

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

Tuesday, May 28, 2024  
PMH Auditorium  
4:00 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: 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm)

President Santillan called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm in the PMH Auditorium

#### A. Roll Call

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Katy Santillan, President  
Enola Berker, Vice President  
Linda Rubin, Treasurer  
Nick Aguirre, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

**STAFF:**

Chris Bjornberg, CEO  
Carly Loper, CFO  
Carol Bojorquez, CNO  
Sally Nguyen, General Counsel

**GUESTS:**

Carly Zamora, CCO  
Charity Dale, CHRO

Absent: Rachel Fonseca, Secretary

#### B. Approval of Agenda

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

### II. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

### 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: 4:15 pm – 4:30 pm)

Mr. Bjornberg introduced Mr. Jonathan Owens, Interim Administrator to the Pioneers Memorial Skilled Nursing Center, to the Board. He comes to PMHD with a wide range of experience in skilled nursing facilities. The Board welcomed Mr. Owens to PMHD.

SECTION

**IV. MEDICAL STAFF REPORT** – Ramaiah Indudhara, MD, Chief of Staff, will present for Board consideration, the following matters: *(time: 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm)*

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

A motion was made to approve the medical staff report with the exception of the reappointment of Dr. Hamid Zadeh by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Aguirre. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

**V. 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: 5:00 pm – 5:30 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 Section 54956.9

1. Potential Cases: 1
2. Claim of Guerrero v. PMHD

- C. 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

**VI. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION** *(time: 5:30 – 5:40 pm)*

- A. Take Actions as Required on Closed Session Matters

**No reportable actions were taken in closed session.**

**VII. POLICIES/PROCEDURES/REVIEW OF OTHER ITEMS** – The Board will consider and may take action on the following: *(time: 5:40 pm – 6:30 pm)*

- A. Hospital Policies
1. Billing and Collection

SECTION

- H. Authorize Engagement Letter and Professional Services Agreement with Moss Adams, LLP  
Contract Value: \$117,000; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Purchased Services
- I. Authorize AvodaMed Platform Subscription Agreement with Avodah, Inc.  
Contract Value: \$538,200/yr + monthly fee; Contract Term: Three (3) years; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Software Licenses
- J. Authorize Renewal of Lexis+ Subscription with LexisNexis  
Contract Value: \$57,864; Contract Term: Three (3) years; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Subscriptions and Dues
- K. Authorize Pharmacy Services Agreement with CVS Pharmacy, Inc.  
Contract Value: estimated \$100,000; Contract Term: Two (2) years; Budgeted: N/A; Budget Classification: Revenue
- L. Authorize Skilled Nursing Facility Services Agreement with MedCare Partners, Inc.  
Contract Value: 100% of Medicare; Contract Term: Two (2) years; Budgeted: N/A; Budget Classification: Revenue
- M. Authorize Renewal of Property Insurance Coverage with Alliant Insurance, Inc.  
Contract Value: depends on option chosen; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Insurance
- N. Authorize Statement of Work for Cost Report Services for the SNF with Michael E. Lesnik  
Contract Value: not to exceed \$25,000; Contract Term: Six (6) months; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Purchased Services
- O. Authorize Purchase of Cardiac Ultrasound Machine from GE HealthCare  
Contract Value: \$165,035; Contract Term: One-time purchase; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Capital
- P. Authorize Renewal of Stop Loss Insurance with Sun Life Assurance Company  
Contract Value: \$6,939,387.<sup>48</sup>; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Insurance
- Q. Authorize Professional Services Agreement with Mahomed Suliman, MD  
Contract Value: depends on volumes; Contract Term: Three (3) years; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Professional Fees
- R. Authorize Agreement for Locum Tenens Coverage with Consilium Staffing, LLC  
Contract Value: varies on specialty; Contract Term: One (1) year; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Purchased Services
- S. Authorize Master Services Agreement with Medicus Healthcare Solutions, LLC  
Contract Value: varies depending on specialty; Contract Term: Five (5) years; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Purchased Services
- T. Authorize Provider Placement Agreement with Preferred Medical Partners Group  
Contract Value: varies depending on specialty; Contract Term: Five (5) years; Budgeted: No; Budget Classification: Purchased Services
- U. Authorize Rapid Response Testing Agreement with Unilab Corporation dba Quest Diagnostics  
Contract Value: depends on volumes; Contract Term: Five (5) years; Budgeted: N/A; Budget Classification: Revenue
- V. Authorize Retro-Approval of Replacement of Compressor for Chiller #3 with Johnson Controls  
Contract Value: \$113,663.<sup>90</sup>; Contract Term: Project completion; Budgeted: Yes; Budget Classification: Capital

