

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025

The recordings of this meeting can be found linked [here](#) (part one), [here](#) (part two), and [here](#) (part three). The recording contains three parts, due to audio issues. These meeting minutes show the time of specific agenda items. Fast forward the recording to the item of interest to hear detailed discussion.

The Board of Directors of Grossmont Healthcare District held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., via teleconference and in person. Members of the public were able to participate by telephone, Zoom, or in-person at the Grossmont Healthcare District Conference Center, located at 9001 Wakarusa Street, La Mesa, California 91942. For the purpose of these minutes, the listed items are reflected in the order set forth on the posted Agenda. In some cases, discussion of items may have taken place out of sequence during the meeting. Any mis-labeled items on the agenda have been corrected in these minutes.

Directors Present: Robert “Bob” Ayres, Board President
 Randy Lenac, Board Vice President
 Virginia Hall, RN, Board Secretary
 Gloria A. Chadwick, RN, Board Treasurer
 Nadia Farjood, Board Member

Staff Present: Aaron Byzak, Interim Chief Executive Officer
 Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer
 Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
 Jeffrey Scott, General Counsel

Guests: Bill Dennehy, Chandler Asset Management (via Zoom)
 Aaron Nail, Chandler Asset Management (via Zoom)

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board President Robert “Bob” Ayres.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

John Nevin, Division Chief, Heartland Fire & Rescue, led the pledge.

C. Approval of Agenda *(00:03:20 of part one)*

Motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the agenda.

Director Farjood expressed her ongoing concern about the current Board meeting schedule, which is set for 9:00 a.m. She reiterated her prior requests to shift the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. to accommodate better public attendance. She noted that hundreds of constituents have echoed this request, highlighting a significant interest in participating in the meetings. On numerous occasions, Director Farjood proposed moving at least one of the two monthly meetings to the evening or suggesting the implementation of a pilot program. She firmly believes that there is no justification for maintaining the status quo and that a change would enhance community engagement and participation.

D. Public Comment *(00:05:15 of part one)*

There was no public comment.

Interim CEO, Aaron Byzak, shared that the District's \$162M bond refunding closed this morning. Director Ayres thanked District staff and all those involved for their hard work and diligence.

E. Consent Action Items *(00:06:55 of part one)*

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2025

Discussion ensued regarding Director Farjood's intended recusal from agenda item E(4), relative to the Compensation Agreements with the City of San Diego, during the March 20, 2025, Board meeting. After obtaining Counsel Scott's recommendation on how best to proceed, the below change was requested be made to the March 20, 2025, meeting minutes on page 5 after the recess language, as well as current relative language be removed from the "Board Comments" section:

"Director Farjood believed there may be a potential or perceived conflict of interest [relative to agenda item E(4)] and out of abundance of caution asked for her vote to be disqualified."

With this minor change, **motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 20, 2025.**

F. Reports/Presentations/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. Reports

a) Interim CEO Report (Aaron Byzak) *(00:16:50 of part one)*

Interim CEO, Aaron Byzak, gave the following updates:

- The Mobile Outreach Library (“Molly”) Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony took place on April 7, 2025. Molly’s purpose is to provide educational and health and wellness resources to the outlying areas of the District. The event was covered by local news and various newspapers.
- CCHO Abrams was recently chosen as a Live-Well San Diego Public Health Champion from the San Diego County Aging and Independence Services.
- Harman Sarky, Compliance Coordinator, recently completed the General Safety Specialist Program with the Special District Risk Management Authority.
- Interim CEO Byzak expressed his gratitude towards the District staff for their assistance in helping him acclimate to his new role, as well as for the dedication they show in serving the citizens of the District.

2. Finance Committee – Director Lenac (4/15/25) *(00:19:00 of part one)*

Director Lenac stated that the Committee met on April 15, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda.)

