



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023 @ 5:30 pm
Via Zoom Teleconference**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Su called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Board members present: Chair Brian Su, MD; Vice Chair Edward Alfrey, MD; Secretary Ann Sparkman, RN/BSN, JD; Jennifer Rienks, PhD; Samantha Ramirez, BSW

Staff present: David Klein, MD, CEO; Eric Brettner, CFO, Colin Leary, General Counsel; Louis Weiner, EA

2. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approve Agenda

Dr. Alfrey moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Sparkman seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2023

Ms. Sparkman moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dr. Alfrey seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

5. Move to reconfirm findings under Assembly Bill 361 and extend Resolution MHD 2023-02 to continue virtual meetings of the Marin Healthcare District Board of Directors

Dr. Alfrey moved to approve. Ms. Rienks seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

6. Resuming In-Person Meetings of the MHD Board and Committees

Mr. Leary reported that the state law that has allowed meetings by teleconference will sunset at the end of 2023. As of January 1, meetings of the Board and committees will be required to convene in person. There are new exceptions that allow for individual Board members to attend remotely: for personal or family emergencies; or for “just cause” limited to 2 instances per calendar year. However, Assembly Bill 557 allows for the Governor to declare another state of emergency for pandemic, disaster, etc., that would allow again for teleconferencing; the Governor is expected to sign this bill.

Beginning January 2024, this Board will resume meeting in person in the hospital’s Conference Center, which will include the public, social distancing, etc. Logistics for those and the Committee meetings are to be worked out.

Discussion followed on public accommodations. Ms. Rienks strongly expressed the need for remote access for the public, which has become a best practice with other elected boards and councils as good governmental practice for accessibility and transparency. Mr. Leary noted that the practice is mixed and that many agencies indeed are continuing hybrid participation. Dr. Su asked that logistics be worked out to allow for hybrid if possible.



7. **Approval of Ms. KC George for membership on the MarinHealth Medical Center Board of Directors, as recommended by the MHD/MHMC Joint Nominating Committee on September 6, 2023**

Dr. Su welcomed Ms. George to the meeting (Tab #3). He and Dr. Alfrey met with her with the nominating committee, and they were impressed and supportive of her nomination.

Ms. George gave a brief background on her career work in healthcare management consulting, and commented on her desire to support MarinHealth as a Board member. She and Ms. Sparkman discussed the challenges of patient access, Medicare reimbursement, provider experience, etc. She is a San Francisco resident and expressed desire to support healthcare in the broader Bay Area, with Marin being key.

This first meeting with Ms. George being indicated as an action item at this meeting, Ms. Rienks led discussion regarding the bylaws allowance for this Board, if desired, to exercise two meetings before final action of approval of a MHMC Board nomination, to allow time for Board and public consideration. Mr. Leary noted that the bylaws stipulate that the Board has the option of acting at the first or second meeting, or if no action is taken after the second meeting the candidate is deemed approved. Dr. Su asked for comment from the public, and there was none offered. After general discussion it was agreed to take action at the second meeting (the Board's regular meeting in November). Dr. Su, as Chair, tabled this item to the November meeting.

8. **Update: MHMC Patient Demographics**

Dr. Klein welcomed Ms. Anna Sellenriek, Executive Director of Patient Experience, who presented (Tab #4) several graphic slides.

- Marin & MHMC All Patients, Race & Ethnicity – MHMC total patient volumes closely align with the county demographic volumes
- Marin & MHMC All Patients, Age Comparison – MHMC patient age percentages also closely align with the county's
- 2022-2023 MHMC Patients, Race & Ethnicity Comparison – ED volume of Hispanic patients show slightly more than white non-Hispanic by inpatient comparison. Hispanic is about 40% of labor and delivery services
- 2022-2023 MHMC Patients, Payer Categories – All inpatients are 45% Medicare, 27% Medi-Cal. Labor and delivery are 54% commercial and 45% Medi-Cal
- 2022-2023 MHMC All Patients, Payer Categories by Ethnicity – Hispanic (21% of inpatients) show 75% Medi-Cal, 11% Medicare, 11% commercial. Non-Hispanic (77% of inpatients) show 55% Medicare, 14% Medi-Cal, 28% commercial

Discussion followed on the favorable labor and delivery data, and that our excellent L&D facilities are attracting more commercial patients and reducing outmigration.

Dr. Alfrey expressed his desire to see a more diverse and representative population on the “donor wall” to include people who contribute in ways other than directly financial.

9. **Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends**

Dr. Klein reported that he is participating in national and state healthcare advocacy conferences.

Several state bills are concerning labor. SB 525 is a bill for healthcare worker minimum wage that CHA lobbied to amend to reduce disproportional impacts upon smaller rural hospitals. It is now on the Governor's desk.

Other proposed legislation involves leaves of absence, working from home, and family caregiver protection.

MarinHealth has been in active bargaining this year with all five of our labor unions. Three are favorably settled, and two are in process.



The hospital's physical plant will be greatly impacted by the 2030 seismic requirements and by demands made by changes in patient volumes. This will be discussed at this weekend's MHMC Board retreat.

The new HCAI subcommittee, Office of Healthcare Affordability, was described and discussed briefly.

The Governor has approved managed care organization taxes to help fund Medi-Cal.

We received our first tranche of FEMA reimbursement, and Congressman Huffman's office has offered to assist further with the process.

