

Memo

To: Board Members
From: Aaron Byzak, Interim CEO
Date: October 3, 2025
Subject: Community Health Committee Minutes – **October 1, 2025**

The Committee met on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. 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. In some cases, discussion of items may have taken place out of sequence during the meeting.

Attendees: Director Virginia Hall, Chair
Director Nadia Farjood, Member
Aaron Byzak, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian
Ryan Purdy, Sharp Grossmont Hospital
Lani Lutar, Guest (via Zoom)

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Director Hall at 12:01 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as posted.

Director Farjood questioned the reason for the meeting since the items on the agenda have already been reviewed and believes a report over email would have been adequate. Director Hall explained the purpose of the meeting was to revisit the April 29th Community Health Event Feedback Summary.

C. Public Comment: There was no public comment. Director Hall stated public comments are welcomed but might not be addressed if they are not on the agenda.

D. Reports/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. Community Health Department Reporting

a) Monthly Report (For Information Only)

The Committee discussed the Monthly Report, and Director Hall inquired about the location and nature of the Santee Collaborative meeting. CCHO Abrams responded that the information about the collaboratives can be found in the monthly email sent to the Board, and she will resend it to Director Hall. CCHO Abrams added that she, Ari Rojas, Community Health Program Specialist, and/or Caitlyn Shaffer, Library Outreach Assistant, attend most of the collaborative meetings which usually have an educational topic or a presentation of some kind about a service provided in that region. The meetings provide networking and community building. CCHO Abrams explained that the La Mesa Collaborative Steering Committee is the planning group that coordinates the collaborative meetings by arranging the speakers and planning the programming of the collaborative. She stated that if anything significant came up in a meeting it would be brought to the pertinent committee of the District.

Director Hall inquired about the takeaways from Neighborhood Health's "State of Community Health" event that the members of GHD's Community Health team attended. Ms. Kessinger provided a summary, stated the focus was mainly on North County and their community outreach in support of unsheltered individuals and families. Her biggest takeaway was that 20% of school children miss school due to a lack of clean clothing, prompting plans to partner with the YMCA to create a community laundry hub. Neighborhood Healthcare also has a new mobile outreach van to provide healthcare to unsheltered individuals throughout the community. There were also discussions about two school districts in Escondido collaborating with Neighborhood Healthcare to set up dental and mental health services to students. Ms. Kessinger stated there are plans to look into the statistics of our schools districts and their needs, to find ways the District could be more involved.

CCHO Abrams gave an update on a meeting she and Interim CEO Byzak had scheduled with representatives from Grossmont Union High School District and Mountain Empire School District to discuss the expansion of the Health Pathways Program. The meeting was canceled by Mountain Empire's superintendent who did not wish to pursue this expansion at this time. Director Hall suggested setting up a conversation with Dr. Pat Keeley, superintendent at Mountain Empire and leadership here, including Director Lenac, to understand what those limitations are.

Director Hall inquired about community feedback on the mobile outreach library and what people are looking for when they come to the van. Ms. Kessinger replied that community members are most often interested in health information and blood pressure monitors.

b) April 29th Community Health Event Feedback Summary (Revised)

The Committee reviewed the revised report on community feedback and concerns collected through comment cards at the April 29th Community Health Event. Director Hall expressed her dissatisfaction with the current format, which she felt was too detailed and not concise enough for strategic planning purposes. She requested a more streamlined summary with specific numbers and percentages to highlight key issues. Director Farjood maintained that the detailed breakdown was necessary to accurately represent the community's diverse categories of feedback. She stated the summary is meant to be anecdotal, and not a research project. The Committee debated categorizations, such as whether "chronic illness" and "chronic disease prevention" should be combined, but no consensus was reached on significant changes to the report. It was noted that the input gathered was qualitative rather than statistically significant, and some comments highlighted issues such as response times from the Board and staff, were acknowledged as important considerations for future planning.

Director Hall expressed concerns about the categorization of several topics raised by participants, suggesting that some items, such as social connections and cognitive health, could be better placed under specific headings like mental health or housing and aging. She emphasized the importance of accurate representation for strategic planning purposes and proposed generating a revised report to ensure all concerns are adequately captured. Director Farjood did not support the creation of another report and recommended that the most recent version of the report be provided to the Board.

Director Hall expressed frustration with inaccurate community feedback that was provided by attendees, about the Board being unresponsive to public comments. She highlighted the need to educate the public about the limitations of board responses due to legal restrictions and suggested adding a statement of public comment procedures to committee agendas. Interim CEO Byzak also addressed concerns about Board members' engagement with public

comments, clarifying that while brief responses are allowed during agenda items, extensive dialogue is not permissible under the Brown Act.

2. Community Health Initiatives

a) Transfer of Care Collaboration

- i. September 23rd Meeting Update
- ii. Nurse Navigation Pilot Ending October 31, 2025

The Committee discussed the conclusion of the Nurse Navigation Program, which was not as effective as hoped, with only 0.6% return on investment. Interim CEO Byzak to follow up with Chief Koch to obtain an “after-action report” on the Nurse Navigation Pilot, including lessons learned and challenges faced.

b) Rural Health Coalition

- i. Next Meeting 10/27

The County of SD’s Community Health Statistics Unit will be presenting at the next meeting of the Rural Health Coalition.

- ii. Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Program Status Update

Interim CEO Byzak will follow up with Rose Turner at Sharp Grossmont Hospital regarding the Grossmont Hospital Foundation’s share of funding for the Rural Health Post-Hospital Discharge Program.

c) Grossmont Hospital Corporation Zone 1 EMS Contract

Interim CEO Byzak gave an update on the Zone 1 EMS contract negotiations between Grossmont Hospital Corporation and GMR, which are still ongoing with various stakeholders involved.

E. Next Meeting: The next regularly scheduled meeting on the calendar is Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

F. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.