

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

Tuesday, February 28, 2023
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 Santillan called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm in the PMH Auditorium

A. Roll Call

BOARD MEMBERS:

Katy Santillan, President
Enola Berker, Vice President
Rachel Fonseca, Secretary
Linda Rubin, Treasurer
Nick Aguirre, Assist. Secretary/Treasurer

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Carly Zamora, Chief of Clinics
Cindy Segar-Miller, Consultant

B. Approval of Agenda

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

II. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Board advised of the recent loss of two physicians who worked with the District for many years. Their condolences go out to their family members.

Director Fonseca reported that she was invited to Witter school to read to the students on March 2nd. She extended the invitation to any other Board member who would like to join her. Director Berker mentioned that she too was invited to the same event.

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)

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There were no comments.

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 a brief overview of the medical staff report. All recommendations and policies have gone through the appropriate committees. He noted that the report is similar to last month as there have not been many changes. The same pattern for GI and cardiac transfers are being seen. Dr. Indudhara did want to mention that the month of March will signify the three-year anniversary of when the COVID pandemic started. Pioneers, like any other hospital, was significantly impacted by this pandemic. He did not want to forget the struggle that everyone (medical staff, administration, nursing, and staff) went through. We are all now going to be dealing with the post-pandemic effects. Despite that, he noted that we need to appreciate what we all went through and how we survived. Director Santillan asked about the transfer report. It was advised that the transfer report is on page 55 of the packet. A motion was made to approve the medical staff report by Director Aguirre, seconded by Director Rubin. **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. Application for Initial Appointment
2. Application for Reappointment
3. Criteria for Case Referrals to Morbidity and Mortality Meetings
4. Outpatient Radiology Authorization
5. Protection from Discovery, Medical Staff Proceeding and Records of Organized Committee Meetings
6. Querying the Data Bank
7. Security of Medical Staff Office, Access to Committee Minute and Credential Files
8. Verification of Current and Adequate PLI Coverage

A motion was made to approve the hospital policies by Director Aguirre, seconded by Director Rubin. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

B. Update Reports

1. Women's Auxiliary

Director Rubin advised that the Auxiliary will be donating about \$32,000 in equipment (three panda warmers, five bassinets, and a bilirubin blanket/light). She asked Mr. Sorensen if he knew if ECRMC would be providing Pioneers with

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any more equipment. Mr. Sorensen stated that ECRMC has not been very responsive to inquiries. They have, recently, become much less responsive in communicating with Pioneers, in many areas. Director Rubin announced that the Attic Treasures event will be on April 14th. The Women's Auxiliary continues to look for volunteers. They also awarded 12 scholarships for nurses.

2. LAFCO

The ad hoc Committee did attend a meeting regarding expanding the district. This will be discussed later.

3. Funding Requests Committee

There were no requests.

4. Compliance Officer Evaluation
5. General Counsel Evaluation

As requested by the Board, feedback has been solicited from senior leaders and will forward that to the Board.

C. Authorize Letter of Agreement with Western Growers Assurance Trust Pending Legal Review

Contract Value: See proposed rate sheet; Contract Term: Ongoing; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Revenue

D. Authorize Letter of Agreement with Imperial Health Plan of California, Inc.

Contract Value: 106%; Contract Term: Temporary until term defined; Budgeted: N/A; Budget Classification: Revenue

E. Authorize Amendment to Management System Certification/Accreditation Agreement with DNV Healthcare USA, Inc.

Contract Value: \$68,840; Contract Term: Three (3) years; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Purchased Services

F. Authorize Elevator Service Agreement with Amtech Elevator Services

Contract Value: \$60,000; Contract Term: Five (5) years; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Repairs & Maintenance

ITEM C - Ms. Loper advised that negotiations are still ongoing with Western Growers regarding the rates. She is requesting that it be approved with the understanding that Pioneers will receive the market rates.

ITEM D – Ms. Loper clarified that the Imperial Health Plan is a managed care plan and the rate is going to be 106% of the Medicare fee schedule.

A motion was made to approve items C through F by Director Aguirre, seconded by Director Berker. **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)

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A. Operations Reports – Damon Sorensen, Interim CEO

1. CEO Report (Interim CEO)

Mr. Sorensen noted that there have been a lot of recruiting activities underway such as for LVN's and a marketing director. He advised that the Director of Medical Staff will be retiring, and they have interviewed several candidates for that position. Unfortunately, none of the candidates have the credentials required for the position, so we are exploring the possibility of hiring someone at a lower rate while they obtain the credentials. Ms. Beaumont is set to leave PMHD at the end of April. Recruitment efforts continue for a GI provider. There are a couple of candidates that Ms. Zamora is vetting who are right out of school. There have also been discussions with Dr. Lopez, and we'll update the Board on the outcome of those efforts. Talks continue regarding cardiology both locally and with a possible vendor for the Cath lab. Mr. Sorensen announced that Mr. Ryan Kelley has tendered his resignation and will be leaving at the end of April. The budgeting process will begin in April, and with that, there will be possible increases in pay rates for LVN's. There is also a need to make increases across the board in other areas. Mr. Sorensen is optimistic about the financial improvement efforts the District has undertaken.

2. Hospital operations (Chief Nursing Officer)

Mr. Sorensen introduced Ms. Cindy Segar-Miller who is the Nursing Executive who is here to coach the nursing team and help get a lot of the initiatives moving forward. Ms. Segar-Miller stated that she has received a very warm welcome and has already seen a lot of opportunities for improvement. This is only day nine of her being here but she has already identified about 75 opportunities. The effort is to get people excited about coming to work. Getting staff re-engaged and moving in the same direction, she is confident great things can happen. Ms. Segar-Miller mentioned that ED throughput huddles will begin next week and will be done on a daily basis. After that, full leadership team-safety huddles will be instituted. Line staff will be very involved in those efforts.

3. Clinics operations (Chief of Clinic Operations)

Ms. Zamora reported that the Clinics have been working very closely with the Revenue Cycle consultant and have been meeting weekly. There are already several improvements happening and she's excited to see how everyone is engaged in getting this done. Collection of copays, at the clinics, will begin on the second week of March. We have received half the funds for the two grants that were awarded to the Clinics. Clinic visits decreased this month due to providers being out on vacation. The Calexico Clinic had an increase in volumes last month. This is attributed to the specialties that were added to that clinic. A new certified midwife was hired. There are currently five medical assistant positions open; however, offers have gone out and hope to have responses by next week.

4. Medical staff (Chief Nursing Officer)

Nothing further to report.

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5. Finance (Chief Financial Officer)

Ms. Loper mentioned that the 2019 DSH audit has been completed and the District will be receiving \$855,000 from that audit.

6. Information technology (Chief Nursing Officer)

Nothing new to report.

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

Nothing further to report.

8. Quality resources - (Director of Quality Resources)

Nothing further to report.

9. Board matters

Nothing further 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. 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 2023-01, consideration and discussion of possible initiation of the following:
 - a. Updating Certain District Strategic Planning Initiatives

B. 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)*

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A. Take Actions as Required on Closed Session Matters

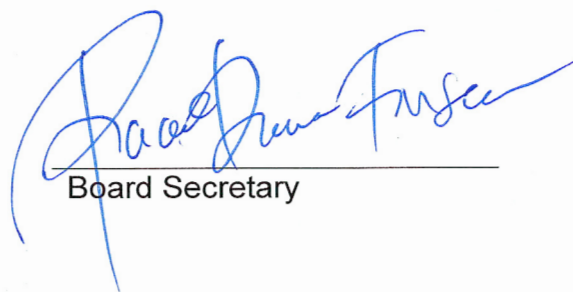
There were no reportable actions taken in closed session.

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

The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting.



Clerk of the Board



Board Secretary