

# DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT Board of Directors Meeting MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2025

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

# A. CALL TO ORDER

President Rogers called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. All directors were present, except for Director Rodriguez, who joined the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Director PerezGil was absent for the District meeting.

### 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

Any item on the agenda may result in Board Action.

President Rogers asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Arthur Shorr

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

Carried 5-0

# 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.

# 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.* 

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

Director De Lara removed items 3.a. and 3.b. from the consent agenda and moved to approve all remaining items.

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

Yes Kimberly Barraza, Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Daniel Logsdon, MD, and Arthur Shorr Director De Lara recused herself from the discussion of items 3a. and 3.b.

Secretary Barraza moved to approve consent agenda items 3.a. and 3.b.

*Moved by:* Kimberly Barraza *Seconded by:* Carole Rogers, RN

YesKimberly Barraza, Carole Rogers, RN, Daniel<br/>Logsdon, MD, and Arthur ShorrAbstainLeticia De Lara

Carried 4-0

## 1. BOARD MINUTES

a. <u>Board of Directors Meeting – February 25, 2025</u>

## 2. FINANCIALS

a. <u>February 2025 Financial Statements</u> *⊘* – F&A Committee Approved March 11, 2025

### 3. AGREEMENTS

a. <u>NPO Centric – Consulting services agreement no cost</u>
<u>extension and scope of work revision for Results Based</u>
<u>Accountability (RBA) through December 31, 2025</u>
<u>b. NPO Centric – Consulting services agreement extension</u>
<u>for</u>
<u>Capacity Building, Technical Assistance, and Introductory</u>
Assessment through March 31, 2026

# F. STRATEGIC GRANT FUNDING

ACTIONS

1.Grant #1496 - Reynaldo J Carreon MD Foundation - Dr.Carreon Health Scholarship Program - \$86,250 ∅

Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, provided an overview of the Dr. Carreon Health Scholarship Program grant request.

The board expressed support for the grant and the expansion of local organizations to help reduce the healthcare shortage.

Public Comment: Ricardo Loretta, Executive Director, Dr. Carreon Foundation

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Arthur Shorr

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

Carried 5-0

### G. REPORTS

1. <u>Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</u> Ø – Michael J. Ditoro, Pharm.D., CEO, Desert Regional Medical Center

> Mike Ditoro, Pharm., D, CEO, Desert Regional Medical Center, provided an overview of his background as a pharmacist. He joined DRMC in 2018, initially serving as the Chief Operating Officer, then being promoted to Chief Administrative Officer, and eventually becoming the CEO. He also highlighted several key points in his report, including the successful visit from the Joint Commission for the accreditation of knee and hip replacement surgeries. Additionally, he announced that all residents have successfully matched into their programs, except for the transitional year, which was anticipated. Another highlight was the overview of the NICU reunion event. Mr. Ditoro also responded to questions from the board.

2. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board – Carole Rogers, RN, President, and Greg Rodriguez, Vice-President President Rogers stated that the report was emailed to the directors, and she updated the governing board about SB 588, sponsored by Senator Ochoa Bogh.

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

> a. <u>Letter of Support - Senate Bill 534 (Padilla): Salton Sea</u> <u>Region Green Empowerment Zone</u> *⊘*

Chris Christensen, CEO, discussed SB 534 - Salton Sea Region Green Empowerment Zone, which is sponsored by Senator Padilla. The letter of support has been signed and submitted, and it is available for informational purposes.

There were no questions or comments.

b. <u>CEO Engagements and Media Visibility</u> 🖉

There were no questions or comments about the CEO engagements and the District's visibility in the media.

**c.** <u>Consideration for the District Board of Directors to</u> <u>approve a letter of support for the CEO's nomination to</u> <u>serve on the Association of California Healthcare Districts</u>

(ACHD) Board of Directors 🖉 - ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, requested that the board approve a letter of support for him to submit an application for nomination to serve on the Board of Directors for the Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD).

There were no questions or comments from the board.

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

Yes Kimberly Barraza, Carole Rogers, RN, Leticia De Lara, Daniel Logsdon, MD, and Arthur Shorr d. <u>Mobile Healthcare Association - 21st Annual Mobile</u> <u>Health Clinics Conference - Empowering Change: Shaping</u> <u>the Future of Mobile Healthcare - September 13 – 16, 2025</u>

 $\ensuremath{\mathscr{D}}$  - ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, provided an overview of the mobile health conference and requested support and approval for staff attendance. He also addressed questions from the board regarding costs.

Donna Craig, the Chief Program Officer, responded to the board's inquiries about the staff's involvement with the mobile units and provided justification for their attendance.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara *Seconded by:* Arthur Shorr

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

Carried 5-0

e. <u>Consideration to approve a \$5,000 Sponsorship to the</u> <u>Inland Southern California United Way - United for Good</u>

2025 Annual Gala - May 2, 2025 @ - ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, presented the sponsorship budget and the request for approval for the United Way - United for Good 2025 Annual Gala.

The board discussed the broader Southern California region that the United Way supports, focusing more on their initiatives in the Coachella Valley while highlighting the recent grant to the District aimed at addressing COVID-19 disparities and the 2-1-1 initiative.

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

#### Carried 5-0

f. <u>Consideration to approve a \$5,000 Lifestyle Award</u> <u>Sponsorship for the American Heart Association's Annual</u> <u>Coachella Valley Heart & Stroke Walk - November 17, 2025</u>

*∂* - ACTION

Mr. Christensen, CEO, presented the sponsorship request for the American Heart Association's (AHA) Annual Coachella Valley Heart & Stroke Walk, which is expected to have 700 participants.

The board inquired about the years the AHA Heart & Stroke Walk has been held in the Coachella Valley and the location for this year's event.

*Moved by:* Arthur Shorr *Seconded by:* Leticia De Lara

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

#### Carried 5-0

4. Legal – Jeffrey G. Scott, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey G. Scott

Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, confined his comments to closed session.

#### H. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

> a.<u>Draft Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2025</u> *𝔅* b.<u>CA SB 588 - Health facilities: Freestanding Emergency</u>

<u>Department Feasibility Study</u> *⊘* c. AB 2019 - Healthcare Districts d. Legislative Policy Committee Goals and Objectives i. Desert Healthcare District's Legislative Priorities/Platform

ii. Establish a framework for the district's legislative agenda

e. Advocacy & Engagement

i. Potential partnerships, meetings, and advocacy efforts.ii. Develop a strategy for the committee to track bills, take positions, and engage with policymakers.

f. Local, State, & Federal Legislative Updates

i. Review relevant bills, budget allocations, and policy changes affecting healthcare.

Secretary Barraza provided an overview of the Legislative Policy Committee meeting outlining items a. through f.

The board discussed feedback from the understaffed emergency room at Eisenhower regarding the Freestanding Emergency Department (FED) legislation authored by Senator Ochoa Bogh. The board also mentioned potential support from various organizations, including letters of support from state entities such as the Association of California Healthcare Districts.

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

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2025 🖉

Director Logsdon inquired about any questions concerning the F&A Committee meeting minutes.

There were no questions or comments.

3. PROGRAM COMMITTEE – Chair/President Evett PerezGil, Greg Rodriguez, Vice-President, and Secretary Kimberly Barraza

a. Draft Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2025 Ø

b.Progress and Final Reports Update 🖉

c.Grant Applications Status Report Ø

d.<u>Grant Payment Schedule</u> Ø

In the absence of Director PerezGil, chair of the Program Committee, Secretary Barraza asked if there were any questions or comments regarding items a. through d. of the Program Committee.

There were no questions or comments.

e. <u>Recommendation based on legal counsel, to postpone</u> proceeding with Grant #1466 for Eisenhower Health in the

amount of \$1,989,493 over three years @ - ACTION

Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, provided an overview of Eisenhower's legal challenge to the Lease Purchase Agreement, further explaining that the challenge primarily concerns the covenant not to compete and questions the language in the 2027 lease. Counsel Scott indicated that Eisenhower has injected this Grant Application into the validation action and recommended, in the best interest of the District, the board continue any action regarding Eisenhower's grant request until the court resolves the issue and reaches a decision. Counsel Scott also addressed questions from the board.

Counsel Scott advised Director Logsdon to abstain from voting given his medical contract with Eisenhower.

Director Logsdon exited the room before the vote.

*Moved by:* Leticia De Lara to continue action regarding Eisenhower's grant application until the court rules in the pending validation action.

Seconded by: Greg Rodriguez

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

Carried 5-0

### I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Rogers discussed the governing board report and highlighted the projected shortage of over 24,000 physicians in California by 2030. The Las Palmas Medical Plaza is currently fully occupied, and as part of future planning, the district should consider the development of a new medical office building.

### J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

Kimberly Barraza, Secretary

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors

Audio recording available on the website at <a href="https://dhcd.diligent.community/">https://dhcd.diligent.community/</a>