



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
June 15, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Eagle County Health Service District occurred on June 15, 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:**

Scott McCorvey  
Kala Bettis  
Lynn Blake  
Dan Smith  
Jack Eck

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

Brandon Daruna, Chief Executive Officer  
Kimberly Vega Quiroz, Apprentice  
Dana Query, IT Systems Administrator  
Jasmine Hermosillo, Administrative Assistant  
Alice Harvey, Community Health Manager  
Veronica Ross, Finance Manager  
Michelle Gennette, Human Resources Manager  
Katie Coakley, PIO/Communications Specialist  
Kathrynn Winn, General Counsel

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

Will Dunn, Chief Clinical Officer  
Jenn Cooley Follett, Accounting Clerk  
Ande Rasmussen, Paramedic  
Daniel Eldridge, EMT  
Christopher Ewart, Paramedic  
Scott Homlar, Paramedic Supervisor  
Jason Zeller, Medical Director

**Public in Attendance:**

Thomas Blake

**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 June 15, 2023, at 3 p.m. noting a quorum was present.

**WELCOME PUBLIC**

The Board welcomed Thomas Blake.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Smith made a motion to accept the agenda as amended and sent it to the Board on Friday, June 9, 2023. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**GRATITUDE & POSITIVE PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Dunn stated the majority of patients are transferred to Vail Health instead of Valley View Hospital. Therefore, we try to bolster our connection with Valley View and this instance is a moment of appreciation. Valley View Hospital sent an email recognizing our field staff for the skill and early communication from Heather Pugh specifically. Mr. Smith added that he had experience working with Ms. Pugh and had a great experience working alongside her.

Mr. Smith shared an incident that happened in Cordillera resulting in what should have been a severely injured civilian. A dump truck that was carrying a load of dirt rolled over and completely buried the driver. The organization on behalf of Dawn Vogeler, Patrick Danahey, and Josh Mauro was efficient and potentially life-saving. The patient was very fortunate under the circumstances; he was transported to the hospital with minimal injuries.

Mr. Daruna wanted to share his appreciation for Camp 911 and appreciation for Ms. Coakley for taking over the amazing program within the community as well as Ms. Harvey, Ms. O'Malia, Ms. Hermosillo, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Orozco.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

RESOLVED to approve May 18, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes and May Monthly Expenditures.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

Ensuring the proximity of The District's employees to the business and integration within the local community holds the utmost importance. Prevailing housing costs and interest rates present formidable obstacles to establishing permanent residency. The discussion revolved around fostering a sense of belonging within the community and supporting the economy of the Vail Valley. There were four different proposals created to assist different employees and where they may be financially or in the home-buying process:

**Advantaged Experienced Home Buyer-** This category encompasses individuals possessing the means and financial resources to acquire residential properties, such as prospective CFO candidates or homeowners selling their homes elsewhere to relocate here. However, they face significant challenges due to the prevalence of cash buyers, making it difficult to compete effectively. In this regard, The District would act as a cash buyer to facilitate their progress in purchasing a home. A contractual agreement would be established, wherein they demonstrate creditworthiness and enter into a timeline contract with Eagle County Paramedic Services.

**Prepared Home Buyer:** Individuals falling within this group possess both capital and market access, which represents the majority of residents here. In most cases, these individuals are required to contribute a large down payment when purchasing a home. This program would offer up to 10% or \$100,000 as part of a forgivable loan. Each year, 10% of the loan amount would be forgiven. While this approach would entail an estimated annual cost of \$150,000 and an annual 10% loss for ECPS, it offers numerous advantages, including long-term employee retention and reduced turnover. This policy would exclusively apply to employees lacking suitable housing and not currently own any property.

**Property Rental Opportunities-**Individuals who are not considering a home purchase due to investment considerations, low credit scores, or financial assistance requirements. Allocating \$1.5 million in capital towards housing investment, we aim to secure several apartments that can be rented out at a discounted rate to our employees, within reasonable limits. The objective is to provide housing for our staff while generating cash flow and enabling them to save for future endeavors.

**Existing homeowners-** Individuals who already possess properties within the county. For these individuals, we propose offering a forgivable loan of \$100,000 to construct additional housing units on their properties, which can be rented out to current employees. This approach not only supports homeowners in managing increased tax burdens but also provides affordable housing options for our workforce.

During the discussion, Mr. Smith and Ms. Winn emphasized the risks associated with all proposed methods. Examples from Eagle River Water and Sanitation, who have employed cash purchases and housing acquisition programs, were considered for reference. Dr. McCorvey agreed with the potential benefits and feasibility of this initiative, highlighting the need for employees to be approved for the house cash purchase price. Ms. Bettis stressed the importance of ensuring all

employees undergo a comprehensive evaluation to avoid adverse circumstances. The specific process, timeline, and expectations are yet to be determined. Ms. Ross shared her personal experience, attesting to the efficacy of the cash purchase program, which assisted her with her housing needs and made living in the Vail Valley a possibility.

Dr. McCorvey expressed concerns about existing homeowners being excluded from benefiting from this program. Mr. Daruna clarified that the advantage of purchasing a home for \$500,000 is not equivalent to the challenges faced by prospective homebuyers in the present market. Mr. Smith and Dr. Eck referenced a similar program implemented previously to provide a comparative analysis.

Ms. Blake sought clarification on whether the out-of-county benefit of \$75,000 tied to employee tenure would be discontinued, considering that houses are expected to cost around \$600,000. Ms. Winn highlighted the success of multiple existing programs and their positive impact on employee retention and morale, suggesting that if our objective is to retain and rebuild, these initiatives are effective. Exploring additional financing options and expanding the budget of \$1.5 million were encouraged, as the current allocation may not suffice.

#### **UPDATES:**

##### **Financial Statement Review & Update**

The District has achieved a strong financial position following the property tax increase. In May, Sharp successfully received and converted all EMSMC accounts. As part of this transition, an amount of \$56,000 from the old EMSMC accounts has been received by Sharp. Currently, Sharp is engaged in the billing process and researching the insurance coverage of each patient. Accounts that are more than one year old will be sent to collections, while those within the 12-month time frame will also undergo analysis for billing purposes. Ms. Ross has committed to maintaining regular monthly communication with Sharp. It is important to note that EMSMC is no longer in contact with Ms. Ross. Ms. Winn stated additional information can be provided to the Board at a future meeting regarding options for recording funds, and Mr. Smith requested that discussion be held in executive session at a future meeting.

##### **Executive/Operations Report**

The Nurse Navigation program has been discontinued as a result of legal restrictions. It remains to be determined whether the state will allocate resources towards this program, primarily because the community is not classified as rural. On a positive note, two candidates for the CFO positions have been interviewed and the District is currently progressing in the due diligence phase facilitated by the recruiter.

##### **Staff Reports**

Community Paramedics: Recently, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment underwent a successful three-year audit, resulting in its approval. The Community Integrated Health Care Service team acknowledged that while our EMS perspective is unique, we are not distinct as a health service district. HomeCare & Hospice of the Valley closure occurred, leaving the valley without skilled care. Ms. Harvey's presentation on expanding the CP program, particularly in the realm of in-home health care, was received well. Vail Health is unable to provide funding, but discussions are ongoing with Mr. Pennington of the Vail Health Foundation for potential funding opportunities. The CP Program is seeking funding to support an FTE position responsible for licensing and program growth. It is important to note that this expansion would

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enable the Community Paramedic program to bill for existing services as well as new services. The program will operate on a billable basis and will not be classified as a nonprofit or service line. The primary challenge lies in devising an effective funding strategy.

COO and Operations- Special events are approaching. The District officially has eight new EMTs in the Medpool. No large operational changes are occurring. There will not be any operational structure changes occurring before the CFO's hiring.

Clinical- Mr. Dunn stated that most of the new EMTs are halfway through training and are doing an exceptional job. Mr. Kane shared his appreciation for Ms. Gennett for the hiring process.

Human Resources- Ms. Gennett and Mr. Daruna welcomed Kimberly Quiroz Vega and Matthew Howe, the District's new apprentices. Mr. Howe and Ms. Quiroz will be attending EMT training.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Smith made a motion to enter into Executive Session according to Colorado Revised Statute §24-6-402(4)(f), C.R.S. Conference with the District's general counsel regarding personal matters, in regards to the annual review of Brandon Daruna 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, privileged documents, See §24-72-204(3)(a) for a complete list. Ms. Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board entered into Executive Session at 4:15 pm.

**The Board reconvened at 4:42 pm**

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



**ADJOURNMENT:**

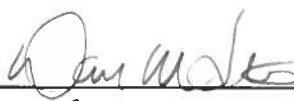
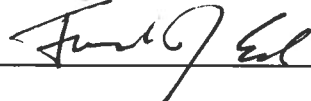
With no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. McCorvey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

RESOLVED to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 15, 2023, at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary for the Meeting  
Jasmine Hermosillo Najera

Approved: Board of Directors

  
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