(There was a brief meeting break in order to resolve technical issues.) (00:23:10 of part one)

a) Recommendation: Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2025 (Chandler Asset Management) *(00:04:15 of part two)*

Bill Dennehy from Chandler Asset Management presented the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2025. Mr. Dennehy focused on the economic outlook, including the unemployment rate, job openings and labor turnover survey, inflation, consumer confidence, the Institute for Supply Management Index, gross domestic product, federal reserves, and bond yields. Also discussed was the District’s portfolio.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the Investment Report for the Quarter Ended March 31, 2025.

- b) Recommendation: Financial Report as of and for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025 (Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer) *(00:00:48 of part three)*

CAO Scaglione presented the Financial Report as of and for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025. The total cash and investments for the General Fund ending March 31, 2025 is \$48.6M (General Fund) and \$32.7M (Debt Service). All departments are within budget. Significant variances and legal expenditures were discussed. CAO Scaglione answered all questions the Board had.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the Financial Report as of and for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2025.

- c) Recommendation: Consideration to Notice Public Hearing on June 3, 2025, to Consider \$6.74 Increase (\$141.47 Total Per Meeting) for Board Members and Designees *(00:14:17 of part three)*

Director Lenac and Counsel Scott provided an overview of the proposed 5% annual stipend increase for Board members and their designees, detailing the process for implementing these changes. In response, Director Farjood voiced her concerns regarding the current District policy, which limits cost-of-living adjustments for District staff to 3.5%. She noted that this cap is below the Consumer Price Index's suggested adjustment of approximately 3.8%, raising questions about equity in compensation when Board members may receive a higher increase.

Director Lenac addressed these concerns by explaining that the 5% increase for Board members includes a 'catch-up' component. This is particularly relevant because state legislation has historically excluded healthcare districts from receiving similar stipend increases as other public agencies. Thus, the adjustment aims to rectify past disparities and align their compensation with broader public sector standards.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the consideration to notice a public hearing on June 3, 2025, to consider a \$6.74 stipend increase (5%) for both Board members and Designees.

- d) Recommendation: Consideration of FY25-26 Community Grants & Sponsorships \$5M Budget (\$4M Community Grants and Sponsorships; \$1M Inter-governmental Transfer) *(00:20:10 of part three)*

Director Lenac had the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee explain the reasonings behind the recommended \$2.5M grants budget increase for fiscal year 2025-2026, which primarily exists due to rising costs and inflation. If the District was to align the grants budget with inflation, by year 2023, the budget would have consisted of \$5.7M, but it currently resides at \$1.5M. This grants and sponsorships budget needs to be approved now in order to finalize the FY25-26 Grants & Sponsorships Policy, which should come forth for approval next month. Director Lenac expressed his concern over nearly tripling the grants budget in only one year. Directors Chadwick and Farjood emphasized community need at a time of unprecedented cuts to federal funding.

Motion was made by Director Chadwick, seconded by Director Farjood, and carried (4-1), to approve a \$5M Community Grants & Sponsorships budget for FY25-26 (\$4M Community Grants and Sponsorships; \$1M Inter-governmental Transfer). Director Lenac was the nay vote.

3. Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee – Director Chadwick (4/2/25)
(00:36:42 of part three)

Director Chadwick gave a brief summary of the April 2, 2025, Committee meeting. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

- a) Recommendation: Consideration of Rubric Scoring System

Priority area clarification was discussed, as well as the process in which the grant rubric scoring system will be implemented. Director Hall suggested the full Board view District staff's initial rubric scores via a spreadsheet. Director Lenac expressed his concern over the scoring system referenced term "hands-on care" and the need for the District to prioritize "hands-on *medical* care." Director Hall agreed. Director Farjood was in opposition and suggested referring to "medical health and wellness," to which Director Hall disagreed to the term "wellness." Director Ayres suggested using the term "direct health need" and the Board agreed. Therefore, the second sentence on the grants rubric will be revised to read: "Will the project provide direct hands-on care to address GHD residents' health needs?" Director Chadwick noted that this rubric does not apply to scholarships. Director Farjood noted that the grant rubric will be made available to the public, which will assist in promoting transparency.

