



Committee Members

Chris Hooper, Committee Chair
Jason Vail Cruz, Committee Vice Chair
Earl Arbuckle, Member
Shelbi Bahena, Member
Rebecca Birr, Member
Piedad Blake, Member
Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods, Member
Claudia Inabinet, Member
Scott Jacobson, Member
Helen Kennedy, Member
Jose Luis Madera, Member
Jee Moon, Member
Irene Noriega, Member
Dr. Michelle Barker, CEO, FQHCs, Ex-Officio
Member

AGENDA

**Valleywise Community Health Centers
Governing Council's
Connecting with the Community
Committee**

Mission Statement

The Valleywise Health's mission is to provide exceptional care, without exception, every patient, every time.

• Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion •
• 2609 East Roosevelt Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85008 •
• 2nd Floor • Auditorium 1 •

Tuesday, January 13, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Access to the meeting room will start at 2:50 p.m., 10 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

One or more of the members of the Connecting with the Community Committee members may participate telephonically. Committee members participating telephonically will be announced at the meeting.

Please silence cell phone, computer, etc., to minimize disruption of the meeting.

3:00 **Call to Order**

Roll Call

Call to the Public

This is the time for the public to comment. The Connecting with the Community Committee may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.01(I), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling a matter for further consideration and decision at a later date.

ITEMS MAY BE DISCUSSED IN A DIFFERENT SEQUENCE

Agendas are available within 24 hours of each meeting at Valleywise Community Health Centers and at Valley Comprehensive Health Centers, and on the internet at <https://valleywisehealth.org/about/governing-council/>. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities, alternative format materials, sign language interpretation, and assistive listening devices are available upon 72 hours advance notice via the Clerk's Office, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion, 2609 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85008, (602) 344-5177. To the extent possible, additional reasonable accommodations will be made available within the time constraints of the request.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

- 3:05 1. Approval of Consent Agenda: 5 min
Any matter on the Consent Agenda will be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed as a regular agenda item upon the request of any voting Connecting with the Community Committee members.
- a. Minutes:
- i. **Approve** Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Connecting with the Community Committee [Meeting Minutes dated October 14, 2025](#)

End of Consent Agenda

- 3:10 2. Discuss and Review the Federally Qualified Health Centers Community Outreach Events from 2025 15 min - No Handout
Connecting with the Community Committee
- 3:25 3. Discuss and Review Family Qualified Health Centers Community Outreach Events for 2026 15 min - No Handout
Connecting with the Community Committee
- 3:40 4. Discuss a Strategy to Strengthen Community Engagement and Strategies to Support Payor Mix Diversification 45 min - No Handout
Connecting with the Community Committee

4:25 **Adjourn**

**1.a.i. Minutes -
Meeting Minutes dated October 14, 2025**

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
2nd Floor, Auditorium 1
October 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

DRAFT

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.

Denise Tapia
Deputy Clerk of the Board