

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2024**

The recordings of this meeting can be found linked [here](#) (Administration of Oaths) and [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 Friday, December 6, 2024, at 12:00 p.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: Gloria A. Chadwick, RN, Board President
Robert “Bob” Ayres, Board Vice President
Virginia Hall, RN, Board Secretary
Randy Lenac, Board Member
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: Kate Wayne, Sharp Grossmont Hospital
Aaron Byzak, Galvanized Strategies
Adama Dyoniziak, Champions for Health
Maddie Shureen, Alzheimer’s San Diego
Alexandria Anaya, Institute of Reproductive Grief Care
Michael Emerson
Lauren Cazares
Brianna Coston
Max Coston
Barry Jantz

Raul Farjood
Elaine Ayres
Ronn Hall
Michael Emerson, RDO

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by President Gloria Chadwick.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Nadia Farjood led the pledge.

C. Administration of the Oath of Office to Directors Ayres, Hall, and Farjood *(00:15:45 of first recording)*

D. Approval of Agenda

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

E. Public Comment *(00:16:43 of second recording)*

Lauren Cazares, recently elected La Mesa City Councilmember, gave public comment in support of Director Farjood and her new role, as well as a modified District Board meeting schedule (from 9am to 6pm) so that the general public may better attend.

Brianna Coston, who currently serves on the La Mesa/Spring Valley school board, gave public comment in support of a modified District Board meeting schedule (from 9am to 6pm), in order to promote public access.

Max Coston, a District resident, gave public comment in support of a modified District Board meeting schedule (from 9am to 6pm) in order to allow for “equitable access.”

Melinda Vasquez, provided a written comment regarding concern over the 9:00am Board meetings, which was read by the District CEO, Christian Wallis.

F. Consent Action Items *(00:24:10)*

1. Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2024
2. Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2024

Motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (4-0-1), with Director Farjood abstaining, to approve both meeting minutes of November 12, 2024 and November 21, 2024.

G. Reports/Presentations/Discussion/Possible Action Items (00:24:35)

1. Reports

a) CEO Report – Christian Wallis

i. Letter of Support for Sharp Grossmont Hospital BHCIP Grant Request

Kate Wayne of Grossmont Hospital Foundation spoke before the Board regarding Sharp's request for a letter of support regarding its behavioral health outpatient expansion plans, which has not been renovated in 30+ years. The letter would support its Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (roughly \$18.8M) grant application through the Department of Health Care Services. The District would be a co-applicant of the grant and the grant would require a 30 year commitment of health care services (in that particular outpatient behavioral health space). Brief discussion with Counsel Scott regarding any potential legal ramifications if the current lease with Sharp, which continues for the next 27 years, does not get extended. (Counsel Scott would like to see the exact terms and conditions.) Directors Ayres and Farjood made some suggested revisions to the letter. The grant application is due to be filed on or before December 13, 2024 and notifications will be sent in May 2025, if awarded. **Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the submission of the letter of support with the understanding that if Sharp is selected to be awarded funds, and District Counsel Scott does not agree with the contract terms and conditions, then the District will rescind its agreement.**

Additionally, CEO Wallis shared with the Board the following:

- 2025 Committee preferences for the Board will be emailed shortly after the Board meeting. CEO Wallis asked if the Board can respond by Friday, December 13, 2024.
- The District's Kaiser grant application (in support of the Rural Health Discharge Program) was approved for \$150k yesterday
- CEO Wallis was recently asked to conduct a presentation to the El Cajon City Council and will do so on December 10, 2024

2. Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee – Director Hall (11/6/24) (12/2/24)

Director Hall reported that the Committee met on November 6, 2024 and the written 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.) The Committee also met on December 2, 2024, for which Director Hall gave a verbal report. These meeting minutes will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda.

a) FY24-25 Monthly Grants and Sponsorships Tracking Report (as of December 1, 2024)

\$298,954.16 in available funds remains for the Grants and Sponsorships budget and \$2,500 for the Sharp Grossmont Hospital Support budget, as of December 1, 2024.

b) Consideration of Grant Requests

Recommended for funding:

- i. Alzheimer's San Diego: Comprehensive Dementia Support for GHD Residents - \$27,500 (FY23-24 \$23,000) **Committee Recommendation: \$23,000**

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Alzheimer's San Diego's grant application regarding Comprehensive Dementia Support for GHD Residents in the amount of \$23,000.

