



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2019**

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
President Les Zendle, MD Vice-President/Secretary Leticia De Lara Treasurer Mark Matthews Director Carole Rogers Director Evett PerezGil Director Karen Borja Director Arthur Shorr	Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director Meghan Kane, Community Health Analyst Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order	President Zendle called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.	
Roll Call	The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors present except Director Matthews.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	Director Borja led the pledge of allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President Zendle pulled item J.1.2. from the agenda and asked for approval of the agenda with the change. Director Matthews joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.	#20-27 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President De Lara and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the agenda with the change. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0
D. Public Comment	Numerous individuals of the Thermal area provided public comment on the mulch fire describing the toxic waste from the recycling plant, unhealthy air	



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	<p>quality, health, social and emotional concerns of students, re-evaluating CV Link to improve the quality of life for the residents of the Coachella Valley and working collectively with the District to resolve the problems.</p> <p>Public speakers included Gina Chapa, Indio resident; Carissa Carrera, President, Coachella Valley Teachers Association; Margie Avina, Teacher, Coachella Valley Unified School District; Yolanda Corona, Board member, Coachella Valley Unified School District; Anna Nevenic, Activist, United Children’s Network; Lorraine Salas, Teacher, Coachella Valley Unified School District; Bea Gonzalez, Coordinator of Expanded Learning After School Programs, Coachella Valley Unified School District; Karina Vega, Crisis Intervention Counselor, Coachella Valley Unified School District; and Blanca Hall, Board member, Coachella Valley Unified School District.</p> <p>President Zandle thanked those that provided public comment and explained that Dr. Bãrzaga will present additional details related to the remarks further in the meeting.</p>	
<p>E. Consent Agenda 1. Board Minutes a. Board of Directors Meeting – September 24, 2019 b. Board of Directors Meeting Closed Session –</p>	<p>President Zandle described the consent agenda items and asked for a motion to approve.</p>	<p>#20-28 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Mathews and seconded by Vice-President De Lara to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zandle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p>



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<p style="text-align: center;">September 24, 2019</p> <p>2. Finance and Administration</p> <p>a. Approval of September 2019 Financial Statements– F&A Approved October 8, 2019</p> <p>b. Las Palmas Lease Renewal – Suite 3E 104-105 – Laboratory Corporation of America</p> <p>c. Las Palmas Medical Plaza Fire Sprinkler Alarm Proposal</p> <p>d. Auditing Firms – Request for Proposal</p>		<p>NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>F. Public Hearing</p> <p>1. Expansion and Rezoning Background</p> <p>2. Zone Mapping Process for the New District Boundaries – 7 zones – Justin Levitt, Vice President, National Demographics Corporation</p>	<p>Doug Johnson, President, National Demographic Corporation, detailed the rezoning timeline of the District, districting criteria, federal laws, traditional criteria, and shaping the District with the proposed maps.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained her prior concern of keeping communities together and did not note any changes on the Agave map. Mr. Johnson explained that the only changes were in Indio.</p> <p>Linda Evans, Mayor, La Quinta, explained that the Agave 2 map represents La Quinta and keeps the communities together.</p>	



