



Ventura County Community Health Center (CHC) Board Meeting Agenda

Theresa Cho, MD
Ventura County Ambulatory Care
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Director
CHC Executive Director

John Polich
County of Ventura
Assistant County Counsel

Lizeth Barretto
Ventura County Ambulatory Care
Chief Operations Officer

Chaya Turrow
Ventura County Ambulatory Care
CHC Co-Applicant Board Clerk

**Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2022
12:30 - 2:00 PM**

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84777630936?pwd=VkRkNE43dnZVSFZEMTB0NDVMTGVVOQT09>

Meeting ID: 847 7763 0936

Passcode: 345582

**Teleconference:
+1 669 900 6833**

CHC BOARD MEMBERS:

DAVID TOVAR, District 1
Chair

JAMES MASON, District 5
Vice Chair

RALPH REYES, District 3
Secretary

RENA SEPULVEDA, District 1
Treasurer

MANUEL MINJARES, District 3

RENEE HIGGINS, MD, District 3

SUSAN WHITE WOOD, District 5

MELISSA LIVINGSTON, District 4

ESPY GONZALEZ, District 2

ROBERT RUST, District 3

MONIQUE NOWLIN, District 1

Call to Order:

David Tovar called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

1. Roll Call

David Tovar	Present via teleconference
James Mason	Present via teleconference
Ralph Reyes	Present via teleconference
Rena Sepulveda	Present via teleconference
Manuel Minjares	Present via teleconference
Renee Higgins, MD	Present via teleconference
Susan White Wood	Present via teleconference
Melissa Livingston	Present via teleconference
Espy Gonzalez	Present via teleconference

CHC BOARD MINUTES

Robert Rust Present via teleconference

Monique Nowlin Absent

Roll call confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. **Ventura County Staff Present**

Theresa Cho, MD, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Lizeth Barretto, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Timothy Hawkins, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Jason Cavender, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Christina Woods – Health Care Plan

Dee Pupa – HCA

Elizabeth Galway, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Martin Hahn, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Chaya Tarrow, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Public Present – No public present.

3. **Public Comments** – No public comments.

Action Items:

4. **Approval of CHC Board Meeting Agenda for October 27, 2022**

Board Member Rust moved to approve the minutes. Board Secretary Reyes seconded the motion. Motion was passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

5. **Approval of CHC Minutes for September 22, 2022**

Board Member Rust moved to approve the September 22 and October 14 minutes. Board Vice Chair Mason seconded. The motion passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

6. **Approval of CHC Minutes for October 14, 2022**

Board Member Rust moved to approve the September 22 and October 14 minutes. Board Vice Chair Mason seconded. The motion passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

7. **Review and Approval of determination that the legally required circumstances to meet virtually still exist: (*Government Code, § 54953, subdivision (e)(3)*)**

Board Member Rust motioned to approve that the conditions still exist to meet virtually. Board Member Gonzalez seconded. The motion passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

Presentation:

8. **Overview of the Budget Period Progress Report**

Mr. Cavender presented the Budget Period Progress Report. He explained that our FQHCs are our grant approved service sites and together they make up the budget prepared for HRSA. There are financial advantages of FQHC Certification such as prospective payment system, 330 Block Grant, and Federal Tort Claims Act coverage.

Mr. Hawkins explained that FTCA is provided to many federal contractors and that it is not something we currently use, but potentially an option down the road.

The Budget Period Progress Report (BPR) provides an update on the progress of our health center program and is mandated to submit annually. Recipients from the 330 grant are broken up between H (homeless) and E (everyone). H gets one third and E gets two thirds of the funding. Mr. Cavender is showing the grant year (GY) 23-24, March 1, 2023 – February 28, 2024, which differs from the county fiscal year, but the GY budget is based on the FY budget. It contains minor modifications that has no effect on the actual budget. This is a zero-based budget; therefore, we are reimbursed for money used to accomplish our scope of services.

The 330 Block Grant is \$2.1M. Last year we received \$1.98M. This grant is only 1.9% of the total budget. The main benefit of this grant is the preferential drug costs (340B) and the PPS rates. It includes our allocations of how we're currently spending the money. There are no physician salaries listed due to HRSA's \$203K salary cap.

Board Vice Chair Mason asked that since we are not taking advantage of the FTCA coverage, how are we covering medical malpractice currently? Mr. Hawkins explained that this falls under VCMC's program. But the team is regularly looking at advantages and disadvantages of the FTCA. Ms. Barretto explained that we have all the pieces, but we need to have an Ambulatory Care risk management plan and committee, then it would go to the CHC Board.

Board Chair Tovar questioned how to increase the reimbursement. Mr. Hawkins explained that we are reimbursed the minimum of the qualified encounters, multiplied by the PPS rate by site. There is the expectation that services change and evolve and those are noted through the Service Area Competition (SAC) application, which then helps to adjust the PPS rates. There are also highly competitive service expansion applications that we will apply for, that, if awarded, increases the base grant.

Board Member Livingston moved to approve the BPR. Board Member Higgins seconded. The motion passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

9. Ratify the Noncompeting Progress Report applying submission.

Ms. Barretto presented the Noncompeting Progress Report. It was submitted before this meeting but brought back for the Board to review what was submitted. Board Vice Chair Mason approved; Board Secretary Reyes seconded. Motion passed with no dissensions or abstentions.

Discussion Items:

10. Review Strategic Plan

Dr. Cho provided an update on the Strategic Plan.

Financial Stability and Performance –

- The team has completed and presented the update to fiscal policies and procedures.
- The team is in progress of continued evaluation of percent uninsured.
- Mr. Hawkins and his team are creating financial reporting templates that will provide financial data quickly and accurately.
- The team finalized and presented the 2021 Single Audit findings in August 2022.
- There are ongoing negotiations for our Managed Care contracts.

- The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) incentive goals have not begun but will be a focus in 2023.

Quality

- The team has continued their ACQA meetings.
- The team has finished phase one of Tonic implementation.
 - The Behavioral Health integration program will help with patients showing depression.
- There have been continued efforts with the home blood pressure cuff program, which has improved the measurement and treatment of hypertension.
- The quality team also implemented a new software data for complaints and grievances.
- The Cerner program went live in August 2022.

Service Excellence

- The team has implemented a schedule redesign which has removed restrictions that have been placed over time.
- The Behavioral Health Integration team has hired a number of care managers and therapists.

Growth and Innovation

- Overall organization sees mid 90K patients. The team is researching why this number is not closer to the goal.
- The team is also hoping to increase the number of dental patients seen.
- There is an increased focus on hiring for prenatal services in the Oxnard area.

Staff Engagement and Leadership Development

- Working on adding more Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants – added APP to eight facilities.
- Hired thirteen bilingual Behavioral Health Integration staff.
- The team is focused on participating in patient satisfaction surveys, which are based on language and age, but not on ethnicity or ZIP code, which Dr. Cho believes affects equity.

Patient and Community Engagement

- The team has hired fourteen therapists, six care managers, and four community health workers.
- They have also put a focus on returning to preventative care because many people during the pandemic delayed their preventative health.
 - For example: They have increased opportunities on the weekend to see patients.

Board Chair Tovar asked how the AC team is looking at the sustainability of the Behavioral Health positions? Dr. Cho explained that DHCS looked at an alternative payment model (APM), with the tentative start date of 2024. The APM will be measured on outcome. In the meantime, the team will be leveraging care teams, including mental health. The proposal is to bill for both mental and medical health visits in the same day. There is also a push to bill for community health workers and case management - currently in the discussion of contracts. Additionally, the team is working to hire a Medical Director for whole person care.

11. Review of Updated Annual Activity Report

Ms. Turrow presented the Annual Activity Report. She requested any feedback, updated headshots, or suggestions from the CHC Board. The goal is to send the report as a “receive and file” or report to the BOS at one of the December meetings.

12. Continued Business

a. Grants Update

Ms. Barretto talked about the Magnolia Dental Expansion. Currently working with GSA and the architect and due to some delays, she doesn't think they will meet the June 2023 completion date, but rather will be closer to the end of the year, which is still within the grant completion period.

The American Rescue Plan Grant – This grant is \$15M focused on sustaining operations, testing, and treatment of vaccines. There was a UDS+ supplemental funding that was received this year. The progress report was submitted last month and was returned. Mr. Barretto's team will make the updates and re-submit.

The Ambulatory Care team received feedback on the bylaws from the Gary Bess team. Recommendations were mostly focused on updated verbiage and feedback their team is receiving on the Operational Site Visits. During the next CHC Board Meeting, we will appoint a small committee of Board Members that will review the recommendations to the bylaws.

13. CEO Update – Dr. Theresa Cho, HCA, Ambulatory Care

Dr. Cho shared a slide to show how much Quality Improvement work is being done for the Strategic Plan. Each quality measure is also tied to funding. The Quality team is engaging leadership at the clinics by each taking a measure as a quality improvement project. Some of the big measures have already passed. Working on ensuring the telehealth visits are consistent with screening for mental health. Also working on our partnership with Gold Coast.

14. Board Comments

Board Member Higgins requested an updated list of the directors, clinics, providers, etc.

Board Chair Tovar said that the news of the Vanguard building is very exciting.

15. Staff Comments

Ms. Barretto said they are working on a new location for the call center, by the middle of November and can plan for a CHC Board tour when meetings are in-person again.

16. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.

Audio files of the CHC Co-Applicant Board meetings are available by contacting the CHC Co-Applicant Board Clerk at chcboardclerk@ventura.org
Minutes submitted by: Chaya Turrow, CHC Board Clerk

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2022