Maddie Shureen, Alzheimer's San Diego, appeared via telepresence to thank the Board for the award and its support.

- ii. Centro de Salud de la Comunidad de San Ysidro, Inc. dba San Ysidro Health: Mountain Empire Heart Health Community Engagement Initiative aka Mountain Empire Heart - \$70,000 (FY23-24 \$70,000) **Committee Recommendation: \$64,083**

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Centro de Salud de la Comunidad de San Ysidro, Inc. dba San Ysidro Health's grant application regarding Mountain Empire Heart Health Community Engagement Initiative aka Mountain Empire Heart in the amount of \$64,083.

- iii. San Diego County Medical Society Foundation dba Champions for Health: Immunize Grossmont Healthcare District - \$30,000 (FY20-21 \$25,000) (Requires a 4/5 Board vote) **Committee Recommendation: \$30,000 (for 2025 Flu Season)**

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve San Diego County Medical Society Foundation dba Champions for Health's grant application regarding

Immunize Grossmont Healthcare District in the amount of \$30,000 (for 2025 Flu Season).

Adama Dyoniziak, Champions for Health, appeared via telepresence to thank the Board for the award and its support.

- iv. St. Madeleine Sophie's Training Center: Healthcare Students Volunteer Program - \$25,000 (*FY23-24 \$25,000*) ***Committee Recommendation: \$25,000***

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve St. Madeleine Sophie's Training Center's grant application regarding Healthcare Students Volunteer Program in the amount of \$25,000.

- v. Highland Senior Citizens Group Jacumba CA: Partners in Healthier Living – Rural Wellness Through Technology - \$25,000 (*No prior funding*) ***Committee Recommendation: \$25,000***

Motion was made by Director Hall (and later withdrawn), seconded by Director Chadwick, to approve Highland Senior Citizens Group Jacumba CA's grant application regarding Partners in Healthier Living – Rural Wellness Through Technology in the amount of \$25,000. After a couple of Board member concerns regarding the location of Highland Senior Citizens Group Jacumba CA and the area in which its program would serve (outside of District boundaries), this agenda item has been deferred back to the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee for further reviewing. Maureen Phillips with Highland Senior Citizens Group spoke before the Board and explained the reasoning behind their grant application, which would incorporate internet access into its community center for potential future telehealth services and virtual education planning. Brief discussion regarding District boundaries and the San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Not recommended for funding:

- vi. Wellness Together: School-Based Therapy for Lakeside Union School District Students - \$75,000 (*No prior funding*)
- vii. Institute for Reproductive Grief Care: Maternal Mental Health Day at Grossmont Healthcare District - \$21,416 (*No prior funding*)

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

- viii. East County Transitional Living Center: Call Center - \$25,000
(FY21-22 \$35,000)
- ix. License to Freedom: Mental Health for Refugees in El Cajon - \$50,000
(FY23-24 \$25,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)

c) Consideration of Sponsorship Requests

Recommended for funding:

- i. Christie's Place: "A Woman's Voice" Conference - \$5,000 (FY23-24 \$5,000)
Committee Recommendation: \$2,500

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Christie's Place's sponsorship application regarding "A Woman's Voice" Conference in the amount of \$2,500.

- ii. Institute of Reproductive Grief Care: 3rd Annual Symposium "Beyond Maternal Mental Health: Bridging Clinical and Emotional Wellbeing" - \$10,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$2,500**

Motion was made by Virginia Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve Institute of Reproductive Grief Care's sponsorship application regarding its 3rd Annual Symposium "Beyond Maternal Mental Health: Bridging Clinical and Emotional Wellbeing" in the amount of \$2,500.

Alexandria Anaya, Institute of Reproductive Grief Care, appeared via telepresence to thank the Board for the award and its support.

Not recommended for funding:

- iii. Home of Guiding Hands: "Randy Jones Run, Walk, & Roll for Independence" - \$7,000 (FY23-24 \$5,000) (Would require a 4/5 Board vote)

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

- iv. None

Directors Lenac and Farjood also had questions regarding the reasons for why a few of the grants and sponsorships were not recommended for funding.

