

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2025

The recording of this meeting can be found linked [here](#). 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, February 20, 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: Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer
 Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer
 Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
 Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian
 Jeffrey Scott, General Counsel

Guests: Max Coston
 Tony D’Amico, Sharp Grossmont Hospital
 Louise White, Sharp Grossmont Hospital
 Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego

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

Director Virginia Hall led the pledge.

C. Approval of Agenda *(00:16:35)*

Motion was made by Director Hall to approve the agenda with the removal of agenda item F(4)(b). Director Farjood agreed with removing agenda item F(4)(b), but continued on to add additional change requests.

Director Farjood questioned the revised Board agenda. Specifically, regarding agenda item F(3)(c) and why the grants and sponsorships are now included, as well as agenda item F(3)(b), which went from an action item to informational purposes only. Director Chadwick stated the recent Community Grants & Sponsorship Committee meeting minutes were incorrect and therefore, these changes were made to the Board agenda and reposted.

Director Farjood expressed the importance of having an objective rubric scoring system in place prior to the recommendation and approval of any grant and sponsorship applications.

Director Lenac expressed his support in removing the grants and sponsorship applications from this agenda, with keeping the Committee's original intent to bring forth the rubric scoring system forward today for informational purposes only.

After discussing Director Farjood's suggested steps on how to proceed with the rubric scoring system and the grants and sponsorships, **motion was made by Director Farjood to update the agenda to reflect the removal of agenda item F(3)(c) and defer the grants and sponsorships until a rubric scoring system is in place, as well as update agenda item F(3)(b) to reflect an action item. Later amended to remove the request to update the agenda relative to agenda item F(3)(b) as an action item, seconded by Director Lenac, and carried (4-1), with Director Chadwick being the nay vote.**

D. Public Comment *(00:25:30)*

Max Coston gave public comment (via Zoom) relative to allegations of Board misconduct. In particular, Director Hall illegally using District staff time to assist with her campaign forms and requesting the CEO ensure that there are enough meetings scheduled so that she may be fully compensated by stipends.

E. Consent Action Items *(00:17:43)*

1. Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2025
2. Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025

Motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Hall, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve both meeting minutes of January 16, 2025 and February 4, 2025.

F. Reports/Presentations/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. Reports

a) CEO Report – Christian Wallis *(00:18:09)*

- i. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 01-25, Commending the Services of Michael Emerson
- ii. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 02-25, Commending the Services of Tony D’Amico
- iii. Consideration of Approval of Resolution No. 03-25, Commending the Services of Louise White

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Hall, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Resolutions 01-25, 02-25, and 03-25 commending the exemplary service of Michael Emerson, Tony D’Amico, and Louise White.

The Board presented Mr. D’Amico and Ms. White with framed executed resolutions (Mr. Emerson was not in attendance), while thanking them for their years of service and leadership.

CEO Wallis invited the public to the Sharp Grossmont Hospital Neurosciences Open House on March 29, 2025 from 10-3 p.m.

2. Finance Committee – Director Lenac (1/10/25) (2/11/25) *(00:33:11)*

The Committee met on January 10, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.) The Committee also met on February 11, 2025. These meeting minutes will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda.

a) Consideration of a Budget Adjustment of Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars to Support Remaining FY24-25 Grants and Sponsorships (Totaling \$257,871.16)

After brief summary of what took place during the recent Committee meeting, **motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (4-1), to direct the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee to finish its recommendation of FY24-25 grants and sponsorships within the current budget (\$57,871.16). Director Farjood was the nay vote.**

Director Farjood explained the reasonings behind a higher grants budget and the District's capacity to fund a budget increase. **Motion was made by Director Farjood to bring forth an increase of \$500k to the FY24-25 grants and sponsorships budget. Due to continued discussion and the absence of a second, this motion did not proceed.**

Director Chadwick expressed her concerns regarding staying within budget and shared her hopes for potentially raising the grants and sponsorships budget for next fiscal year.

Director Hall is in support of raising the current budget by \$200k in order to accommodate additional grants and sponsorships.

- b) Recommendation: Consideration to Execute Bond Refinancing Contracts with Fieldman Rolapp & Associates (\$75,000 one-time transaction fee + \$5,000 annually until maturity for required disclosure filings) and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (\$77,000 for bond counsel + \$35,000 for disclosure counsel)

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the bond refinancing contracts with Fieldman Rolapp & Associates (\$75,000 one-time transaction fee + \$5,000 annually until maturity for required disclosure filings) and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (\$77,000 for bond counsel + \$35,000 for disclosure counsel).

- c) Budget Calendar and Process for Fiscal Year Ending 2026 (For Information Only)

The Budget Calendar for Fiscal Year Ending 2026 was presented to the Board for informational purposes only.

- 3. Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee – Director Chadwick (1/8/25) (2/5/25) *(0:55:33)*

The Committee met on January 8, 2025 and February 5, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

- a) FY24-25 Monthly Grants & Sponsorships Tracking Report

The FY24-25 grants and sponsorships budget has funds of \$57,871.16 remaining. The Committee will review all the remaining grants and sponsorships during the next Committee meeting.

b) Grants and Sponsorships Rubric Scoring System (For Information Only)

Director Ayres made comment on the rubric scoring presented and believes there are alternative rubrics that may be able to be used or combined with. In light of this, Director Ayres will send information to the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee for their review. The Committee was tasked with researching alternative scoring systems and bringing a recommendation to the Board for approval.

