

# DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

# **Board of Directors Meeting**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

May 27, 2025

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
President Carole Rogers, RN Vice-President Greg Rodriguez Secretary Kimberly Barraza Director Dan Logsdon, MD Director Leticia De Lara, MPA Director Evett PerezGil Director Shorr	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	

## A. CALL TO ORDER

1.

President Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. All directors were present, except Director Logsdon, who joined shortly after the agenda was approved.

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

Any item on the agenda may result in Board Action

Chair Rogers asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by*: Greg Rodriguez *Seconded by*: Leticia De Lara

Yes Evett PerezGil, Kimberly Barraza, Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, 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 subjectmatter 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.

The Board Relations Officer read the following public comments, which are included in the meeting minutes:

Steve Sanchez, La Quinta Resident and Councilmember, City of La Quinta

Misty Evans, President, Board of Directors, Morongo Basin Healthcare District

Fred Bell, Chief Operating Officer, NOBELL Energy Solutions

## 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 discussions of these items unless explicitly requested by a Board member. If such a request is made, those item(s) will be considered following the approval of the Consent Agenda.

## **Consent Action**

President Rogers pulled items E.5.G., E.7.a., and E.7.b. for discussion describing that the APHA Conference is not only valuable for the staff, but also the directors.

President Rogers summarized the minutes, which detail her presentation to the Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committee regarding the potential of a Volunteer Auxiliary Committee for discussion in section G.2. of the agenda.

Director De Lara pulled item E.3.a., requesting that staff provide information on the economic conditions of the Coachella Valley in relation to the budget approved by the F&A Committee.

Chris Christensen, the CEO, presented a comprehensive overview of the budget. Director Logsdon, as the chair of the F&A Committee, commended the staff for their efforts.

Director De Lara moved to approve the consent agenda excluding items E.3.a., E.5.g., E.7.a., and E.7.b.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Evett PerezGil

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

### Carried 7-0

Vice-President Rodriguez moved to approve consent items E.7.a. and E.7.b., including attendance for the board of directors.

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

## Carried 7-0

Director De Lara moved to approve consent agenda item E.3.a.

*Moved by*: Leticia De Lara *Seconded by*: Greg Rodriguez

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

## Carried 7-0

Director PerezGil moved to approve consent agenda item E.5.g.

*Moved by:* Evett PerezGil *Seconded by:* Leticia De Lara

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

## Carried 7-0

## 1. BOARD MINUTES

a. Board of Directors Meeting – April 22, 2025 🖉

2. FINANCIALS

a. <u>April 2025 Financial Statements</u> *⊘* – F&A Committee Approved May 15, 2025

3. BUDGET

a. <u>FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget</u> 🔊

4. LAS PALMAS MEDICAL PLAZA

a. <u>Cohen, Musch, & Thomas Medical Group – Las Palmas</u> <u>Medical Plaza – Suite 1W-105 – Addendum #3 – Expiration</u>

## November 30, 2025 Ø

b. <u>Quest Diagnostics – Las Palmas Medical Plaza – Suite 1W-</u> <u>102 – 5 Yr. Lease – Expiration May 31, 2030 & Commission</u>

Agreement 𝔊 c. InPro Construction, Inc. – ADA Compliant Concrete Sidewalk & Ramp for Suite 2W-104 – \$19,975 𝔊

## 5. <u>POLICIES</u> Ø

a. <u>Policy #BOD-17 & 17.1 – Compensation & Performance</u> Evaluation of CEO Ø

b. <u>Policy #FIN-03 – Statement of Investment Policy</u> Ø
i. Resolution No. 25-02 – FY 2025-2026 Statement of

Investment Policy Ø

c. Policy #FIN-05 – Credit Card Usage Public 🖉

d. Policy #OP-01 – Public Records 🖉

e. Policy #OP-03 – Records Retention 🖉

f. Policy #OP-04 – Electronic Communications Usage and

Retention Policy Ø

g. Policy #OP-15 – Engagement of the Community 🖉

h. Policy #OP-18 – Employee Benefits – New Policy 🖉

GRANT BUDGET MODIFICATION

 a. Grant #1468 – Regents of The University of California at
 Riverside 𝒜 – Budget Modification for Reallocation of
 Funding

## 7. CONFERENCES

a. American Public Health Association 2025 Annual Meeting & Expo – November 2-5, 2025 – Washington, D.C. Ø b. <u>42nd Annual National Association of Latino Elected &</u> <u>Appointed Officials (NALEO) Conference – July 22-24, 2025 –</u>

Atlanta, GA 🖉

## F. REPORTS

1.

Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report Ø - Michael J.
 Ditoro, Pharm.D., CEO, Desert Regional Medical Center
 Mike Ditoro, Pharm.D., CEO of Desert Regional Medical Center, expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the dedication of the staff in caring for the injured following the explosion at American Reproductive Centers. He also extended his gratitude to the facilities team for their support.
 During his report, Mr. Ditoro provided an overview of quality, staffing, services, events, media, and capital improvements.
 Mr. Ditoro highlighted the elevator project and addressed questions from the board.

 Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board Ø – Carole Rogers, RN, President, and Greg Rodriguez, Vice-President

> President Rogers provided an overview of the recent Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board report, highlighting the presentation by Desert Care Network Medical Director Dr. William Brien, who discussed a study examining outcomes related to the diagnosis of sepsis and the aggressive treatments implemented by the hospital's emergency departments.

3. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report – Chris Christensen, CEO

> a. Community Resources in the Aftermath of the American Reproductive Centers Explosion

Mr. Christensen, CEO, emphasized the district's communication with the public regarding access to resources and support from the City of Palm Springs.

# b. <u>Resolution No. 25-03 – Supporting Medicaid Funding</u> *∂* – ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of the County's resolution of the Medicaid cuts and support from the District with the presented resolution.

The board requested distribution to the Congressional staff, obtaining additional information on the Medicaid cuts, and cautioning about a blanket statement without full understanding of the bill, yet supporting the Coachella Valley population. The board requested revisions to Section 1 stating that the District and Foundation strongly opposes nearly \$700 billion in Medicaid cuts as outlined in H.R. 119.

**Public Comments:** 

Rosa Lucas, Vice President, Board of Directors, Volunteers in Medicine

Miley Trevino-Saucdeo, Executive Director, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.

Debbie Espinoza, President & CEO, FIND Food Bank

Vice-President Rodriguez amended his initial motion to approve Resolution 25-03 with modifications to Section 1. stating that the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation strongly opposes the nearly \$700 billion in Medicaid cuts as outlined in H.R. 119.

*Moved by:* Greg Rodriguez *Seconded by:* Kimberly Barraza

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

No Leticia De Lara

Carried 6-1

## c. Sponsorships

i. <u>2025 Riverside County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)</u> <u>Caregiver Appreciation – November 18, 2025, and November</u>

20, 2025 – \$1,000 sponsorship request *⊘* – ACTION Mr. Christensen, CEO, described the 2025 Riverside County IHSS Caregiver Appreciation \$1k sponsorship request. The Board discussed ensuring a budget is provided for the event and supporting the allocation of funds for catering and/or venue rental fees included in the sponsorship.

Director De Lara moved to support the 2025 Riverside County In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Caregiver Appreciation sponsorship by allocating funds for catering and/or venue rental fees.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Greg Rodriguez

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

## **Carried 7-0**

## ii. <u>2025 Desert Fast Pitch – October 2, 2025 – \$5,000</u>

## sponsorship request 🖉 – ACTION

As the CEO of the Regional Access Project Foundation, Director De Lara recused herself from the discussions regarding the 2025 Desert Fast Pitch. Mr. Christensen, CEO, presented the \$5k sponsorship request

for the 2025 Desert Fast Pitch, which the District has supported in previous years.

There were no questions or comments from the board.

Vice President Rodriguez moved to approve the 2025 Desert Fast Pitch – October 2, 2025 – \$5,000 sponsorship request.

Moved by: Greg Rodriguez

### Seconded by: Kimberly Barraza

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

Abstain Leticia De Lara

**Carried 6-0** 

iii. Carreon Foundation Annual Scholarship Banquet – June

15, 2025 – \$2,500 sponsorship request Ø – ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, described the request for a \$2,500 sponsorship for the Carreon Foundation Annual Scholarship Banquet, which includes a table for 10 guests. The board discussed the budget and the details of the sponsorship request, noting that the majority of the funding would be directed towards scholarships. They also considered the option of asking the executive director to establish a named scholarship specifically for a student pursuing a career in healthcare.

Public Comment:

Linda Evans, Chief Strategy Officer, Desert Care Network

Director De Lara moved to approve a \$2,500 sponsorship to the Carreon Foundation Annual Scholarship Banquet designated towards a healthcare scholarship.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Daniel Logsdon, MD

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

Carried 7-0

## d. <u>CEO Engagements and District Media Visibility</u> 🖉

Mr. Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of his CEO Engagements and the District Media Visibility. The board inquired on the status of Mr. Christensen's Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) board application submission, which received unanimous approval. Additionally, the board discussed the Esperanza Park ribboncutting ceremony at the Dream Homes Neighborhood.

4. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott Counsel Scott advised the board that the Tri-City Healthcare District/Medical Center will consider entering into a 30-year exclusivity lease and transfer agreement with Sharp Healthcare, a for-profit entity.

## G. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 1. HOSPITAL LEASE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE Chair/President Carole Rogers, Vice-President Greg Rodriguez, and Director Arthur Shorr
  - a. Draft Meeting Minutes May 7, 2025 🖉
  - b. 2024-2025 Desert Regional Medical Center Quarterly

Inspection Schedule 🖉

- c. Reinspection Q1 Block 5 1st Floor Part 2
- d. Inspection and Reinspection Q2 Block 6 El Mirador

Building Ø

e. Inspection – Q3 Block 7 – Stergios Building 🖉

President Rogers inquired if there were any questions regarding the Hospital Lease Oversight Committee.

There were no questions or comments from the board.

 BOARD AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS AND POLICIES COMMITTEE – Chair/President Carole Rogers, Director Leticia De Lara, and Director Evett PerezGil

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2025 🖉

## b. Policy #OP-12.1 – Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) 🖉 –

New Policy – ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, provided details about Policy #OP-1201 - Cost of Living (COLA) Adjustment discussions by the Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committees.

The board addressed the reference to the Riverside County Consumer Price Index (CPI), noted the ambiguity in the third paragraph, They further discussed the possibility of exceeding a 5% increase in wages when the COLA increases.

Additionally, the board considered issues related to employee retention, consideration for the population the district serves, and the use of recognized national statistics to determine the trigger for the COLA increase.

After an extensive discussion, the board decided to refer the policy back to the Board and Staff Communications and Policies Committees for further refinement.

Director De Lara moved to table Policy OP-12.1 for further discussion by the Board and Staff and Policies and Communications Committee.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Daniel Logsdon, MD

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

## **Carried 6-0**

3. LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE – Chair/Secretary Kimberly Barraza, President Carole Rogers, RN, and Vice-President Greg Rodriguez

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2025 🖉

b. SB 588 (Ochoa Bogh) Health facilities: Freestanding

Emergency Center Study Ø

i. Senate Health Committee Hearing Outcome

## c. <u>AB-259 Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences</u> *⊘* -Bill Update

d. AB-2019 Health Care Districts

e. Local Legislative Updates and Current Trends Secretary Barraza provided a detailed summary of the Legislative Policy Committee meeting and addressed the board's questions regarding the SB 588 Senate Committee Hearing.

- PROGRAM COMMITTEE Chair/President Evett PerezGil, Greg Rodriguez, Vice-President, and Secretary Kimberly Barraza
  a. The program committee did not meet because there were not enough members to meet the quorum requirement.
  The board inquired if any applications would have been considered at the May meeting if it taken place. Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that Planned Parenthood would be presented to the committee.
- 5. FINANCE, LEGAL, ADMINISTRATION & REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE – Chair/Treasurer Daniel Logsdon, MD, Director Leticia De Lara, and Director Arthur Shorr

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2025 🖉

b. Desert Healthcare District 457(b) and 401(a) Retirement

## Plans Ø

Chris Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of the changes to the 457(b) and 401(a) retirement plans discussed at the F&A Committee. The new contracts will be brought back to the committee and the board in June for approval.

There were no questions or comments from the board.

6. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE – Chair/Vice-President Greg Rodriguez, Secretary Kimberly Barraza, and Director Leticia De Lara

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – May 22, 2025 🖉

b. <u>Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Consultant to Facilitate</u> <u>the Development of Long-Term Goals and a 5-Year Strategic</u>

<u>Plan - Released March 1, 2025 - Closed May 1, 2025</u> 
c. <u>Recommendations for a Consultant to Facilitate the</u>
Development of Long-term Goals and a 5-year strategic plan

## 

Vice-President Rodriguez provided an overview of the Strategic Planning Committee describing staffs' recommendation to allow them more time to work with the proposals, including the scope issues, especially in the higher price range. The committee agreed to allow staff adequate time to go back and work with the proposed organizations for refinements and presentations to the board.

Secretary Barraza moved that the staff continue working with the proposed consultants as directed by the Strategic Planning Committee.

*Moved by:* Kimberly Barraza *Seconded by:* Leticia De Lara

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

## **Carried 7-0**

## H. OLD BUSINESS

1. <u>Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) CV</u> Link Q1 Progress Report – January 1, 2025, to March 31,

### <u>2025</u> Ø

Mr. Christensen, the CEO, explained that the Q1 CV Link report is included in the packet for the board's reference.

The board inquired about potential challenges related to the full completion of the project and community access. They also asked about the total budget for the project, the amount spent to date, and any cost overruns.

Murray Quance, Senior Program Specialist at CVAG, addressed the board's questions and provided details about the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremonies scheduled in each city throughout the Coachella Valley.

**Public Comment:** 

Melissa Acedera, Founder & Director of Polo's Pantry and Community Advocate

## I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

## J. CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION OF THE DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (The closed session will convene at the conclusion of the Foundation Board meeting.)

1. Public Employee Performance Evaluation pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (CEO)

President Rogers asked for a motion to convene to Closed Session of the Dessert Healthcare District Board of Directors at 8:13 p.m. with all directors present.

Director De Lara moved to convene to the Closed Session of the Dessert Healthcare District Board of Directors.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Daniel Logsdon, MD

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

## **Carried 7-0**

President Rogers reconvened to Open Session of the Dessert Healthcare District Board of Directors at 8:46 p.m.

Legal Counsel Scott reported after closed session that the board discussed the CEO evaluation and directed counsel to take appropriate action.

President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

## K. ADJOURNMENT

President Rogers adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

DocuSigned by: 5

Kimberly Barraza, Secretary, Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors

*Video recording available on the website at* <u>https://dhcd.diligent.community/</u>

#### Written Public Comment from Steve Sanchez, La Quinta Resident & City Council Member

#### **To: Desert Healthcare District & Foundation**

Written Public Comment for the following meetings:

- Legislative Committee Meeting May 13, 2025
- Finance & Administration May 14, 2025
- District Board Meeting May 27, 2025

Submitted to: Andrea Hayles, Special Assistant to the CEO and Board Relations Officer <u>ahayles@dhcd.org</u>

*Please read the following public comment to be included in the record for the above noted meetings:* 

My name is Steve Sanchez and I have lived in the Coachella Valley for over 20 years. I currently serve as a Council Member for the City of La Quinta. I served in the United States Marines, live by the Constitution and appreciate the democratic process we are privileged to have in America.

Measure AA successfully passed a public vote in November 2024 with over 72% of the voters in favor of the lease purchase agreement to continue operations of Desert Regional Medical Center by Tenet well into the future. The public decided the outcome with 120,000 voters in support of Measure AA. Thank you for allowing this important issue to go to the public for a vote. Moreover, thank you for your decision to have the Superior Court validate the agreement with Tenet. I understand that the purpose of the validation is to eliminate uncertainty and confirm the legality of actions, such as a public agencies issuance of bonds or validating contracts entered into by a public agency.

What is difficult to understand is why Eisenhower would challenge the outcome of Measure AA because they lost. They voiced their opposition of the ballot measure during the campaign, but the voters made their choice. Eisenhower's frivolous expensive legal action is a desperate attempt to sabotage the will of the people. It's a slap in the face to the voters and democracy. It's anti-democratic. The money they are wasting should be redirected to care for the underserved in our community – the ones who really need it.

Steve Sanchez

A.S. --



May 28, 2025

Board of Directors **Desert Healthcare District** 1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive Palm Springs CA 92262

Morongo Basin Healthcare District Board of Directors wishes to state their support of Desert Healthcare District regarding the validation of the new lease agreement with Tenet Healthcare.

In the Spring of 2024, we participated in the public forums that resulted in the voters approving a new 30-year lease with Tenet Healthcare for Desert Regional Medical Center. We thank you for your leadership in seeking a validation action to ensure that the lease agreement and the will of the voters stand.

We are greatly disheartened that Eisenhower Medical Center is wasting valuable resources in trying to thwart this standard validation process when such validation provides long-term financial certainty and the continued provision of healthcare services to the communities of Coachella Valley. The agreement ensures that Desert Healthcare District does not need to raise nearly \$220 million to complete the required seismic retrofitting of Desert Regional Medical Center, and thereby also ensures the continued critical funding for local nonprofits that you support. It seems to us worthwhile to seek such financial certainty considering the potential federal and state cuts to safety net programs.

Morongo Basin Healthcare District leases the Hi-Desert Medical Center to Tenet Healthcare and is also a partner in the Desert Care Network. Your success with Tenet Healthcare in the Coachella Valley is directly tied to our success in ensuring the residents of the Morongo Basin continue to have access to critical healthcare needs.

Our Board of Directors is committed to honoring the will of the people we represent. We firmly respect and support your commitment to the same.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our Board of Directors,

- Voun Gras

Mistv Evans Board of Directors

From:	fred nobellenergy.com
То:	Andrea Hayles
Cc:	fred nobellenergy.com
Subject:	Submitted to: Andrea Hayles, Special Assistant to the CEO and Board Relations Officer
Date:	Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:29:36 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Please read the following public comment to be included in the record:

My name is Fred Bell and I have been a valley resident from the time I was a child attending elementary school in Palm Springs. I provided public comment during the Measure AA campaign, sharing both my personal experience and experiences my family members have had with the outstanding care received at Desert Regional Medical Center.

As I stated at that time, Desert Regional SAVED MY LIFE and I am grateful to have a hospital that I can count on to care for me, my family, and now our grandchildren. They have given me a chance to see grandchildren I would have never known.

As part of my testimony, I strongly advocated and supported Measure AA. The passing of the ballot measure with over 72% of the voters is a testament to our democratic process. Thank you for allowing the residents of the district to make their decision for the future of healthcare in our valley. And, as process allows, your choice to seek a validation action to ensure that the lease purchase agreement and the will of the voters stands is both responsible and commendable.

Learning, however, that Eisenhower Medical Center is wasting valuable resources in trying to thwart this standard validation process through legal action is disappointing and quite bullish. Like the rest of us, they had their say during the campaign. Their legal action indicates that they clearly have not accepted the results of the election.

The validation process will provide long-term certainty and ensure that the District does not need to raise nearly \$220 million to complete the required seismic retrofitting of Desert Regional, thereby taking away critical funding for local nonprofits that do good work in our community.

I'm offering my continued support for the important and successful public-private partnership between Desert Healthcare District and Desert Regional Medical Center. We simply don't need Eisenhower inserting themselves with legal action when the future of healthcare in our valley should be the priority.

Thank you, Fred Bell Chief Operating Officer 760-578-1600 nobellenergy.com