

Minutes

Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council Valleywise Health Medical Center October 5, 2022 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Michelle Barker, DHSc, Chairman - *participated remotely*
Scott Jacobson, Vice Chairman - *participated remotely*
Salina Imam, Member - *participated remotely*
Liz McCarty, Member - *participated remotely*
Daniel Messick, Member - *participated remotely*
Eileen Sullivan, Member - *participated remotely*
Ryan Winkle, Member - *participated remotely*

Members Absent:

Joseph Larios, Member

Non-Voting Members Present:

Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox, Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors - *participated remotely*

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*
Michael White, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer - *participated remotely*
Claire Agnew, Chief Financial Officer - *participated remotely*
Ann Khalsa, M.D., Medical Director, Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell - *participated remotely*
Nelson Silva-Craig, Director of Nursing, Ambulatory 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 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

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

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

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Call to the Public

Chairman Baker called for public comment.

There were no comments.

General Session, Presentation, Discussion and Action:

1. Approval of Consent Agenda:
 - a. Minutes:
 - i. Approve Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meeting minutes dated September 7, 2022
 - b. Contracts:
 - i. Acknowledge a new contract (MCO-20-029-MSA) between Dental Benefit Providers, Inc., and the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, for comprehensive dental services
 - ii. Acknowledge amendment #5 to the intergovernmental agreement (90-19-176-1-05) between the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Maricopa County Special Health Care District dba Valleywise Health, to replace the scope of work and annual price sheet, and include requirements for pass-through entities
 - 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

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

VOTE: 6 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Winkle
0 Nays
2 Absent: Ms. Imam, Mr. Larios
Motion passed.

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

2. Presentation on Monkeypox

Dr. Khalsa introduced herself as the medical director of Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell, a position held since 2015. She spoke about her clinical experience and medical background.

She reviewed internal protocols regarding monkeypox, for testing and treatment, ambulatory training, diagnosis procedures, referrals, vaccination efforts, viral exposure, and continued protocol development. She spoke about emergency department treatment at Valleywise Emergency- Phoenix and Maryvale.

NOTE: Ms. Imam joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Dr. Khalsa said that Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell worked with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on various initiatives associated with the treatment and prevention of monkeypox.

It was important to take a preventative approach by utilizing community and national partnerships to help combat the spread of the infectious viral disease.

Dr. Khalsa zeroed in on the most common monkeypox signs and symptoms and epidemiology criteria. She explained the connection between human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and monkeypox and the clinical considerations for viral treatment particularly for people living with HIV.

She described the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) within the clinic setting, specimen collection procedures, and laboratory testing processes. She said the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory was initially used for testing, however due to high demand, California based Associated Regional and University Pathologists (ARUP) laboratories were now being utilized. The turnaround time for testing increased as a result of sending samples out of state.

Chairman Barker asked if the virus could still be spread if monkeypox lesions were covered.

Dr. Khalsa confirmed that risk was still present because the virus could be transmitted from person to person through contaminated objects, fabrics, or surfaces. It was prudent to limit contact to communal spaces in areas where people were known to be infectious. She gave examples of how long the virus could typically last on various common surfaces.

She spoke about pain management and treatment plans for patients infected with the virus, including clinical steps to administer appropriate medication and follow-up instructions for patients. Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell clinical pharmacy was able dispense medication via staging. She explained that some standard commercial pharmacies did not appropriate have medications in stock.

Dr. Khalsa spoke briefly about vaccination efforts from the CDC, which were in infancy distribution stages.

She elaborated on specific data relevant to Valleywise Community Health Center-McDowell including statistical information on age, race, and gender compared to cases reported by the CDC.

Vice Chairman Jacobson asked if monkeypox testing was initially done at the Arizona State University (ASU) Biodesign Institute.

Dr. Khalsa reiterated that testing was mainly and initially completed at the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory, not at ASU.

Vice Chairman Jacobson asked about alternative laboratory testing sites.

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

2. Presentation on Monkeypox, cont.

Dr. Khalsa said although other laboratories in the valley could test for the virus, Valleywise Health was directed to use Arizona State Public Health Laboratory and subsequently ARUP.

Director Wilcox asked if the virus spread rapidly or whether it was controlled.

Although the virus was not considered controlled, Dr. Khalsa said it was not highly transmitted casually contact, but through skin-to-skin, close personal contact.

Director Wilcox mentioned the virus as predominant in the Hispanic community.

She suggested Dr. Khalsa could prepare an editorial piece to distribute within the Hispanic Community and to Prensa, Hispana.

Dr. Khalsa would be happy to. She felt there was not enough effective educational material in circulation.

Director Wilcox suggested asking staff to research the initiative, more specifically, the marketing department.

Chairman Barker asked for information on the educational materials currently being circulated within the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinics

Additionally, she asked that Ms. Harding work with marketing staff to circulate effective and appropriate signage and educational materials in the clinics, using input from Dr. Khalsa.

Dr. Khalsa expressed the importance of education within the community.

Vice Chairman Jacobson offered to support those initiatives.

Chairman Barker asked about other clinics in the valley conducting monkeypox testing and treatment.

Although many clinics were conducting monkeypox testing, Dr. Khalsa mentioned clinics in the valley specifically providing monkeypox treatment for individuals living with HIV.

Chairman Barker asked if monkeypox treatment would become more accessible and easier to manage and whether medication would become easier to attain.

Dr. Khalsa stated that the CDC had been urged to expedite processes to speed up treatment options including moving medication and vaccination production to an emergency use authorization status. She was not sure about current production status or when commercial pharmacies would have medications in stock.

4. Report on the 2022 National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Annual Conference

Vice Chairman Jacobson gave an update about the National Association for Community Health Centers' (NACHC) 2022 annual conference he attended in Chicago, Illinois.

He described the conference as inspiring and informative, with over 2,000 people in attendance.

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

4. Report on the 2022 National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) Annual Conference, cont.

At the height of the civil right movement sweeping changes in voting rights, integration, education, and racial health equality in America began to surface. Many advocacy organizations were created as a result of the movement including the NACHC.

The NACHC, founded in 1971, served as the healthcare advocacy organization for America's medically underserved and uninsured populations.

Vice Chairman Jacobson summarized the theme of the conference which touched on the progress of health center movement. He spoke about the keynote speakers and about educational sessions he attended, including an entire day of sessions devoted to the complexities related to the 340 B drug pricing program.

He mentioned voting as an essential part of the future progress of the health center movement, noting that the safety net system largely counted on legislative decision. He suggested the consideration of voter registration at Valleywise Health FQHC Clinics.

Other educational sessions included discussion on civil rights, racism, health equity and improved health outcomes.

Mr. Silva-Craig said that in speaking with the interim president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NACHC, he learned that the organization was highly focused on diversity, equity and inclusion throughout the organization. He recapped various keynote speakers and educational sessions he attended as well.

Director Wilcox commented on the disparity that vulnerable populations experienced. She expressed favor in offering voter registration at the FQHC clinics, noting it as a nonpartisan initiative.

Chairman Barker requested exploring offering voter registration accommodations at the FQHC clinics.

She commented about the conference recap and the importance of safety net systems.

Director Wilcox said that although Valleywise Health may not have the manpower to run voter registry within the clinics, there were plenty of voluntary supportive agencies who may assist.

Dr. White explained that in the past, Valleywise Health partnered with Vot-ER, a national nonpartisan and nonprofit organization that worked to integrate healthcare and civic engagement. It may be possible to reinvigorate with the organization again about the possibility of scaling voter registry into the clinics.

Mr. Purves spoke about American Hospital Association (AHA) nonpartisan campaign framework that aimed to engage health care employees on voter education and the importance of voting.

Chairman Barker added that the Governing Council was willing to aid and assist in efforts moving forward.

3. Discuss and Review Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Committee Focus Work

Chairman Barker followed up on the Governing Council brainstorming activity that produced a list of priorities to focus on during the next 12-18 months. She presented the objectives which were divided into groups by committees.

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

3. Discuss and Review Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Committee Focus Work, cont.

Chairman Barker said that segments of the list would be distributed to committee chairs, and she would periodically meet with individual committee chairs to discuss tasks moving forward. She encouraged members to look at the list and asked committee chairs to think about how they would implement those objectives into their meetings.

5. Recent meeting reports from the Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council's Committees
 - a. Compliance and Quality Committee
 - b. Executive Committee
 - c. Finance Committee
 - d. Strategic Planning and Outreach Committee

Ms. Sullivan stated the Compliance and Quality Committee had nothing recent to report.

Regarding the Executive Committee, Chairman Barker stated there was nothing recent to report.

She asked if there was a way to indicate next to each committee reporting, the last time that committee met.

Mr. Messick stated that various financial reports were reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting including the FQHC clinics. He highlighted general financial performance within the organization.

Chairman Barker said that the Strategic Planning and Outreach Committee had nothing recent to report.

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

Ms. Harding gave a detailed update on workforce challenges within the organization, including current vacancies within the clinics.

Vacancies included eight registered nurses (RN), two clinical resource leaders, nine medical assistants (MA), 2.5 cultural health navigators, and one administrative assistant (AA) full time equivalents (FTEs). There were also physician shortages to point out.

To grow the prospective hiring base, Ms. Harding said staff continued to implement and strengthen partnerships with local colleges to create internal pools to fill vacancies.

Partnerships and internships boosted pipelines, enhancing the likelihood a student would choose to work at Valleywise Health post-graduation.

Ms. Harding gave an example of an MA who was recently hired onboard after completing internship at Valleywise Community Health Center-Avondale.

She pointed out the ongoing initiatives to hire trained physicians from the family medicine residency program.

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

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

Ms. Harding spoke about the annual FQHC Performance Report for FY 2022, which was presented to the Maricopa County Special Health Care District (MC SHCD) Board of Directors in September 2022.

She noted that Chairman Barker presented the report.

Chairman Barker elaborated on various elements of that report to the Board and acknowledged staff for achieving improved health outcomes within the community. During her report, she also spoke about current objectives and priorities of the Governing Council.

Announcing the recent resignation of Dr. Nelly Clotter-Woods, Chairman Barker pointed out importance of active Governing Council member recruitment.

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

Director Wilcox thanked Chairman Barker for her thorough report presented at the September 2022 Board of Directors meeting.

She gave an update on Kronos payroll reconciliation developments and acknowledged staff for their role in a successful reconciliation process. She touched base on completion of the process which included payroll reconciliation of underpaid and overpaid employees.

Director Wilcox spoke about construction progress of the new Valleywise Health Medical Center and encouraged the Governing Council to participate in upcoming tours. She highlighted the recent ribbon cutting and open house celebration held at Valleywise Comprehensive Health Center-Peoria of which many attended.

She spoke about the partnership between District Medical Group (DMG) and the MC SHCD, noting that new contract negotiations would be finalized by the end of the year.

Director Wilcox spoke about future renovations at Valleywise Community Health Centers-Chandler and Guadalupe.

She congratulated Dr. Michael White for being recognized by the Arizona Capitol Times' 2022 at their recent leader of the year awards luncheon ceremony, of which she attended.

In closing, Director Wilcox gave a brief update on federal funding endeavors and acknowledged staff for their ongoing campaign support. She also gave an update on community public health endeavors including details about the City of Phoenix's recently hired first public health advisor.

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

Mr. Purves also acknowledged Chairman Barker for her recent report to the Board of Directors.

He explained that the organizational goals were recently being revamped to focus on the overall strategic framework of the health care center. He elaborated on the five categories focused on which included quality and safety, patient experience, people engagement, financial performance and learning environment.

Mr. Purves gave an update on Creighton University-Arizona Health Education Alliance initiatives.

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

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

Mr. Purves spoke about his role as a member of the AHA Board of Trustees, elaborating on the organization's central platform of advocacy for safety-net institutions. He highlighted a new report released by the AHA which elaborated on the significant financial challenges facing hospitals and health care systems nationwide. He co-authored an article highlighting the need for a safety-net hospital designation and would share that with the Governing Council.

He informed the Governing Council of the pending retirement of Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) director and stressed the importance of the relationship between that entity and Valleywise Health. He also highlighted the Valleywise Health Foundation's success in reaching their capital campaign goal, and their decision to increase the goal to raise funds for Valleywise Health.

He shared recent accolades Valleywise Health staff and District Medical Group physicians had received, including the Arizona Burn Center selected at the recipient of ASU College of Health Solutions Health Equity Award. Ms. Agnew was a finalist in the 2022 CFO of the Year award, presented by the Arizona Chapter of Financial Executives International and AZ Business Magazine. Dr. Frank LoVecchio was selected as the recipient of the Arizona Public Health Association's Public Health Research Award.

Mr. Purves provided an operational updating, noting the challenges associated with the payer mix, which had been amplified by the increase in emergency department visits. He noted the ongoing workforce shortages and the impact throughout the organization.

Chairman Barker referenced the efforts surrounding the safety-net hospital designation and questioned how that designation would be determined.

Mr. Purves stated that a set of criteria would be established, based on various factors, including but not limited to the percentage of uncompensated patients served.

Vice Chairman Jacobson stated that FQHCs throughout Arizona were very competitive and asked if there were concerted communications to ensure all facilities were working toward a common goal.

Mr. Purves stressed that the FQHC network and designation was designed to reach underserved areas and not be competitive. He acknowledged that there were concerns with other facilities poaching patients and noted that an effort was needed to assure fellow FQHCs that would not occur. Valleywise Health was unique in that it offers primary care, specialty and hospital-based services and should work with other FQHCs to ensure their patients have access to those specialty and hospital-based services.

9. Chairman and Council Member Closing Comments/Announcements

This item was not discussed.

10. Review Staff Assignments

Ms. Talbot reviewed the requests that stemmed from the meeting.

Chairman Barker requested a future agenda item to discuss the frequency of in-person meetings.

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Adjourn

MOTION: Vice Chairman Jacobson moved to adjourn the October 5, 2022 Valleywise Community Health Centers Governing Council meeting. Ms. McCarty seconded.

VOTE: 7 Ayes: Chairman Barker, Vice Chairman Jacobson, Ms. Imam, Ms. McCarty,
Mr. Messick, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Winkle
0 Nays
1 Absent: Mr. Larios
Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Cassandra Santos,
Assistant Clerk