

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
September 24, 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 – *participated remotely*
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
Beck Beckman, DNP, MSN, BSN, Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing
Officer
Ijana Harris, JD, Senior Vice President, General Counsel

**Guest Presenters/
Speakers:** Sara Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Home Assist Health
Michelle Barker, DHSc, Senior Vice President Ambulatory Services; and
Chief Executive Officer Federally Qualified Health Centers
Earl Arbuckle, Chairman, Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing
Council
Crystal Garcia, MBA/HCM, RN, Vice President, Specialty Services, Quality
Patient Safety
Jori Davis, MBA, Vice President, Support Services

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 1:00 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.

For the benefit of all participants, Ms. Talbot announced the Board member who participated remotely.

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 none.

Mission Statement

Director Thomas 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 August 27, 2025
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. Approve an intergovernmental agreement (90-26-048-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the administration of the Safety Net Services Initiative (SNSI) for the contract year ending September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health shall transfer public funds to AHCCCS in the amount of \$4,591,815.07 for the administration of the SNSI
 - ii. Approve an intergovernmental agreement (90-26-049-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for the support of the Safety Net Services Initiative (SNSI) for the contract year ending September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health shall transfer public funds to AHCCCS in the amount of \$111,751,872.27 for the support of the SNSI
 - iii. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-054-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, on behalf of Abrazo, to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health shall transfer public funds to AHCCCS the amount of \$154,540 on behalf of Abrazo for the administration of the APSI
 - iv. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-055-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, on behalf of Abrazo, to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health will provide State match funds in the amount of \$3,149,312.01 to the State of Arizona in order to receive Federal match funds

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
 - b. Contracts, cont.:
 - v. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-047-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, on behalf of Phoenix Children’s Hospital, to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health will provide State match funds in the amount of \$2,500,000 to the State of Arizona in order to receive Federal match funds
 - vi. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-050-1) with Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for Valleywise Health to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health shall transfer public funds to AHCCCS the amount of \$353,000 for the administration of the APSI
 - vii. Approve amendment #1 to contract (90-25-131-1-01) between Caliente Construction Inc. and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to complete the Valleywise Guadalupe Refresh Project, located at 5825 E. Calle Guadalupe, Guadalupe, Arizona
 - viii. Approve amendment #4 to the intergovernmental agreement (90-22-110-1-04) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health for psychiatry residency training program at the Arizona State Hospital
 - ix. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-051-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) for Valleywise Health to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health will provide State match funds in the amount of \$8,671,665.53 to the State of Arizona in order to receive Federal match funds
 - x. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-057-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, on behalf of RCHP-Sierra Vista, to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health will provide State match funds in the amount of \$577,000 to the State of Arizona in order to receive Federal match funds
 - xi. Approve a new intergovernmental agreement (90-26-056-1) between Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, on behalf of RCHP-Sierra Vista, to participate in the Access to Professional Services Initiative (APSI). This IGA commences on October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Valleywise Health shall transfer public funds to AHCCCS the amount of \$23,080 on behalf of RCHP-Sierra Vista for the administration of the APSI

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.
 - b. Contracts, cont.:
 - xii. Approve amendment #5 to the contract (90-17-083-2-05) between Sherloq Solutions and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, to extend the contract for an additional one (1) year
 - xiii. Approve amendment #6 to the contract (90-17-083-1-06) between Progressive Management Systems and Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health to extend the contract for an additional seven (7) months
 - c. Governance:
 - i. Approve renewal of the following Board policies:
 - a. Policy 99002 G – Billing
 - b. Policy 99004 G – Collection Efforts
 - ii. Approve registration fee and mileage not to exceed rates allowable under applicable District practices and policies for Director Thomas to attend the 2025 Arizona Burn Symposium, October 17, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona
 - iii. Approve a no objection letter to the proposed property tax reclassification of real and personal property of Amkor Technology Arizona, Inc. and Proposed Foreign Trade Zone Designation
 - iv. Approve Executive Leadership Succession Plan
 - v. Approve Change in Scope to Add Expanded Services to Health Resources and Services Administration Form 5A: Add Pediatric Specialty Services – Neurology, Pulmonology, Endocrinology, and Gastroenterology
 - vi. Approve Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Health’s Medical Staff credentials for September 2025
 - ii. Approve Valleywise Health’s Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff credentials for September 2025
 - e. Capital:
 - i. Approve Capital Expenditure Request (CER) #26-427 for the purchase and installation of a new GE CT Scanner for Valleywise Emergency – Maryvale for a total cost of \$1,118,682.76
 - ii. Approve Capital Expenditure Request (CER) #26-439 for the purchase of 1,800 HP end user workstations for a total cost of \$1,872,046.74

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

1. Approval of Consent Agenda, cont.

Director Demos requested consent agenda item 1.c.vi., the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors, be removed and be voted on separately.

MOTION: Director Demos moved to approve the consent agenda minus item 1.c.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 Demos moved to approve consent agenda item 1.c.vi., revisions to the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors and waive the requirements of a full statement of a proposed amendment to be submitted in advance per Article XXI. Director Thomas seconded.

Director Demos noted the revisions to the Bylaws aligned legal services with the needs of the Board of Directors and the organization.

Director Mundell agreed.

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

0 Nays

Motion passed.

2. Discuss Home Assist Health's (HAH) Fiscal Year 2025 Report

Ms. Wilson provided an overview of Home Assist Health (HAH), highlighting the progress made within the home health industry, as well as the organization. Throughout fiscal year (FY) 2025, over 550 individuals were cared for, nearly 480,500 hours of service were provided, and over 2,000 meals were delivered to individuals in need.

She announced that in 2025, HAH was recognized among the Top 100 Best in Home Care, became the sixth organization to be an Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS)-recognized Community Health Worker organization in Arizona, achieved Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) licensure as a Home Health Agency, and was pursuing Medicare certification and Community Health Accreditation Partner (CHAP) accreditation.

Ms. Wilson informed the Board of the organization's history and reiterated its commitment to the community to provide support to people in need.

She reviewed services HAH offered, including EverCare for elderly and physically disabled individuals, LifeCare for intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals, and MyCare, a community health service designed to support individuals at high risk with polychronic conditions. The outcomes of the various programs were shared.

She explained that HAH was the recipient of a CVS Health Zone grant, which targeted patients with high blood pressure with multiple conditions. She noted the program was progressing well and received positive feedback.

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

2. Discuss Home Assist Health's (HAH) Fiscal Year 2025 Report, cont.

Ms. Wilson reviewed HAH's operating statistics for FY 2025, reiterating that 552 individuals had been cared for by 441 direct care workers. The 95% employee retention rate was highlighted, along with the caregiver and stakeholder satisfaction ratings, which performed better than industry standard.

She reviewed the financial results, stating HAH completed FY 2025 with a net income of \$446,279, compared to a budgeted income of \$50,469, resulting in a positive variance of \$415,810.

The strategic plan was reviewed and she mentioned that many of the activities were ongoing and would continue in FY 2026.

3. Discuss Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council and Valleywise Health Federally Qualified Health Centers Annual Report

Dr. Barker presented the strategic initiatives for the FQHCs, which included enhancing patient experience, mobilizing equitable health, connecting with the community, empowering the team, and modernizing the operations. She outlined the action plans in place to address each component.

She acknowledged the ongoing challenges, such as workforce shortages, reimbursements, patient access, resources, and Governing Council membership.

The calendar year (CY) 2024 Uniform Data System (UDS) statistical information was reviewed, including the number of unduplicated patients, patient demographics, and the payer mix. She outlined how Valleywise Health FQHCs compared to other FQHCs in the Phoenix area. She mentioned that there had been an increase in the no-show rate as immigration concerns had escalated.

The FY 2026 strategic initiatives were consistent with the prior year, and Dr. Barker outlined the plans in place to achieve annual targets, including partnership grant opportunities to address diabetes and hypertension.

Mr. Arbuckle shared information related to the Governing Council members, highlighting several members had volunteered to receive education on a state and national level. He explained that the priorities of the Governing Council included preparing for the upcoming Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Operational Site Visit, recruiting and training new members.

Vice Chairman Wilcox requested additional information related to the grant to address hypertension.

Dr. Barker explained that it was a five-year, technology-driven grant that would monitor trends and outcomes and provide educational opportunities for patients. She stated that approximately 70% of patients with diabetes also had hypertension. The grant targeted specific zip codes, primarily in Mesa and Peoria, however, the programs developed would be initiated throughout the organization.

Chairman Korte asked about the efforts to recruit new Governing Council members and inquired about the criteria used to be considered as a member.

Dr. Barker explained that at least 51% of the Governing Council members must be Valleywise Health FQHC patients, which was a key requirement when considering potential candidates. Interested individuals should also be mission-driven and willing to commit approximately five hours per month to Governing Council responsibilities.

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

4. First-Year Lookback: Press Ganey Patient Experience Survey Results and Process Review

Ms. Garcia summarized the first-year's experience with Press Ganey, noting that having one company conduct patient experience surveys across all service areas allowed staff to obtain more data and the ability to track, trend and compare the results against similar organizations nationwide.

She shared the results achieved between October 2024 and June 2025. For Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Professionals and Systems (HCAHPS), she stated the 84.09% rating of the hospital was better than the 70.5% benchmark. The results for various service areas, including medical practice specialty, ambulatory surgery, and dental, were very positive and were used to determine the benchmarks for FY 2026.

She highlighted the successes throughout the year, including the collaboration with Press Ganey, utilization of reports and goal setting tools, and the ability to share patient comments with leaders on a weekly basis, resulting in an overall increase in patient experience scores. It was also beneficial to correlate employee satisfaction results with the patient experience results, to identify focus areas.

In the upcoming year, staff would review the challenges experienced and develop actions to continue to make improvements. In January 2026, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would begin implementing changes on how inpatient psychiatric facility patient experience surveys were administered and reported. Ms. Garcia outlined the next steps, which would be surrounded by the focus question related to how well staff worked together.

5. Discuss Roosevelt Campus Demolition Project Update

Ms. Davis provided an update on the progress of the demolition occurring on the Roosevelt campus. She noted that the legacy central utility plan, the Hogan and Conference and Administration Center (CAC) buildings were demolished, with the legacy medical center demolishing scheduled to be completed by May 2026. She announced that the demolition project was on budget and on schedule.

She explained the upcoming parking disruptions that would be ongoing as the demolition of the legacy medical center continued. Photos and a video were showcased to highlight the progress made thus far.

6. Discuss, Review and Approve Valleywise Health's President & Chief Executive Officer's Performance Goals for Fiscal Year 2026

Mr. Purves provided an overview of the President & Chief Executive Officer's FY 2026 performance goals, stating that the goals aligned with the organization's current and ongoing success.

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to approve Valleywise Health's President & Chief Executive Officer's performance goals 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.

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

7. Reports to the Board of Directors:
 - a. Semiannual Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council Structure Report
 - b. Fiscal Year 2025 Employee Engagement Survey Results

There were no questions or comments related to the reports.

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

Mr. Purves expressed his gratitude for the work being done across the organization. He announced Dr. Frank LoVecchio, an emergency medicine physician, was honored with *The Phoenix Business Journal's* 2025 Healthcare Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award, and Ms. Shasa Jackson, manager of the specialty behavioral health services, received the 2025 Healthcare Hero Award in the non-physician category for advancing behavioral health services and making a meaningful, lasting impact on patients, families, and the community.

Ms. Jeanne Nizigiyimana was recognized by the Arizona Public Health Association and would be presented with the Pete Wertheim Public Health Leadership Award for her work with the refugee population.

Dr. White was included in *Arizona Business Magazine's* list of 100 Best Doctors in Arizona for 2025. He would also make an appearance on *PBS Horizons* to speak about Proposition 409, a general obligation bond initiative to fund future capital projects throughout Valleywise Health.

Adjourn

MOTION: Director Thomas moved to adjourn the September 24, 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 2:36 p.m.

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