

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 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, May 22, 2025, at 7:30 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 (via Zoom)
 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: (Various students, family members, and East County school staff)

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. by Board President Robert “Bob” Ayres.

B. Pledge of Allegiance (00:09:42)

A member of the audience led the pledge.

C. Approval of Agenda *(00:10:20)*

With the minor change of having agenda item G(2)(c) go before G(2)(b), Motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Lenac, and carried (4-0), to approve the agenda. (Director Chadwick did not vote.)

D. Public Comment *(00:11:05)*

There was no public comment.

E. Presentation of Post-Secondary and High School Healthcare Career Scholarships by the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee *(00:11:46)*

President Ayres, Director Farjood, and CCHO Abrams collectively awarded each student with their certificate. Post-Secondary students were called first, with High School students thereafter. Pictures were also taken with the Board.

(Director Chadwick left the meeting.)

F. Consent Action Items *(00:53:14)*

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025
2. Special Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2025
3. Special Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2025
4. Regular Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2025

With the below sentence added to page 5, item D, of the April 17 regular meeting minutes, motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Farjood, and carried (4-0), to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2025, April 21, 2025, April 29, 2025, and May 6, 2025. (Director Chadwick was absent.)

“Directors Chadwick and Farjood emphasized community need at a time of unprecedented cuts to federal funding.”

5. Consideration of First Amendment to the Chief Executive Officer Interim Consulting Agreement

Motion was made by Director Hall, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (4-0), to approve the Chief Executive Officer Interim Consulting Agreement. (Director Chadwick was absent.)

G. Reports/Presentations/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. Reports

a) Interim CEO Report (Aaron Byzak) *(00:57:19)*

Interim CEO, Aaron Byzak, shared the following:

- CEO Byzak thanked staff for their hard work with the scholarship award ceremony.
 - CEO Byzak gave an update on the upcoming stops in June with “Molly,” the District Health & Wellness Library Mobile Outreach Library.
 - CEO Byzak recently attended La Maestra’s 35th Anniversary Celebration where the District received an award for being a legacy healthcare partner.
- i. San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Independent Special District Nomination to Appoint Redevelopment Oversight Board Eligible Representative

CEO Byzak stated it is an opportunity for elected officials (representatives of districts) to serve on the oversight Board.

2. Finance Committee – Director Lenac (5/13/25) *(01:01:34)*

The Committee met on May 13, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which will be linked on a subsequent Board agenda.)

Director Lenac introduced the newly elected President of the Grossmont Hospital Corporation, Dee Ammon, to the Board and the public.

a) Consideration of Amendment to 2024/25 Fiscal Year Administrative Budget

CAO Scaglione presented a budget amendment request for \$250,000 for the FY 2025 administrative budget, which is expected to be over budget by \$185,000. The budget amendment is to cover expenses related to the CEO transition.

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded Director Ayres, and carried (4-0) to approve the \$250,000 adjustment for the FY 2025 administrative budget. *(Director Chadwick was absent.)*

b) Workshop and Recommendation: Consideration to Adopt FY25-26 Budget (Tom Scaglione, Chief Administrative Officer) *(01:14:02)*

CAO Scaglione presented a comprehensive review of the proposed FY25-26 Budget to the Board. The presentation covered key financial areas, including revenue projections, the general fund, debt service fund, pension and OPEB additional discretionary payments, reserves, and departmental allocations. The discussion also highlighted expenditure differences between the recommended budget and the previous year's budget, notably emphasizing the \$8 million intergovernmental transfer for Grossmont Hospital support as the largest expenditure item.

Director Lenac explained the revision the Finance Committee made to the proposed budget since the last Board meeting, specifically regarding the strategic grants. While the total dollar amount remained unchanged, the grants had not yet received Board approval. As a result, it was deemed premature to list them as grants. Instead, they were reclassified under broader strategic opportunities. Moving forward, staff and committees can further develop these strategic grant proposals and present them to the Board for formal approval.

The funding shortfall of the Rural Health Discharge Program was discussed in detail with Director Farjood expressing her full support for the budgeted \$150k. Grossmont Hospital Corporation is currently researching ways to obtain the additional \$150k in funds needed to continue the Program, due to the County of San Diego's recent withdrawal.

The main reason for the administrative budget increase (year-over-year) is due to the former CEO's contract ending, the Interim CEO's contract, as well as contracting for administrative assistance to help the Executive Assistant with Board and committee meetings. Director Farjood expressed her concern regarding the District's size relative to its number of meetings (nine standing committees, three ad hoc committees, two regular monthly Board meetings) and believes the District has too many.

The facilities budget is decreasing by roughly \$8k. This reduction is attributed to Compliance Coordinator Harman Sarky's efforts in monitoring monthly utilities, addressing usage trends, and implementing LED lighting upgrades where feasible.

The facilities budget for capital improvements has been reduced, primarily because of a delayed renovation start. The majority of the original renovation funds have been reallocated to FY26-27. Director Farjood inquired about the reasons for the late start and CAO Scaglione explained that the setback was mainly due to the delay of the review of the main architectural contracts. In response, Director Farjood requested that a firm deadline be established to ensure the contract review process is expedited.

Director Hall asked several questions and received clarification on various matters. She expressed her concern regarding the reserves budget and mentioned several suggestions on how to reduce the budget by \$5M, including reducing the grants and sponsorships budget. The community health strategic initiatives were discussed again, with Director Hall stating she feels we are putting “the cart before the horse.” Director Lenac stated that the Workforce Ad Hoc Committee has been on hold, due to the CEO search, but will be starting very soon.

With the inclusion of the below changes, (amended) motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (3-1), to adopt the FY25-26 Budget:

- **Debt Service Fund – Property Tax – correct prior years projection**
- **Community Health Support Budget – change scholarships from \$345k to \$350k**
- **Include the effects of the Reserve Policy adoption**
- **The Residency Program needs to reflect “GHC” rather than “Sharp”**

(Director Chadwick was absent. Director Hall was the nay vote.)

The Board and Interim CEO Byzak thanked CAO Scaglione and supporting staff for their hard work.

- c) Recommendation: Consideration to Adopt FY25-26 Reserve Policy *(01:07:07)*

CAO Scaglione presented projections for designated reserves, including a change to the administrative reserve to 6-months of operating expenditures with the operating reserve remaining at 12-months.

Motion by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (4-0) to approve the reserve policy with an administrative reserve to 6-months of operating expenditures and an operating reserve to 12-months. *(Director Chadwick was absent.)*

- d) Recommendation: Consideration to Approve Credit Card Limit Increase for Executive Assistant to \$25,000 Until September 30, 2025 *(02:34:20)*

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (3-1), to approve the credit card limit increase for the Executive Assistant to \$25,000 until September 30, 2025. *(Director Chadwick was absent. Director Hall was the nay vote.)*

Director Hall expressed concern regarding the CEO's \$25k purchasing authority.

3. Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee – Director Chadwick (5/7/25)

The Committee met on May 7, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee minutes (which are linked from the Board agenda to the District website).

a) Recommendation: Consideration to Adopt FY25-26 Grants and Sponsorships Policy *(02:36:49)*

Director Farjood highlighted the main changes from the FY25-26 Grants & Sponsorships Policy from last year's policy, including the application window and number of grantee reports.

Motion was made by Director Farjood, seconded by Director Lenac, and carried (4-0), to adopt the FY25-26 Grants and Sponsorships Policy with the modification of omitting the year on the application. (Director Chadwick was absent.)

4. Community Health Committee – Director Hall (5/7/25; Monthly Report)

Director Hall stated that the Committee met on May 7, 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: Community Health Department Quarterly Report (Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer) *(02:43:00)*

CCHO Abrams presented the Community Health Quarterly Report for Q3 (January-March 2025). This report included information regarding upcoming programs, library services and collections, events and outreach activities, the mobile outreach library, strategic initiatives, and communication and transparency.

CCHO Abrams gave an update on the \$150k Kaiser grant (originally awarded to the District, but since refunded to Kaiser). She also shared that the District has been working on a partnership between Mama's Kitchen and San Ysidro Health's Mountain Health Center, for the benefit of patients served by the Rural Health Discharge Program.

5. Public Relations & Outreach Committee – Director Chadwick (5/14/25)

In light of Director Chadwick's absence, Director Hall reported that the Committee met on May 14, 2025. Attendees and discussion are listed in the Committee

minutes (which will be linked to the District website via a subsequent Board agenda.)

- a) Presentation: Public Relations/Media Affairs Quarterly Report (Aaron Byzak, Galvanized Strategies) **(02:58:20)**

Interim CEO Byzak gave the quarterly (January–March 2025) public relations/media affairs report. There were 14 media stories with topics covering District decisions, activities, programs, partnerships and awards, staffing decisions, most notably related to the District’s CEO transition. Also highlighted was the grand opening of the District-owned Sharp Grossmont Hospital for Neurosciences. These stories reflect both proactive and reactive media efforts, including some follow-up media stories from prior media efforts and community outreach.

CEO Byzak will pursue a press release about the scholarship event, including photos, as well as on a 2017 scholarship recipient who is now advanced in her healthcare career.

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

6. Policies & Procedures Committee – Director Ayres (4/22/25)

Director Farjood expressed her concern regarding the April 22, 2025 Policies & Procedures Committee meeting minutes and the reasoning behind the wait for the evening Board meeting pilot program. Director Ayres responded it is due to the absence of our permanent CEO, but nevertheless, it will be discussed again at the July Policies & Procedures Committee meeting.

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 training attended for which a stipend was paid, or for any other meetings of significance.
2. Board and CEO Comments **(03:07:05)**

Director Lenac shared he recently attended an artificial intelligence seminar in Lemon Grove, sponsored by the Lemon Grove School District and Grossmont Community College. Director Lenac would like staff to follow-up with Sharp regarding the Apple Vision Pro to coordinate a presentation on AI in healthcare.

Director Lenac also shared that the Workforce Pipeline Project is well underway, with the Family Medicine Residency Program partnership being a main focus.

I. Information Items

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

J. Convene to Closed Session *(03:13:38)*

1. Public Employee Appointment (CEO) Pursuant to Government Code 54954(b)

Motion was made by Director Lenac, seconded by Director Ayres, and carried (4-0), to convene to closed session. (Director Chadwick was absent.)

K. Report After Closed Session

Counsel Scott reported that the Board discussed a confidential matter related to the appointment of the new CEO and took no action.

L. Next Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

1. Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
2. Thursday, June 19, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (Holiday – to be rescheduled, if needed)

M. Adjournment

There being no further business on **motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned at 11:53 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert “Bob” Ayres, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Virginia Hall, RN, Secretary, Board of Directors