

Minutes

Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council Valleywise Health Medical Center August 3, 2022 6:00 p.m.

- Members Present:** Michelle Barker, DHSc, Chairman - *participated remotely*
Scott Jacobson, Vice Chairman - *participated remotely*
Nelly Clotter-Woods, Ph.D., Treasurer - *participated remotely*
Salina Imam, Member - *participated remotely*
Joseph Larios, Member - *participated remotely*
Liz McCarty, Member - *participated remotely*
Daniel Messick, Member - *participated remotely*
Eileen Sullivan, Member - *participated remotely*
- Members Absent:** Ryan Winkle, Member
- Non-Voting Members Absent:** Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox, Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors
- Others/Guest Presenters:** Barbara Harding, Chief Executive Officer, Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics - *participated remotely*
Steve Purves, President & Chief Executive Officer, Valleywise Health - *participated remotely*
Claire Agnew, Chief Financial Officer - *participated remotely*
Renee Clarke, Senior Vice President, Managed Care - *participated remotely*
Ijana Harris, Assistant General Counsel - *participated remotely*
Melanie Talbot, Chief Governance Officer - *participated remotely*
- Recorded by:** Cassandra Santos, Assistant Clerk - *participated remotely*

Call to Order

Chairman Barker called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Ms. Talbot called roll. Following roll call, it was noted that six of the nine voting members of the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council were present, which represented a quorum. Mr. Larios and Ms. Sullivan arrived after roll call.

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

NOTE: Mr. Larios joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Call to the Public

Chairman Baker called for public comment.

There were no comments.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meeting minutes dated July 6, 2022
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK
 - c. Governance:
 - i. Approve Renewal of the Mileage and Transportation Reimbursement Policy - 89101 F
 - ii. Approve Change in Scope of Service: add hours at Valleywise Community Health Center-Mesa, effective August 6, 2022
 - iii. Approve Change in Scope of Service: add hours at Valleywise Community Health Center-West Maryvale, effective August 6, 2022
 - iv. Acknowledge Valleywise Health's Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics' Locations, Services, and Hours of Operation
 - v. Approve Registration Fee, Airfare, Lodging, Meal & Incidentals Per Diem, not to exceed rates allowable under applicable Maricopa County Special Health Care District Practices or Policies for Scott Jacobson to attend the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Community Health Institute (CHI) & EXPO conference August 28, 2022 through August 30, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois
 - d. Medical Staff:
 - i. Acknowledge the Federally Qualified Health Centers Medical Staff and Advanced Practice Clinician/Allied Health Professional Staff Credentials

NOTE: Ms. Sullivan joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. McCarty moved to approve the consent agenda. Vice Chairman Jacobson seconded.

VOTE: 8 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Imam, Mr. Larios, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan
0 Nays
1 Absent: Mr. Winkle
Motion passed.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

2. Presentation on the Public Health Emergency End and Potential Impact to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Members

Ms. Clarke presented information on the impending expiration of the Public Health Emergency (PHE); a federal declaration set forth March 2020 due to COVID-19. During the PHE, health care coverage was required to continue for all medical assistance programs, even if a member's eligibility changed.

She explained that the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had recently extended the declaration through October, 2022. The expiration would require Medicaid programs, such as Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), to resume regular enrollment and operational procedures which were suspended since 2020.

Ms. Clarke stated that approximately 500,000 members were identified for AHCCCS coverage renewal once the expiration occurred. Although 75% of renewals did not require updated documentation from members, it was critical the remaining 25% respond to requests for additional information.

She said AHCCCS had up to 12 months from the expiration to initiate a renewal for the identified members. During that time, AHCCCS would not cancel or reduce a member's coverage without first requesting updated information. Renewals would be divided out equally within a nine month time span to appropriately reach identified members. Individuals eventually losing eligibility would fall into one of two categories; potentially factually ineligible or non-compliant to requests for information.

An online toolkit was posted on the AHCCCS website to prepare community members for the impending expiration. The toolkit included a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs), information about insurance plans, links to update member contact information, and other essential educational materials. A member awareness flyer regarding the eligible renewal process was distributed to AHCCCS members. Information was also circulated to providers and insurance companies to share with patients.

To ensure members did not experience gaps in coverage, Ms. Clarke expressed the importance of members proactively updating contact information with AHCCCS. Other outreach initiatives were carried out by AHCCCS to ensure contact information was current and accurate.

Ms. Clarke explained that loss of eligibility would negatively impact Valleywise Health patients and overall health care system. A Valleywise Health communication and outreach team was assembled, internally, to strategically monitor responses regarding requests for information, contact updates and the questions about alternate coverage options. Financial counselors would be educated to assist patients during the renewal process.

Of the 500,000 individuals identified for renewal, Chairman Barker asked how many were estimated to lose health care coverage.

Ms. Clarke said that AHCCCS had not shared statistics regarding that number. Outside agencies publicly reported projections that an estimated 125,000 individuals were likely to lose coverage, but it was still uncertain. Staff would continue to engage targeted and blanket outreach messaging to Valleywise Health patients.

Chairman Barker acknowledged her research indicated that many patients were not even aware that they carried an AHCCCS insurance plan.

Ms. Imam asked what the AHCCCS eligibility requirements were, specifically related to income levels.

She acknowledged there was uncertainty amongst refugee communities she worked closely with.

Once obtained, Ms. Clarke would provide that requested information to the Governing Council.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

2. Presentation on the Public Health Emergency End and Potential Impact to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Members, cont.

Dr. Clotter-Woods asked about the composition of Valleywise Health's communication and outreach team. She asked whether the team consisted of enough staff members prepared to field the influx of calls and questions.

Ms. Clarke said the leadership team continued to work on a plan to prepare for the expiration and renewal process. Initiatives were in place to ease the transition for patients and staff and multiple departments would become educated in order to assist.

Chairman Barker asked to clarify whether AHCCCS had up to 12 or nine months to initiate renewals.

Ms. Clarke said AHCCCS had up to 12 months to complete renewal initiations. However, their plan was to complete the process within nine.

MOTION: Vice Chairman Jacobson moved to recess general session and convene in executive session at 6:22 p.m. Mr. Larios seconded.

VOTE: 8 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Imam, Mr. Larios, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan
0 Nays
1 Absent: Mr. Winkle
Motion passed.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

NOTE: Mr. Larios disconnected from the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Chairman Barker reconvened general session at 7:02 p.m.

3. Discussion and Action on the performance evaluation of Barbara Harding, Chief Executive Officer, Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics, for fiscal year 2022

MOTION: Chairman Barker moved to rate the performance of Barbara Harding, Chief Executive Officer, Federally Qualified Health Centers Clinics, for fiscal year 2022, as exceeds expectations. Ms. McCarty seconded.

Vice Chairman Jacobson applauded Ms. Harding's performance, particularly given the challenges presented by the pandemic and opening new clinics. He expressed gratitude for her support of his ongoing endeavors connected to Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell. She noted her significant level of professionalism and insight.

Ms. McCarty commented she worked with Ms. Harding on numerous patient related projects during the fiscal year (FY). She stated that Ms. Harding was compassionate, timely, and professional during the process. She participated on two different committees within the year and attributed significant growth of the committee experience to Ms. Harding. She noted that because committee members were able to obtain clear knowledge of their role as member, they became more invested and engaged in their oversight of the clinics.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

3. Discussion and Action on the performance evaluation of Barbara Harding, Chief Executive Officer, Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics, for fiscal year 2022, cont.

Dr. Clotter-Woods agreed with previous comments adding that Ms. Harding was result oriented, extremely compassionate, and wonderful to work with.

Ms. Imam echoed the sentiments of others and added that Ms. Harding showed great support of her work within the refugee community.

Mr. Purves highlighted various accomplishments of Ms. Harding, mentioning her as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) subject matter expert.

He explained that while operating within a complex health care system, she complied with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) regulations, serviced the community, and was obedient to the mission, vision and values. She exhibited loyalty, trust, support, communication and transparency as part of the senior leadership team.

Ms. Harding expressed her pleasure in serving the community and the organization particularly during the pandemic. She acknowledged staff for their continued support and praised the Governing Council for working as a team toward a common goal.

VOTE: 7 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Imam, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan

0 Nays

2 Absent: Mr. Winkle, Mr. Larios

Motion passed.

4. Discuss and Review Federally Qualified Health Centers Clinics operational dashboard

Ms. Harding presented the FQHC clinics operational dashboard for June 2022 and fiscal year to date (FYTD). She explained the challenges associated with opening new clinics and transitioning to new ones, especially during the pandemic.

Valleywise Community Health Centers and Valleywise Comprehensive Health Centers maintained a positive visits variance. Overall, the FQHC clinics achieved a positive variance in visits compared to budget.

Ms. Harding noted that behavioral health services continued to maintain a significantly high positive variance regarding visits compared to budget. She highlighted dental clinic visits, which also had a positive variance for visits.

She provided an update about Uniform Data System (UDS) Quality Metrics, noting many metrics showed great improvement over time. In the near future, she would provide a report on how Valleywise Health FQHCs compared to others within the state and nationwide.

Ms. Harding elaborated on body mass index (BMI) screening, noting that changes were made in the way data collection was recorded. Various teams were established to ensure accurate data collection and improve the metric.

She credited Dr. Smarik Snyder, FQHC Medical Director for her leadership, which attributed to consistent improvement of cervical cancer screenings.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

4. Discuss and Review Federally Qualified Health Centers Clinics operational dashboard, cont.

Ms. Harding acknowledged current challenges related to childhood immunizations due to a modification in how data was captured. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently changed the logic for the childhood immunization status, which affected how patients met the measure. She mentioned the measure may not be captured appropriately for the calendar year (CY) as an internal solution was not yet determined.

Ms. Harding shared specific details about other metrics, including controlling high blood pressure, controlling diabetes, ischemic vascular disease (IVD), screening for clinical depression and follow-up.

She included information about tobacco use screening and cessation, breast cancer screening, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening, weight assessment and counseling for nutrition and physical activity for children and adolescents, and statin therapy for prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Chairman Barker acknowledged that although some areas did not meet benchmark, she was impressed with their progress overtime, considering the significant decline of in-person visits during the pandemic.

5. Recent meeting reports from the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's committees
- a. Compliance and Quality Committee
Eileen Sullivan, Committee Chair
 - b. Executive Committee
Michelle Barker, DHSc., Committee Chair
 - c. Finance Committee
Nelly Clotter-Woods, Ph.D., Committee Chair
 - d. Strategic Planning and Outreach Committee
Joseph Larios, Committee Chair

Ms. Sullivan stated the Compliance and Quality Committee had not recently met but would meet the following week.

Chairman Barker reported that the Executive Committee met and discussed Governing Council roles and responsibilities, attendance, and the September 2022 Governing Council meeting. She spoke about the unexcused absence policy and encouraged members to maintain good attendance.

Dr. Clotter-Woods explained that due to the lack of discussion content, the Finance Committee had not recently met but would reconvene September 2022.

Chairman Barker commented the Strategic Planning and Outreach Committee had not recently met, therefore there was nothing to report.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

6. Federally Qualified Health Center Clinics Chief Executive Officer's report

Ms. Harding explained that the 988 dialing code was designated as a national suicide and crisis lifeline and maternal mental health hotline. Similar to 911 in the event of an emergency, the 988 dialing code became effective July, 2022 and would provide care, encouragement, support, and referrals to those in crisis.

She reported on the 2022 Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC) conference she recently attended. Topics of discussion included workforce initiatives, health informatics, advocacy and community engagement, value based care (VBC), and reimbursement rates. Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion were also topics discussed.

Ms. Harding gave an update on gun violence statistics noting that gun violence became the nationwide leading cause of death of children and adolescents in 2021.

7. Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors report

This item was not discussed.

8. Valleywise Health's President and Chief Executive Officer's report

Chairman Barker congratulated Mr. Purves for being newly elected to the American Hospital Association (AHA) Board of Trustees for a three-year term, beginning January 2023.

Mr. Purves gave a systemwide update which included information about pandemic recovery efforts, workforce initiatives, and provider relief fund distribution. He spoke about the financial impact of the pandemic and the organization's ongoing service to underserved and vulnerable communities.

He discussed current initiatives of the AHA, which included aspects related to the anchor mission of healthcare, supplemental funding for safety net hospitals, and urban hospital sustainability.

Mr. Purves gave a brief update on Valleywise Health Foundation outreach and fundraising efforts.

Vice Chairman Jacobson asked how federal aid programs and Valleywise Health would be affected considering the current topic reproductive health services.

Mr. Purves stated that with many social and political issues circling about nationwide, Valleywise Health's stance was always from a patient health care standpoint. He described scenarios of emergency reproductive health care and explained that Valleywise Health strived to provide exceptional care to every patient, every time. He also spoke about the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) which ensured public access to emergency services regardless of ability to pay.

Chairman Barker asked for an update on the monkeypox virus and its potential effect on the organization and within the community.

Mr. Purves spoke about current nationwide vaccination efforts and various modes of virus transmission. He drew parallels to news coverage of monkeypox to initial reporting about the HIV and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic.

Ms. Harding added that over 70 confirmed monkeypox virus cases were currently reported statewide. She elaborated about a recent meeting she facilitated with Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH), which focused on a vaccination pilot program and other actions to combat the outbreak.

**Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council
Meeting Minutes – General Session – August 3, 2022**

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

9. Chairman and Council Member Closing Comments/Announcements

Chairman Barker reminded members that the September, 2022 Governing Council meeting would be in-person depending on the number of members willing to participate. She asked members to let Ms. Talbot know their preference.

10. Review Staff Assignments

Ms. Talbot reviewed staff assignments and follow-up stemming from the meeting.

She recapped old business from April, 2022 regarding how Valleywise Health's FQHC Clinics compare to others, noting the information was dependent on HRSA's published release of that data. Old business from July, 2022, regarding revisiting the Governing Council's roles and responsibilities, was considered satisfied.

Adjourn

MOTION: Vice Chairman Jacobson moved to adjourn the August 3, 2022 Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meeting. Dr. Clotter-Woods seconded.

VOTE: 7 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Dr. Clotter-Woods, Ms. Imam, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan

0 Nays

2 Absent: Mr. Larios, Mr. Winkle

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Cassandra Santos,
Assistant Clerk