



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 8, 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 (Zoom); Colin Leary, General Counsel; Jill Kinney, VP, Marketing & Communications; Tricia Lee, EA

**2. General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3. Approve Agenda**

Director Rienks moved to approve the agenda as presented. Director Sparkman seconded.

**Vote: all ayes.**

**4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 2025**

Director Rienks moved to approve the minutes with a revision to refer to all board members consistently as "Director,". Director Su seconded.

**Vote: all ayes.**

**5. Department of Transportation SSA Grant Application**

Chair Alfrey reported that he submitted an application on behalf of the District to the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant. The opportunity was announced by the Biden Administration and is now in its fourth year, with \$5 billion allocated for local roadway safety initiatives. Chair Alfrey explained that although the grant generally funds infrastructure-related traffic safety improvements, he identified an opportunity to link it to trauma and e-bike safety efforts at the District level.

The grant request is just under \$500,000, with a required 20% match (approximately \$96,000). The proposal includes funding for 1.5 FTE nursing-level personnel to conduct data work and for supplies. The grant was submitted shortly before the deadline and has already received a request for revisions, which Chair Alfrey noted as a positive indication of interest.

Director Rienks stated the grant application should have come before the district Board for discussion and approval prior to submission of the initial application. She noted that this would ensure Board input on potential matching commitments and any operational employment implications.

Chair Alfrey shared if awarded, the grant would require the District to serve as the employer of record, prompting discussion among Directors regarding employment infrastructure, such as payroll systems and workers' compensation coverage.

Directors discussed data sources, including possible collaborations. While external data can be difficult to obtain, MarinHealth's trauma center provides a rich internal data set for grant purposes. The Board expressed interest in the project's potential and agreed to revisit logistics if the grant is approved.

**6. Establishment of Primary Care Access Task Force Ad hoc Committee and Appointment of Initial Members Pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the Marin Health Care District**

Chair Alfrey introduced the item to formally establish an ad hoc Primary Care Access Task Force. He announced that Directors Rienks and Sparkman have agreed to serve as co-chairs. Director Su moved to approve the creation of the task force and the appointment of Directors Rienks and Sparkman as co-chairs. Director Ramirez seconded.

**Vote: all ayes.**

**7. Marin Civil Grand Jury Report: Marin County First Responders: Supporting Those Who Support Us**

Chair Alfrey summarized the Civil Grand Jury report, which focuses on the challenges faced by first responders and includes a recommendation to establish bi-directional electronic data exchange between EMS and Marin's three hospitals. Jason Wood, Chief Information Officer, provided an update confirming that agreements have been signed and implementation is underway. He stated that MarinHealth has initiated project planning with UCSF, and updates can be provided regularly as the project progresses.

The Grand Jury recommends quarterly public updates on data exchange progress, and the District is expected to report back within 90 days

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

Dr. Klein reported on recent legislative developments at the federal, state, and local levels impacting healthcare. He noted that California is facing a significant budget deficit, with potential cuts to hospital funding and the likely redirection of Medicare tax revenues to Medicaid.

Assembly Bill 1778 took effect in Marin County on July 1, with an initial 60-day warning period followed by a \$25 penalty for certain violations involving minors. Enforcement is expected to be limited, and discussions continue on strengthening the measure.

Dr. Klein reported at the federal level, HR1, signed into law on July 4, is primarily a tax bill with substantial healthcare impacts. Projected effects include \$1 trillion in nationwide Medicaid/Medi-Cal cuts over ten years, loss of coverage for approximately 11.8 million Californians, reductions to provider taxes, potential freezes on federal MCO tax matching

grants, work requirements for eligibility, and restrictions on ACA premium tax credits. The bill also allocates \$50 billion for rural healthcare over five years and removes a proposed ban on Medicaid/CHIP funding for gender transition procedures.

Dr. Klein reported additional challenges include seismic upgrade requirements, rising reimbursement costs, potential supply chain disruptions and price increases from tariffs, and continued workforce shortages. While MarinHealth remains in a stable financial position relative to many hospitals, ongoing monitoring, advocacy, and strategic planning will be essential to maintain services and patient care.

## **9. Committee Reports**

### *A. Finance & Audit Committee (did not meet)*

The committee did not meet. No report was given.

### *B. Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee (met July 7)*

Director Rienks reported that the committee met and discussed rescheduling a health seminar with a Master Gardener, now likely be focused on winter gardening.

Director Rienks also reported the committee discussed how changes in Medi-Cal eligibility may impact immigrant and underserved communities. The committee is considering alternative outreach methods, including smaller, less publicized health events.

## **10. Reports**

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

Dr. Klein noted that the organization is evaluating how to proceed with its planned expansion and will be discussing this further. Expansion efforts include enhancements to cardiac rehabilitation, heart surgery services, and other specialty areas.

Dr. Klein reported in June 2025, 11 new providers joined the organization: 1 pediatrician, 6 primary care providers, and 6 advanced practice providers. Recruitment efforts remain active, with approximately 11 physicians currently in the pipeline.

Dr. Klein reported patient access improvements are ongoing, with early signs of reduced appointment wait times.

Dr. Klein commented on a recent insurance contract termination with Meritage and its potential impact on Marin and Sonoma Counties.



Dr. Klein shared the implementation of Syntec Rounding, a new digital platform integrating patient experience, environmental care, quality oversight, infection prevention and leadership rounds into one unified system. The platform supports real-time issue routing to appropriate departments, mobile-device tracking, centralized monitoring and resolution follow-up, reinforcing patient safety and satisfaction.

Dr. Klein shared AHRQ-benchmarked pediatric quality outcomes for 2023, highlighting zero incidents of accidental punctures or lacerations, neonatal bloodstream infections, postoperative sepsis, and central venous catheter infections. These results underscore the organization's clinical excellence and quality commitment.

Dr. Klein reported on facility and security updates:

- Improvements in peri-operative areas: room renovations, lighting, cooling, and video integration.
- Installation of telemetry in the Oak Pavilion.
- Master fire alarm upgrades in all buildings, targeted for completion in September.
- Planning underway for 2030/2033 seismic compliance requirements.
- The Bloom Energy project is underway to reduce the organization's carbon footprint.
- Plans are in place to add vending and café options in the Cypress area to provide after-hours food and beverage access.
- The replacement MRI scanner on South Eliseo has been completed.
- Pharmacy compounding suite is underway with completion by end of year.
- New weapons detection system installed at ER has been implemented.
- Visitor badging system will provide direct access for District and Operating Board members without check-in.

Dr. Klein announce the upcoming ACHD Annual Meeting in San Diego, September 24–26, inviting Board Members to attend.

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

Director Rienks reported on a recent article from the Pacific Sun regarding the use of a specific restraint device ("the wrap") by law enforcement agencies on individuals experiencing mental health crises.

The article referenced a recent Marin County Civil Grand Jury report indicating that law enforcement officers receive only 15 hours of mental health training as part of their certification. Director Rienks expressed concern that such limited training may contribute to situations resulting in harm, citing a recent case in which an individual died while being restrained in this manner.

Director Rienks suggested that the District consider hosting an educational seminar for first responders on best practices in responding to individuals with mental illness, potentially



increasing training exposure beyond the required minimum.

The Board discussed the feasibility of providing such training. They also noted sustainability challenges for existing crisis intervention programs, many of which are grant-funded and facing potential funding shortfalls.

Director Rienks will research the matter further, including obtaining and circulating the Pacific Sun article, and will report back to the Board with potential options for moving forward.

Director Sparkman noted the passing of William Bagley, former Marin legislator. She recognized his reputation for working collaboratively across party lines and described him as a great man whose contributions were widely respected.

**10. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings**

No new agenda topics were proposed.

**11. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Chair Alfrey adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.