



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

REGULAR MEETING

**April 14, 2026 MarinHealth
Medical Center Conference
Center**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Rienks called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Board members present: Chair Jennifer Rienks, PhD; Vice Chair, Brian Su, MD; Secretary, Samantha Ramirez, BSW via Zoom; Edward Alfrey, MD

Staff present: David Klein, MD, CEO; Colin Leary, General Counsel; Tricia Lee, EA

Board members absent: Ann Sparkman, RN/BSN, JD

2. General Public Comment

Ms. Mimi Willard provided public comment and reiterated concerns previously expressed regarding the citizen initiative process. She stated that her comments from the February 24, 2026 meeting were not reflected in the minutes and expressed concern regarding transparency. Ms. Willard stated that while she supports the District's need for funding for facilities and maintenance, she remains concerned about the initiative process, including statements made by signature gatherers and the lack of clear disclosure in the petition regarding lowering the approval threshold from two-thirds to a simple majority.

Mr. Steven Batson provided public comment regarding nonfunctioning electric vehicle chargers in the employee parking garage and requested that they be repaired or replaced. He also encouraged the hospital to consider reinstating shuttle service from the SMART train and exploring additional transportation options to support sustainability and alleviate parking constraints.

Dr. Klein responded that the hospital is replacing all EV chargers, increasing capacity from 14 to 20 with a new vendor, with completion expected within the next two months. He noted that transportation and parking strategies would be addressed further in his report.

Chair Rienks clarified that the Board does not create or participate in the citizen initiative process and is limited to determining ballot timing in accordance with legal requirements.

3. Approve Agenda

Director Alfrey moved to approve. Director Ramirez seconded.

Vote: all ayes.

4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2026 & March 10, 2026

A. Approval of the Adjourned Regular Meeting of February 24, 2026 Minutes.

Chair Rienks requested an additional amendment to the minutes of February 24, 2026. Approval of minutes were tabled until May 12, 2026.

- B. Approval of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2026 Minutes.
Director Alfrey moved to approve. Director Su seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

5. Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends

Dr. Klein reported on recent developments in the California gubernatorial race following the withdrawal of a leading candidate Congressman Swalwell, noting that remaining candidates are actively engaging healthcare stakeholders. He stated that MarinHealth continues to monitor the race due to potential impacts on healthcare policy.

He reported that the California Department of Health Care Services submitted a revised application for the hospital fee program, expected to provide supplemental funding, and noted that timely federal approval is important to avoid disruption in Medi-Cal funding.

Dr. Klein reported on overall legislative activity for the 2026 session, noting that approximately 1,800 bills have been introduced at the state level, many of which may have implications for hospitals and healthcare delivery.

He highlighted Assembly Bill 1923, which would expedite loan forgiveness for hospitals that previously received funding through the California Distressed Hospital Loan Program and strengthen financial support for struggling rural hospitals.

Dr. Klein also discussed Assembly Bill 2353, which would require more comprehensive and timely analysis of the financial impact of legislative mandates on hospitals prior to legislative approval, enabling policymakers to better understand the fiscal implications of proposed legislation.

He noted the reintroduction of single-payer healthcare legislation (AB 1900, CalCare), which would transition the state to a unified healthcare financing system, and stated that the California Hospital Association is closely reviewing the proposal.

Dr. Klein also reported on a growing number of bills focused on the regulation of artificial intelligence in healthcare, including its use in patient interactions, clinical decision-making, and billing practices.

6. Committee Reports

- A. *Finance & Audit Committee*
Finance & Audit did not meet. No report given.
- B. *Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee*
The Committee did not meet. Chair Rienks requested assistance in scheduling a meeting.
- C. *Primary Care Task Force*
The Task Force did not meet. Follow-up scheduling for interviews is pending.

7. Reports

A. *Hospital CEO's Report:*

Dr. Klein reported that the hospital continues to closely monitor potential federal sequestration and broader funding uncertainties, noting that any renewal of sequestration could have a significant financial impact on hospitals statewide. He also referenced ongoing international conflicts and stated that there is concern that federal resources could be redirected away from healthcare, though the extent of any impact remains uncertain.

Dr. Klein provided an update on physician recruitment and workforce development. He reported that, in addition to the 11 primary care providers recruited in the prior year, two additional providers have accepted positions and eight more candidates are currently in the recruitment pipeline. He noted that Dr. Licht, Primary Care Medical Director is evaluating recruitment strategies to improve competitiveness and ensure providers are able to practice the full scope of primary care. He also reported continued progress in specialty recruitment, including new hires in surgical podiatry, orthopedic foot and ankle, and orthopedic trauma.

Dr. Klein reported that surgical services continue to experience high demand, particularly in robotic-assisted procedures. He stated that the hospital's existing Da Vinci robot is operating at full capacity and that the hospital will proceed with acquiring a second Da Vinci robotic system to meet growing demand. He also noted plans to introduce a CORI robotic system to support advanced knee replacement procedures.

Dr. Klein discussed imaging and diagnostic services, noting that the hospital is evaluating opportunities to expand imaging capacity, including the potential addition of a CT scanner in the northern service area with advanced cardiac imaging capabilities. He emphasized that improving access to imaging services remains a key priority.

Dr. Klein provided an update on patient access and care delivery. He reported that 14 physicians and advanced practice providers across five locations are currently accepting new patients. He also stated that the organization is expanding the use of EPIC-based virtual visits and working toward full online scheduling for primary care.

Dr. Klein reported on "Project Compass," an initiative focused on improving patient access and overall patient experience. He noted that Dr. Chandrasena (CMO) and Mr. Apolinarski (CNO) have developed a comprehensive plan and assembled a team to address service gaps and enhance the patient experience across the system.

Dr. Klein provided an update on labor relations, stating that the hospital has reached a tentative agreement with the California Nurses Association (CNA), with a ratification vote scheduled later in the week. He noted that negotiations with Teamsters Local 856 are ongoing and that the organization remains committed to reaching agreement in good faith.

Dr. Klein announced that MarinHealth Medical Center has achieved a CMS 5-star rating, the highest designation available. He noted that this rating reflects strong performance on objective quality measures and commended staff and leadership for this achievement.

Dr. Klein also reported on campus planning efforts, noting that the hospital is engaging planning consultants to evaluate long-term campus development and infrastructure needs. He stated that this work is intended to guide strategic decision-making over the next several years, including potential expansion projects, optimization of existing facilities, and alignment of clinical services with projected community demand. He noted that planning efforts will consider patient access, operational efficiency, and future growth to ensure the campus is positioned to meet evolving healthcare needs.

Dr. Klein reported on seismic compliance and facility planning, noting that the hospital has submitted a request to the Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) for an extension under Assembly Bill 869. He stated that, as a district hospital, MarinHealth is eligible for at least a three-year extension provided that plans are in place to address non-compliant structures.

He explained that the Redwood Pavilion is not feasible to retrofit to meet seismic standards and that plans have been developed to transition critical services to the Cedar Pavilion. He noted that these plans have been submitted to HCAI for review and, if approved, will allow the hospital to remain on track to meet seismic compliance requirements through 2032.

Dr. Klein addressed parking and transportation challenges, noting that parking remains a significant issue for staff and visitors. He reported that the hospital is pursuing expansion of a new parking structure, including a potential additional level that would increase capacity, with construction anticipated to begin in early 2027. He also noted that the hospital is exploring off-site parking options and shuttle services, including potential SMART train connections.

Dr. Klein reported that the hospital is replacing all electric vehicle charging stations with a new vendor and expanding capacity.

Dr. Klein reported that the pharmacy compounding project, required by the State Board of Pharmacy, remains on track for completion in November and will result in a state-of-the-art compounding facility.

He provided an update on the Bloom Energy project, stating that it is progressing with minimal delays and remains on track for implementation in the fall. He noted that the system will initially use natural gas to generate on-site electricity, with plans to transition to hydrogen over time, supporting energy reliability and long-term sustainability goals.

Dr. Klein also reported that a new visitor management system has been implemented and is functioning well, with minor workflow adjustments underway.

He further noted that installation of healthy vending machines throughout the hospital is nearing completion.

Dr. Klein reported that the Petaluma urgent care location will expand to seven-day service in May and that the hospital is finalizing plans for an additional site in the Larkspur area to support urgent care and primary care services.

Public comment was provided regarding the Bloom Energy Project.

B. Chair's and Board Members' Reports:

Director Ramirez announced she will be participating in an upcoming Equity and Mental Health Summit, to be held April 29–30, and noted that the event is free and open to the public.

Chair Rienks highlighted the upcoming American Hospital Association Leadership Summit in July and encouraged Board participation.

8. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings

Dr. Klein shared that Rebecca Maxwell will present at the May 12, 2026 MHD Board Meeting.

Chair Rienks requested an update on the Age Friendly Designation process.

Chair Rienks also requested the Commission on aging to attend a future board meeting to present the Aging Strategic Plan.

9. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Chair Rienks adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.