

Minutes

**Maricopa County Special Health Care District
Board of Directors Meeting
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion
2609 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008
3rd Floor, Board Room
March 23, 2026, 1:00 p.m.**

Present: Virginia L. Korte, Chairman, District 2
Earl V. Wilcox, Vice Chairman, District 5
Martin C. Demos, Director, District 1
Barbara R. Mundell, Director, District 3
J. Woodfin Thomas, Director, District 4

Others Present: Steve Purves, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer
Michael D. White, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, Chief Clinical Officer
Claire Agnew, CPA, MBA, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer
Warren Whitney, MBA, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative
Officer
Ijana Harris, JD, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer
Beth Beckman, DNP, MSN, BSN, Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing
Officer

**Guest Presenters/
Speakers:** Michael Fronske, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Director
Lisa Hartsock, MPH, CFRE, Senior Vice President, Chief Executive Officer,
Valleywise Health Foundation

Recorded by: Melanie Talbot, Chief Governance Officer; and Clerk of the Board
Cynthia Cornejo, Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board

Call to Order:

Chairman Korte called the meeting to order at 12:59 p.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Talbot called roll. Following roll call, she noted all five voting members of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors were present, which represented a quorum.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Korte led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public

Chairman Korte called for public comment. There were no comments.

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Mission Statement

Vice Chairman Wilcox read the Mission Statement aloud.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Approve Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors meeting minutes dated February 25, 2026
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. Approve amendment #2 to the agreement (90-24-025-1-02) between Mission Linen Supply and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health for an annual price increase for laundry processing services
 - ii. Approve amendment #4 to the Sub-Recipient Agreement (90-23-014-1-04) between Arizona Association of Community Health Centers dba Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the facility renovation at the Valleywise Community Health Center-Guadalupe
 - iii. Approve amendment #4 to the Sub-Recipient Agreement (90-23-013-1-04) between Arizona Association of Community Health Centers dba Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the facility renovation at the Valleywise Community Health Center-Chandler
 - c. Governance:
 - i. Approve Resolution No. 2026-3-23-001, Declaring the Result of and Adopting a Certificate of Result of the Bond Election Held on November 4, 2025, and Ordering the Recording of such Certificate
 - ii. Approve the application of Glenda Cota for appointment to the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
 - iii. Approve the application of Thomas DeMille for appointment to the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Health's Medical Staff credentials for March 2026
 - ii. Approve Valleywise Health's Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff credentials for March 2026
 - iii. Approve revisions to the Ongoing Professional Practice Evaluation Policy (#39041)

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General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action, cont.:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - iv. Approve revisions to the Nurse Practitioner Internal Medicine Privileges and Practice Prerogatives
 - v. Approve revisions to Physician Assistant Internal Medicine Privileges and Practice Prerogatives
 - e. Capital:
 - i. Intentionally Left Blank

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

VOTE: 5 Ayes: Chairman Korte, Vice Chairman Wilcox, Director Demos, Director Mundell,
Director Thomas
0 Nays
Motion passed.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Valleywise Health's 2026 Legislative Agenda and/or the Maricopa County Special Health Care District's position regarding proposed State and Federal Legislative Items

Mr. Fronske reviewed the statistics of the current legislative session, which had been in session for 71 days, noting 20 bills had passed and the Governor had signed five. There had been no public discussion regarding the budget process.

He outlined the bills that were being tracked, stating the one of the two bills related to radiation protection systems had failed. House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 2056, a proposed constitutional ballot measure that would prevent a public entity from mandating vaccines and masks, had passed in the House, however, the measure was opposed by several organizations in the healthcare industry.

Director Mundell requested information related to Senate Bill (SB) 1113, service of process, and the probability of the bill passing.

Mr. Fronske stated that the bill had a high probability of passing, with the amendments that outlined the evaluation agency was not responsible for the costs and would require a contract with the respective counties to be reimbursed.

Director Mundell questioned if the bill passed and the Valleywise Health employees were allowed to accept service, would the organization be responsible for any legal liability.

Mr. Fronske explained that staff was actively working to mitigate problematic or unintended consequences. The legislature's primary responsibility was to pass a budget by the July 1, 2026 deadline, however, a budget packet had not been released so it was unknown if there would be negative impacts to the organization.

Chairman Korte asked who advocated for SB 1113 and questioned the purpose of the bill.

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General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action, cont.:

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Valleywise Health's 2026 Legislative Agenda and/or the Maricopa County Special Health Care District's position regarding proposed State and Federal Legislative Items, cont.

Ms. Harris said the bill was brought forward by a behavioral health attorney that recognized a need in the community. She noted the organization was not involved in the introduction of the bill.

Director Mundell asked if there was any opposition to the bill and if the organization would consider opposing due to the liability associated with the requirements. She did not believe it was in the best interest of the organization. She was concerned that if employees were able to be served process related to behavioral health, all legal paperwork may be served upon employees and that would expose the organization to risk.

Director Demos suggested obtaining legal advice on the legal liabilities in executive session.

Ms. Talbot noted that the Board authorized staff to support SB 1113 at the February 25, 2026 meeting.

Director Mundell asked if there was an opportunity to change the organization's position.

Ms. Harris clarified that the Board authorized staff to support SB 1113, if the bill was amended.

Mr. Fronske stated the bill was amended, which removed the organization's financial responsibility and added the need to contract with counties for reimbursement.

Chairman Korte also expressed concern about the legal liability.

Mr. Fronske provided an overview of the federal issues, noting that he recently met with the congressional delegation to advocate for essential hospital designation, 340B funding and protect against hospital site-neutral payment cut proposals.

3. Discuss and Review Valleywise Health Foundation Status Report

Ms. Hartsock provided an overview of Valleywise Health Foundation's performance for fiscal year (FY) 2025, mentioning \$7,618,514 was raised, there were 388 days of cash on hand, and the employee engagement survey results were very favorable.

She reviewed the current officers of the Valleywise Health Foundation Board of Directors and new members, highlighting how their experiences would benefit the Foundation and community.

The most recent fundraising event, the 2026 Cactus and Clubs Classic, generated approximately \$290,000 and hosted 144 golfers, both of which were improvements from the prior year. She informed the Board of an upcoming event, Connection Collective scheduled for April 17, 2026, and mentioned the documentary that followed burn survivors climb up Mount Kilimanjaro, *Courage Rising*, was streaming on a variety of platforms.

4. Closing Comments
 - a. Chairman and Board Members
 - b. President and Chief Executive Officer Summary of Current Events

Director Mundell announced that due to a family medical emergency, she was resigning from the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors, effective Friday, March 27, 2026. She expressed respect for her colleagues, Valleywise Health's executive team, the medical staff, and all those who served a noble cause and provided quality medical care to Arizonans and vulnerable communities. She was honored and grateful for all that she learned during her tenure and wished everyone well.

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General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action, cont.:

4. Closing Comments, cont.

Chairman Korte highlighted Director Mundell's accomplishments throughout her long career dedicated to public service, noting her extraordinary depth of experience and understanding of the law. She applauded her thoughtfulness, integrity, and commitment to ensure the most vulnerable patients received the care they deserved. She thanked Director Mundell for strengthening the Board's governance to focus on positively impacting health outcomes in the community. Director Mundell's perspective, leadership and care for the population served would be missed and Chairman Korte stated it was an honor to serve with her.

Vice Chairman Wilcox reflected on long-standing working relationship with Director Mundell, in a variety of circumstances, and he thanked her for the years of service.

Director Demos was honored to have served with Director Mundell, noting that he had learned from her experience. He thanked her for her service.

Director Thomas stated that it had been a joy to work with Director Mundell and wished her well.

Chairman Korte provided an update on the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) succession plan, stating that more information would be provided in the upcoming month. The Board would also dedicate time to quickly fill the seat that would be vacated by Director Mundell.

She presented a resource manual that was assembled by Ms. Talbot for the Board members and expressed her appreciation for the information.

Ms. Talbot outlined the information included and welcomed feedback and suggestions, if additional information would be helpful.

Mr. Purves shared his gratitude for Director Mundell's service and for her heartfelt support for Valleywise Health's mission. He presented her with gifts of appreciation.

He announced that Ms. Deb Sunman, Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), was listed amongst *Becker's Healthcare Review's* Hospital and Health System CHROs to Know. Also, the organization's simulation center had been recognized by *Becker's Healthcare Review* as one of the nation's 93 Simulation and Education Programs to Know for 2026.

He stated that Valleywise Health would be honored as the Healthcare Company of the Year and Dr. White was Healthcare Leader of the Year by *AZ Big Media's* 2026 Champions of Change Awards luncheon.

Chairman Korte announced that Mr. Purves would also receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the same event. She congratulated all for their accomplishments.

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to recess general session and convene in executive session at 1:46 p.m. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

VOTE: 5 Ayes: Chairman Korte, Vice Chairman Wilcox, Director Demos, Director Mundell,
Director Thomas
0 Nays
Motion passed.

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General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

Chairman Korte reconvened general session at 3:20 p.m.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Valleywise Health's 2026 Legislative Agenda and/or the Maricopa County Special Health Care District's position regarding proposed State and Federal Legislative Items

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to recess general session and reconvene in executive session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice at 3:21 p.m. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

VOTE: 5 Ayes: Chairman Korte, Vice Chairman Wilcox, Director Demos, Director Mundell,
Director Thomas

0 Nays

Motion passed.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

Chairman Korte reconvened general session at 4:30 p.m.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Valleywise Health's 2026 Legislative Agenda and/or the Maricopa County Special Health Care District's position regarding proposed State and Federal Legislative Items

Director Mundell indicated her withdrawal of support for SB 1113 and now opposed the bill.

Adjourn

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to adjourn the March 23, 2026 Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors General and Executive Session meeting. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

VOTE: 5 Ayes: Chairman Korte, Vice Chairman Wilcox, Director Demos, Director Mundell,
Director Thomas

0 Nays

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Virginia L. Korte, Chairman
Maricopa County Special Health Care District
Board of Directors