Motion was made by Director Chadwick, seconded by Director Farjood, and carried (4-1), to approve the grant and sponsorship application rubric scoring system, in its entirety, as presented on the agenda. Director Lenac was the nay vote.

4. Community Health Committee – Director Hall (4/2/25; Monthly Report) *(00:58:05)*

Director Hall stated that the Committee met on April 2, 2025, and that the minutes will stand as her verbal report. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

a) Presentation: Bi-Monthly Community Health Update (Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer)

CCHO Abrams presented the bi-monthly Community Health update. This included upcoming programs, events, and outreach, along with the corresponding/direct costs. Future planning, including the FY25-26 grants cycle, was also discussed.

b) Recommendation: Consideration to Adopt Community Health Program Grant Policy (FY25-26 \$12,000 Budget)

Discussion ensued regarding providing grants to government agencies by way of the Community Health Program Grant Policy. Director Hall believes the proposed Policy should only include non-profits (in order to better align with our Grants & Sponsorships Policy), due to the hefty size of local government agencies' budgets. Director Farjood disagrees and believes this Community Health Program Policy should not exclude certain organizations solely due to their public agency status, as most local government agencies are in a budget deficit. CCHO Abrams shared the background and intent of the Policy. This Policy would help fund pilot programs on a one-time basis (and applicants would be excluded from the rubric scoring system).

With the removal of “or a public agency (e.g., a public library, school, or community center),” and the addition of “or” before “a fiscally sponsored entity” in bullet point one at the bottom of page two, Director Hall moved to adopt the Community Health Program Grant Policy. Director Farjood proposed an amendment to adopt the Community Health Program Grant Policy as hyperlinked and currently written. With the absence of a second, the amendment failed. The original motion to include the additional funding limitation language, seconded by Director Chadwick, passed by a vote of 3-to-2. Directors Farjood and Ayres were the nay votes.

The following items include written documentation. Committee reports may stand as written, unless a verbal report is requested by the Board.

5. Facilities Committee – Director Hall (3/12/25) (4/9/25) **(01:33:27)**

Director Hall thanked Mr. Sarky, Compliance Coordinator, for the installation of the courtyard handrails.

6. Policies & Procedures Committee – Director Ayres (3/12/25)

G. Board Member Comments/Reports

1. Monthly Stipend Report for Meetings Attended – This report includes meetings from the prior month. Board Members are invited to provide brief reports on any community meetings, conferences, and/or training attended for which a stipend was paid, or for any other meetings of significance.

2. Board and CEO Comments **(01:34:13)**

Director Ayres recently attended the City of San Diego’s 35th Annual Citizens of Courage Awards and wanted to expressly thank awardee, Nurse Hunter Scott-Namath of Sharp Grossmont Hospital, for his brave act of assisting an injured officer on Highway 8.

Director Farjood wished everyone a Happy Easter and Happy Passover. She also stated that both her and Director Ayres recently joined a coalition to present a certificate of recognition for Arab American Heritage Month in El Cajon. Director Farjood stated she also attended the March 28, 2025, 3rd Annual Symposium of Institute of Reproductive Grief Care, a District sponsored event.

H. Information Items

- 1. Monthly Grant & Sponsorship Report for March 2025
- 2. Monthly Investment Transaction Report for March 2025
- 3. 2025 Committee Assignments

I. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

- 1. Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Thursday, May 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

The May 15, 2025 Board meeting was continued to May 22, 2025 at 7:30 a.m. in order to accommodate the scholarship award ceremony. Additionally, there is a special Board meeting on calendar for Monday, April 21, 2025 at Noon, in order to discuss the permanent Chief Executive Officer recruitment firms.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business on **motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 11:27 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert "Bob" Ayres, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Virginia Hall, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors