

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
January 28, 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
Lia Christiansen, MBC, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer
Alexzandra Hollingworth, MD, Chief of Staff
Ijana Harris, JD, Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer

**Guest Presenters/
Speakers:** Sara Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Home Assist Health
Grant Hamill, Managing Director, Stifel
Michael Fronske, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Director
Lisa Hartsock, MPH, CFRE, Senior Vice President, Chief Executive Officer,
Valleywise Health Foundation
Crystal Garcia, MBA/HCM, RN, Vice President, Specialty Services, Quality
and Patient Safety

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 1:01 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

Vice Chairman Wilcox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Call to the Public

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

Mission Statement

Director Mundell 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 November 25, 2025
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. Approve new agreement (MCO-25-013-MSA) between Aetna Network Services and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive dental services
 - ii. Approve a new hospital services agreement (MCO-26-001-MSA) between Verda Health Plan of Arizona, Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive health services
 - iii. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (IGA)(90-26-144-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, to provide matching funds in support of the Targeted Investment 2.0 Program (TIP)
 - iv. Approve a new professional services agreement (MCO-26-002-MSA) between Verda Health Plan of Arizona, Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive health services
 - v. Approve amendment #4 to the agreement (90-24-212-1-04) between Xanitos, Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health to add FTEs and decrease discharge cleaning
 - vi. Approve 2026 Amended and Restated Master Services Agreement (90-26-172) for professional medical, administrative, clinical and teaching services between the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, and District Medical Group
 - c. Governance:
 - i. Approve affidavits appointing De Bora Murphy, MD, and Katsuko Cleymaet, DO, as Deputy Medical Directors in the Department of Psychiatry

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
 - c. Governance, cont.:
 - ii. Approve a no objection letter to the proposed property tax reclassification of personal property of Essai, Inc., a subsidiary of Advantest America, Inc., and proposed Foreign Trade Zone Usage Driven site
 - iii. Approve proposed revisions to Valleywise Health’s President and Chief Executive Officer’s performance goals for Fiscal Year 2026
 - iv. Approve registration fee, airfare, lodging, and meals & incidentals per diem not to exceed rates allowable under applicable District practices and policies for Chairman Korte to attend American Hospital Association’s Annual Membership Meeting, April 19-21, 2026, in Washington, D.C.
 - v. Approve the appointment of Ijana Harris as Valleywise Health’s Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, effective September 24, 2025
 - vi. Approve Change in Scope of Service: reduce the weekly hours at Valleywise Community Health Center – South Central by one hour, Effective January 2026
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Health’s Medical Staff credentials for December 2025 and January 2026
 - ii. Approve Valleywise Health’s Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff credentials for December 2025 and January 2026
 - iii. Approve revisions to Department of Surgery - Audiologist Delineation of Privileges and Practice Prerogatives
 - iv. Approve Department of Internal Medicine - Registered Dietician Nutritionist Delineation of Privileges and Practice Prerogatives
 - v. Approve revisions to Department of Surgery – General Surgery Privileges
 - vi. Approve revisions to Department of Surgery – Thoracic Surgery Privileges
 - vii. Approve Department of Internal Medicine - Radiation Oncology Privileges
 - viii. Approve revisions to Advanced Practice Clinicians/Allied Health Professionals Policy #39011 T
 - e. Capital:
 - i. Intentionally Left Blank

Chairman Korte noted that item 1.b.vi. would be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve the consent agenda minus item 1.b.vi. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve consent agenda item 1.b.vi., the 2026 Amended and Restated Master Services Agreement (90-26-172) for professional medical, administrative, clinical and teaching services between the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, and District Medical Group, as presented. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

2. Discuss, Review and Approve Home Assist Health's Amended and Restated Bylaws

Ms. Wilson stated Home Assist Health's Amended and Restated Bylaws included a change to the governance structure and transitioned the organization to a non-voting sole member structure. The new structure would allow the organization to independently appoint board members, streamline operations, and adjust accounting requirements while maintaining a partnership with Valleywise Health.

Chairman Korte asked how many individuals were employed by Home Assist Health.

Ms. Wilson said there were approximately 500 employees, including administrative, nursing, and home healthcare workers.

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve Home Assist Health's Amended and Restated Bylaws. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

3. Discuss General Obligation Bond Process

Mr. Hamill provided an overview of the general obligation bond process, including the timeline, the team of experts required, and the Board's responsibilities. He explained that the Maricopa County Special Health Care District (District) recently completed the Proposition 480 bond program for \$935 million, which was approved by the voters in 2014. The bonds were issued in four series between 2015 and 2021, and over 45% of the principal had been repaid. The remaining debt was expected to be retired within 12 years.

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

3. Discuss General Obligation Bond Process, cont.

Chairman Korte asked if there was an opportunity to pay down the debt earlier.

Mr. Hamill stated that the bonds were issued with a period of call protection. However, after 10 years, the organization may consider options to refinance the debt, pay down the debt, or maintain the current repayment schedule.

He provided an overview of Proposition 409, which was voter-approved in 2025 and authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds to meet community needs for healthcare facilities, specifically, a replacement behavioral health hospital, additional outpatient healthcare facilities, and inpatient hospital expansion. It typically took between four and five months to complete the bond issuance process, from selecting an underwriter, preparing documents, obtaining a credit rating, going to the market, and closing the bond sales.

Mr. Hamill explained the role of each part of the finance team, including bond counsel, financial advisors, and bond underwriters. The Board was responsible for authorizing the issuance of bonds, designating staff to facilitate each bond sale, and reviewing the offering documents for accuracy and completeness. The bond tax rate was approved as part of the annual budget process.

4. 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 17 days and 1,466 bills had been posted. He outlined the legislative deadlines, noting the 100th day of session would be April 21, 2026.

He stated the Governor had given the State of the State address and released the budget, which included funding for the federal requirements related to Arizona's Medicaid program, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and eliminated \$100 million previously received through the hospital assessment. The legislative budget office released a baseline budget.

Of the 1,466 bills that had been posted, 40 bills had been sent to staff for comment. He provided a summary of some bills that may impact Valleywise Health and how staff were working to minimize unfavorable outcomes.

Mr. Fronske requested the ability to support or oppose bills and amendments with timely feedback to the Board. He also requested the ability to support any bills or amendments related to First Things First legislation, Senate Bill (SB) 1113; process of service, evaluation agencies, with an amendment clarifying a funding source; House Bill (HB) 2194, claims, prior authorization, denials, contract; and SB 1253, safe haven providers; hospital deliveries. In addition, he requested the ability to oppose SB 1016; employers, medical products, religious exemptions, which were extended COVID-related exemptions, HB 2689 and SB 1051; both related to patient immigration status and reporting.

Vice Chairman Wilcox asked why the immigration bills were needed and the likelihood the bills would pass.

Mr. Fronske stated that no testimony or reason for the immigration bills had not been given yet. It was possible that bills would be heard and even pass; however, he would not speculate on whether the Governor would sign it into law.

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4. 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.

MOTION: Director Demos moved to authorize staff to support or oppose bills and amendments with timely feedback to the Board, with the addition to support First Things First legislation related to funding, Senate Bill 1113, service of process, evaluation agencies, with amendments; House Bill 2194, claims, prior authorization, denials, contract; Senate Bill 1253, safe haven providers, hospitals, deliveries; and oppose Senate Bill 1016, employers, medical products, religious exemptions; House Bill 2689, hospitals, patient immigration status, reporting, and Senate Bill 1051, hospitals, patient immigration status, reporting. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

5. Discuss, Review and Approve Revisions to Valleywise Health Foundation's Donor Recognition Guidelines

Ms. Hartsock outlined the importance of having a donor recognition program, as it provided a visible appreciation to donors, highlighted the services provided, raised community awareness, and helped grow the number of donors. She showcased examples of donor recognition placed throughout Valleywise Health facilities, noting that there were approximately 300 plaques throughout the organization.

The donor recognition guidelines were reviewed; however, the Board would continue to have final approval authority.

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve revisions to Valleywise Health Foundation's Donor Recognition Guidelines. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

6. Discuss and Review Quality Transformation

Ms. Garcia informed the Board that staff would be making changes within the quality department to ensure that leaders and clinical teams could identify true problems, recognize gaps in safety, quality and efficiency, and implement standardized best practices based on evidence. She explained that the staff would be trained to utilize and understand the Vizient tools to interpret data and drive meaningful improvement across quality, safety, patient experience, and operational performance and develop stronger partnerships with managers, clinical resource leaders, and frontline staff to help improve patient outcomes.

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

6. Discuss and Review Quality Transformation, cont.

Ms. Garcia provided a brief overview of Vizient, which was the largest hospital benchmarking dataset in the United States and included benchmarks across quality, safety, patient experience, and cost. She noted that Valleywise Health was considered a complex care medical center and the annual scorecard compared the quality outcomes to other complex care medical centers. She announced that Valleywise Health's ranking had improved in several categories over the prior year.

She outlined the upcoming changes to the quality department, including evolving the role of quality analysts to be more proactive and influential in driving quality improvement. The quality analysts would transition from data reporters to strategic partners. She listed the quality goals for 2026, including but not limited to developing engaging presentations and training staff to utilize and understand the Vizient platform.

7. Closing Comments

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

Director Thomas announced that he attended the Governor's State of the State address and was encouraged by her comments.

Mr. Purves announced Dr. Hollingworth was the new Chief of Staff, noting she was an engaged member of the physician staff and was focused on improving communications. He mentioned Ms. Harris and Ms. Paige Pataky, Assistant General Counsel, were finalists for the 2026 Excellence in Law Awards, hosted by *AZ Business Magazine*. Ms. Beth Beckman was included on *Becker's Hospital Review's* list of 274 Chief Nursing Officers to know for 2025.

He welcomed Ms. Ana Periera, the new Vice President of Marketing and Communications and highlighted her prior accomplishments.

Adjourn

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to adjourn the January 28, 2026 Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors General 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 1:52 p.m.

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