



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, November 12, 2024
MarinHealth Medical Center
Conference Center**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Alfrey called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Board members present: Chair Edward Alfrey, MD; Vice Chair Brian Su, MD;
Secretary Jennifer Rienks, PhD (via Zoom); Samantha Ramirez, BSW

Staff present: David Klein, MD, CEO; Eric Brettner, CFO; Colin Leary, General Counsel;
Tricia Lee, EA

Board members Absent: Ann Sparkman, RN/BSN, JD

2. Oaths of Office for Board Members Appointed In-Lieu of Election

Dr. Klein presented the appointments of candidates as certified by the Registrar of Voters of Marin County, and invited Edward Alfrey, MD (Division 5) to swear the Oath of Office aloud. Dr. Alfrey so swore.

Ann Sparkman, RN/BSN, JD (Division 2) was absent from the meeting. She will swear the Oath of Office with Dr. Klein at a time before the next meeting of the Board, and will report such action to the Board.

3. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Approve Agenda

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

5. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2024

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

6. Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends

Dr. Klein provided updates on several statewide propositions relevant to the hospital and healthcare industry following the recent election. All results remain unofficial until December 13, 2024, when they will be certified.

- Proposition 5 (Affordable Housing and Infrastructure Bonds). Aimed to lower the vote requirement for community general obligation bond elections for hospitals and providers. Currently failing with 44% Yes and 55% No votes.
- Proposition 34 Restricts hospital spending of revenues tied to prescription pricing, particularly impacting 340B programs. As of now, a close race with 50.9% Yes and 49.1% No votes.
- Proposition 35 (Taxation of Managed Care Organizations): Allows taxation of managed care organizations, with funds directed toward Medi-Cal patient care and access expansion. Passed with 67% Yes and 32% No votes.

Dr. Klein provided an update on Assembly Bill 869 Seismic Standard. AB 869 signed by the governor, introduces an alternate path for seismic compliance for district hospitals. This bill has the potential to delay the seismic requirements deadline from 2030 by three years, with a possibility of up to five years. The next major reporting deadline is January 2026.

7. Committee Reports

A. *Finance & Audit Committee*

Dr. Su reported the Finance and Audit Committee met on October 28th. The investment portfolio was reviewed. The current investment strategy is 20% equities and 80% fixed income, the total portfolio value is approximately \$3.9M, with a YTD growth of 6.7%. Dr. Su provided a review of assets which include \$190K in a money market account, \$475K cash on hand and \$350K in a local agency investment fund (LAIF) earning 4%.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommends maintaining \$250K cash on hand (four to six months of expenses) with the remaining funds reallocated to the investment portfolio. Also recommended to shift to a 60% fixed income and 40% equities allocation.

Chair Alfrey asked for a motion to approve the investment strategy adjustment to 60% fixed income and 40% equities. Ms. Rienks moved to approve. Ms. Ramirez seconded.

Vote: all ayes

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

Ms. Rienks provided an update on upcoming and past events.

- Marin City Event: The event was well attended, with approximately 150 participants. It focused on women's health and included blood pressure screenings for 70 individuals. 10 individuals were identified with elevated blood pressure requiring follow-up care. The event received positive feedback, including a letter to the editor recognizing Dr. Santora's participation.
- Bolinas Pop-Up Event: A smaller-scale event attended by 40 individuals. Blood pressure screenings were conducted, with no follow-up care required. The community expressed appreciation for the services provided.



- Men's and Women's Health Seminar: Scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2025.
- Spanish-Speaking Community Event: Planning in progress for early 2025.
- Careers in Medicine Event is Scheduled for February 25, 2025. Strong interest from schools, with potential for multiple sessions to accommodate demand.

8. Reports

A. *Hospital and District CEO's Report*

Dr. Klein reported record patient volumes in recent days. Preparedness efforts are underway for seasonal viral surges.

Dr. Klein shared 2025 hospital budget is nearing completion, which will go to the MarinHealth Medical Center Finance Committee for approval on November 21, 2024. Once approved at the Finance Committee it will go to the Operating Board on December 3, 2024 for final approval.

The SPECT CT scanner construction is completed, pending CDPH approval.

The Petaluma Hub is scheduled to open the December 3, 2024. Open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will be in November 19, 2024 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The Urgent Care is due to open in January of 2025.

Dr. Klein reported the Operating Board Retreat was held recently, with strong attendance and robust discussions.

Dr. Klein reported the 2025 District Board Retreat to be held in January/February. Ms. Lee will send a Doodle Poll to find the best date for the board members.

Dr. Klein shared the Doctor-to-Doctor Spine Seminar was held with excellent physician participation.

Dr. Klein reported CNA and Teamsters labor agreement negotiations will begin in the coming weeks.

Dr. Klein reported UCSF is anticipating a two-day strike by two unions November 20 through November 21, 2024, impacting approximately 7,000 employees.

Dr. Klein shared the Fitch Rating results. The hospitals outlook was upgraded from neutral to positive.

Dr. Klein shared the Leapfrog results will be released on November 15, 2024 with a positive outcome anticipated.

Dr. Klein reported the Town Hall was held today and had high attendance and covered topics such as quality strategy and patient experience.

Vaccination and masking updates. Mandatory flu vaccinations are nearly complete for staff. COVID vaccine is optional and available for staff. MarinHealth is following the Marin Health and Human Service recommendations for masking.

Dr. Klein reviewed the changes to the HCAHPS questions. Beginning in January new questions addressing teamwork, restfulness and communication will be added to the survey.

Workday implementation will begin December 23, 2024 for the Medical Network and January 1, 2025 for the Hospital. Features include self-service access for employees to view paystubs, update beneficiaries and manage HR related tasks.

Dr. Klein shared that MarinHealth recently attended the Beta Heart Conference, where Marinhealth received the Beta Heart Achievement Award and the Beta Quest for Zero Award, recognizing excellence in OB programs.

Dr. Klein announced MarinHealth has launched a formalized DEI initiative with commitment to advance diversity, equity and inclusion across all workforce and medical staff levels. The objectives are to ensure equitable healthcare access for all community members, create a workforce reflective of the community's diversity and foster an inclusive environment.

Dr. Klein reported next week the hospital will participate in a mock survey in preparation for The Joint Commission survey in 2025.

Dr. Klein reported on several facility and security updates:

- Outpatient MRI replacement on S. Eliseo has begun with completion expected in April 2025.
- Pharmacy Compounding room construction to begin February 2025.
- Emergency generator replacement in the Cypress Pavilion forecasted for 2025.
- Bloom Energy contact is nearing finalization.
- McCarthy is currently evaluating the multi-stack chiller for functional issues and addressing building leaks from previous heavy rains.
- Preparations are underway to winterize the hospital facilities.
- Visitor badging system will launch early next.

- The weapons management system is scheduled to be implemented on February 2025

Dr. Klein reported the application for Age-Friendly recognition is still in process.

The Marin County Commission on Aging is working with Vivalon on an updated strategic plan which will be complete in Spring of 2025. Once completed the Chair of the Marin County Commission on Aging will present to the board.

Jonathan Eldridge, the new president of College of Marin has been invited to the December meeting to speak on the Nursing Program and other trade programs offered at College of Marin.

B. Chair's and Board Members' Reports.

Ms. Rienks shared she recently met with a young nursing student currently studying at the College of Marin. The student, who recently gained experience in interventional radiology and is pursuing a nursing degree, spoke highly of her time at MarinHealth, praising the physicians and nurses. Ms. Rienks expressed gratitude that programs supporting student training and engagement have been reinstated, emphasizing their importance in fostering future healthcare talent.

Dr. Alfrey reported on attending the California Medical Association (CMA) meeting. During a session with a physician leader from Adventist Health, Dr. Alfrey raised concerns about a recent letter from Adventist Health to the Mendocino Healthcare District regarding potential withdrawal of services from the Fort Bragg hospital if financial benchmarks, specifically a 5% EBITDA, were not met within 60 days.

Dr. Alfrey emphasized the critical importance of preserving access to care in rural areas.

Concerns were raised about potential service cuts, such as chemotherapy being redirected to other locations, which would inconvenience patients.

Dr. Alfrey is hopeful that the state would intervene if closures threatened access to essential services.

9. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

10. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Chair Alfrey adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.