ITEM P – Ms. Loper clarified that the actual cost for Stop loss is \$1 million. The wrong number was taken from the quote.

SECTION

ITEM Q – Ms. Zamora reported that no start date was added to the PSA with Dr. Suliman due to some delays requested by the physician. The Board asked that the contract start date be set to August 5, 2024.

ITEM I – Mr. Bjornberg clarified that the yearly amount is the maximum amount that would be paid as it is based on the number of providers issued a license to use the software.

A motion was made to approve Items D through V, with the exception of items D & G, by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Aguirre. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

ITEM D – Director Rubin noted that she believes we need to move forward with this election even though the bill states that the members do not need to run again. It was confirmed that we must move forward with the resolution.

ITEM G – Director Aguirre asked if the insurance covers a lot. It does cover quite a bit of items as listed on the write up.

A motion was made to approve items D & G by Director Rubin, seconded by Director Aguirre. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

**VIII. MANAGEMENT REPORTS** – The Board will receive the following information reports and may take action. *(time: 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm)*

A. Operations Reports – Christopher Bjornberg, CEO

1. CEO Report (Chief Executive Officer)

Mr. Bjornberg requested that the August Board meeting be moved to one week earlier since he will not be here the week of the regular meeting. A recommendation for a date and time will be brought to the Board for consideration at the June meeting. Director Aguirre asked if the seismic assessment has been done. Ms. Loper advised that the assessment was completed, and she received an email regarding the report today. She will review and advise the Board of the outcome. Mr. Bjornberg noted that the training is underway for the DaVinci. The first procedure will be scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Hassenein, but that will be dependent on the approval from HCAI. He advised the Board that the All Staff meetings started last week; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. These meetings will be conducted quarterly. Mr. Bjornberg mentioned that work is being done in revamping the organizational chart to better align staff.

2. Finance (Chief Financial Officer)

a) April 2024 Finance Report

Ms. Loper reported that the census decreased in April due to Cerner implementation. Due to Cerner, from April 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, only about 50% of surgeries were scheduled as well as scheduled volumes at the clinics. This was done to give providers and staff time to get used to Cerner and get additional training if needed. Revenues decreased to \$39.8 million. In terms of the regular charges, there are still some issues

SECTION

being experienced with Cerner. However, the charge amounts do reflect what has been seen on average during this time period. Finance is still trying to navigate the reporting side of Cerner to find the applicable reports. Director Santillan asked why Cerner is not assisting with that. Ms. Loper advised that Cerner provides some assistance, but there is a lot of back and forth trying to find reports that have all the needed information. There will be staff undergoing training on how to build reports in Cerner to better assist with this issue. A discussion ensued about the issues with Cerner and what should have been in place before the system went live. Ms. Loper mentioned there was a loss of about \$1.1 million in the month of April. The volumes have increased in the first two weeks of May. Fiscal year-to-date, operations resulted in a profit of \$7.9 million; however, if the funds received from 340B were removed, it would have resulted in a \$4.3 million profit. Cash days on hand increased to 95.6 days in April. There should be a decrease in May and June due to the Cerner implementation. No bills were sent out during the first two weeks of April to make sure all bills were accurate. Ms. Loper apologized for the delay in getting the proposed FYE 2025 budget to the Board. It should be completed next week and will be provided to the Board for review. Then it will be brought to the Board in June for consideration. A motion was made to approve the finance report by Director Aguirre, seconded by Director Berker. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

