

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 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, August 21, 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
 Nadia Farjood, Board Member
 Maggie Watkins, New Zone 4 Board Member

Staff Present: Aaron Byzak, Interim Chief Executive Officer
 Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer
 Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
 Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian
 Aleks Giragosian, Interim General Counsel

Guests: Maggie Watkins Paul Cloward
 Carol Lewis Bob Fole
 Adam Leavitt Kelly Foreman
 Claudia Rempel Brian Hutchins
 Michele Silverthorn Linda Dial
 Barry Jantz Jill Weber (via Zoom)
 Minola Clark Manson (via Zoom) Martha Baugh (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 *(00:00:34)*

Barry Jantz, former District Chief Executive Officer, led the pledge.

C. Approval of Agenda *(00:00:56)*

A motion was made to approve the agenda with one change, to move item G(6) to written reports, by Director Hall, seconded by Director Farjood, and unanimously carried (4-0).

Director Farjood reasserted her standing objection to the 9:00 a.m. meeting time when the majority of District constituents are working and cannot participate, especially on important days like this, where the Board is selecting a representative for an entire zone of thousands of people.

D. Public Comment *(00:02:46)*

Linda Dial spoke about the need to have more weekly senior activities at the Library with greater capacity so more seniors could attend.

E. Consideration of Appointment of New Board Member to Zone 4 *(00:05:04)*

1. Introductory Comments from President Ayres and Presentations and Interviews of Applicants for Board Appointment

- a) Maggie Watkins
- b) Carol Lewis
- c) Adam Leavitt
- d) Claudia Rempel
- e) Michele Silverthorn

The Board heard three-minute presentations from all five (5) Zone 4 candidates and asked follow-up interview questions.

2. Public Comments

Paul Cloward, Bob Fole, and Kelly Foreman attended the meeting in person and spoke to endorse Zone 4 candidate, Claudia Rempel.

Interim CEO Byzak read written public comments by Lisa Davidson (Partner with Amplified Impact Partners) and Christine Roberts (Director of Operations and Governance at MANA de San Diego), both who endorsed Zone 4 candidate, Claudia Rempel.

Minola Clark Manson attended the meeting via Zoom and spoke to endorse Zone 4 candidate, Claudia Rempel.

(The meeting paused for a 10-minute intermission.)

3. Board Nominations and Potential Appointment of New Director

The Board expressed appreciation to all applicants for their time and qualifications. Each Board member received a ballot to submit their selections as outlined below:

Director Farjood:	Claudia Rempel
Director Ayres:	Maggie Watkins
Director Lenac:	Maggie Watkins
Director Hall:	Maggie Watkins

4. Consideration of Resolution No. 09-25 Appointing a New Director to Serve as Representative from Zone 4

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Lenac, and unanimously carried (4-0), to approve Resolution No. 09-25 appointing Maggie Watkins to serve as the Zone 4 Representative.

5. Administration of Oath of Office of New Director

Interim Legal Counsel, Aleks Giragosian, swore in Maggie Watkins for her oath of office as new Director. Maggie Watkins expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Board for the new position and took pictures with the other members. Director Ayres thanked everyone in attendance for their support.

F. Consent Action Items *(01:53:04)*

Consent Action Items are normally acted upon by a single vote encompassing all items within this section. Since the public may directly address the Board before action on any item, a member of the public may, upon request, speak to the item(s) before the vote is taken.

1. Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2025
2. Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2025

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Hall, and carried (4-0), to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2025 and August 5, 2025. (Director Watkins abstained.)

3. Consideration of Second Amendment to Chief Executive Officer Interim Consulting Agreement (Extending Contract by 60 Days to November 30, 2025)

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Lenac, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the second amendment to the Chief Executive Officer Interim Consulting Agreement.

G. Reports/Presentations/Discussion/Possible Action Items *(01:56:02)*

1. Reports

- a) Interim CEO Report – Aaron Byzak

Interim CEO Byzak attended the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) launch on August 19th, with most of the staff participating in it. The information gathered from the CHNA will be evaluated and incorporated into the upcoming strategic planning process.

Interim CEO Byzak is pleased to announce the District has been recognized with the President’s Special Acknowledgement Award by the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA) for achieving no paid claims for the property liability program for five years (2020-2025) in a row. This recognition is a testament to the District’s commitment to risk management and a culture of safety and proactive governance and also resulted in a rate reduction.

- i. Special District Risk Management Authority Board of Directors Election

The Board to submit their vote for the Special District Risk Management Election by September 20, 2025.

