



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
MarinHealth Medical Center  
Conference Center**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

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

*Staff present:* David Klein, MD, CEO; Eric Brettner, CFO; Colin Leary, General Counsel; Jill Kinney, VP, Marketing & Communications; Tricia Lee, EA

**2. General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approve Agenda**

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

**4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 11, 2025**

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

**5. Report of Special Closed Session of February 21, 2025**

Dr. Klein provided a report from the special closed session held on February 21, 2025. Dr. Klein reported discussions covered healthcare market insights, strategic planning, campus development, behavioral health funding, the annual community benefit report, and the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.

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

Dr. Klein provided an update on Assembly Bill 1778, which is set to be heard at the Marin Civic Center on March 25, 2025. Several local communities, including Mill Valley, Sausalito, Corte Madera, and Tiburon, are expected to consider similar measures. Dr. Klein also noted growing media interest in Marin Health's e-bike safety legislation, with a New York Times reporter seeking interviews with local physicians.

Dr. Klein reported The House of Representatives recently passed a budget resolution proposing \$2 trillion in spending cuts, including \$880 billion from programs overseen by the

House Energy and Commerce Committee, which manages Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California). These cuts would significantly impact 15 million Californians who rely on Medi-Cal. The American Hospital Association and California Hospital Association (CHA) are actively advocating against these cuts, with independent CEOs reaching out to congressional representatives.

Dr. Klein reviewed several key bills monitored by the CHA aimed at strengthening patient protections against insurance company practices:

- AB 384 – Prohibits prior authorization for mental health and substance use disorder services in Medi-Cal.
- AB 510 – Requires health plans to have a physician review appeals within two business days or automatically approve the request.
- AB 512 – Reduces the prior authorization response time from five days to 48 hours.
- AB 513 – Ensures prior authorization remains valid for at least one year after approval
- SB 306 – Limits the imposition of prior authorization for certain health conditions for one year.
- SB 530 – Expands network adequacy requirements for Medi-Cal insurers, ensuring greater patient access to care.

Dr. Klein provided an update on the CHA vs. Anthem Lawsuit. A judge ruled that Anthem must provide timely post-hospital care for its members under the California Knox-Keene Act. The ruling acknowledged Anthem's failure to comply but did not impose penalties or solutions. CHA continues to advocate for stronger enforcement mechanisms through new legislation.

Dr. Klein reported the Office of Healthcare Affordability (OHCA) is developing a proposal to reduce spending at 11 targeted hospitals deemed high-cost. He noted, MarinHealth was initially included on this list but has since been removed. The OHCA's decision is expected in April or May, with public comments ongoing. Concerns remain that hospitals will bear disproportionate responsibility for health care cost increases, despite factors like pharmaceutical pricing, supply chain expenses, and labor costs being largely outside of hospital control.

**7. Behavioral Health Funding Approval**

The Board reviewed a request for 2025 funding to support Behavioral Health services, including:

- \$200,000 for hospital inpatient and outpatient services
- \$90,000 for the outpatient psychiatry clinic

The board expressed support for the services but requested to review projected performance for future years. The item was tabled to April 8, 2025.

**8. Committee Reports**

*A. Finance & Audit Committee (met March 5)*

Dr. Su provided an update on the Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on March 5, 2025. The committee reviewed the investment portfolio with Canterbury, noting ongoing market volatility. The long-term goal is to transition to a 60% fixed income / 40% equity balance from the current 70% equity / 30% fixed income. Additionally, the committee agreed to maintain 90 days of cash on hand to ensure financial stability. A transfer into the investment portfolio was completed in March 2025, with additional transfers planned.

Dr. Su noted the financial reports for October through December 2024 showed the receipt of FEMA funding, which provided a positive financial impact.

Dr. Su reported the committee also discussed advertising expenses for community seminars. There was interest in reviewing whether adjustments to marketing strategies could optimize costs while maintaining attendance levels. Ms. Kinney explained that different outreach methods appeal to different demographics, and a mix of advertising channels is used to maximize engagement.

The Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee agreed to conduct a review of 2025 seminar expenses, including total planned events, budget allocation, and marketing impact at their next committee meeting April 14, 2025. Ms. Reinks and Ms. Kinney will bring that report back to the Board.



**B. *Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee (met February 25)***

Ms. Kinney reported on the recent Careers in Medicine event, which was attended by 64 students and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Attendees particularly enjoyed the panel discussion and facility tours. Several students expressed interest in volunteering or interning at MarinHealth, prompting discussions on creating dedicated volunteer pathways for high school students.

Ms. Kinney provided an update on the upcoming Men's & Women's health seminar on March 16, 2025 at the Embassy Suites, noting 211 RSVPs confirmed. The event will consist of four seminar topics: Aquablation for enlarged prostate; Diabetes Prevention; Preventing and Beating Breast Cancer; and Menopause. The seminar schedule is structured with two sessions occurring simultaneously at 11:00 AM, followed by another two at 12:00 PM. All sessions will be recorded, providing attendees with the opportunity to view additional topics later. Spanish translation services will be available.

Ms. Kinney also provided updates on upcoming pop-up events and outreach efforts. The next pop-up event will take place at the library in April, with the exact date to be confirmed. Ms. Kinney noted several pop-up events are planned throughout the month of April and will send an updated email to the board with dates. Additionally, plans are underway to participate in larger community events, including the Marin City Fair and the Senior Fair in the fall.

**(1) Determine one additional seminar topic for 2025.**

The primary recommendation was to focus on Healthy Eating & Growing Your Own Food.

**9. Reports**

**A. *Hospital and District CEO's Report***

Dr. Klein reported the hospital's cardiac surgery program officially began this week. With the first scheduled surgery to be performed tomorrow (March 12).

Dr. Alfrey acknowledged the team for their significant efforts in making the program operational. The process involved reassigning operating rooms, relocating equipment, and coordinating logistics, requiring substantial effort and professionalism.

Dr. Klein reported the hospital continues to experience record-high patient volumes, with February marking the largest average daily census ever recorded. The emergency department remain exceptionally busy, and the hospital has sustained elevated volumes



for the past four months. To accommodate the demand, 20 additional beds have been opened, and plans are in place to add five more bed in the Redwood Pavilion.

Dr. Klein addressed concerns about delayed healthcare access, particularly among undocumented families and other vulnerable groups. The hospital is actively working to reassure the community that care is accessible and available.

Patient Safety (SCORE) Survey is underway and is working towards a 60% response rate.

Dr. Klein shared the hospital is preparing for The Joint Commission's upcoming visit, and the Stroke Certification review.

Dr. Klein reported on facility and security updates:

- Cedar Pavilion is undergoing upgrades, including flooring, paint and furniture.
- The hospital pharmacy construction continues to progress
- MRI Scanner is set to be installed next week.
- The Cypress Pavilion is undergoing generator replacement.
- The weapons management system has been installed and staff training is in process.
- Valet service is on track to launch by the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.

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

Nothing to report

**10. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings**

Ms. Sparkman suggested a representative of Marin Villages to attend when the Commission of Aging presents.

**11. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Chair Alfrey adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.