

PIONEERS MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
207 West Legion Road, Brawley, CA 92227
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, November 22, 2022
PMH Auditorium
5:00 pm

Minutes

PMHD MISSION: Quality healthcare and compassionate service for families of the Imperial Valley

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you require special accommodations to participate in a board meeting, please contact the District at (760) 351-3250 at least 47 hours prior to the meeting.

I. **CALL TO ORDER** (*time: 5:00 pm – 5:15 pm*)

President Aguirre called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the PMH Auditorium.

A. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS:

Nick Aguirre, President
Katy Santillan, Vice President
Linda Rubin, Secretary
Lorenzo Suarez, Treasurer
Maria Aguilera, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF:

Damon Sorensen, Interim CEO
Carly Loper, CFO
Kristi Gillespie, CNO
Ramaiah Indudhara, MD, Chief of Staff
Sally Nguyen, General Counsel

GUESTS:

Carol Bojorquez, Director of Quality

B. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Suarez. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

II. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Rubin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – At this time, the Board will hear comments on any agenda item and on any item not on this agenda. If any person wishes to be heard, he or she shall stand; address the chairperson and state the subject, or subjects, upon which he or she desires to comment. Time limit for each speaker is 5 minutes. A total of 15 minutes shall be allocated for each item. (*time: 5:15 pm – 5:30 pm*)

A comment was made that the employee insurance does cover home health services; however, it was advised that no local home health agency is accepting the PMHD insurance. This information will be provided to Human Resources.

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A question was raised if the consulting group was still reviewing the District's financial position or are they done with the report. Ms. Loper noted that the report is still in the works.

Ms. Gillespie presented Ms. Veronica Vasquez to the Board. Ms. Vasquez handled a credible bomb threat event that occurred in September. Ms. Vasquez was cool, collected, and compassionate during the call. She was able to keep the caller calm and on the line. She obtained a lot of information from the caller that was later used by Brawley PD to detain the individual and get him the help he needed. The Senior leaders discussed and agreed that Ms. Vasquez should be recognized for her valor that day. Ms. Vasquez was awarded with the September Employee of the Month for Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District. The Board thanked Ms. Vasquez for her invaluable contribution to Pioneers.

A member of the public advised that the Interim CEO from El Centro Regional let people know that he had met with PMHD's Interim CEO. The plan is to merge the two hospitals together and sell to a larger hospital system. It was asked if the Interim CEO support this and what does the Board think about that. Damon Sorensen, Interim CEO for PMHD, advised that Scott Phillips, Interim CEO for El Centro Regional, has been at ECRMC for four days. Mr. Phillips reached out to Mr. Sorensen yesterday morning wanting to do a meet and greet and share what is going on at ECRMC. He shared that he is completely transparent, and Mr. Sorensen indicated that he is as well. Mr. Phillips spoke about a lot of things and Mr. Sorensen listened. Mr. Sorensen let him know that the PMHD Board is aware that the El Centro City Council would like both hospitals to come together. A formal letter was to be sent to Pioneers asking for that and PMHD is waiting for that letter. Mr. Phillips has a grand plan; however, it is unknown if this will work for PMHD. Mr. Sorensen stated that it is not for two outsiders to determine, it's for everyone that is part of the community to decide. More will be known when the formal request is received, and discussions are held. Mr. Sorensen noted that both places working together in some areas makes sense, but again, those are discussions yet to be had and explored. It is believed that the local community in El Centro is not yet aware of the plan. The plan seems to be an effort by the bond agency who placed their people in the system. Mr. Phillips let him know that El Centro has been asking UCSD to purchase ECRMC for about 10 years. While UCSD had always answered no, they did let Mr. Phillips that if they brought Pioneers along with them, then they would make the purchase. This is pretty serious for the community to consider if it's something they want to do or even if it's the right time to do so. A member of the public stated that this community has never spoken badly about ECRMC; however, the previous ECRMC CEO always talked bad about PMHD and how poorly we are doing to deflect from their issues. This community would like PMHD to just focus on Pioneers and how we can survive. At this point, there have been no discussions or a formal request received.

A member of the public asked if Mr. Sorensen thought that the Cath lab project was a good one since there was so much spent on it and it is still not up and running. Mr. Sorensen advised that the decisions related to the project were made with the best info that was had at the time. He was not here, so he cannot speak to that. There were several unfortunate events that hindered that project, such as COVID. He noted that his focus now is to move forward and not ponder on the past.

SECTION**IV. OLD BUSINESS** (*time: 5:30 pm – 5:40 pm*)

There was no old business.

V. MEDICAL STAFF REPORT – Ramaiah Indudhara, MD, Chief of Staff, will present for Board consideration, the following matters: (*time: 5:40 pm – 6:00 pm*)

- A. Recommendations from the Medical Executive Committee for Medical Staff Membership and/or Clinical Privileges, policies/procedures/forms, or other related recommendations

Dr. Indudhara provided an overview of the medical staff report to the Board. He advised that all of the recommendations for privileges and policies were reviewed by the appropriate committees. The Board asked Dr. Indudhara about the transfer report. He advised that they are seeing the usual transfers such as GI cases, but he did not have the report with him. Ms. Gillespie advised that she would send a copy of the transfer report to the Board. Dr. Indudhara reported that the MEC expressed that there remains shortfalls in operations of the hospital; therefore, they recommend that a COO be hired. There were no specifics provided, only that there continues to be a need to improve communication between physicians and administration. Mr. Sorensen requested that he be allowed to act in that capacity with the Medical Staff until such time as a COO can be hired, given the current state of the District's finances. A motion was made to approve the medical staff report by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Suarez. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

VI. POLICIES/PROCEDURES/REVIEW OF OTHER ITEMS – The Board will consider and may take action on the following: (*time: 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm*)**A. Hospital Policies**

1. Bioterrorism Management Plan
2. Check Request
3. Code Silver – Active Shooter Situation Response
4. Code White – Hospital Evacuation Plan
5. Communications and Media Relations
6. Control of Documents
7. District Wide Plan for the Provision of Patient Care
8. Earthquake Response Plan
9. Emergency Operations Plan
10. Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan
11. Hospital Full Charity Care
12. Jury/Witness Duty and Absence to Vote
13. Marketing and Fundraising – Uses and Disclosures of PHI
14. Petty Cash
15. Security Incident Procedures
16. Shelter in Place Plan
17. Support for Caregiver After Adverse/Sentinel Event
18. Workplace Violence Prevention Plan

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Director Aguilera asked that staff be advised that they need to pay attention to who is listed as the “author” on the policies. There are some that have the name of individuals who are no longer here. It was noted that the individuals were here when the policy went through the process, however, they will make note of it and revise. A motion was made to approve the policies by Director Aguilera, seconded by Director Suarez. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

B. Update Reports**1. Women’s Auxiliary**

The Auxiliary had their annual country kitchen, and it was very successful. They continue to look for new members.

2. LAFCO

There was nothing to report.

3. Funding Requests Committee**a. Brawley Elementary School District**

The Board directed that this request be handled by Marketing.

C. Authorize Renewal of Billing Errors & Omissions and Regulatory Coverage with BETA Healthcare Group

Contract Value: \$45,773.⁶⁶; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Insurance

D. Authorize Payment of Annual Membership Dues with District Hospital Leadership Forum (DHLF)

Contract Value: \$55,783.⁰⁹; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Dues and Subscriptions

E. Authorize Consulting Agreement for Revenue Cycle Oversight

Contract Value: not to exceed \$155,000; Contract Term: estimated six (6) months; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Purchased services

A motion was made to approve items C through E by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Suarez. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

VII. MANAGEMENT REPORTS – The Board will receive the following information reports and may take action. *(time: 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm)***A. Operations Reports – Kristi Gillespie****1. Hospital operations (Chief Nursing Officer)**

Ms. Gillespie reported that she has been in contact with the new hospitalist group, and they are working on getting physicians ready for when they take over on January 1, 2023. As stated previously, recruitment efforts for all areas will continue. Ms. Gillespie mentioned that the team was finalizing criteria for seasonal nursing positions in hopes of increasing winter staffing. ER volumes increased while admissions decreased.

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2. Clinics operations (Chief of Clinic Operations)

Ms. Zamora is out this week, so there is nothing to report.

3. Medical staff (Chief Nursing Officer)

Nothing further to add to the medical staff report.

4. Finance (Chief Financial Officer)

Nothing further to add.

5. Information technology (Chief Nursing Officer)

The Board approved the agreement with Cerner last week, so there is nothing to report at this time.

6. Marketing & community update (Chief Executive Officer)

There was nothing to report.

7. Facilities, logistics, construction, support – (Chief of Logistics and Support Services)

No report was submitted.

8. Quality resources - (Director of Quality Resources)

Nothing to report.

9. Board matters

Nothing to report.

B. Legal Counsel Report – Sally Nguyen

1. All matters to be discussed in Closed Session

VIII. CLOSED SESSION – The following matters will be considered by the Board in closed session; the Board will reconvene in open session to announce any action taken on matters considered in closed session. *(time: 7:30 pm – 7:50 pm)*

A. QUALITY ASSURANCE – Safe Harbor: Health & Safety Code 32155 the Board will hear reports of a hospital medical audit committee relating to:

1. Quality Report/Scorecard

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B. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS INVOLVING TRADE SECRETS – Safe Harbor: Health and Safety Code §32106, subparagraph (b)

1. Based on the Board’s prior findings regarding Trade Secret classification, as contained in Resolution 2019-02, consideration and discussion of possible initiation of the following:

a. Updating Certain District Strategic Planning Initiatives

C. PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION – Safe Harbor: Subdivision (b) of Government Code §54956.9

1. Claim of McCullough v. PMHD

D. PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION – Safe Harbor: Subdivision (b) of Government Code §54956.9

1. Conference with Legal Counsel regarding threatened litigation involving possible facts or circumstances not yet known to potential party or parties, disclosure of which could adversely affect the District’s position.

a. Compliance Issues

IX. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION *(time: 7:50 – 8:00 pm)*

A. Take Actions as Required on Closed Session Matters

There were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

X. ADJOURNMENT *(time: 8:00 pm)*

The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting.



Clerk of the Board



Board Secretary