



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 @ 5:30 pm  
Inverness Conference Room  
and 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; Colin Leary, General Counsel; Louis Weiner, EA

**2. General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approve Agenda**

Ms. Rienks moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Sparkman seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

**4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2023**

Ms. Rienks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Sparkman 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**

Ms. Rienks moved to approve as presented. Ms. Sparkman seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

Dr. Klein reminded that, starting in January, all public meetings of this Board and Board committees will return to being in-person, as required by law. There will be Zoom capabilities for public participation remotely. Mr. Leary explained the new legal requirements, limitations, provisions and allowances for remote participation by Board members. He will summarize the new rules in writing for the Board before the next regular meeting.

**6. Electric Bikes**

Dr. Alfrey commented on the increase in traumatic injuries due to unsafe use of e-bikes, especially by adolescents and teens. He welcomed Ms. Gwen Froh, Program Director of Safe Routes to Schools, who presented “E-Bike Awareness for Parents & Caregivers” (Tab #3).

Parents are primarily responsible for safe use of e-bikes, and a goal of the program is to help parents make informed decisions. Main safety concerns are speed, e-bike weight, reckless riding, tandem riding, and no helmets.

She illustrated and explained classes (I, II, III) of e-bikes and their risks. There is frequent confusion of laws (and lack of laws) pertaining to e-bike classes. Manufacturers give conflicting information. Consumer Products Safety Commission recommends that children 9-12 not bike faster than 10 mph.

Hospital ED visits and admissions, as well as deaths, have dramatically increased since 2017.



Dr. Alfrey commented at length on the 2017-21 data presented here by CDPH, that it doesn't adequately reflect his hospital experience with the incidence and trauma acuity of bicycle and e-bike accidents, and of the increased severity of e-bike trauma due largely to speed. The death rate of e-bike crashes is significantly higher than that of pedal-bike crashes. As e-bikes become increasingly popular, the 2022-23 data of injuries and deaths will be even more alarming, and Marin HHS data already shows that.

The program is in partnership with the public schools that includes in-class and on-road education. Mill Valley Police has a diversion program. Marin Bicycle Coalition has a new "Teens E-Bike Smart" program. An E-bike Safety Task Force has just been formed with County Supervisor Sackett, Marin HHS Dr. Willis, and Marin Bicycle Coalition, and includes resources for parent outreach for safety awareness. Funding is being sought to provide for more instructors.

#### **7. Review and Approve Q2 2023 Report of MHMC Performance Metrics and Core Services**

Dr. Klein presented the quarterly report (Tab #6) and noted that all Tier 1 and Tier 2 performance metrics continue to be in full compliance.

Ms. Seaver-Forsej presented HCAHPS (Schedule 1) with comments on accomplishments, areas for improvement, and next steps. Improvements show in each area. Senior leader action plans prioritize patient satisfaction/experience initiatives, including rounding and staff/provider education. Ms. Rienks commented that summary scores show little improvement, and Ms. Seaver-Forsej noted that the individual show real improvement, and explained that the required CMS algorithm depresses those scores. Dr. Klein acknowledged improvement still needs to be made, but that we are seeing progress.

Finances (Schedule 2) show continued strong volumes and favorable EBIDA.

Ms. Seaver-Forsej presented Quality Dashboard (Schedule 3) with comments on accomplishments, areas for improvement or monitoring, and next steps. The quality management dashboard shows breakout, high volume and high-risk diagnoses that make up the overall scores. Core Measures Dashboard was presented with comments and general discussion.

Dr. Klein commented that the CMS 5-Star Rating and the Leapfrog "A" Grade are indicators of core measure quality improvements.

Dr. Klein presented with general comments and discussion on Community Benefit (Schedule 4), Nursing Turnover (Schedule 5) and Diversion (Schedule 6).

Ms. Rienks asked that comparative data over a broader period time be presented in each of these reports.

Dr. Su asked for a motion to approve the Q2 2023 Report. Ms. Rienks moved to approve the report as presented. Ms. Sparkman seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

#### **8. Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends**

Dr. Klein reported on several issues.

SB 525, minimum wage healthcare worker bill signed by the Governor. The state may not have the funding to support higher wages.

AB 40, addressing ambulance patient offload delays at hospital, signed by the Governor.

AB 119, restructuring the Managed Care Organization tax, a significant source of funding to the state government, addressing longstanding shortfalls in MediCal reimbursement. Signed by the Governor.

AB 242, physician employment in critical access hospitals.

AB 531 and AB 326, bills to expand mental health services statewide.

SB 616, increasing employee sick leave accrual rate.



**9. Review Draft Agenda for Annual Retreat, January 26, 2024**

Dr. Klein presented (Tab #7) a draft agenda for the MHD Board Annual Retreat meeting on January 26, 2024 and commented on the items suggested. General discussion ensued on the desire of the Board members to have more input on the agenda. Ms. Friedman commented on the suggested items on this draft agenda, and Dr. Klein asked the Board members to submit topics to them for inclusion on an agenda that would be sent out ahead of the Retreat.

Dr. Su stated that some of the items suggested for the Retreat agenda could be better discussed in Committee and/or in a Regular Board meeting.

**10. Committee Reports**

*A. Finance & Audit Committee*

The committee did not meet and there was nothing to report.

*B. Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee*

The committee did not meet and there was nothing to report.

**11. Reports**

*A. Hospital CEO's Report*

Dr. Klein reported that the hospital is doing well financially. Volumes are high and operational management is strong. The 2024 budget is completed and has been approved by the Operating Board. Included in the budget guidelines is a clinical efficiency initiative.

Recruiting for primary care physicians continues to be a priority, and the pipeline is busy. Adding APPs recently has greatly helped access to care. Several new surgeons are joining us in the first quarter.

Dr. Anita Chandrasena is our new Chief Medical Officer, joining on January 2.

OB volume has increased as we care for patients from Petaluma who no longer have OB care available to them there. Our Petaluma outpatient specialty care clinic is under construction, opening in August 2024.

Dr. Klein and his team are compiling a 2023 year-end wrap-up report of the year's accomplishments.

We are developing policies in regards to generative AI.

Tomorrow is the organization's holiday meal, and Board members are invited.

At the end of this week, Mr. Weiner is retiring. He will remain on as part time per diem for several weeks to train his successor who will be chosen this week.

Hybrid OR opened this week successfully.

We performed the first renal denervation procedure west of the Cleveland Clinic, and we are one of only three facilities to do it. The procedure was approved by the FDA two weeks ago.

*B. District CEO's Report*

The offsite facilities are being scheduled for security evaluation, screening, and training with law enforcement.

AB 1882, the 2030 seismic guidelines, require a number of deliverables coming due, and we are on schedule. Includes complete facility evaluation for non-structural seismic corrections. The Redwood Pavilion, 72 years old, is not fixable or replaceable. More will be discussed at the Retreat.

Pharmacy compounding construction work is ongoing.

Nuclear medicine project will be completed in June.

Clinical property lease renewals due in 2024 are being evaluated for consolidation and optimization.



For meetings of both the Hospital and District Boards, the use of all electronic documents is being considered and will be discussed further.

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

Each expressed their thanks to Mr. Weiner.  
There were no further reports.

**12. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings**

Legislation regarding e-bikes. Dr. Klein agreed to contact Rep. Connolly.

**13. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Dr. Su adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.