

Minutes

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council Meeting
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust Pavilion
2609 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008
2nd Floor, Auditoriums 1 and 2
January 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Scott Jacobson, Chairman
Eileen Sullivan, Vice Chairman
Earl Arbuckle, Treasurer
Nelly Clotter-Woods, Member
Salina Imam, Member – *participated remotely*
Norma Muñoz, Member
William O’Neill, Member – *participated remotely*
Wayne Tormala, Member
Jane Wilson, Member

Members Absent: Chris Hooper, Member
Essen Otu, Member

Non-Voting Member Absent: Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox, District Board

Others/Guest Presenters: Michelle Barker, DHSc, Chief Executive Officer of the Federally Qualified Health Centers
Steve A. Purves, FACHE, President and Chief Executive Officer, Valleywise Health
Michael D. White, MD, MBA, Chief Clinical Officer
Claire Agnew, CPA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer
Melanie Talbot, Chief Governance Officer
Ijana M. Harris, JD, General Counsel
Gene Cavallo, MC, LPC, Senior Vice President, Behavioral Health Services
Jose Luis Madera, Manager, Integrated Behavioral Health Services
Vicki Staples, Director, Outpatient Behavioral Health
Jacob DeManna, MD, Psychiatrist
Matthew Meier, MBA, Vice President, Financial Services

Recorded by: Cynthia Cornejo, Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board

Call to Order:

Chairman Jacobson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Talbot called roll. Following roll call, she noted that eight of the eleven voting members of the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council were present, which represented a quorum. Ms. Imam joined after roll call.

For the benefit of all participants, Ms. Talbot announced the Governing Council member participating remotely.

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Call to the Public

Chairman Jacobson called for public comment.

NOTE: Ms. Imam joined at 5:33 p.m.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meeting minutes dated December 6, 2023
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
 - c. Governance:
 - i. INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - i. Acknowledge the Federally Qualified Health Centers Medical Staff and Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff Credentials

NOTE: Ms. Imam exited the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

MOTION: Mr. Arbuckle moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Wilson seconded.

VOTE: 8 Ayes: Chairman Jacobson, Vice Chairman Sullivan, Mr. Arbuckle, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Muñoz, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Tormala, Ms. Wilson
0 Nays
3 Absent: Mr. Hooper, Ms. Imam, Mr. Otu
Motion passed.

NOTE: Ms. Imam rejoined at 5:35 p.m.

2. Mission Moment – A Patient Story

Mr. Madera addressed the Governing Council to share two patient stories. The first was related to a patient that received integrated behavioral health care, along with medication assisted treatment (MAT) upon their release from prison. Due to the treatment provided, the patient had successfully completed culinary school and was doing well.

The second was related to an adolescent patient that received treatment for severe anxiety. The whole family was involved in the therapy and the patient learned to normalize emotions and was doing well.

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

3. Presentation on Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at Valleywise Health

Mr. Cavallo introduced the outpatient behavioral health team members, noting that every psychiatrist within the outpatient behavioral health department was a graduate of Valleywise Health's behavioral health residency program.

He provided the history of how outpatient behavioral health services expanded to the ambulatory setting. Integrated behavioral health (IBH) services were initially implemented within select Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) through a Targeted Investment Program (TIP) grant that Valleywise Health received. The program was specifically for individuals recently released from prison. The IBH had since expanded to all FQHCs and was available to all Valleywise Health patients.

Valleywise Health also had other specialty behavioral health programs including an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program, two First Episode Centers, and a Behavioral Health Specialty Clinic in Mesa.

Mr. Madera provided examples of how IBH supported Valleywise Health patients, including individual and family therapy options, assistance to address social determinants of health (SDOH), and use the same sliding fee scale as the primary care category.

He reiterated that IBH services were available at all FQHCs, except for Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell, which offered specific services at that location. The IBH staffing model was reviewed, noting there were now over 45 team members.

He explained that Valleywise Health recently received a grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) to offer MAT services to address opioid use disorders (OUD). The goal was to provide prevention, treatment and recovery assistance to low-income and at-risk individuals that struggle with prescription drug and opioid addiction.

Mr. Madera highlighted the number of IBH referrals received by month and stated that referrals increased in the month of January.

Valleywise Health would be expanding behavioral health services, due to American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding. An additional First Episode Center would open in Mesa, the Behavioral Health Specialty Clinic and ACT team would be relocated to Valleywise Behavioral Health Center-Mesa campus, and services would be expanded at Valleywise Behavioral Health Center-Maryvale.

Chairman Jacobson commended Valleywise Health's efforts to address the community need and acknowledging its role in educating the community on behavioral health needs. He asked how the strategic plan for behavioral health was developed.

Mr. Cavallo said that there were various approaches to developing a strategic plan, including but not limited to partner/grant opportunities available. Another key factor was staffing challenges.

Chairman Jacobson asked if staff had considered partnerships with community colleges that offers a behavioral health curriculum.

Mr. Cavallo stated there were some partnerships in place.

Ms. Muñoz stated that Arizona was in dire need of behavioral health services and applauded Valleywise Health for taking the lead and providing great services.

Ms. Wilson asked if Mercy Care would re-bid for the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA).

Mr. Cavallo explained that the re-bidding process would not happen for a few years.

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

3. Presentation on Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at Valleywise Health, cont.

Dr. White stated that Valleywise Health would partner with the managed care group, regardless of who won the re-bid.

Mr. Tormala said there was a lot of chaos in the world and asked if there were trends in reasons individuals sought behavioral health services.

Dr. DeManna said that anxiety disorder was the most common condition treated. He explained that many patients felt more comfortable discussing their concerns with their primary care provider and a psychiatrist may conduct an electronic consultation, in a collaborative manner.

He acknowledged the reluctance of seeking psychiatric care and there were efforts to provide more education about the services, so patients were more comfortable.

Mr. O'Neill asked if telehealth appointments were still offered.

Ms. Staples confirmed that telehealth appointments were available, however, in some circumstances, in-person appointments were more beneficial.

Mr. Arbuckle requested a future presentation on the behavioral health services provided at Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell.

Dr. Barker agreed and noted there was different funding for that location's program, and a different model was used.

4. Discuss and Review Depression Screening Demographic Data

Dr. Barker said all patients were screened for depression annually. She reviewed the two questions asked and how the responses were analyzed to determine if the screening was positive for depression.

The data provided was for the timeframe of January 2023 through November 2023 and nearly 50,000 patients were screened. Of those, 2,565 patients, or 4.9%, had a positive screening. Of those positive screenings, 73% were females and were evenly distributed between patients aged 18 to 69 years old. She reviewed the positive screenings by race and ethnicity. There were high levels of positive responses in the zip codes that surrounded Valleywise Community Health Centers.

Chairman Jacobson asked if there was a demographic category for marital status, noting that many single mothers may struggle with depression.

Dr. Barker stated that the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) identified behavioral health as an area of focus. Additional demographic information may be uncovered while staff works to address the need.

Mr. O'Neill asked if there was a way to track progress of the patients that screened positive.

Dr. Barker said the next step would be to determine how effective treatment was for the positive screened patients.

5. Discuss and Review the Semiannual Federally Qualified Health Centers Referral Report

Mr. Meier reviewed the referral report and announced the internal referrals remained consistent, year over year, with 77% of patients referred internally for services. The remaining 23% were referred to providers/services outside of Valleywise Health.

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

6. Discuss and Review the Semiannual Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grants Funding Utilization Report

Mr. Meier provided an overview of the various Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grants for Valleywise Health's FQHCs. Six major grants had been awarded since 2020 and three of those have closed, with all funds spent. He reviewed the three remaining grants and stated staff was on track to spend the funds by the end of the grant period.

7. Discuss and Review the Semiannual American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding Report

Mr. Meier stated the ARPA funding was the largest grant Valleywise Health's FQHCs received, at \$16,955,000. He noted that staff requested more time from HRSA to use the funding. Valleywise Health was granted a no-cost extension, and the revised end date was March 31, 2024. He outlined the amount spent for the various purchase categories. Through October 2023, \$12,968,150 had been spent. The remaining amount was on track to be spent prior to the deadline.

Ms. Wilson asked for clarification of fringe benefits category.

Mr. Meier said those were the medical benefits associated with the salaries.

Mr. O'Neill asked if there would be more funding available after the deadline.

Ms. Agnew noted the funding was received during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was unlikely that additional funds would be received.

Dr. White said that Valleywise Health only created programs that would be sustainable once the funding was exhausted. The funds were intentionally planned and spent.

Chairman Jacobson asked if there were anticipated funds for those individuals with post-covid conditions.

Dr. White said there were no announcements of funding to address post-covid conditions.

Ms. Muñoz asked how the programs created would be sustained, without additional funding.

Dr. White explained that the programs would become self-sufficient with patient reimbursement.

8. Discuss the Development of a Strategic Plan for the Federally Qualified Health Centers

Dr. Barker requested feedback from Governing Council members on how they would like to structure the development of a strategic plan. Discussion could take place during the regularly scheduled Governing Council meetings, or a half-day session could be planned. Staff could facilitate the discussions, or an outside facilitator may be utilized.

Mr. Arbuckle said that he would prefer to have a dedicated time to begin the strategic planning process.

Ms. Muñoz commented that an outside facilitator may be helpful in keeping the group on task.

Dr. Clotter-Woods said that she would prefer to have a facilitator during a dedicated meeting, possibly off-campus.

Dr. Barker reminded the Governing Council that regardless of the location, the discussion would be held during a meeting and would be required to follow the open meeting law.

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

8. Discuss the Development of a Strategic Plan for the Federally Qualified Health Centers, cont.

Ms. Muñoz asked how often the strategic plan was developed.

Dr. Barker said a strategic plan was developed every three years. The new plan would be for years 2024, 2025, and 2026 and would be connected to the CHNA.

Ms. Wilson said that she was favorable of the process used for the CHNA, with the Governing Council being presented options, input was gathered from staff and stakeholders, and a final recommendation was made to the Governing Council for consideration and approval. It was important to have input from clinicians and ensure there was a funding source to achieve the goals.

Chairman Jacobson said the strategic plan would work in tandem with the strategic plan for Valleywise Health.

Dr. Barker said there were also organization goals, and the strategic plan would align with that, as well.

Mr. Tormala agreed that a facilitator would be beneficial.

Vice Chairman Sullivan stated that she preferred the discussion be part of a dedicated retreat.

9. Discuss Possible Governing Council Retreat

Dr. Barker said the possible retreat could serve multiple purposes, dedicated time to develop the strategic plan and team-building activities. The retreat would take place in Spring 2024.

10. Federally Qualified Health Centers' Chief Executive Officer's Report including Ambulatory Operational Dashboards

Dr. Barker encouraged all Governing Council members to provide suggestions for Mission Moment topics. She announced an orientation was planned for the four newest Governing Council members.

Dr. Barker said that the new mobile health unit would raise awareness within the communities served. Governing Council members would have an opportunity to tour the mobile health unit soon.

She stated that she was in the process of visiting the FQHCs that were named Clinic of the Year, to present staff with a plaque.

Dr. Barker provided an overview of the dashboard, noting many of the monitored metrics were meeting the benchmarks. There was only one quality metric that had not met the established benchmark.

Mr. Arbuckle stated that there were a few FQHCs that were operating outside specific metrics and asked how that was being addressed.

Dr. Barker said there were various reasons metrics were not met. There was a new project developed to improve the results. Each facility received the dashboard, to monitor the individual results.

11. Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors Report

This item was not discussed.

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

12. Valleywise Health's President and Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Purves announced that Special Health Care District Board of Directors re-elected Chairman Thomas and Vice Chairman Dewane for their respective roles. He noted Valleywise Health's current priorities included the opening of the new acute care hospital, which was scheduled for April 11, 2024. Staff was also in the process of developing the District's long-term strategic plan that would focus on the re-development of the campus and expanding primary care services in the community. Staff also continued to work on securing supplemental funding and was working with the state on options.

Over the past two years, Valleywise Health had been awarded several grants, which was crucial to the success of the organization. The Valleywise Health Foundation was instrumental and had done a phenomenal job in getting the organization's story out to the public.

Ms. Muñoz asked if the Governing Council would have access to the District's strategic plan, to assist in the development of the Governing Council's strategic plan.

Mr. Purves said that once the strategic plan was approved, it was a public document.

13. Governing Council Member Closing Comments/Announcements

There were no comments.

14. Review Staff Assignments

Ms. Talbot reviewed old business, noting the presentation on Marketing and Communications would be provided in April 2024. She reviewed the requests that stemmed from the meeting.

Adjourn

MOTION: Ms. Muñoz moved to adjourn the January 3, 2024, Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council Meeting. Dr. Clotter-Woods seconded.

VOTE: 9 Ayes: Chairman Jacobson, Vice Chairman Sullivan, Mr. Arbuckle, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Imam, Ms. Muñoz, Mr. O'Neill, Mr. Tormala, Ms. Wilson

0 Nays

2 Absent: Mr. Hooper, Mr. Otu

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Cynthia Cornejo
Senior Deputy Clerk of the Board