3. Library Operations Committee – Director Lenac (11/25/24; Monthly Report)

The Committee met on October 1, 2024. These meeting minutes will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda.

a) Presentation: Quarterly Report (July – September 2024) (Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian)

Ms. Kessinger, Head Librarian, gave the July – September 2024 quarterly update to the Board. This included an increase of 527 visitors and 16 library cards issued, from last quarter, which counts as the Library’s most successful quarter to date. Welcome packets will also now be distributed to all new Library members.

Ms. Kessinger also mentioned that due to continuous no-shows, the Library had to cancel a reoccurring standing room reservation by a local community group, until the group can better determine its schedule and need for the space.

b) Recommendation: Restructure Committee Title and Purpose Including Approved Changes to District Bylaws and Board Policies

In order to help streamline and better organize committees, **motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the dissolving of the Library Operations Committee, renaming it “Community Health Committee,” and placing all community program and initiative agenda items that were previously contained within the Public Relations & Outreach Committee, within it.**

Brief discussion regarding the potential to consolidate committees and the need for the Bylaws/policies to be updated (which can be done at a later date via the consent calendar).

4. Policies & Procedures Committee – Director Hall (11/13/24) *(01:29:02)*

The Committee met on November 13, 2024. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website.)

a) Recommendation: Consideration of the New Board Orientation Manual for New Grossmont Healthcare District Board Members

With the three corrections listed below made, motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Chadwick, and unanimously carried (5-0), to approve the new Board Orientation Manual for New Grossmont Healthcare District Board Members.

- **Page 3, Zone 3: Add “San Diego”**
- **Page 11, Community Health: Change the last sentence to read “The committee also discusses and tracks community health initiatives that have been...”**
- **Page 18, Hospital Lease Agreement: Change the first sentence to read “... was formed to build and operate Grossmont Hospital.”**

These changes will be made and then recirculated to the Board.

5. Board Reorganization – Election of Officers *(01:37:20)*

Counsel Scott opened the floor for nominations for each of the respective offices: President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Motion was made by Director Chadwick, seconded by Director Farjood, to nominate Director Ayres as President. With no further nominations, the motion unanimously carried (5-0) to elect Director Ayres as President.

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Hall, to nominate Director Lenac as Vice-President. With no further nominations, the motion unanimously carried (5-0) to elect Director Lenac as Vice-President.

Motion was made by Director Ayres, seconded by Director Lenac, to nominate Director Hall as Secretary. With no further nominations, the motion unanimously carried (5-0) to elect Director Hall as Secretary.

Pursuant to District policy, the incoming President (Director Ayres) will appoint the Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer. *(Ultimately, the appointment of Board Treasurer was assigned to Director Chadwick. Christian Wallis, Chief Executive Officer, will remain the Assistant Secretary, and Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative, as Assistant Treasurer.)*

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

6. Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Director Lenac (10/23/24; Monthly Report) (11/25/24; Monthly Report)

7. Joint Strategic Plan/Risk Management Committee – Director Chadwick (10/24/24)

8. Facilities Committee – Director Ayres (11/15/24)

H. 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 Farjood raised concern over the current Board meeting times of 9 AM at the start of the standard workday. She explained that this time is inaccessible for herself, the public, and any potential future Board candidates to attend. She proposed that the Board reschedule its meeting times from 9 AM to 6 PM to accommodate working people and to enhance public access. She pointed out that the Palomar Health Board of Directors meets at 6 PM and the Fallbrook Regional Health District Board meets at 6:30 PM. She provided background on the Board's meeting time changes over the past year-and-a-half from 7:30 AM to 5 PM to 9 AM. Director Farjood's request to reinstate the canceled December 19, 2024 Board meeting was denied, with no other Board member in support, however, her request to survey (written) each Board member regarding their Board meeting availability was approved. Once responses are received, it will be discussed in an upcoming Policies & Procedures Committee meeting.

I. Convene to Closed Session *(02:01:20)*

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Potential Litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9 (two cases)

J. Report After Closed Session

The Board in closed session directed Counsel to take appropriate action to reject the claims of Alicia Vicars and Merfet Mary Hormiz.

K. Information Items

1. 2024 Committee Assignments

L. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting(s):

1. Thursday, December 19, 2024, 9:00 a.m. *(Canceled)*
2. Tuesday, January 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
3. Thursday, January 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

M. Adjournment

There being no further business on **motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria A. Chadwick, RN, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Virginia Hall, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors