



**Health Center (HC) Board Minutes
May 26, 2021**

The Health Center Board met via Go To Meeting.

Present: Consumer Members: Filipo Chappelle, Lee Herrington, Cynthia Guerrero, Celia Lee, Richard Osbourne,
Community Members: Skip Szymanski (Chair), Emily Casarez (Co-Chair), Lauren Geeb, Sylvia Barnard
Non-Voting Member: Dana Gamble, Health Center Executive Director
Staff: Kendall Johnston, Polly Baldwin, Melissa Gomez, Elvira Briones-Arellano, Jeanie Sleigh, Suzanne Jacobson, Ralph Barbosa,
Guests/Speaker: None

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Szymanski at 12:03pm.

II. Review and Approve Minutes from the April 28, 2021 Meeting

The April Board meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board and there were no public comments. Mr. Herrington motioned that the minutes be approved by the Board; Ms. Lee seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Roll Call, Sign In and Quorum Established.

Chair Szymanski requested the virtual attendees do a roll call prior to the call to order and verified that a quorum was established.

IV. Public Comment: None

V. Old Business: None

VI. New Business:

1. HRSA Change in Scope Clinical Lab Services-Mr. Barbosa

Mr. Barbosa began his presentation by reviewing the background of the HRSA scope of service. As part of the FQHC designation, Public Health is required to keep all services, sites and locations updated with HRSA. The scope of service is reviewed at least once per year, but updates are brought before the Board for approval as they arise. The clinical laboratory is set to close by June 30th 2021 and the health centers will no longer be running the tests on site. Quest and Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories will be performing the tests while patients will continue to receive draw services at the health centers or by visiting any of the local Quest or PDL draw stations.

There were no public comments. Ms. Geeb Motioned that the Board vote to approve the submission of a change in scope to HRSA to delete the diagnostic laboratory as a column I service; Mr./Ms. Guerrero Seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. American Rescue Plan Health Center Construction and Capital Improvements-Mr. Barbosa

Mr. Barbosa announced that the American Rescue Plan has a one-time funding opportunity to support construction, expansion, alteration, renovation and other capital improvements to modify, enhance, and expand health care infrastructure. HRSA will provide the funding in the form of a grant up to \$770,035. The County intends to apply for the full amount and HRSA will review the application and award funding as appropriate. The application is due on June 24 and the performance period would run from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2024. PHD expects to use these funds to cover costs associated with expanding the Pediatrics expansion at the Santa Maria Health Center, to include exam rooms and office space reallocation, and the lobby at the Santa Barbara Health Center.

There were no public comments. Mr. Herrington Motioned that the Board vote to approve the Public Health Departments' application for capital improvement funding; Mr. Chapelle Seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. American Rescue Plan Act-Mr. Barbosa

Mr. Barbosa announced that the County also intends to apply for funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to support the Health Center Program to prevent, mitigate and respond to COVID19 and to enhance health care services and infrastructure. The total award of the grant funding is \$5,210,375 and the application is due May 31. The actual award total will be calculated using formulas based on the 2019 UDS reports. The grant funds will be used to cover personnel costs associated with PHD's response to the COVID19 pandemic, as well as costs for telehealth, screening, vaccinations and other costs associated with operating health care centers while also addressing the County's needs during a pandemic. Additionally, the funds are retroactive and can be used for a variety of activities, so PHD will be able to use those funds to cover budgetary gaps.

There were no public comments. Ms. Guerrero Motioned that the Board vote to approve the Public Health Departments' application for capital improvement funding; Mr. Chapelle Seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. FY 2021-2022 Budget-Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson began her presentation by reviewing the totals for the 2020-2021 Adopted budget against the 2021-2022 Recommended budget, which resulted in a reduction of \$83,925 or 0.14%. Anticipated revenue changes include a \$2.5 million cut due to the loss of 340B pharmacy revenue for Medi-Cal, in which the implementation is being delayed. Self-Pay and PACT revenues expect a decrease of \$244,000 due to fewer in-person visits and lower rates for telephone visits while transitioning after the pandemic. State and local funds are expected to be positively impacted by the ARP grant with an additional \$267,000. Public Health has cautiously estimated that they will see an increase of \$2.4 million also due to the ARP grant. The capital improvement funds previously discussed by Mr. Barbosa have not been included into these budget proposals.

The anticipated budget for expenditure changes includes a \$1 million reduction in pharmaceuticals due to the transition of the 340B pharmacy program to the state program which reimburses at a lower rate. Salaries and benefits will increase by \$925,000 as there is expected to be a cost of living increase affecting salaries, retirement benefits and health insurance rates. Malpractice insurance is expected to reduce by \$140,000 due to lower insurance premiums. Office expenses are expected to increase by \$132,000 mostly due to the increased software maintenance costs for the EPIC electronic health record system. Public Health Laboratory services expects to see a decrease of \$90,000 due to billing changes for processing tests from the PACT program. Ms. Jacobson requested that the Board approve the budget changes as reviewed and will return this item to the Board if there are any changes with additional COVID funding or the State pharmacy transition.

There were no public comments. Mr. Chapelle Motioned that the Board vote to approve the 2021/2022 budget for the Health Care Center Program; Ms. Guerrero Seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

[Ms. Barnard joined the meeting at 12:39pm]

VIII. Standing Reports:

1. April 2021 Monthly Financial Report-Ms. Jacobson

Ms. Jacobson directed the Board members to the financial narrative where it shows the month of April ending with a positive net financial impact of \$644,360 and the YTD negative impact of -\$764,593. Medicaid and Medicare revenue, along with self-pay (HAP) and local and state funds are all below budget while the federal 330 grant funds are showing above budget due to supplemental funding with the new grant not reflected yet. All sections in the expenditure highlights show as being under budget. Salaries and benefits are well below budget because of regular staff being directed to COVID response efforts. Physician fees are generally underbudget due to the timing of invoices being about a month behind. Public Health has not yet been charged for the quarterly data processing fees so the YTD is also well below budget for expenditures.

Mr. Herrington motioned that the Board approve the March monthly and quarter-end financial reports; Mr. Osbourne seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. Policy Review Committee –Ms. Casarez

Mr. Herrington informed the Board that the policy review committee had reviewed the policies presented in May 2021 and found them all to be correct with the exception of policy 17-C-628 which needed the next review date updated to 2022. There were no public comments. Ms. Casarez motioned that the Board vote to approve the policies presented in May 2021; Mr. Herrington seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Provider Appointments-Dr. Baldwin

Dr. Baldwin briefly reviewed the three providers up for reappointment this month and that all of them have been with Public Health for over 5 years with no issues.

There were no public comments. Mr. Herrington Motioned that the Board vote to approve the providers listed for reappointment in item VIII.3; Ms. Geeb Seconded.

Motion Carried Unanimously

4. Quality Measures Report-Ms. Gomez

Due to time constraints, Ms. Gomez briefly reviewed with the Board the various measures tracked each month, which special emphasis on what efforts each of the Health Centers are expending in order to make improvements: **Diabetes A1c:** Both Franklin and Carpinteria Health Centers have targeted diabetes control for improvement. Attempts were made to offer virtual specialty diabetic clinic visits on a group call with the patient, provider and nutritionist but proved challenging. In-person specialty clinics have resumed and are scheduled for 2 days a week at those locations.

Hypertension: The Lompoc Health Center had been working with CenCal throughout 2020 on an outreach project for patients with uncontrolled hypertension that resulted with 39 patients scheduled for office visits. This program has expanded to the Santa Maria Health Center and PHD continues to work the CenCal in obtaining home monitoring devices for those patients.

Depression w/Intervention: Franklin, Carpinteria and Santa Maria Health Centers receive a monthly list of patients who are overdue for their annual screening and staff work to contact those for appointments. Women's health staff at those health centers are involved in a project to increase screening for depression during and after pregnancy.

Pediatric Depression w/intervention: This subset of the previous measure saw a huge spike in compliance.

Breast Cancer Screening: The Santa Barbara Health Care Center has started proactive outreach to patients who are overdue for their mammograms and who do not have a primary care physician on file. In the past month, the outreach resulted in 11 patients receiving well woman exams with 4 of those having a mammogram completed and 3 more scheduled for their mammograms.

Patient Satisfaction (Wait Time to see provider). This measure is reported quarterly; no change from last month.

As more patients return to in-person visits, PHD will develop improved workflows and anticipate continued improvement with all measures. Public Health is also working on projects focused on behavioral health, maternal health and diabetic patients which should reflect improvement in the diabetes and depression screening measures. There were no public comments.

5. Executive Director's Report-Mr. Gamble

Mr. Gamble began his report with highlights from each of the health centers during the month of April. During that time the health centers were able to serve as both an FQHC and a public health department by assisting with the distribution of vaccines allocated from HRSA program. The Healthcare for the Homeless program worked with PHD's Mobile Vaccination Program to connect them with homeless services providers throughout the community. As per Chair Szymanski's request last month, Mr. Gamble provided an updated patient volume report showing the average patients per day this month vs. last month, with Carpinteria Health Center seeing an increase of 4 patients. The patient visit trend shows a sharp decline of patient visits in April due to the health centers participating in the vaccine distribution efforts, and the Board was given a sneak preview of the data for May which shows the health centers vastly improving. There were no public comments.

6. COVID 19 Update-Mr. Gamble

Mr. Gamble provided an update of the County's COVID response by directing the Board to the community [dashboard](#). The county has been successful in that 42.6% of the County population is fully vaccinated. Vaccination rates have recently been boosted with the approval of the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine for individuals aged 12 and up.

Positive cases continue to decrease and California is expected to remove the tier system on June 15. Mr. Gamble encouraged the Board members to continue practice safe habits and urge their friends and family to get vaccinated if they have not done so already. Targeted outreach for those groups who may be unable to attend a community clinic or who are hesitant to get the vaccine is being provided through the PHD's Mobile Vaccination Program.

VII. Member Announcements:

- Ms. Casarez announced that LVCHO in conjunction with various other agencies are hosting a free virtual forum with a panel of local professionals and community members to discuss and answer COVID-19 vaccine questions. The forum will take place on Thursday June 3 from 6:30-7:30pm. Anyone who is interested can sign up on the website here: <https://lompocvmc.com/patients/events/1769-vaccinate-lompoc-community-is-essential>
- Ms. Casarez announced that the Healthy People Healthy Trails Spring Challenge is now active and anyone interested in signing up or viewing the dashboard can do so by visiting the following link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=cc6faa5bc236481eaa779ca3446089ea>

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:28pm.