



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING MINUTES
April 3, 2020**

Directors Present - Telephonically	District Staff Present - Telephonically	Absent
President Leticia De Lara Vice-President/Secretary Karen Borja Treasurer Mark Matthews Director Carole Rogers, RN Director Evett PerezGil Director Les Zendle, MD 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 Eric Taylor, Accounting Manager Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Vanessa Smith, Special Projects and Program Manager Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order Roll Call	President De Lara called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all directors' present except Director Matthews, who initially experienced technical difficulties. Director Matthew's connection was lost during the agenda roll call vote, and he rejoined the meeting.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President De Lara asked those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President De Lara asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#20-61 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Zendle and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 6 President De Lara, Vice-President Borja, Director Rogers,



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		<p>Director PerezGil, Director Zandle, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 1 Director Matthews</p>
<p>D. Public Comment</p>	<p>Public Comments were provided by the following: Blaine Carrington, Board Member, Growing Coachella Valley Peter Carlson, Congressman Ruiz’s Office California Rural Legal Assistance Lorena Martinez, California Rural Legal Assistance Blaz Gutierrez, Regional Director of Advocacy, California Rural Legal Assistance Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor Gary Rotto, Vice-President of Policy Leslie Martinez, Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability Yaneth Andrade-Magana, Pueblo Unido CDC</p>	
<p>E. Desert Healthcare District CEO Update</p>	<p>Conrado Bázquez, MD, CEO, explained telework of the staff, and the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD) documents for certification are submitted.</p> <p>Southern California Grant Makers (SCG) is presenting a virtual meeting on public health, health capacity, and resourcing related to COVID-19.</p> <p>The District launched a process for the public to make donations of medical and nonmedical supplies.</p>	



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	<p>The \$75,000 approval of the homelessness initiative grant for \$25,000 to each organization is being distributed. The county received \$500,000 from the state to assist with homelessness facilities such as and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM).</p> <p>Staff is encouraging Lift to Rise to integrate Coachella Valley Health Info Place (CVHIP) with the economic protection plan. Lift to Rise has received over 1,000 applications for family assistance to receive \$200 cash assistance, and Lift to Rise has secured over \$700,000 to date.</p> <p>The applications for grants to the FQHCs have been received. Staff contracted with CV Strategies for accurate health information on COVID-19 in English and Spanish for the Coachella Valley.</p> <p>FIND Food Bank has a mobile pantry twice per month at the Palm Springs Convention Center and is holding their annual Telethon to raise funds.</p>	
<p>F. COVID-19 Rapid Testing in the Eastern Coachella Valley</p> <p>1. Consideration to approve a \$350,000 allocation to strengthen the District’s healthcare safety net and expand the regional COVID-19 with rapid testing capacity</p>	<p>Conrado Bárzaga, MD, CEO, explained that emergency funding for approval of \$350,000 to strength the healthcare safety net and expand the testing capacity in the region. One of the critical portions to stop the spread is to determine who is infected and those that are immune to prevent further death, describing the letters from Supervisor Perez, Borrego</p>	



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	<p>Health, and Desert AIDS Project. Henry Schein will be the provider of the tests as one of the FQHCs has a relationship with Henry Schein for the purchase, and to authorize the CEO to move forward with the contracts and agreements. All testing would be coordinated with RUHS.</p> <p>The Board asked questions and provided remarks such as purchasing half the amount of the testing kits, FEMA's role with medical funding and reimbursement, the logistics of how the kits will be distributed, a long-term solution incorporating the county, including the infectious disease specialist, Dr. Kerkar at Desert AIDS Project in future meetings, and the difference between the PCR and antibody tests and immunities.</p> <p>Director Zendle suggests asking staff to work with public health on a pilot program for antibody testing, and a plan to determine who is infected in the Valley.</p> <p>Director Rogers motioned to approve the \$350k to the FQHCs to purchase COVID-19 testing kits.</p> <p>Director Matthews recommends tabling the matter and coming back next week to obtain the appropriate information based on Director Zendle's comments related to the antibodies.</p>	<p>#20-62 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director PerezGil to approve the \$350,000 allocation to the FQHCs to purchase COVID-19 test kits. Motion passed 5-2 AYES – 5 Vice-President Borja, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSTAIN – 1 Director Zendle</p>
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	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, recommends providing funding of the kits, but allowing the FQHCs to purchase the kits. The District should not have the legal liability of the contracts and agreements.</p>	<p>RECUSAL – 1 President De Lara</p>
<p>G. Immediate Issues and Comments</p>	<p>At the March meeting, the Board voted for \$50k in education related COVID-19. After hearing the public comments and what happening in the community, Vice-President Borja directed staff to create information about COVID-19 in the Spanish language, and to determine what a quarantine looks like to families in trailer parks and apartment complexes.</p> <p>Director Zendle directed staff to invite Dr. Kaiser Cameron, Riverside County Health Officer, Department of Public Health, Riverside University Health Systems (RUHS), or the director of public health to join a meeting so the Board can understand why the District is doing the county and public health’s job even though we have a role, but it would be good to hear from the director directly.</p> <p>Director PerezGil thanked the staff for their hard work.</p> <p>Director Matthews explained that it is a good to live in California right now with the work the Governor is pushing forward.</p>	
<p>H. Adjournment</p>	<p>President De Lara adjourned the meeting at 4:51 p.m.</p>	<p>Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</p>



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ATTEST: _____
Karen Borja, Vice-President/Secretary
Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

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

miguel.romerochoa@asm.ca.gov