Focus is increasing on e-bike safety and regulation, and will be further addressed by this Board at the December meeting.

Dr. Su asked for public comment. Jonathan Frieman expressed serious concern about e-bike dangers, and injuries and deaths.

10. MHD Bylaws: Standing Committees

This Board has previously discussed changing the name of the Lease & Building Committee or to add a new committee that oversees the Board's community education projects. Dr. Klein noted that the bylaws (Tab #5) of the L&B Committee includes mention of community education, and suggested to rename the committee. Mr. Rienks suggested "Lease, Building & Education Committee." Ms. Sparkman suggested adding "Advocacy", and Dr. Alfrey suggested re-wording the bylaws to highlight more clearly advocacy and education.

Dr. Su asked Ms. Rienks (Chair of that committee) to bring her recommendation to the next Board meeting. Dr. Klein reminded that a change in bylaws requires the submission and approval process.

11. Committee Reports

A. Finance & Audit Committee

Dr. Alfrey reported that the committee did not meet. He noted that the committee's community member had resigned. He recommended that Dr. Molly Koehler join the committee as a community member. Dr. Su supported the recommendation. Dr. Klein suggested agendaizing this for the next Board meeting, following the nomination and approval process according to the bylaws.

B. Lease & Building Committee

Ms. Rienks presented the three finalist agency submissions for the MHD re-branding that will consist of designing a new logo and color palette. After extended discussion, it was agreed to select the proposal of Watson Creative, pending an acceptable bid. Ms. Kinney has been in contact with them and they have agreed to negotiate. It was agreed that Ms. Kinney will negotiate with them for \$20,000 or less. Dr. Su asked for public comment, and there was none. Dr. Su asked for a motion to approve. Ms. Sparkman moved to approve the Watson Creative proposal for \$20,000 or less. Dr. Alfrey seconded. **Vote by roll call: all ayes.**

Ms. Rienks reported that the "Skin Cancer" public seminar will be on Wednesday, October 18 at 5:30 pm in the hospital's Conference Center. Ms. Kinney displayed the ad. Dermatologist Dr. Ravinder Gogia will present. Dr. Klein will host.

Ms. Rienks reported that plans are progressing well for the "Healthy Eating for the Holidays" seminar in November.

The committee is beginning to explore having the District sending monthly email blasts on timely health and healthcare issues.



12. Reports

A. *District CEO's Report*

Dr. Klein reported that required seismic evaluation will be submitted to HCAI in January and seismic ratings will be posted in public areas.

We are working with the County Sheriff's office on security/crime prevention action and education throughout the Hospital and Network, and internal protocols and policies are being finalized.

Final McCarthy construction issues should be all complete by the end of this month.

Construction is going well at the Petaluma multi-specialty clinic with a goal to open next summer.

Novato Imaging Center construction begins in December with a goal to open in June.

Hybrid OR is complete and final approvals and inspections soon completed.

The outpatient behavioral health garden is nearly complete, with a formal opening in November.

Nuclear medicine project is under construction, funded by donors, and opening in June.

Pharmacy compounding room construction is underway to meet new guidelines.

Sub-basement drainage issue is completed.

Two new safety domains are in place, on ergonomics and on safe patient handling, to reduce injuries to patients and employees.

B. *Hospital CEO's Report*

Dr. Klein reported that the hospital is doing well financially with a strong September. We are ahead of budget and patient volumes continue high in all areas.

Mr. Brettner and his team are finishing up the 2024 budget process. Challenges include labor costs that have gone up 26% in the past 3 years, and decreased reimbursement rates.

Physician recruitment is progressing, with offers being made for 3 primary care MDs, and accepted by several specialty MDs, all excellent.

The MarinHealth Spine Institute, with Dr. Su, is fully operational.

During the recent Kaiser strike, we provided care for their patients from San Rafael and San Francisco. Kaiser surgeries in our hospital continue on a full schedule.

This Saturday is the MarinHealth Board's annual Strategic Planning Retreat to discuss the future of the enterprise. This information will be shared at the District Board's next retreat in February.

Since Petaluma ceased their inpatient OB services, we have provided needed care for those patients.

Employees are now being given flu and Covid booster vaccines.

To follow Marin and Bay Area guidelines, masking protocols begin November 1, going to March 31. Masking will be required in patient care and patient access areas, and optional in non-patient, public and staff areas.

C. *Chair's and Board Members' Reports*

Dr. Su and Dr. Alfrey each had nothing further to report.

Ms. Rienks reported that she and Dr. Klein and Ms. Ramirez attended the recent ACHD Annual Meeting. She encouraged the Board to watch the presentations posted to their website. Excellent presentations were on AI in clinical performance and in healthcare administration.

Ms. Ramirez reported the she and Ms. Kinney and her team had a MHD booth at a movie night in the Canal's Pickleweed Park that was well attended and they connected with the community.



Ms. Sparkman had discussed with Dr. Klein about other District priorities: Access to primary care, the “silver tsunami” of the aging population and gaps in care, and dealing with elders’ health and exercise during heat waves.

13. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings

Ms. Sparkman: As suggested above.

Dr. Su: Firearm safety (scheduled for November). E-bikes (scheduled for December)

Dr. Alfrey: AI in the healthcare setting.

14. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Dr. Su adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.