

AMENDED AND RESTATED
Maricopa County Special Health Care District's
Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Bylaws

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the governing authority shall be the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council (Governing Council). The Governing Council is organized to provide governance and oversight of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) owned and operated by the Maricopa County Special Health Care District (District) dba Valleywise Health, which provide primary and preventive health care and related services (including but not limited to ancillary services). The District was awarded designation by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to operate the FQHCs.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Governing Council is to serve as the Co-Applicant, consistent with the requirements of applicable HRSA policies and pronouncements in order to meet Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act governance requirements.

ARTICLE III: GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Section I: Members

- A. There shall be no less than nine and no more than 17 voting members on the Governing Council.
1. The majority (at least 51%) of the Governing Council members must be patients served by Valleywise Health's FQHCs. A patient is someone who has received at least one HRSA-approved in-scope service within the last 24 months. Patient Governing Council members represent the patients served by the FQHCs in terms of demographic factors, such as race, ethnicity, and gender.
 2. Non-patient Governing Council members must be representative of the community served by the FQHCs and must be selected for their expertise in relevant subject areas, such as community affairs, local government, finance, legal, trade unions, and social service agencies within the community.
 3. No more than one-half of the non-patient Governing Council members may derive more than 10% of their annual income from the health care industry. Health care industry is defined as hospitals, other health care institutions, nurses, doctors, dentists, and other licensed healthcare professionals whose primary responsibility is providing primary preventative and therapeutic healthcare services.

4. All Governing Council members must reside in the service area (Maricopa County).
- B. Governing Council member applicants will be subject to a background check; a formal vetting process including but not limited to a screening for real or apparent conflicts of interest; and a review for exclusion from participating in any Federal or State health care program; interview and formal recommendation from at least two Governing Council members and the FQHCs CEO.
- C. The Governing Council may appoint a member of the District Board of Directors (Board) to serve on the Governing Council as a non-voting member to serve a one-year term effective July 1. The Board member's status on the Governing Council will terminate should the Board member's status on the Board cease.
- D. The Governing Council will act as the governing authority for all member appointments.
- E. Employees and immediate family members (spouse, child, parent, or sibling, by blood, adoption, or marriage) of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, or any other hospital or health care institution, as defined in A.R.S. § 36-401, that provides similar services to Valleywise Health, may not be members of the Governing Council. Any potential conflict of interest will be reviewed by the District's Chief Compliance Officer, who will determine whether an actual conflict exists.

Section II: Voting Members' Responsibilities

- A. Be informed about the FQHCs strategic plan, programs, and services.
- B. Attend a minimum of three-fourths of the Governing Council meetings within a 12-month period, calculated on a rolling basis.
- C. Prepare for Governing Council meetings by reading materials in advance.
- D. Review data and information provided to the Governing Council to make informed decisions.
- E. Adhere to Governing Council Bylaws and policies and District policies.
- F. Maintain confidentiality of matters of the FQHCs and District.
- G. Participate in the HRSA Operational Site Visit.
- H. Participate in the selection of the FQHCs Chief Executive Officer (CEO) when applicable.
- I. Participate in the evaluation of the FQHCs CEO.
- J. Assist in Governing Council member recruitment.

- K. Participate in Governing Council new member orientation and ongoing education.
- L. Support decisions of the Governing Council once they are made.
- M. Disclose any real or apparent conflict of interest in writing to the Clerk.

Section III: Terms

- A. Governing Council members shall take an oath or affirmation set forth in A.R.S. § 38-231 after appointment to the Governing Council and prior to serving. All oaths shall be filed with the Clerk.
- B. Terms are up to three years in length, which commences after taking an oath and ends June 30 of the third year. Due to timing, it is possible that the first term may not be a full three years.
- C. Voting members are eligible to serve for a maximum of three terms.
- D. Resignations from the Governing Council shall be in writing and filed with the Clerk.

Section IV: Vacancies

- A. A vacancy, however created, shall be filled according to the process set forth in Article III, Section I.

Section V: Removal

- A. When a Governing Council member fails to meet responsibilities as specified in Article III, Section II, the member may be removed.
- B. Any Governing Council member may be removed at any time by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Governing Council for cause, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Violations of the District's Code of Conduct and Ethics.
 - 2. Violations of the District's Conflicts of Interest and Gift Policy.
 - 3. Actions that are unbecoming of the Governing Council.
 - 4. For any basis that is provided for or permitted under Arizona law, including A.R.S. § 38-291.

Section VI. Compensation

- A. Governing Council members shall serve without compensation, however, are allowed reimbursement of expenses from approved travel, and reimbursement of mileage to and from Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meetings.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

Section I: Regular Meetings

The Governing Council shall hold monthly meetings where a quorum is present.

Section II: Additional Meetings

Additional Governing Council meetings may be held in a manner that is consistent with the Arizona Open Meetings Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.

Section III: Emergency Meetings

Emergency meetings of the Governing Council may be held in a manner that is consistent with the Arizona Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.

Section IV: Place of Meetings

All in-person Governing Council meetings shall be at the Valleywise Health Medical Center campus unless otherwise specified with proper notice to Governing Council members, staff, and the public.

Section V. Remote Meetings

The Governing Council may hold a remote meeting through technological means after providing proper notice and an agenda in accordance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.

Section VI. Conduct of Meeting

Governing Council meetings shall be conducted using Parliamentary Procedures, also known as rules of order. Rules are intended to maintain decorum and for the timely and orderly progression of the meeting.

Section VII: Open and Public

All meetings will be held in a manner that is consistent with the Arizona Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.

Section VIII: Quorum and Voting Requirements

- A. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting Governing Council members.
- B. A quorum is necessary to conduct Governing Council business. Governing Council members shall attend meetings in-person or when circumstances dictate, by technological means.

- C. A majority vote of the Governing Council is required to take any action.
- D. Each voting Governing Council member present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting must comply with the Arizona Open Meetings Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.
- E. There shall be no vote by proxy.
- F. If after 10 minutes from the scheduled start of any meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting cannot be called to order and will be rescheduled until such date and time as a quorum may be reached.
- G. The FQHCs CEO shall attend all meetings of the Governing Council but shall not be entitled to vote.

Section IX: Notice, Agenda and Supportive Materials

- A. A written notice of each regular meeting of the Governing Council, specifying the date, time and location, and a written agenda, shall be emailed to the Governing Council members no less than five calendar days before the meeting.
- B. Supportive materials, if any, shall be emailed to the Governing Council members with the meeting notice and agenda.
- C. The following shall have the right to place an item on the agenda of any regular Governing Council meeting: Governing Council Chair, FQHCs CEO, or any voting Governing Council member. The Governing Council Chair shall have the right to reject an item placed on the agenda.
- D. If the Governing Council Chair rejects an item placed on the agenda, four voting Governing Council members acting together shall have the right to override the Governing Council Chair's rejection and place the item on the agenda as requested despite the Governing Council Chair's rejection. The request by the four Governing Council members shall be made in writing to the Governing Council Chair, FQHCs CEO, and Clerk and relate solely to identifying the subject matter of the item to be placed on the agenda. The written request shall not include discussion, consideration, or deliberation of the matter.

Section X: Minutes and Documents

The Clerk shall keep the Governing Council meeting minutes. Official minutes and supporting documents shall be maintained by the Clerk.

ARTICLE V: LIMITATIONS OF GOVERNING COUNCIL AUTHORITY

The Governing Council's governance authorities and responsibilities shall comply with the requirements of Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, its implementing regulations, and HRSA's policies and Compliance Manual. The Governing Council shall specifically exercise the authorities and responsibilities contained within the Co-Applicant Operational Arrangement (Arrangement) between the District and the Governing Council.

ARTICLE VI: GOVERNING COUNCIL AUTHORITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Subject to the limitations imposed in Article V, the duties of the Governing Council shall be as follows:
1. Annually review the service area by zip codes reported on Form 5B: Service Sites.
 2. Complete or update a community needs assessment of the current patient population at least once every three years to identify and improve access and the delivery of health care services.
 3. Review and approve additional health services to offer, if any, in order to meet the health needs of the patient population served by the FQHCs, as long as it is consistent with the District's facility, strategic, business, financial, and capital plans.
 4. Annually review a list of FQHCs, including addresses, hours of operation by clinic, and information on general services offered at each clinic reported on Form 5B: Service Sites; Approve changes to hours of operation, or changes in services offered.
 5. Approve location of any new FQHCs or closure of existing FQHCs as long as it is consistent with the District's facility, strategic, business, financial, and capital plans.
 6. Ensure written operating procedures exist for responding to patient medical emergencies during each FQHCs' regularly scheduled hours of operation.
 7. Ensure written operating procedures exist for responding to patient medical emergencies after each FQHCs' regularly scheduled hours of operation.
 8. Ensure written operating procedures are in place to obtain medical information related to an FQHC patient's hospital or emergency department visit.
 9. Review and approve a sliding fee discount program (SFDP) policy for the FQHCs at least every three years. Evaluate the effectiveness of the SFDP in reducing financial barriers to care, and the rate which patients within each discount category are accessing services.

10. Annually review and approve a sliding fee discount schedule for the FQHCs based on the most recent Federal Poverty Guidelines.
11. Review and approve at least every two years, a Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (QI/QA) program for the FQHCs that addresses the quality and utilization of services, patient satisfaction, patient grievance process and patient safety including adverse events.
12. Ensure that QI/QA data, including quality metrics, patient satisfaction, and patient safety, is shared with the Governing Council at least quarterly, and a patient grievance summary is shared with the Governing Council at least annually.
13. Ensure written quality of care audit procedures are in place and the audit is shared with the Governing Council annually.
14. Select/hire the FQHCs CEO after receiving prior approval from HRSA.
15. Annually evaluate the FQHCs CEO's performance.
16. Dismiss/terminate the FQHCs CEO from the Health Center Program if necessary and notify HRSA.
17. Approve changes to FQHCs CEO job description.
18. Approve changes to the organizational chart, including titles and names of key management staff.
19. On an annual basis, each Governing Council member shall complete compliance training and sign the District's written Code of Conduct and Ethics certification form.
20. Comply with the District's written Code of Conduct and Ethics; and Valleywise Health's Conflicts of Interest and Gift policy.
21. A Governing Council member must submit a written disclosure to the Clerk if a real or apparent conflict of interest is identified.
22. Make reasonable efforts to establish and maintain collaborative relationships, including with other specialty providers that provide care within Maricopa County, to provide access to services not available at the FQHCs and to reduce the non-urgent use of hospital emergency departments; and with social service organizations to support community services that impact patients of the FQHCs.
23. Track the financial performance of the FQHCs, including identification of trends or conditions that may warrant action to maintain financial stability.
24. Review and accept the annual fiscal year audit of the District, which includes certain financial information about the FQHCs.

25. Maintain control over and accountability for all funds in order to adequately safeguard and ensure that they are used solely for authorized purposes.
26. Ensure written policies and procedures are in place to ensure the appropriate use of federal funds in compliance with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award.
27. Ensure written billing and collections policies and procedures are in place and include provisions to waive or reduce fees owed by patients; a policy for refusal to pay; and procedures for notifying patients of additional costs for supplies and equipment related to the services.
28. Annually develop and approve an operating and capital budget for the FQHCs to be incorporated into the District's annual budget for Board approval. The budget should be reflective of the costs and revenues necessary to support the FQHCs scope of project.
29. Submit timely, accurate, and complete Uniform Data System (UDS) reports.
30. Annually review data-based reports on patient service utilization; trends and patterns in the patient population; and overall health center performance and efficiency and effectiveness of the FQHCs, for oversight by the Governing Council.
31. Approve applications for HRSA grant funding, subject to Board approval.
32. Approve changes in scope of project for the FQHCs as reported on Form 5A: Services Provided, subject to Board approval.
33. Annually evaluate the operations of the FQHCs, including compliance with applicable federal requirements, performance expectations such as financial and patient volumes, and patterns of health service utilization.
34. Ensure the existence of a co-applicant arrangement that delegates the required authorities and responsibilities to the Governing Council and delineates the authorities and responsibilities of the Board.
35. Hold monthly meetings where a quorum is present.
36. Conduct and approve a long-range, strategic plan at least once every three years that identifies FQHCs priorities and addresses financial management and capital expenditure needs, which is consistent with the District's facility, strategic, business, financial, and capital plans.

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section I: Officer Designation

There shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair known as officers of the Governing Council. The Governing Council officers shall be elected by voting Governing Council members.

Section II: Powers and Duties of Officers

A. Chair

1. The Chair shall lead the Governing Council members and ensure that the Governing Council fulfills its responsibilities.
2. The Chair shall convene, preside, and maintain order over Governing Council meetings.
3. The Chair shall plan and carry out the agenda for Governing Council meetings.

B. Vice Chair

1. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in their duties as needed.
2. In the absence of the Chair, or in the event of the Chair's resignation or the inability to perform duties, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair until an election can be held in accordance with Article VII, Section VII.

Section III: Elections

A. Voting Governing Council members interested in serving as a Governing Council officer shall contact the Clerk in writing of their interest in serving. Governing Council members may also contact the Clerk in writing to nominate fellow voting Governing Council members for an officer position. All nominations shall be submitted no later than the last Monday in April of every year.

1. The FQHCs CEO will contact nominated candidates to determine their willingness to serve as an officer.
2. The current Chair and the FQHCs CEO may nominate additional voting Governing Council members, if necessary, to complete the ballot of nominees for each officer position.

B. By the last Wednesday in May of every year, the Clerk will transmit to the Governing Council members in writing the names of the persons running for each officer position.

C. Election of officers will be held at the regularly scheduled June Governing Council meeting. Voting Governing Council members must attend the meeting in-person or remotely in order to vote.

Section IV: Term

The term of each office for the Chair and Vice Chair shall be one year, commencing on July 1 of each year. Voting Governing Council members can serve in any officer role for a maximum of three terms during their service on the Council.

Section V: Resignation

Resignations shall be in writing and filed with the Clerk.

Section VI: Removal

Any officer may be removed from their elected position by a majority vote of the Governing Council.

Section VII: Vacancies

- A. Upon the vacancy of an officer, however created, voting Governing Council members interested in filling the position shall contact the Clerk in writing of their interest in serving within five business days of the vacancy announcement.
- B. The Clerk will transmit to the Governing Council, in writing, the names of the persons running for the vacant position.
- C. The election will be held at the next regularly scheduled Governing Council meeting. Voting Governing Council members must attend the meeting in-person or remotely in order to vote.
- D. The term will be effective immediately.

ARTICLE VIII: SPECIAL OR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Section I: Special or Advisory Committees

- A. The Governing Council has the authority to create a special or advisory committee to assist with Governing Council functions.
- B. Any voting Governing Council member may suggest the creation of a special or advisory committee when it appears necessary.
- C. A special or advisory committee shall be established upon the majority vote of voting members of the Governing Council.
- D. Special or advisory committees shall limit their activities to the purposes for which they are commissioned and be limited in time to the task for which they are created.

- E. Special or advisory committees shall only have those powers as specifically outlined in a charter approved by the Governing Council.
- F. Special or advisory committees shall report to the Governing Council.
- G. The continuation of any special or advisory committee shall be reviewed annually.
- H. Special or advisory committees shall disband upon completion of its work.

Section II: Membership

- A. Members of a special or advisory committee shall be appointed by the Governing Council. The chair of a special or advisory committee must be appointed by the Governing Council and be a voting member of the Governing Council.
- B. The Governing Council may appoint residents of Maricopa County to serve as members on a special or advisory committee, who need not be members of the Governing Council, but whose expertise can benefit and add value to the committee. Such residents shall serve without compensation.
- C. Resident members of a special or advisory committee shall take an oath or affirmation set forth in A.R.S. § 38-231 after appointment to the committee and prior to serving. All oaths shall be filed with the Clerk.

Section III: Term

Members of a special or advisory committee shall serve for their term on the committee or at the will of the Governing Council.

Section IV: Vacancies

Vacancies on any special or advisory committee will be filled in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointment.

Section V. Attendance and Removal

Unless expressly provided otherwise by committee charter, failure to attend a minimum of 3/4 of special or advisory committee meetings within a 12-month period, calculated on a rolling basis, or two consecutive committee meetings, may result in removal of a committee member by a majority vote of the Governing Council.

Section VI: Open and Public

All special or advisory committee meetings will be held in a manner that is consistent with the Arizona Open Meeting Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.

Section VII: Quorum and Voting Requirements

- A. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting special or advisory committee members.
- B. A quorum is necessary to conduct the business of a special or advisory committee. Special or advisory committee members shall attend meetings in-person, or when circumstances dictate, by technological means. If a special or advisory committee member needs to participate remotely, as much notice as possible, but no less than 24 hours, shall be given to the Clerk so that arrangements can be made.
- C. A majority vote of the special or advisory committee members is required to take any action.
- D. Each voting special or advisory committee member present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting must comply with the Arizona Open Meetings Law, A.R.S. § 38-431 et. seq.
- E. There shall be no vote by proxy.
- F. If after 10 minutes from the scheduled start of any special or advisory committee meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting cannot be called to order and will be rescheduled until such date and hour as a quorum may be reached.

Section VIII: Minutes and Documents

- A. The Clerk shall keep the minutes of any special or advisory committee meetings. Official minutes and supporting documents shall be maintained by the Clerk.
- B. Each special or advisory committee shall report its activities to the Governing Council at the next regularly scheduled Governing Council meeting, including, at minimum, the agenda items discussed.

ARTICLE IX: MISCELLANEOUS

Section I: Adoption and Amendments

- A. Prior to adopting amendments to the bylaws, the Governing Council will provide the Board a copy of the proposed amendments with sufficient time to permit the Board to review. The Board shall approve the proposed amendments at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting and thereafter, notify the Governing Council of approval. The Board may only disapprove an amendment to the bylaws if the amendment is inconsistent with the requirements of Section 330, its implementing regulations, HRSA's policies, and Compliance Manual, or the terms of the Arrangement between the District and Governing Council. The Board will provide the Governing Council with the reason(s) for such disapproval within seven calendar days after non-approval.

- B. Proposed bylaw amendments shall be submitted to the Governing Council at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendments are scheduled to be voted upon.

Section II: Preservation of Confidential Information

The Governing Council shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding the protection of confidential, privileged, or proprietary information and all such provisions shall apply to all special and advisory committees and their members, both during committee service and thereafter.

Section III: Discrimination

No discrimination shall be exercised by the Governing Council or by any person against or in favor of any person because of race, ancestry, color, ethnicity, religion, physical or mental disability, sex, gender, gender identity expression, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, political beliefs, age, military or veteran status, or ability to pay, in the admission, treatment, or participation in any of its health care programs, services and activities, any employment matters, or any person doing business with Governing Council, pursuant to federal, state or local laws.


Section IV: Patient's Rights

The Governing Council shall respect patient confidentiality, patient rights, and will comply with Valleywise Health policies.

Section V: Office

The official office of the Governing Council and its members is at Valleywise Health Medical Center, 2601 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 85008.

Approved by the Governing Council on May 7, 2025



Scott Jacobson
Chair, Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council

5-7-2025