### 3. Hospital operations (Chief Nursing Officer)

Ms. Bojorquez reported that there are zero travelers in Med/Surg. There is still one traveler nurse in NICU. Four nurses have been hired for the OB department. A discussion ensued regarding the different types of education opportunities afforded to new nurses before and after they are placed on the floor. Ms. Bojorquez noted that recruitment efforts continue. There are about 22 interviews being conducted and 10 of those are going to be 20/40 students. A meeting was held with IVC to discuss how we can work together to improve the number of nursing students and their education. Work continues with the Hospitalist group regarding admissions and discharges given that we have are seeing high census numbers this month. The EMTALA violation corrective action was submitted to CDPH, and they were here last Thursday to review the process. We are confident that they will be closing the case after they review it with their superiors. The corrective action plan for the DNV findings was submitted last Friday. We should receive a response in the next 10 days as to whether it is approved. Ms. Bojorquez mentioned that Ms. Martha Plancarte has agreed to stay as the Interim NICU Director until June 30<sup>th</sup>. This will give the Nursing Administration enough time to look for a replacement. Director Berker asked what we are doing about the issues with the Hospitalists and the contract. Mr. Bjornberg advised that they are having discussions regarding this service and when more information is available it will be shared with the Board.

### 4. Clinics operations (Chief of Clinic Operations)

Ms. Zamora reported that the PHC hours will be reduced temporarily; it will now close at 6pm instead of 8pm. It did not make financial sense to continue after

SECTION

hours that late given that on average, we were only seeing 1.7 patients from 5:30pm-8:00pm. The goal was originally to offload volumes from the ER, but that did not pan out. Recruitment efforts continue for OB/GYN, family medicine providers, and GI providers. Mr. Bjornberg noted that the bill that was to allow the employment of physicians in California was not passed. There are talks about possibly bringing it back up next year for consideration. Cerner did not build the Wound Care workflow correctly, so that is being rebuilt; because of that reason, charges just started being dropped last week for billing. Same issues are being experienced regarding the running of reports and will continue to work on getting those done correctly.

5. Medical staff (Chief Nursing Officer)

Nothing further to report.

6. Human Resources (Chief Human Resources Officer)

a) April HR Report

Ms. Dale reported that 28 job offers were made in April; 25 of them were accepted. There were 19 terminations and only one was involuntary. The total number of employees is 1,038. She noted that HR has gone live on most of their ADP modules. There are still two that are being worked on. The open enrollment process went ok this year. There were several issues experienced with the EOI team that Gallagher provided to do the open enrollment. We were advised that there are 168 employees who did not receive an appointment and were not set up for benefits. HR staff will work to add them manually. The Training and Education Manager continues to make progress on the new employee orientation program. Work is being done to scan all the paper employee files from the Skilled Nursing Facility unto ADP. By the end of this year, there should no longer be any paper files at the SNF; they will all be digital. Ms. Dale reported that they were able to close all the deficiencies that DNV had issued from previous years. The only item now pending is working on performance evaluation completion. A position for volunteers was posted as some departments have express interest. HR received 38 applications. Plans are underway to have the recognition program restarted and hold the banquet sometime in July. There will also be a fundraiser raffle for the Little People Childcare Center for foam covering for the play area. A motion was made to approve the HR report by Director Aguirre seconded by Director Berker. **The motion was unanimously carried.**

7. Information technology (Chief Nursing Officer/Director of Information Systems)

The Cerner worksheet was provided to the Board. This is how the IT Director tracks all the expenses associated with the Cerner project. About \$457,000 is for unbudgeted items; however, there was about \$400,000 budgeted as a buffer in case there was a need.

8. Marketing (Director of Marketing)

SECTION

Nothing to report.

9. Facilities, logistics, construction, support

Nothing to report.

10. Quality resources - (Director of Quality Resources)

Nothing to report.

11. Board matters


Nothing to report.

B. Legal Counsel Report – Sally Nguyen

1. All matters to be discussed in Closed Session

**IX. ADJOURNMENT** *(time: 7:00 pm)*

The meeting was adjourned to the next meeting.

  
Clerk of the Board  
Board Secretary