



Ventura County Community Health Center (CHC) Board Meeting Minutes

Theresa Cho, MD
Ventura County Ambulatory Care Chief
Executive Officer
Medical Director CHC
Executive Director

Marth Ann Knutson
County of Ventura
Assistant County Counsel

Chaya Turrow
CHC Board Clerk

Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2024
12:30 - 2:00 PM

2240 E Gonzalez Rd,
Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036

CHC BOARD MEMBERS:

DAVID TOVAR, District 3
Chair

RALPH REYES, District 3
Vice Chair

ESPY GONZALEZ, District 2
Secretary

RENA SEPULVEDA, District 1
Treasurer

MANUEL MINJARES, District 3

RENEE HIGGINS, MD, District 3

MELISSA LIVINGSTON, District 1

JAMES MASON, District 5

Call to Order:

David Tovar called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

1. Roll Call

David Tovar	Present
Ralph Reyes	Present
Espy Gonzalez	Present
Rena Sepulveda	Present
Manuel Minjares	Present
Renee Higgins, MD	Present
Melissa Livingston	Present
James Mason	Present

Roll call confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. Ventura County Staff Present

Theresa Cho, MD, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Martha Knutson – County Counsel
Lizeth Barretto, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Manny Buabeng, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Jason Cavender, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Dr. Loretta Denering, HCA – Behavioral Health

Public Present

3. Public Comments

Action Items:

4. Approval of CHC Board Meeting Agenda for June 27, 2024

Board Member Higgins motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Board Member Mason seconded. Motion passed.

5. Approval of CHC Minutes for May 23, 2024

Board Member Mason motioned to approve. Board Member Sepulveda seconded. Motion passed.

6. Approval to Submit HRSA Grant: Expanded Hours

Ms. Turrow explained there is a federal funding opportunity to expand hours of operation. The grant is a two-year funding opportunity with up to \$500k for the first year and the second year. There is the opportunity for the second year to be added to our base grant. Our proposed plan will be to extend hours in the evenings to four of our clinics located in Oxnard and Santa Paula, as well as some Saturdays. The expanded days will be weekdays, but not Fridays. Some sites, based on the needs, may extend hours in the mornings instead of evenings.

Board Vice Chair Reyes motioned to approve the submission of the HRSA grant. Board Member Livingston seconded. The motion passed.

7. Appointments of CHC Board Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer)

During the May meeting, the three nominated board members accepted their positions for the CHC Board Officer positions. Ralph Reyes will serve as the Chair, Rena Sepulveda will serve as the Vice Chair, Espy Gonzalez as the Secretary, and James Mason as the Treasurer.

Board Chair Tovar motioned to approve the CHC Board Officer Appointments. Board Member Higgins seconded. Motion passed.

Board Member Livingston thanked the outgoing officers for their service the past year.

8. Nomination of Dr. Loretta Denering to the CHC Board

Dr. Loretta Denering has been nominated to serve on the CHC Board, representing district two. Dr. Denering currently serves as the Ventura County Behavioral Health Director. She has worked in public healthcare services at UCLA, LA County, and Ventura County. Dr. Denering

has a B.A. in Psychology, MS in Clinical Psychology, and a Doctorate in Public Health.

Dr. Denering introduced herself and said she has been with VCBH for seven years. Worked with substance use services, then assistant director, interim director, and now the director. Worked in public health and mental health for LA County and academic research at UCLA.

Board Member Mason approved the nomination of Dr. Loretta Denering to the CHC Board. Board Member Minjares seconded. Motion passed.

9. Appointment of Dr. Loretta Denering to the CHC Board

Board Member Higgins motioned to appoint Dr. Loretta Denering to the CHC Board, pending the Board of Supervisors ratification. Board Member Mason seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion Items:

10. Continued Business

a. Grants Updates

Ms. Turrow shared that there was an opportunity for New Access Points grant funding. We were looking at adding clinics in South Oxnard and Santa Paula. The administrative team met with a consultant who let our team know that we would not be competitive, unfortunately. Ms. Barretto shared that out of 100 points, if we scored perfectly, our max score would be 92 and other applicants could score up to 110 because there are additional factors that we do not qualify for (rural health centers, look alike health centers). We will not move forward with applying for this grant opportunity. Ms. Barretto shared that this is a painful decision because adding access points is a for-sure way to add to our base grant.

We have submitted the Behavioral Health Expansion grant and should know if we were awarded funding prior to September 1st.

The Service Area Competition will be announced any day now. The initial due date will be the end of August and then the final will be due end of September. This is similar to the Operational Site Visit.

11. Ethics Training

Ms. Turrow reminded the board members that they may have received reminder emails for ethics training. This is important to complete to stay compliant as a CHC Board Member.

12. CEO Update – Theresa Cho, MD - HCA, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Cho shared that the New Access Points grant funding, and other grants that add to our base funding are important. Increasing the base funding helps with financial stability. The PPS rate is dependent on our volumes. Our base is not tied to volume of encounters and is actually low for our volume of encounters. The behavioral health and expanded hours are things we are already doing, but the grants help.

Dr. Cho reminded the Board that the closure of the intensive care and obstetrics at Santa

Paula Hospital does not affect our clinics and services. We have five OB fellowship-trained women's healthcare providers. We have a special mammographer at our Santa Paula Hospital Clinic and have a space at the hospital to improve surgical and GI needs.

13. **Board Comments**

14. **Staff Comments**

None.

15. **Adjournment – Adjourn 12:53pm**

Audio files of the CHC Co-Applicant Board meetings are available by contacting the CHC Co-Applicant Board Clerk at chcboardclerk@ventura.org

Minutes submitted by: Chaya Turrow, CHC Board Clerk

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 25, 2024
2240 E Gonzalez Rd, Suite 280, Oxnard, CA 93036**