

## Minutes

**Maricopa County Special Health Care District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion  
2609 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Board Room  
June 25, 2025, 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  
– *participated remotely*  
Lia Christiansen, MBC, Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative  
Officer  
Beck Beckman, DNP, MSN, BSN, Interim Chief Nursing Officer  
Mark MacElwee, MD, Chief of Staff  
Ijana Harris, JD, Senior Vice President, General Counsel

**Guest Presenters/  
Speakers:** Crystal Garcia, MBA/HCM, RN, Vice President, Specialty Services, Quality  
Patient Safety  
LT Slaughter, CPA, MBA, Chief Compliance Officer  
Michael Fronske, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Director

**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**

Vice Chairman Wilcox led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Call to the Public**

Chairman Korte called for public comment. There were none.

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**Mission Statement**

Director Demos 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 May 28, 2025
    - ii. Approve Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors meeting minutes dated June 3, 2025
  - b. Contracts:
    - i. Approve a new participating network agreement (MCO-25-008-MSA) between Creighton University and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive healthcare services
    - ii. Approve a new agreement (90-25-348-1) between Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health and Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. for financial advisory services for Valleywise Health general obligation bonds, project of 2025
    - iii. Approve amendment #4 to the drug and device recovery program services agreement (90-14-188-1-04) between Cardinal Health Pharmacy Services, LLC and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health
    - iv. Approve a new direct health partnership agreement (MCO-25-006-MSA) between Health 2 Business, Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive health care services
    - v. Approve a new professional services agreement (MCO-25-005-MSA) between Evernorth Behavioral Health, Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the provision of comprehensive behavioral health services
    - vi. Approve amendment #2 to the agreement (90-23-156-1-02) between Roche Diagnostics Corporation (Roche) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health for additional equipment and supplies
    - vii. Approve amendment #1 to the agreement (90-24-196-1-01) between Elevate Patient Financial and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, to update eligibility and Medicaid services
    - viii. Approve a new contract (90-25-329-1) between Plante Moran and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the independent financial and compliance audit services

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
  - b. Contracts, cont.:
    - ix. Approve a new agreement (90-25-353-1) between Arizona Community Action Association dba Wildfire and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the 2025-26 Utility Assistance Programs
    - x. Approve a new Warranty Deed (90-25-351-1) between the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health
    - xi. Approve Amended and Restated Statement of Work #3 - Call Coverage, for Master Services Agreement (90-23-177-1) between Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, and District Medical Group for fiscal year 2025
    - xii. Approve Amended and Restated Statement of Work #3 - Call Coverage, for Master Services Agreement (90-23-177-1) between Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, and District Medical Group for fiscal year 2026
    - xiii. Approve amendment #1 to the master services agreement (90-24-210-1-01) between Mainsail Parent, LLC dba Aspirion, and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health for select accounts receivables outsourcing to include high balance discretionary denials
  - c. Governance:
    - i. Approve affidavit appointing Evan F. Duffy, MD as Deputy Medical Director in the Department of Psychiatry
    - ii. Approve renewal of property insurance policy with Travelers Insurance Company and Approve the deposit premium payment of \$762,743 for a policy period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026
    - iii. Approve a single case agreement for Medicaid claims from Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) for patient with medical record ending in #1202 valid for outpatient claims with dates of service beginning March 12, 2025 through March 12, 2026
    - iv. Approve Home Assist Health's Amended and Restated Bylaws
    - v. Approve the appointment of Sherry Stotler as Board Emeritus to the Home Assist Health Board of Directors
    - vi. Accept the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, Annual Audit and Uniform Guidance Audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2024
  - d. Medical Staff:
    - i. Approve Valleywise Health's Medical Staff credentials for June 2025
    - ii. Approve Valleywise Health's Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff credentials for June 2025
    - iii. Approve Revisions to the Medical Staff Rules & Regulations (Policy #3120111 T)

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
  - d. Medical Staff, cont.:
    - iv. Approve the appointment of Elana Addis, MD, as Department Chair of OB/GYN and Women's Health, effective June 2025
  - e. Care Reimagined Capital:
    - i. Intentionally Left Blank
  - f. Capital:
    - i. Approve Capital Expenditure Request (CER) #25-455 for the design and construction associated with the installation of an additional CT scan at Valleywise Emergency - Maryvale for \$800,149

**MOTION:** Director Demos 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. Discuss and Review Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Star Ratings

Ms. Garcia provided an overview of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) star rating system, which ranged from one to five stars, with five stars being the best. The ratings incorporated five categories: mortality rates, patient readmission to the hospital, safety of care, timely and effective care, and patient experience. The ratings were based on data obtained from July 2022 through June 2023. Valleywise Health earned a three-star rating for 2025. She noted approximately 33% of hospitals received a three-star rating.