- (a) Qualified Candidates

- (i) Steven Ruetters, Director, Kern Mosquito & Vector Control District
- (ii) Tom Wright (Incumbent), Chairman, Clovis Veterans Memorial District
- (iii) Mike Scheafer (Incumbent), Board President, Costa Mesa Sanitary District
- (iv) Robert Housley, CSDM (Incumbent), General Manager, Midway City Sanitary District

- (v) Virginia Chang Kiraly, Commissioner, San Mateo County Harbor District

A motion was first made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Lenac, to select Candidates i, ii, iii, and iv. Another motion was then made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Lenac, and carried (3-1-1), to select Candidates i, ii, iv, and v. (Director Watkins abstained.) (Director Hall was the “nay” vote.)

2. Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee – Director Farjood (7/16/25) (8/12/25) **(01:04:53)**

The Committee met on July 16, 2025 and August 12, 2025. Attendees and discussion for July 16, 2025 and August 12, 2025 are listed in the Committee meeting minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

a) FY25-26 Monthly Grant and Sponsorship Tracking Report

There is currently \$3.8 million total available for grants; \$70,000 total available for Sharp Grossmont Hospital support, and \$200,000 total available for sponsorships.

b) Consideration of Grant Requests

Recommended for Funding:

- i. Grossmont Union High School District: Health Career Pathway Initiative - \$300,000 (FY24-25 \$227,500) **Committee Recommendation: \$300,000**

Motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Hall, and carried (5-0), to approve FY25-26 grant funding to Grossmont Union High School District in the amount of \$300,000.

Grant approval was based on the need to consider this grant which is based on the academic calendar and falls outside of the established grant application cycle. At the last Board meeting, expedited consideration of this grant was discussed having been a partner to Grossmont Union High School District for close to two decades. Director Lenac stated his support of this program and asked staff to keep reaching out to other East County schools that may be interested in the program.

Not recommended for funding:

- ii. None

Deferred - the Committee deferred consideration of the following request(s) to a subsequent meeting:

iii. None

c) Consideration of Sponsorship Requests **(02:09:09)**

Director Farjood explained just like the prior grant, there are sponsorship requests for events occurring before January 31, 2026 that would fall outside of the established grant and sponsorship cycle, and the reason they are coming to the Board for approval.

Recommended for Funding:

- (a) George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, Inc.: “Celebrating Scott Tarde – A Decade of Leadership Excellence” - \$10,000 (No prior funding) (Event date 11/22/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$2,500**

Sponsorship approval of \$2,500 was based on a limited presence in East County. Upon staff inquiry we learned that the organization currently served 14 residents in East County, which accounts for about 7% of their participants.

- (b) Sharp Grossmont Hospital: “American Heart Association Heart & Stroke Walk” - \$7,500 (FY24-25 \$7,500) (Event date 9/20/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$7,500**

Sponsorship approval of \$7,500 was based on priority area (chronic disease) and their long-time partnership with our partner at the hospital.

- (c) San Diego Rescue Mission, Inc.: “Christmas Jubilee Jam” - \$20,000 (FY24-25 grant \$25,000; no prior sponsorships) (Event date 12/6/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$20,000**

Sponsorship approval of \$20,000 was based on an East County event where every dollar that is contributed to the Christmas Jubilee Jam will go to homeless outreach showers which will help many residents in East county.

- (d) Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.: “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” - \$15,000 (FY24-25 \$15,000) (Event date 10/4/25) **Committee Recommendation: \$5,000**

Sponsorship approval of \$5,000 was based on a limited presence in East County. Since there are no Alzheimer's Day Centers in all of East County, we know there are some residents in East County who go to other facilities this organization runs.

- (e) Foundation for Developmental Disabilities: “Season of Sharing” - \$5,000 (No prior funding) (Event date 11/16/25) ***Committee Recommendation: \$5,000***

Sponsorship approval of \$5,000 was based on the District’s historic focus on addressing developmental disabilities and families who have children struggling with autism and other learning disabilities.

Jill Weber, Foundation for Developmental Disabilities, thanked the Board for the award.

- (f) Voices for Children: “Starry Starry Night” - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$10,000) (Event date 10/4/25) ***Committee Recommendation: \$10,000***

Sponsorship approval of \$10,000 was based on priority area (mental health) and supporting the Casa program which connects individuals in the community with foster children for mentorship and support.

Brian Hutchins, Voices for Children, thanked the Board for their funding consideration. Director Hall clarified that she was speaking about exhibit booths/tables manned by staff with information about GHD. It is a truly inspirational event to learn how community volunteers are helping children in foster care in East County and Riverside County with the special challenges they face.

- (g) Saddles In Service: “5th Annual Love for Heroes Gala” - \$5,000 (FY24-25 \$5,000) (Event date 11/1/25) ***Committee Recommendation: \$5,000***

Sponsorship approval of \$5,000 was based on the therapy it provides through riding horses to our veterans, first responders and law enforcement, and is based in East County.