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	<p>Sergio Carranza, Executive Director, Pueblo Unido, Cathedral City resident, thanked the Board for keeping Cathedral City together, and stated that the Board should promote the maps in the media for more community awareness.</p> <p>Dieter Crawford, Desert Highland Gateway Estates resident, supports the Cholla 2 map to keep the majority-minority communities together, as well as Palm Springs and the minority areas of Cathedral City that would provide the best representation.</p> <p>Joslyn Vargas, Thermal resident, supports the Agave 2 map in the eastern valley.</p> <p>Director Borja explained that she prefers to keep Indio together supporting the Cholla 2 map, further explaining that the voter representation in the east versus the population size in Thermal, Mecca, Oasis, and North Shore totals approximately 17,000 people, but the voter turnout rates are lower than the actual population.</p> <p>Vice-President De Lara thanked the staff and NDC for providing updated maps based on last month's comments. Recognizing the issues that Director Borja described, Vice-President De Lara, explained that she supports two representatives in Indio to reduce those disenfranchised and bring more opportunity to the area with</p>	
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	<p>a tremendous need, supporting the Agave 2 map.</p> <p>Director PerezGil favors the Cholla 2 map, which keeps Cathedral City together.</p> <p>President Zendle asked the Board to vote for either the Agave 2 map or the Cholla 2 map.</p> <p>Director Shorr voted for the Agave 2 map; Director Borja voted for the Cholla 2 map; Director PerezGil voted for the Cholla 2 map; Director Rogers voted for the Cholla 2 map; Director Matthews voted for the Cholla 2 map; Vice President De Lara and President Zendle voted for the Agave 2 maps.</p>	<p>#20-29 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the Cholla 2 map. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>G. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration to appoint CEO to External Advisory Board (EAB) of the Center of Health Disparities Research – University of California, Riverside – National Institutes of Health (NIH) \$16M grant-funding from the Research Center in Minority Institutions (RCMI) 2. AB 1184 – Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention 3. Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) Certification 	<p>Conrado E. Barzaga, MD, CEO, explained that he is building a culture of excellence and professionalism while promoting transparency and accountability for the District, ensuring that leadership is not questionable in the community. Staff is working on awarding grants through the competitive request for proposals and promoting an evidence-based approach in response to the needs of the community as presented later in the meeting, such as the community health needs assessment and east valley funding announcement. Staff is working with various agencies on a strong outreach and engagement plan in the community. Staff is also pursuing the Association of California Healthcare Districts</p>	



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	<p>(ACHD) certification with a completion date of March 2020. The inclusion of the certification includes the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO) municipal services review. A timeline from LAFCO has not been established, and Chris Christensen, CAO, is the point of contact.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga explained the invitation from UCR School of Medicine to join the External Advisory Board of the Center of Health Disparities Research related to a \$16M grant award.</p> <p>At last month’s Board meeting, EVALCORP provided a presentation on Behavioral Health Needs Assessment highlighting the coordinated effort in the Coachella Valley and the work ahead. The District has allocated \$2M to the Foundation for the Behavioral Health Initiative, and Dr. Bárzaga inquired on direction concerning the assessment and whether the District should have an active or supportive role to ensure the efforts continue moving forward with coordination to evaluate different alternatives.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga explained that staff continues to address the CV Link project, meeting with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) staff and requested that CVAG follow the District’s grant-making policy. Staff forwarded a link to the application, which CVAG has declined to complete. No application has been submitted to</p>	
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	<p>date with the study session scheduled on November 7.</p> <p>AB 1184 that would have required the District to keep all communications and electronic files for a minimum of 2 years was vetoed by Governor Newsom.</p> <p>Lastly, Dr. Bárzaga inquired on the direction to proceed with engagement related to the residents of the Thermal area based on public comments.</p> <p>President Zendle asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Bárzaga to the External Advisory Board of the Center of Health Disparities Research.</p> <p>Dr. Barzaga provided clarity on his request for direction to continue with the Behavioral Health Needs Assessment: whether the District should have an active or supportive role in the coordinated efforts of the Behavioral Health Initiative, continue the assessment, and provide a recommendation.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that two years ago the Board approved the Behavioral Health Initiative with a job description for a consultant and a needs assessment. At Supervisor Perez’s most recent Green Ribbon Committee, EVALCORP provided ideas for the path forward, and Director Rogers would like to see the District move forward as a leader, including with a point person.</p>	<p>#20-29 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Mathews and seconded by Director Rogers to approve appointment of the CEO to the External Advisory Board (EAB) of the Center of Health Disparities Research.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Mathews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
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	<p>Vice-President De Lara agreed with Director Rogers, explaining that a strong leadership role is necessary. While the District appreciates and thanks Supervisor Perez for his work in behavioral health, his office cannot succeed without an equal partnership and for the District to understand its success by including additional partners. The District should be proactive with bold steps, such as identifying funding to allow key decision-making on accomplishments and ensure there are resources and accountability of the District for reaching goals.</p> <p>Direct Matthews reminded the Board this is part of some of its important work with long-term consequences, and in the past if a large entity wanted to contribute funds to the District, the District has a record of transparency with grants that also brings the community together, and the behavioral health issues will require lots of funding.</p> <p>President Zandle directed staff to bring forward at the next board meeting a proposal and budget with a behavioral health coordinator from the District to work with various agencies, such as the Green Ribbon Committee, and EVALCORP.</p> <p>Vice-President De Lara explained that when the District annexed the area the Board recognized the many issues in the east that are larger than anticipated and cannot</p>	
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	<p>be changed overnight, and the District is a leader on health issues and should identify resources and the District's role, while working with the community on priorities and how the District can support and improve the air quality.</p> <p>Director Borja explained that as the District engages, she would like to see a conversation on not simply closing the recycling plant, but actual cleanup of the plant, including understanding the responsible parties, cleanup costs, and other data and action.</p> <p>Director Rogers supports the comments explaining the frustration with the new boundaries that were extended without any additional funding from the county or the state. Residents in the east valley pay the same tax rate as the residents in the west valley, but do not receive the same services and the District could take a leadership role in identifying the problems, such as using funding from the \$1M pulmonary trust for respiratory issues to conduct a study with the participation of other organizations.</p> <p>President Zandle explained that there are several agencies involved in the Thermal area, and the District has a role in dealing with health issues, requesting that staff examine ways the District and Foundation can participate in addressing the problems and bring forth a proposal for action. The</p>	
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	<p>pulmonary fund is a good resource to start. The District can highlight the health issues, explaining that data is necessary to examine the concerns as mentioned by Director Borja.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center, explained that Desert Regional Medical Center participated in the county's active drill for mass casualties. New physicians are on board to support the trauma service, including a new open-heart surgeon, a new surgical spine surgeon, a vascular surgeon, and a pain management specialist. Desert Regional Medical Center is celebrating mammography month with extended hours to encourage women and men to obtain exams, and a new 3D mammography unit has been purchased. Hospital improvements consist of the pharmacy remodel and upgrade to state codes; a two-year project for sterile processing replacement is underway. The ER Department expansion and remodel is advancing, and Mrs. Finney thanked the community for its patience. The nursing call system is being replaced; the hospital hosted community education classes throughout the month and participated in a variety of sponsorships. Desert Care Network is assisting the children in the ER Department at JFK with respiratory issues and deployed 40,000 masks to affected areas in Thermal, encouraging the Board to assist in the east even with small matters.</p>	



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<p>I. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors Report</p>	<p>President Zendle described the details of the most recent Governing Board meeting that included a new board member, review of the open and closed cases with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), comprehensive stroke accreditation, Desert Regional Medical Center’s (DRMC) participation in the mass casualty drill, and an overview of the American College of Surgeons certification concerning designating DRMC as level two trauma center. The flu has been reported in the valley; due to the Paradise fire, a bill passed to allow free-standing emergency departments, and the governor vetoed a bill that would allow the use of marijuana in hospitals for treatment of terminally ill patients.</p>	
<p>J. 1. Finance, Legal, Administration, and Real Estate Committee</p> <p>a. Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2019</p> <p>b. Political Consultants for Potential Hospital Lease/Transaction</p> <p>c. Policy Map – 15-month subscription - \$5,005.54</p>	<p>Director Matthews explained the F&A Committee items as approved in the consent agenda, and the meeting minutes that are available for review.</p> <p>Item J. was pulled from the agenda.</p> <p>Director Matthews described the Policy Map for data purposes and moved for approval. Vice-President De Lara explained that the map is not expensive, but collaboration is necessary, such as working with Lift to Rise and other organizations investing in data to ensure that the District is not duplicating efforts.</p>	<p>#20-30 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director Shorr to approve Policy Map – 15-month subscription - \$5,005.54. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers,</p>



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<p>d. FY 2019 Audit Reports -- Moss Levy & Hartzheim</p>	<p>Heather Vaikona, Executive Director, Lift to Rise (LTR), explained the distinction with LTR's data portal detailing the work of a prior needs assessment collaboration with USC School of Innovation in cooperation with the District, and obtained raw data not secondary data. LTR has invested in a data portal that has the capacity to obtain data from local sources, including public safety for demographics of data.</p> <p>Director Matthews explained the details for the FY 2019 audit reports, also describing the pension plan history with approximately \$3M available in the fund.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that each year she requests that the auditors attend the Board meetings and explain the audit reports. In addition, Director Rogers inquired about the community members on the F&A Committee.</p> <p>President Zendle recommended inviting the auditors to the next Board meeting to provide a brief overview of the audit reports.</p>	<p>Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0</p> <p>#20-31 MOTION WAS MADE by Vice-President De Lara and seconded by Director Shorr to approve the FY 2019 Audit Reports. Motion passed. AYES – 5 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director PerezGil, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSTAIN – 2 Director Rogers and Director Borja</p>
<p>2. Program Committee</p> <p>a. Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2019</p> <p>b. Progress and Final Reports</p> <p>c. Letters of Interest and Pending Applications</p>	<p>Director Rogers explained the minutes, the progress and final reports, and letters of interest and pending applications. Director Rogers provided details of Monica Telles, Senior Development Specialist, Riverside County Economic Agency, request for funds</p>	



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<p>d. Consideration to approve Grant #1023 Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) – Transportation for Seniors and Homeless Hospital Discharge Referrals - \$216,200</p>	<p>for the residents of Oasis Mobile Home Park. Director Rogers requested that staff reassess the Oasis Mobile Home Park application.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained the details of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) grant to purchase 3 new vans to transport clients (seniors and homeless patients) to follow up medical appointments, including staff costs for the transportation of the clients.</p>	<p>#20-32 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to approve Grant #1023 Coachella Valley Rescue Mission Transportation for Seniors and Homeless Hospital Discharge Referrals.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p>
<p>4. Strategic Planning Committee</p> <p>a. Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2019</p> <p>b. Meeting Minutes – October 17, 2019</p>	<p>President Zendle explained the minutes of the meeting and the introduced Meghan Kane, Community Health Analyst.</p>	
<p>c. Community Health Needs Assessment RFP – NTE \$300,000</p>	<p>Meghan Kane, Community Health Analyst, provided a presentation on the Community Health Needs Assessment that included the reasons for the assessment, goals, nine-step goal tool kit, a description of phases one and two, and the timeline.</p> <p>Vice-President De Lara suggested a collective impact model to ensure methodology since there are not enough resources to commence steps one through five, while recognizing that the District should take the lead in some matters and</p>	<p>#20-33 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director Rogers to approve the Community Health Needs Assessment RFP – NTE \$300,000</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p>



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	as supporters on other matters. Community input is important but using the structure to communicate back accountability should be robust. The District's current resources should not limit our efforts, and it is necessary for the District to examine its resources for funding opportunities.	
K. Old Business	There was no old business.	
L. New Business	There was no new business.	
M. Legal Comments & Reports	Jeff Scott, legal counsel, explained AB 1184 – Public records: writing transmitted by electronic mail: retention, which would have required districts to keep records for 2 years, was vetoed by Governor Newsom.	
N. Directors' Comments, Reports, Informational Items, & Staff Direction and Guidance		
O. Adjournment	President Zende adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.	Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents

ATTEST: 
 Leticia De Lara, Vice-President/Secretary
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board