She highlighted that Valleywise Health had performed better than other hospitals for the metric related to hospital-acquired infections.

3. Discuss, Review and Approve the Annual Compliance Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Slaughter presented the annual Compliance Work Plan for fiscal year (FY) 2026 and outlined the process to determine the areas of focus for the year. Thirty risk points were identified and would be addressed throughout the Compliance Work Plan. Major projects for the year included, but were not limited to, preparing for the accreditation site visits, implementing stricter requirements surrounding patient confidentiality, navigating artificial intelligence usage, and managing the impact of tariffs on the supply chain.

**MOTION:** Vice Chairman Wilcox moved to approve annual Compliance Work Plan for fiscal year 2026. Director Thomas 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, cont.:**

4. Discuss, Review and Approve the Annual Internal Audit Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Slaughter presented the annual Internal Audit Work Plan for FY 2026 and stated that the same process that was used to develop the Compliance Work Plan was used to develop the Internal Audit Work Plan, with 30 risk points identified to address throughout the year. Major projects included, but were not limited to, concluding the audit of the Care Reimagined funds, reviewing the corporate purchasing card and accounts payable controls, reviewing protocols related to violent patients, active shooters, and infant abductions, and auditing direct payment program funds.

**MOTION:** Director Demos moved to approve the annual Internal Audit Work Plan for fiscal year 2026. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

5. Discussion and Possible Action on Valleywise Health’s 2025 Legislative Agenda and/or the Maricopa County Special Health Care District’s position regarding proposed State and Federal legislative items

Mr. Fronske outlined the statistics of the current legislative session, which had been in session for 164 days. He noted that 374 bills had passed, however, 140 bills had been vetoed by the Governor.

The Senate had passed a bipartisan set of budget bills, however, the House introduced a new series of budget bills and sent two budget packages to the Senate for vote. Should the legislature fail to pass a budget prior to July 1, 2025, the Governor had a plan impose a state-wide government shutdown.

Director Demos asked if there would be hospital operations would be impacted, if the government were to shut down.

Mr. Fronske anticipated that licensing and Medicaid eligibility would most likely be impacted.

He provided an overview of the federal issues and said staff continued to work with the congressional delegation regarding the proposed cuts to Medicaid and Medicare and other issues that would impact the organization.

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

6. Discussion and Possible Action on Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Recoupment repayment request from Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for Fiscal Year 2021 not to exceed \$2,917,601.00

**MOTION:** Director Thomas moved to approve a payment to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System not to exceed \$2,917,601 for fiscal year 2021 Disproportionate Share Hospital repayment request. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

Vice Chairman Wilcox stated it was his understanding that a contingency fund had been established, in anticipation of the repayment.

Ms. Agnew confirmed and noted the repayment would not affect the financial statements, but the cash balance would be impacted.

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

7. Discussion and Possible Action on an Introductory Letter from District Board of Directors to the voters of Maricopa County to appear in the November 4, 2025, General Election Bond Measure Voter Information Pamphlet

Director Mundell noted that the draft letter had been updated since originally provided to the Board the previous week and requested an overview of the revisions made.

Ms. Harris explained that there were formatting edits, as well as clarifying the references to the community health centers and the comprehensive health center.

**MOTION:** Director Thomas moved to approve the introductory letter from District Board of Directors to the voters of Maricopa County to appear in the November 4, 2025, general election bond measure Voter Information Pamphlet. Vice Chairman Wilcox seconded.

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

8. Reports to the Board
  - a. Quality Management Council Meeting Minutes (April 2025)
  - b. Care Reimagined Capital Purchases Report

There were no questions or comments related to the reports.

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

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

Director Thomas reported that he attended the WESTMARC Healthcare Summit and commented that there was a lot of support for the organization.

Mr. Purves acknowledged the impact that proposed cuts to Medicaid and Medicare would have on the organization and emphasized that staff was heavily engaged with the congressional delegation and all advocacy organizations.

In June 2025, Valleywise Health received the 2025 Gage Award for Population Health from America's Essential Hospitals for its Refugee Health Program. The award was presented to Ms. Jeanne Nizigiyimana, Program Manager for the Center for Refugee and Global Health.

Valleywise Health was recognized by *Becker's Hospital Review*, for the second year, for its psychiatry and behavioral health programs and Mr. Purves thanked all staff involved in providing the much-needed services for the community.

He noted the progress made in the demolition of buildings on the main campus and announced the upcoming ceremony to signal the start of the legacy acute care hospital demolition.

Chairman Korte stated that the ceremony would celebrate the building that had been the center of care provided since 1971.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Director Thomas moved to adjourn the June 25, 2025, 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 1:39 p.m.

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