Palm Springs, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Dean also presented a video showcasing the event.

[b. Healthy Desert Healthy You Environmental Health Summit – September 11, 2025, and September 12, 2025](#) 

Chris Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of the 2025 Healthy Desert Healthy You Environmental Health Summit and will propose the budget and sponsorship for next month's meeting after approval from the F&A Committee.


[c. Regional Government Services \(RGS\) – District Human Resource Assessment and Recommendations for Improvement presented by Cherie Johnson, MA, SHRM-SCP, Senior HR Advisor, RGS](#) 

Mr. Christen, CEO, provided an overview of the Human Resources Assessment conducted by Regional Government

Services (RGS) and described the executive summary and human resources recommendations from the assessment.

The board discussed incorporating legal counsel into the organizational chart and considered the possibility of having an external HR director report directly to the CAO rather than having the CAO also serve in the HR position, as noted in RGS's assessment.

d. Sponsorship - ACTION

i. [Ninth Annual The Future is Ours – OneFuture Coachella Valley – Celebrating OneFuture’s 20th Anniversary Year \\$5,000 Sponsorship – March 21, 2025](#) 

Mr. Christensen, CEO, described the District's annual support of OneFuture Coachella Valley's event, The Future is Ours, and requested approval for a \$5,000 sponsorship.

*Moved by:* Greg Rodriguez

*Seconded by:* Evett PerezGil

**Yes** Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Evett PerezGil, Kimberly Barraza, Daniel Logsdon, MD, Arthur Shorr, and Greg Rodriguez

**Carried 7-0**




e. [CEO Engagements and District Media Visibility](#) 

Mr. Christensen, CEO, inquired about questions concerning the CEO Engagements and District Media Visibility.

There were no questions or comments.

4. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott Counsel Scott described the filing of the Lease Purchase Agreement Validation.

## H. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE – Vice-President Greg Rodriguez, Chair, Secretary Kimberly Barraza, and Director Leticia De Lara
  - a. [Draft Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025](#) 
  - b. [FY2021-2026 Strategic Plan – Summary of 2021-2026 Strategic Plan Goals](#) 
  - c. [Committee recommendation for a Request for Proposals \(RFP\) process, a timeline that includes the continuation of the current 5-year strategic plan expiring in June 2026, consultant and facilitator engagements, and facilitated workshops.](#) 

Vice-President Rodriguez provided an overview of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting with a consensus to initiate an RFP process to facilitate the 5-year strategic plan, moving to approve the recommendation from the committee.

The board discussed the inclusion of other topics, such as artificial intelligence and its relation to healthcare in the workshop discussions.

*Moved by:* Greg Rodriguez


*Seconded by:* Kimberly Barraza

**Yes** Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Evett PerezGil, Kimberly Barraza, Daniel Logsdon, MD, Arthur Shorr, and Greg Rodriguez

**Carried 7-0**

2. PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Chair/President Evett PerezGil, Vice- President Greg Rodriguez, and Director Leticia De Lara
  - a. [Draft Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2025](#) 
  - b. [Progress and Final Reports Update](#) 

c. [Grant Applications Status Report](#) 

d. [Regional Access Project Foundation and the Desert Healthcare District Mental Health Grant Funding Partnership Memorandum of Understanding – \\$500,000 – FY 2025-2026](#) 

e. [Grant Payment Schedule](#) 

Director PerezGil provided an overview of the Program Committee meeting minutes.

The minutes from January 14 will be revised to indicate that Director De Lara is not a member of the Program Committee.

Director De Lara recused herself from the discussion regarding the Regional Access Project Foundation Mental Health Grant Funding Partnership.

Mr. Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of the Regional Access Project Foundation Mental Health Grant Funding Partnership describing the the committee's decision to proceed with a one-year MOU of \$500k, which aligns with the strategic plan.

Public Comments:

Jan Pye, Chair, Board of Directors, Regional Access Project Foundation

Diane Morales, Data Analyst, Regional Access Project Foundation

3. FINANCE, LEGAL, ADMINISTRATION & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE – Chair/Treasurer Daniel Logsdon, MD, Director Leticia De Lara, and Director Arthur Shorr

a. [Draft Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2024](#) 



Director Logsdon provided an overview of the F&A Committee meeting minutes.

**I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

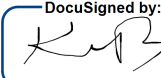
Vice-President Rodriguez provided a report on the January Lift to Rise Housing CAN meeting highlighting eviction and building processes, state laws, and updates from the subcommittee on policy. Mr. Rodriguez also announced his appointment to the steering committee of the Blue Zones initiative, where he will represent the District.

Director De Lara reported on the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the St. John's Community Health Indio Health Center, noting the District attendees present at the event.

President Rogers reported that the CVAG Homelessness Committee did not meet in January. An overview of freestanding emergency department handouts was presented, with the potential of a location in the East Valley. The board considered the possibility of scheduling formal meetings with local legislators and reached a consensus to add the matter to a future meeting agenda.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  


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Kimberly Barraza, Secretary

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors

Audio recording available on the website at <http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents>