



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
July 20, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Eagle County Health Service District occurred on July 20, 2023, at 3 p.m. at 1055 Edwards Village Blvd., Edwards, Eagle County, Colorado, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

**The following Directors were present and acting:**

Dan Smith  
Scott McCorvey  
Lynn Blake  
Jack Eck  
Kala Bettis, virtually

**Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance in person:**

Brandon Daruna, Chief Executive Officer  
Lionel Montoya, Chief Financial Officer  
Veronica Ross, Finance Manager  
Katie Coakley, PIO/Communications Specialist  
Dana Query, IT Systems Administrator  
Alice Harvey, Community Health Manager  
Jasmine Hermosillo, Administrative Assistant  
Kimberly Vega Quiroz, Apprentice  
Heather Pugh, Paramedic  
Christopher Ewart, Paramedic  
Michelle Gennett, HR Manager

**Eagle County Health Service District Staff in attendance virtually:**

Ande Rasmussen, Paramedic  
Brenda Hazard, Paramedic  
Chris Marsh, Paramedic Supervisor  
Dave DiFlumeri, Paramedic Supervisor  
Grant Middlebrook, Paramedic  
Matthew Howe, Apprentice  
Meredith O'Malia, Community Care Coordinator  
Steven Zuckerman, Paramedic

**Public in Attendance:**

Deb Cohen, Virtually  
Kat Garner, Virtually

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Eagle County Health Service District was called to order by Mr. Smith on July 20, 2023, at 3 p.m. noting a quorum was present.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Smith motioned to accept the agenda as amended as sent to the Board on Friday, July 14, 2023. Motion passed unanimously.

**GRATITUDE & POSITIVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Dunn recounted a recent incident where the ECPS team responded swiftly to a vehicle accident. Despite the tragic loss of the driver, the team's efforts resulted in the successful rescue and transfer of the driver's pets to Vail Clinic for urgent treatment. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Vail Fire and Mr. Greg Sawyer, the pets received timely and life-saving care. Mr. Sawyer's commitment to going above and beyond for both human and animal patients was praised by Mr. Smith and serves as a testament to the caring nature of the ECPS team.

Mr. Daruna introduced Mr. Lionel Montoya as the newly appointed Chief Financial Officer, and Mr. Montoya expressed his excitement to be part of ECPS.

Acknowledgment was extended to Ms. Samantha Aaronson and ten other employees who completed specialized training to enhance their expertise and proficiency in peer support. Ms. Aaronson's commendable efforts in providing support to colleagues through mental health resources were particularly recognized, showcasing the team's commitment to fostering a supportive and empathetic work environment.

A question raised during the meeting regarding peer support in sensitive scenarios sparked a valuable discussion. Ms. Coakley emphasized the importance of timely identification of emotionally demanding calls and the team's proactive efforts to establish strong connections to recognize signs of mental distress through the use of the "Code Violet" system. The insights shared by Mr. Daruna and Dr. McCorvey on the broader impact of such situations on first responders underscored the organization's commitment to caring for the well-being of its personnel. Multiple check-ins over time, as highlighted by Ms. Coakley, are a testament to ECPS's commitment to providing continuous support to its team members, ensuring their holistic well-being and resilience.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Dr. McCorvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to approve June Monthly Expenditures.

**BOARD BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Cyber Security Update:**

During the meeting, Mr. Query explained the servers now have elevated insurance coverage for cybersecurity incidents. To maintain this coverage, mandatory audits have been implemented, necessitating a conversation with the board to address potential exposures related to Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI). The audit has yielded crucial recommendations, including vendor security management and contract reviews, which will involve the Board's legal team. Furthermore, a vulnerability test was conducted, leading to the resolution of identified vulnerabilities. In preparation for diverse cybersecurity scenarios, such as ransomware attacks, Mr. Query recommended appointing a Data Breach Consultant, adding security plans to the budget, and designating a Privacy Officer to strengthen the IT department as a cohesive team. The ongoing process was emphasized as crucial for ECPS's protection, with further discussions to follow, as highlighted by Ms. Winn.

**Employee Housing Program Discussion:**

Mr. Daruna expressed his desire to establish a comprehensive and equitable housing program across the company. Discussions with various individuals led to an important distinction between equitable and equal treatment. Mr. Daruna highlighted the significant challenges faced by employees seeking housing in the accessible housing market, where those with less experience are finding it particularly difficult to rent or purchase homes.

Mr. Daruna urgently wishes to proceed with the plan presented last month, which includes four components: the Advantaged Experienced Home Buyer, Prepared Home Buyer, Property Rental Opportunities, and support for Existing Homeowners. He acknowledged that adjustments and growth may occur during the process, but emphasized the importance of initiating the program to address the current challenging situation. Waiting could potentially exacerbate difficulties for employees seeking housing, making immediate action essential.

Regarding the renting assistance program, Dr. McCorvey inquired about the criteria for eligibility, whether it would be income-based or consider other factors. Mr. Daruna clarified that the renting assistance would be subsidized, while the purchase program would generate cash flow and serve as a valuable investment.

To fund the housing program, Mr. Daruna requested three million dollars; there is also a state grant available to support the initiative. Ms. Ross confirmed that \$900,000 are available from a previous housing program, which could further contribute to the funding. Ms. Blake suggested reconvening the housing committee to provide support and monitor the program's progress.

Dr. Eck emphasized the importance of considering pay scales while implementing the program, recognizing that the current housing market differs significantly from when he settled in the Valley.

The attendees expressed their commitment to the housing program and its goal of ensuring fair and accessible housing options for all employees. The plan's swift implementation is deemed vital to address the immediate housing challenges faced by the workforce.

Dr. McCorvey made a motion to approve the Employee Housing Program.  
Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**UPDATES:**

**Financial Statement Review & Update –**

Mrs. Ross explained that in the month of June expenses exceeded revenue, but a significant contribution from property taxes is expected in July. For the rest of the year, expenses will consistently surpass revenue until March. Two new ambulances were secured with checks totaling \$220,000, both fully configured. Mr. Marsh elaborated that other ambulances are on order and are progressing, with a grant of approximately \$110,000 is expected.

Employee relations will be within budget by year-end, but there won't be a summer party. Marketing went over budget due to sponsoring a conference, offset partially by events like Camp 911. Bad debt and write-offs will be over budget due to unpaid patient accounts and EMSMC payments.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the Financial statements. Dr. McCorvey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Audit:**

Mrs. Ross stated that the audit has been successfully completed, and the management discussion and analysis have been documented. The financials have been safeguarded, ensuring that funds are efficiently allocated and preventing the burden from falling back on taxpayers. Construction for the Eagle Station was prioritized, and a dedicated capital fund was established to clearly segregate operating financials. The audit also includes the strategy ladder, providing valuable insights for future planning.

Mrs. Winn reminded the team that the auditor's presentation is a mandatory requirement, which will be considered for the following year.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the audit. Dr. Eck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive/Operations Report –**

Mr. Daruna will assume Mr. Vardaman's position in reporting the Operations Report unless otherwise specified.

The noticeable 42% increase in calls between June 2022 and June 2023 is believed to be influenced by factors such as COVID-19's impact on tourism and demand. The majority of calls consist of interfacility transfers, with the record being seven transfers in a single night. Planning for this increase will involve procuring more ambulances and staff, as well as exploring different dispersion models. The rise in patient numbers and acuity level is a significant consideration. Audits are being conducted on transfers, but it was emphasized that many factors contribute to interfacility transfers, including diagnosis, needed service line, and disposition. Trauma patients requiring transfers may need extensive care not available in our area; there might also be a lack of capacity at Valley View. Ensuring efficiency, patient prioritization and staff well-being are ongoing conversations regarding the increased transfers, especially during the winter when east is considered the safest option.

The Fourth of July event this year had a full-scale presence, attracting an estimated 35,000 people. The event was fully staffed; aside from one arrest, it proceeded smoothly.

The EMS System Sustainability Task Force is preparing to publish its first report in late August. The report will outline statewide EMS funding challenges, critical quality concerns and all the challenges that ECPS faces as part of the broader EMS system.

**Staff Reports –**

**Alice Harvey:**

Vail Health Foundation is actively funding \$217,000 for a temporary Project Manager position, with additional support allocated to the health program for the CP program.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to §24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., for a conference with the District's general counsel to receive legal advice on specific legal questions on outstanding patient bills and collections and billing contract disputes with EMSMC and §24-6-402(4)(g), C.R.S., Consideration of any documents protected by the mandatory nondisclosure provisions of the Open Records Act. Includes: medical records, personnel files and privileged documents, See §24-72-204(3)(a) for complete list. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:11 pm.

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**The Board reconvened at 4:55 pm**

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve charitable write-offs as recommended by staff. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



**ADJOURNMENT:**


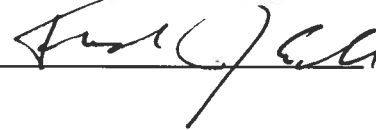
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. McCorvey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of July 20, 2023, at 04:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary for the Meeting  
Jasmine Hermosillo Najera

Approved: Board of Directors

  
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I, Kathryn Winn, Registration No. 38125, attest to the non-recorded Executive Session constituted Attorney-Client privileged communication.

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Kathryn Winn