



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024 @ 5:30 pm  
MarinHealth Medical Center  
Conference Center**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Su called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

*Board members present:* Chair Brian Su, MD; Vice Chair Edward Alfrey, MD; Secretary Ann Sparkman, RN/BSN, JD Jennifer Rienks, PhD; Samantha Ramirez, BSW

*Staff present:* David Klein, MD, CEO; Colin Leary, General Counsel; Don Bouey, District Counsel (via Zoom); Louis Weiner, EA; Tricia Lee, EA

**2. General Public Comment**

Ms. Tarrell Kullaway, Executive Director of Marin County Bicycle Coalition, commented on e-bike education and regulation.

**3. Nomination and Election of Marin Healthcare District Officers for 2024**

**A. Chair** – Ms. Rienks nominated Dr. Alfrey, and Dr. Su seconded. Dr. Alfrey accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Voting took place by roll call, and each voted affirmatively for Dr. Alfrey. **Dr. Edward Alfrey was elected unanimously to be Chair of Marin Healthcare District Board for 2024.**

**B. Vice Chair** – Ms. Rienks nominated Ms. Sparkman, and Dr. Alfrey seconded. Ms. Sparkman accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Voting took place by roll call, and each voted affirmatively for Ms. Sparkman. **Ms. Ann Sparkman was elected unanimously to be Vice Chair of Marin Healthcare District Board for 2024.**

**C. Secretary** – Ms. Sparkman nominated Ms. Rienks, and Ms. Ramirez seconded. Ms. Rienks accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. Voting took place by roll call, and each voted affirmatively for Ms. Rienks. **Ms. Jennifer Rienks was elected unanimously to be Secretary of Marin Healthcare District Board for 2024.**

**4. Approve Agenda**

Dr. Alfrey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Rienks seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

**5. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2023**

Ms. Rienks moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Ramirez seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

**6. MHD Board of Directors Resolution No. 2024-01: Approving Extension of MarinHealth Medical Center Line of Credit with U.S. Bank, as Successor to Union Bank**



Dr. Klein presented the Resolution (Tab #3). In January 2023 this Board approved the increase of the existing Line of Credit from \$20 million to \$30 million with Union Bank. Union Bank was acquired by U.S. Bank and this Resolution authorizes this rollover one-year renewal with U.S. Bank.

Ms. Sparkman moved to approve MHD Resolution No. 2024-01 as presented. Dr. Alfrey seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

#### **7. Resuming In-Person Meetings of the MHD Board and Committees**

Dr. Klein commented on this first meeting back in person in the Conference Center available to the public after all meetings being virtual/hybrid during the restrictions of the pandemic. All generally agreed this setup was acceptable and open to adjustment as needed.

Last week Mr. Leary had sent to the Board members the changes in the Brown Act effective January 1, 2024 requiring the resuming of in-person public meetings and the rules and restrictions appertaining.

#### **8. Progress on E-bikes Legislation**

Dr. Klein gave an update on e-bike legislation in progress, particularly the bill by Rep. Damon Connolly. Other politicians are introducing other bills. Dr. Klein has copies of the various bills and will forward them to the Board.

Dr. Alfrey reported that Menlo Park City Council is pursuing research and legislation.

Dr. Su suggested that this Board issue a strong statement, a modification of our resolution of a year ago, "Resolution No. MHD 2022-08, To Study Further Measures to Safely Regulate Electric Bikes."

This issue can be taken up at the upcoming Board Retreat.

#### **9. Agenda Items for Annual Retreat, January 26, 2024**

Dr. Klein asked the Board for their ideas for discussion at the upcoming Board Retreat.

Dr. Su suggested: E-bike legislation, and invite Rep. Connolly or someone from his office. Write a new resolution regarding e-bikes. Funding for local e-bike education programs that Ms. Kullaway mentioned earlier this meeting.

Dr. Alfrey suggested: Health equity in high-risk communities. Prevention of falls of the elderly.

Ms. Sparkman suggested: Silver tsunami, geriatric health issues including climate change effects on seniors, physician access and extender pipeline, education on elder quality of life. Fentanyl crisis. Programs at COM for healthcare trades. Social determinants of health. Food insecurity and housing.

Ms. Ramirez suggested: Mammogram van. Spanish-speaking immigrant community being better served for healthcare, particularly for youth.

Ms. Rienks suggested: Our hospital directly addressing climate change, including reducing plastic use as much as possible. Healthcare industry adversely affecting micro and macro environment. Add time to the Retreat's agenda for an ice-breaker activity.

Dr. Klein suggested: The five focus points of the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment: Access to healthcare; healthy eating and active living; housing and homelessness; mental health and substance abuse; violence and injury prevention.



## **10. Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends**

Dr. Klein reported that the new Director of the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services is Dr. Lisa Warhuus.

He reported on several pieces of legislation:

Federal bill HR 5378 – Site neutrality. House in favor, going to Senate.

CA SB 43 – Allows expansion of definition of conservatorship.

CA SB 497 – Equal Pay and Anti-Retaliation Protection Act.

CA AB 977 – Protection from assault for healthcare workers.

Discussions followed regarding site neutrality, and retaliation.

## **11. Committee Reports**

### *A. Finance & Audit Committee*

The Committee did not meet and there was nothing to report.

### *B. Lease, Building, Education and Outreach Committee*

Ms. Rienks reported that the Committee met on December 14 and discussed planning for the next MHD event, “Healthy Cooking” on February 29, here in the hospital’s Conference Center with celebrity chef Hugh Groman.

Other topics for future events were discussed in respect to community health needs: Perinatal mood anxiety; hypertension; careers in healthcare for underserved teens; advance directives; women’s health and men’s health together in separate rooms; a “Community Health Workers Day”; pop-up events in high traffic areas. The series planning may be discussed at the Retreat.

## **12. Reports**

### *A. Hospital and District CEO’s Report*

Dr. Klein reported that November was a strong month financially for the hospital. The holidays were very busy and this week is very busy. ED is often at capacity and all units are near capacity.

A process of 2023 review is under way with hospital leaders. The executive team is working on setting 2024 goals.

Our new Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anita Chandrasena, is on board as of last week.

Yesterday’s New Employee Orientation had a class of 35 new employees.

The hospital’s recent employee engagement survey shows considerable improvement.

Physician recruitment is active with a pipeline of primary care doctors and APPs.

Surgeons coming on board include orthopedics, GYN, arthroplasty.

For safety and security, facility risk assessments are underway and clinic trainings with law enforcement are being scheduled. Vendors will be on site this week to study the environment for metal detection tools, particularly for ED.

Evaluative planning is underway to conserve real estate site costs.

The Petaluma medical hub is under construction and scheduled to be completed in November.

For AB 1882, seismic upgrades by 2030, we are meeting all the deadlines for deliverables due January 1, 2024. This includes evaluation for structural and non-



structural compliance, fuel storage, wastewater storage, and signage indicating compliance levels.

Major software changes are coming in 2024: Switching to a new advanced patient safety risk management and patient feedback module. Switching patient experience module from PRC to Press Ganey. Switching to a stronger up-to-date HR Information System. Switching to an advanced performance management platform.

We here are actively participating in learning much about Artificial Intelligence in the healthcare arena.

Dr. Klein announced that he is now Chair of the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California.

*B. Chair's and Board Members' Reports*

Dr. Alfrey commended the new nurse graduate program, and one of his neighbors is thriving in this program.

Ms. Sparkman reported that she spoke a nurse at another facility who spoke very highly of our hospital.

Ms. Ramirez reported that she is the host of a local Spanish radio show.

Dr. Su expressed his thanks for being Board Chair these past two years.

**13. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings**

Suggestions were given earlier in the meeting

**14. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Dr. Su adjourned the meeting at 6:39 pm.