Director Lenac emphasized that the scoring system will be a tool for the Committee to evaluate grant applications, not a deciding factor, and raised concerns about the potential misuse transforming the process into a bureaucratic decision-making system. He requested that the Committee create a scoring procedure policy that can be added to the Grants & Sponsorships Policy. Director Farjood responded to that request by stating District staff will use the objective scoring rubric, that the Board has agreed upon, in order to provide the Committee scores. These scores will help the Committee evaluate what grants to recommend to the Board. This agenda item will be moved to the next Committee meeting for discussion.

c) Consideration of Grant Requests

(This agenda item was removed from the agenda.)

i. Deferred Requests

- (a) East County Transitional Living Center: Call Center - \$25,000
(FY21-22 \$35,000)
- (b) License to Freedom: Mental Health for Refugees in El Cajon - \$50,000
(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)
- (c) FundaMental Health: Bolstering Mental Health Assistance in East County - \$25,000 *(No prior funding)*
- (d) Resounding Joy Inc: Sounds of Legacy-Grossmont Healthcare District - \$25,000 *(No prior funding)*
- (e) Home of Guiding Hands: Continued Nursing Support - \$140,000
(FY23-24 \$69,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)

ii. New Requests

- (a) Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank: East County Student Hunger Relief - \$20,000 *(FY23-24 \$18,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*

- (b) East County Media: East County Wildfire and Emergency Alerts Plus Emergency Resources Update - \$7,950 *(FY23-24 \$7,500) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (c) Neighborhood Healthcare: Neighborhood Lakeside Health Center Expansion - \$450,000 *(FY19-20 \$25,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (d) San Diego Blood Bank: SDBB Bloodmobile - \$50,000 *(FY23-24 \$30,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (e) Oncology And Kids, Inc.: Resident Oncology Camp - \$24,000 *(FY22-23 \$20,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (f) San Diego Freedom Ranch, Inc.: Transportation and Community Support - \$78,293 *(FY23-24 \$152,296)*
- (g) Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.: Alzheimer's Association Care and Support Programs - \$25,000 *(FY22-23 \$25,000)*
- (h) Meals-on-Wheels Greater San Diego, Inc.: New Kitchen & Senior Innovation Hub and Expansion of Free Meals - \$250,000 *(FY23-24 \$30,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (i) Survivors of Torture, International: Health Education And Literacy (HEAL) Program for East County Newcomers - \$75,000 *(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (j) American Lung Association: Support for Communities At-Risk of and Impacted by Lung Disease and Lung Cancer - \$40,000 *(FY23-24 \$20,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (k) Therapy Center, Inc. dba Challenge Center: Improving Services and QOL for Seniors through Expansion and Collaboration - \$162,850 *(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*
- (l) Crisis House: Cuyamaca Student Safe Parking Program - \$35,000 *(FY23-24 \$8,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote)*

d) Consideration of Sponsorship Request

Jack Dailey, Director of Policy and Training at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, spoke regarding the organization's background and shared what they do for healthcare in East County.

vii. Deferred Request

- (a) Legal Aid Society of San Diego: Masquerade Gala - \$10,000 *(No prior funding)*

Motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Lenac, and carried (5-0), to defer Legal Aid Society of San Diego’s FY24-25 sponsorship request to the next Committee meeting.

4. Community Health Committee – Director Hall (1/8/25) (2/5/25); Monthly Report ***(01:36:10)***

Director Hall stated that the Committee met on January 8, 2025 and February 5, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.) Director Hall requested that the January 8, 2025 Committee meeting minutes be updated to reflect her inquiry relative to the number of residents who reside outside of La Mesa and come to programs.

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

CCHO Abrams presented the upcoming programs, events, and outreach report. This information is available on the website, through monthly emails to the Board, and on the Board Calendar when appropriate. A recommendation was made to add the upcoming scholarship ceremony to the calendar.

CCHO provided an overview on the Transfer of Care (TOC) collaboration whose aim is to identify processes that lead to increased offload delays at the Sharp Grossmont Hospital emergency room. TOC is working on developing and piloting a local protocol for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, whereby eligible calls from identified communities would be routed to the existing Nurse Navigation triage system, instead of making a 911 emergency room transfer.

- b) City of El Cajon Program Proposal for “Just HIIT It” High Intensity Interval Training (For Discussion)

- i. Program Proposal Guide (For Reference)

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

- c) Recommendation: Consideration to Approve April 29, 2025, Event “East County Health: A Community Conversation” (Estimated Cost: \$2,275)

Motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Farjood, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the East County Health: A Community Conversation event on April 29, 2025.

The Board addressed a comment about staff being empowered to organize more events without needing Board approval. However, the Board reiterated that in order for staff to determine what is important or what is not, the only solution is for everything to first come to the Board.

- d) Programs & Events Direct Cost Report (For Information Only)

The Board discussed the need to review low program attendance in order to reduce the number of offered programs and/or replace them with different, perhaps more popular, programs.

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 (1/10/25) (2/12/25)
6. Leadership & Evaluation Committee – Director Ayres (2/11/25)
7. Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Director Chadwick (1/13/25) (2/12/25)

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 trainings attended for which a stipend was paid, or for any other meetings of significance.
2. Board and CEO Comments

Director Hall asked Counsel Scott if requests for public records can be passed around to everyone. He responded affirmatively.

Director Farjood expressed concern regarding Board colleagues preventing her from speaking on a publicly noticed agenda item at a prior Board meeting. Additionally, she requested that the Board meeting times be changed from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., in order to accommodate working constituents.

H. Information Items

1. Monthly Grant & Sponsorship Report for January 2025
2. Monthly Investment Transaction Report for January 2025
3. Monthly Financial Report for January 2025
4. 2025 Committee Assignments

I. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

1. Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
2. Thursday, March 20, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business on **motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at approximately 11:22 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert “Bob” Ayres, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Virginia Hall, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors