

## Minutes

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's  
Connecting with the Community Committee  
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion  
2609 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Auditorium 1  
October 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Chris Hooper, Chairman  
Jason Vail Cruz, Vice Chairman  
Earl Arbuckle, Member  
Shelbi Bahena, Member– *participated remotely*  
Rebecca Birr, Member  
Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods, Member– *participated remotely*  
Scott Jacobson, Member  
Jose Luis Madera, Member– *participated remotely*  
Jee Moon, Member– *participated remotely*  
Irene Noriega, Member  
Alma Ramirez, Member  
Dr. Michelle Barker, Ex-Officio Member

**Members Absent:** Piedad Blake, Member  
Claudia Inabinet, Member  
Helen Kennedy, Member

**Others/Guest Presenters:** Annie Daymude, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health  
Jessica Francis, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health  
Hamza Rafique, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health  
Tiffany Tu, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health  
Pearl Gore, Maricopa County Dept. of Public Health

**Recorded by:** Cynthia Cornejo, Deputy Clerk of the Board Sr

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Hooper called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

### **Roll Call**

Ms. Cornejo called roll. Following roll call, she noted that twelve of the fifteen voting members of the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Ad Hoc Committee members were present, which represented a quorum.

For the benefit of all participants, Ms. Cornejo announced the Committee members who participated remotely.

### **Call to the Public**

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

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes – General Session – October 14, 2025**

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

- 1. Approval of Consent Agenda:
  - a. Minutes:
    - i. Approve Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Committee meeting minutes dated September 9, 2025

**MOTION:** Mr. Jacobson moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Arbuckle seconded.

**VOTE:** 12 Ayes: Chairman Hooper, Vice Chairman Vail Cruz, Mr. Arbuckle, Ms. Bahena, Ms. Birr, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Madera, Ms. Moon, Ms. Noriega, Ms. Ramirez, Dr. Barker

0 Nays  
3 Absent: Ms. Blake, Ms. Inabinet, Ms. Kennedy  
**Motion passed.**

- 2. Identify and Prioritize up to Six Health Indicators for Inclusion in Valleywise Health's Community Health Needs Assessment

Ms. Tu recapped the previous Connecting with the Community Committee (CCC) meeting and announced that the CCC members would conclude the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) prioritization process by narrowing down the ten health indicators to six to be presented at the December 2025 Governing Council meeting.

The health indicators were sorted into six main categories, which included access to health care, cancer mortality, chronic disease, mental/behavioral illness, behavioral health risk factors, and social determinants of health.

She explained that each health indicator would be evaluated using two criteria, need and feasibility, scored from one to five. Lower scores indicate issues with limited impact and reach, as well as low feasibility due to resource constraints. Higher scores indicate significant, widespread issues that are realistically addressable within three years, supported by sufficient data, staffing, and program capacity.

Mr. Rafique presented the thirteen Valleywise Health Primary Service Areas as one integrated, unified PSA for Maricopa County. All reported data reflected outcomes within the PSA consolidated area, based on Valleywise Health's discharge and mortality records.

He said the 2023 population demographics, highlighting the majority of residents identified as white, the predominant age group was 25 to 44, the gender distribution was evenly split between male and female, the highest level of education attained was a high school diploma, the median household income was \$87,622, and the unemployment rate was five percent.

Mr. Rafique noted that the top ten health indicators in Valleywise Health's primary service area, for both inpatient hospitalizations (IP) and emergency department (ED) visits, included, but were not limited to, all mental health disorders, all injuries, cardiovascular disease, fall-related injuries, and alcohol-related issues.

He stated that in 2023, Valleywise Health saw notable shifts in select indicators compared to the 2019 through 2022 average: inpatient anxiety cases increased by 28.9%, alcohol-related ED visits increased by 16.8%, depression-related ED visits decreased by 47.1%, and deaths from hypertension rose by 12.3 percent.

***Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes – General Session – October 14, 2025***

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

2. Identify and Prioritize up to Six Health Indicators for Inclusion in Valleywise Health's Community Health Needs Assessment, cont.

Mr. Rafique reported the 2023 findings from Valleywise Health's discharge and death databases, focusing on IP, ED, and death indicators. Some of the top ten IP indicators were septicemia, injuries, and depressive disorders. For ED visits, injuries, abdominal pain, and other digestive/abdomen signs and symptoms, other specified upper respiratory infections, and nonspecific chest pain. In reviewing the 2023 death data, heart disease emerged as the leading cause of death, followed by malignant neoplasms, drug overdose, and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

He summarized the statistics on race/ethnicity, age, and gender disparities for the top ten health indicators, using data from 2023.

Mr. Rafique shared the health indicators evaluated included chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension. Mental health conditions were represented by anxiety and depression, while cancer mortality focused specifically on breast cancer among females. Behavioral health risk factors encompassed opioid overdose and alcohol-related issues. Access to healthcare was measured through the extent of health insurance coverage. Additionally, social determinants of health were considered, including factors such as access to cool environments during hotter months.

Dr. Barker inquired whether the two criteria were combined to calculate the overall health indicator score.

Ms. Tu affirmed that the score was determined by averaging the two criteria.

She presented the top six prioritization results based on the ranking the CCC members chose from the health indicators that were presented, with hypertension ranking as the highest overall, followed by diabetes, cardiovascular disease, anxiety, depression, and opioid overdose.

Ms. Tu questioned whether any of the identified health indicators personally resonated with the CCC members and invited them to share their thoughts on the ranking.

Mr. Arbuckle noted that the top five health indicators aligned closely with his original vision, expressing satisfaction that the results reflected his initial rankings.

Vice Chairman Vail Cruz agreed with the top five health indicators.

Dr. Barker also confirmed that those were her top five health indicators, emphasizing that each represented a worthy cause. She added that while significant work was already underway in those areas, continued effort was necessary.

Ms. Tu commented on the final four health indicators, which included breast cancer, health insurance coverage, alcohol-related issues, and heat-related concerns such as access to cool environments during hotter months.

Ms. Birr inquired about the meaning of alcohol-related injuries.

Ms. Tu clarified that alcohol would be a contributing factor to the injury.

Mr. Arbuckle asked whether there was any current focus on breast cancer.

Dr. Barker stated that while there was a breast cancer program, it was not part of the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); patients were referred to a Valleywise Health specialty clinic.

Vice Chairman Vail Cruz said based on the discussion, he recommended proceeding with the top six health indicators presented.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes – General Session – October 14, 2025**

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

- 2. Identify and Prioritize up to Six Health Indicators for Inclusion in Valleywise Health's Community Health Needs Assessment, cont.

Ms. Tu explained the upcoming steps in the CHNA timeline. The top six health indicators that were discussed and agreed upon would be presented at the December 3, 2025 Governing Council meeting. Upon approval by the Governing Council, a draft of the CHNA report would be completed by April 2026 for final approval and publication.

**Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Mr. Arbuckle moved to adjourn the October 14, 2025, Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Committee Meeting. Mr. Jacobson seconded.

**VOTE:** 12 Ayes: Chairman Hooper, Vice Chairman Vail Cruz, Mr. Arbuckle, Ms. Bahena, Ms. Birr, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Madera, Ms. Moon, Ms. Noriega, Ms. Ramirez, Dr. Barker  
0 Nays  
3 Absent: Ms. Blake, Ms. Inabinet, Ms. Kennedy  
**Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



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Denise Tapia  
Deputy Clerk of the Board