- (h) San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce: “ECCOC Member Sponsor Package” - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$7,500) (Event dates 9/27/25 and TBD) ***Committee Recommendation: \$10,000***

Sponsorship approval of \$10,000 was based on support for four events, two of which are community health fairs, the 23rd Annual Women in Leadership event at Sycuan, and the 114th Annual East County Awards Gala.

Director Hall inquired as to whether or not this sponsorship includes informational tables for our staff to attend. CCHO Abrams will inquire with the East County Chamber of Commerce about getting free exhibit booths at their events since the District is a major sponsor.

Motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Watkins, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve FY25-26 sponsorship funding in the amounts shown to the listed organizations below:

- George G. Glenner Alzheimer's Family Centers, Inc.: \$2,500
- Sharp Grossmont Hospital: \$7,500
- San Diego Rescue Mission, Inc.: \$20,000
- Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.: \$5,000
- Foundation for Developmental Disabilities: \$5,000
- Voices for Children: \$10,000
- Saddles In Service: \$5,000
- San Diego East County Chamber of Commerce: \$10,000

Not recommended for funding:

ix. None

Deferred - the Committee deferred consideration of the following request(s) to a subsequent meeting:

x. None

Director Farjood thanked CCHO Abrams and staff for assisting with the scoring rubric, which is a very helpful way to analyze and process the sponsorship applications.

Director Farjood highlighted the historic increase in the grants and sponsorships program from \$1.5 million to \$4 million dollars this year. She expressed the need to develop more structure and transparency for future grant cycles, including consideration of multi-year grants and focusing on larger visionary projects to address significant community needs in East County.

All awarded grantees had the opportunity to take pictures with the Board with a large ceremonial check.

3. Finance Committee – Director Lenac (8/12/25) (02:57:40)

The Finance Committee met on August 12, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee meeting minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website).

- a) Recommendation: Consideration of Adding Secondary Administrator for Online Banking to Financial Institution Authorization Policy (FIN-02)

Director Lenac discussed the need for a second person to have administrative rights to the online account in case the CEO is unavailable providing there are adequate internal controls. This policy will be brought back to the Finance Committee in order to better establish revised policy language.

b) Recommendation: Consideration of New Retirement Benefit Funding Policy (FIN-11)

CAO Scaglione stated the new retirement benefit funding policy targets 90% funding for retirement liabilities and other post-employment benefit liability for retiree medical.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to adopt new policy FIN-11 entitled “Retirement Benefit Funding Policy.”

Director Farjood asked Director Lenac to explain the reasoning behind the rejection of the Long-Range Financial Plan found in the August 12, 2025 Finance Committee meeting minutes. Director Lenac explained the Long-Range Financial Plan was never approved by the Board. While the Board does not need a formal Long-Range Financial Plan, they do need to approve and track major financial commitments and facility maintenance plans.

4. Community Health Committee – Director Hall (8/6/25; Monthly Report) *(03:13:45)*

Director Hall stated that the Committee met on August 6, 2025. Attendees and discussion for August 6, 2025 are listed in the Committee meeting minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

Director Hall asked that the August 6, 2025 Community Health Committee meeting minutes be revised to reflect the following:

- Page 2, Item 3: Include verbiage stating staff assured the Committee that UCSD has liability insurance for their community health program that works in the library

a) Presentation: Quarterly Community Health Update (Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer)

CCHO Abrams provided a brief historical overview of last quarter FY24-25. Wellness Wednesdays continue to be well attended with average attendance 45.3 for the quarter. During the quarter 46 programs were offered and 550 people were served through those programs, with an average attendance of 12.

CCHO Abrams addressed the comment the guest made about the need for more senior classes. She explained that most programs are held in the library's meeting space which is fairly small, and the reason most programs are capped at no more than 15. Director Lenac highlighted the construction on the new Community Room, and CCHO Abrams confirmed that it will improve the capacity for most of programs. Interim CEO Byzak added they are looking into options for shading the courtyard for outside events to better utilize the space throughout the year. In addition to the size of the meeting space, increased programming will exceed the current budget.

CCHO Abrams reported on the A Community Conversation event held in the District Conference Center and via Zoom on April 29th. There were 50 people in attendance and 20 people online. Most attendees were residents of the Grossmont Healthcare District. There is a written report of all the questions and comments that were made during the event and the information received from the post event survey. The Committee will organize and analyze community feedback comments to identify recurring themes at their next meeting. This feedback will also be utilized during the strategic planning process.

Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian, gave a highlight of what has taken place in the library during the last quarter. The library was very busy with 3077 visitors which is unprecedented. There has been an increase in library cards issued as well as increases in social media outreach, email newsletters, and print newsletters. The programming and the launch of the Mobile Outreach Library have contributed to this growth. The library hosted 48 students from the Health Occupation Center in May and a special traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine was highlighted last quarter.

Ms. Kessinger discussed the success of the launch of the Mobile Outreach Library, which was well attended. More than 280 visitors were reached last quarter with 11 regular stops and 6 outreach stops. Caitlyn Shaffer, Library Outreach Assistant, is doing an amazing job, developing partnerships and relationships with organizations and the community are looking forward to her regular visits.

5. Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Director Hall (8/13/25) *(03:31:20)*

Director Hall stated that the Committee met on August 13, 2025 and that the minutes will stand as her verbal report. Attendees and discussion for August 13, 2025 are listed in the Committee meeting minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

- a) Presentation: Quarterly Public Relations/Media Affairs Report (Aaron Byzak, Galvanized Strategies and District Interim Chief Executive Officer)

Interim CEO Byzak presented the Public Relations/Media Affairs Report for Q4 2025, highlighting six media stories from April to June. The main topics included the launch of the Mobile Outreach Library (aka “Molly”), the Grossmont Healthcare District scholarship awards, and a negative news story about a labor and delivery incident at Sharp Grossmont Hospital. There were 14 stories in the previous quarter and part of this is because the Union Tribune lost its East County reporter and a new reporter has not been assigned yet. The hospital celebrated its 70th anniversary and Sharp had a nice article, and it was an oversight we were not included in that. There may be additional media in October about the 70th anniversary from our perspective. A press release about the tax rate reduction was recently sent out. Kara Jacobson, Communications Specialist, presented a report on the District’s social media which showed an upward trend with things going very well. It is a tough road in social media nowadays. Director Lenac requested a social media overview at some point. The new Library website will be embedded in the District website, an integration that should support increased online engagement.

6. Facilities Committee – Director Hall (8/13/25) **(03:41:43)**

The Committee met on August 13, 2025. Attendees and discussion for August 13, 2025 are listed in the Committee meeting minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

a) District Renovation Updated Timeline from Barrie + Co. (For Information Only)

(This agenda item was provided as information only and has been moved to written reports.)

7. Joint Strategic Plan/Risk Management Committee – Director Farjood (8/16/25) **(03:42:05)**

Director Farjood stated that the Committee met on August 16, 2025 and gave a verbal report. (These meeting minutes will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda, where attendees and discussion will be listed.)

a) Recommendation: Consideration to Approve Strategic Planning Process and Timeline

Director Lenac proposed a three-phase strategic planning process which will begin with an assessment of existing programs and unrealized legacy programs, followed by a community engagement session, and conclude with new program concepts. Staff to schedule a Saturday workshop in order to discuss assessment of existing programs and unrealized programs. Staff to conduct a community engagement session to gather input for new program concepts as part of the strategic planning process. Interim CEO Byzak will facilitate the strategic

planning process. Interim CEO Byzak and the Board updated Director Watkins on the strategic planning process.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Farjood, and unanimously carried (5-0), for a three-phase strategic planning process that will begin with an assessment of existing programs, Phase 1, and unrealized legacy programs, Phase 2, to be held on a Saturday with Board and staff, followed by a community engagement session, and conclude with new program concepts, Phase 3. (*The strategic planning process timeline is not part of the motion.*)

8. Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee – Director Ayres (8/14/25) (8/16/25) **(03:52:05)**

The Committee met on August 14, 2025 and August 16, 2025. As an ad hoc body, it is not required to produce meeting minutes; therefore, none are provided.

a) Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Update

Director Ayres stated the Committee will interview three candidates tomorrow and two candidates on Monday. To date, 437 applicants have applied for the District CEO position, with Blair Search Partners recently narrowing it down to approximately 5 they have identified as very qualified. The job announcement is open until August 31, 2025.

H. Board Member Comments/Reports **(03:54:35)**

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

President Ayres welcomed new Zone 4 Director, Maggie Watkins, to the Board.

Director Hall will be gone for two weeks from September 13th to September 27th.

Director Lenac requested Interim CEO Byzak obtain a copy of the Board Education from Sharp Grossmont Hospital and schedule it.

I. Information Items

1. Monthly Grant & Sponsorship Report for July 2025
2. Monthly Investment Transaction Report for July 2025

3. Monthly Financial Report for July 2025

4. 2025 Committee Assignments

J. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings

1. Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 9:00 a.m. *(This meeting has been canceled.)*

2. Thursday, September 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m. *(This meeting has been canceled.)*

3. Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

K. Adjournment

There being no further business on **motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 12:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert "Bob" Ayres, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Virginia Hall, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors