



**MARIN HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

REGULAR MEETING

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025
MarinHealth Medical Center
Conference Center**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Alfrey called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

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

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

Guests: Lynn Seaver-Forshey, PhD RN, Exec Director, Quality Services

2. General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approve Agenda

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

4. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2025

Ms. Rienks moved to approve the minutes as presented with the correction of wording in Agenda Items for Future Meetings. Ms. Sparkman seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

5. Approval of Q3 2024 MarinHealth Medical Center Report of Performance Metrics and Core Services

Dr. Klein presented the report (Tab #2) and noted that all Tier 1 and Tier 2 metrics are in compliance.

Schedule 1: HCAHPS (Patient Satisfaction) – Ms. Seaver-Forshey reviewed the Q3 HCAHPS, noting a decline in scores due to a change in the hospitalist service. The decline was expected however, anticipated a recovery in the next quarter.

Schedule 2: Finances – Dr. Klein reviewed the Q3 Finances.

Schedule 3: Clinical Quality Reporting Metrics – Ms. Seaver-Forshey presented the Q3 quality dashboard, highlighting improvements in mortality rates, readmission rates, and all-cause length of stay.

Schedule 4: Community Benefit Summary – Report given

Schedule 5: Nursing Turnover – Statistics reviewed

Schedule 6: Ambulance Diversion – Reviewed

Chair Alfrey asked for a motion to approve the Report. Ms. Sparkman moved to approve the report. Ms. Rienks seconded. **Vote: all ayes.**

6. Healthcare Advocacy and Emerging Challenges and Trends

Dr. Klein shared insights from recent meetings, including those with the Hospital Council and the California Hospital Association (CHA), where discussions largely focused on the potential impacts of state and federal elections on healthcare funding. A key concern is the financial stability of Medicare, which is projected to be unable to sustain its current level of funding by 2030. In response, policymakers may explore cost-saving measures such as increasing the eligibility age, reducing benefits, or implementing means testing. Additionally, there is growing uncertainty surrounding Medi-Cal funding.

Dr. Klein reported new reimbursement challenges, particularly concerning Medicare. Historically, California hospitals have received a 2-3% increase in reimbursement rates annually; however, this year, the state experienced an unprecedented 2% cut.

Dr. Klein noted the California Office of Health Care Affordability (OHCA) is working to establish new regulations on hospital costs. The hospital is closely monitoring these developments to assess their potential impact on operations.

Dr. Klein reaffirmed the hospital's policy of not recording immigration status. Staff members are trained not to discuss immigration status with patients, and any law enforcement inquiries must be referred to senior administration. The hospital is developing a communication plan to reassure patients and the broader community that healthcare services remain accessible to all, regardless of immigration status.

Dr. Klein as a CHA Board Member is participating in the interviews for the gubernational candidates. He noted the race will be dynamic and candidates are being asked to outline their platforms, particularly their plans for healthcare.

Dr. Klein provided an update on Prop 35 Managed Care Organization Tax Authorization Initiative. The governor's office has appointed individuals to oversee the implementation of Prop 35. Payments to hospitals are expected, though they may not arrive before the end of the calendar year.



Dr. Klein provided an update on AB 1778 E-Bikes. A special committee formed by Marin County supervisors, which will focus on education and public awareness.

7. Committee Reports

A. *Finance & Audit Committee*

No report given.

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

Ms. Rienks reported the redesigned website is now live, noting board members are encouraged to review the website and provide any feedback or suggested changes.

Ms. Rienks provided an update on upcoming events.

- Careers in Medicine Event is scheduled for February 27, 2025 12:00 – 3:00 PM.
- Men’s and Women’s Health Seminar is scheduled for March 15, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Key topic include; Innovations for Enlarged Prostates and Diabetes Prevention, Diabetes Prevention, Breast Cancer Prevention and Menopause & Longevity.

8. Reports

A. *Hospital and District CEO’s Report*

Dr. Klein reported continued evaluation of campus expansion is underway, more details to be discussed at the upcoming board retreat.

Dr. Klein provided an update to the FEMA Funding. Funds from FEMA have been received.

Dr. Klein reported the Petaluma Hub has been highly successful, serving thousands of patients since opening in December. Urgent care services are currently available on Saturdays and will be expanded due to high demand. Positive community feedback continues to be received.

Dr. Klein provided physician recruitment updates:

- UCSF-Affiliated Arthroplasty Surgeon will start in summer 2025.
- Orthopedic trauma surgeon candidate nearing finalization.
- To date three (3) primary care providers have signed, three (3) additional offers have been extended and twelve (12) potential candidates in the pipeline.
- Dr. Castro and Dr. Sarkeshik will begin the new Heart Program in March 2025. They bring expertise in aortic valve replacement, coronary bypass, mitral/tricuspid and revision heart surgeries.



Katie Wickes, Executive Director of Access, has officially begun her role and is leading efforts to enhance scheduling, testing and procedural access.

Dr. Klein shared the MarinHealth held the first Town Hall of the year, with record-high attendance. Topics covered: Quality, safety, patient experience, growth, and upcoming initiatives.

Dr. Klein reported record-high Emergency Department (ED) census in January, with some days exceeding 170 patients and overall hospital inpatient census surpassing 200 on busy days.

Physician Satisfaction & Employee Engagement Surveys completed. Results to be presented at a future meeting.

Patient Safety (SCORE) Survey is scheduled for the end of February.

Dr. Klein reported Marinhealth Medical Center remains in the top 5% nationally and was again named Best Hospital by the Marin IJ.

Dr. Klein reported on several facility and security updates:

- Cedar Pavilion will be undergoing upgrades, including flooring, paint and furniture.
- Installation of generator at Rowland Way is currently in progress.
- Outpatient MRI replacement on S. Eliseo has begun with completion expected in the coming months.
- Emergency generator replacement in the Cypress Pavilion forecasted for 2025.
- Seismic Planning has begun for January 1, 2026 submission deadline.
- Bloom Energy Update: Consolidation of electrical meters is in progress. By November 2026, the hospital will transition to renewable, cost-saving energy.
- Visitor badging system will launching in early 2025.
- The weapons management system has been installed and staff training is in process.
- Valet service is on track to launch by the beginning of the 2nd Quarter.

B. Chair's and Board Members' Reports.

Ms. Rienks reported February is Heart Disease Awareness Month.

Ms. Sparkman shared a recent experience regarding the hospitalization of a friend and colleague's family member at MarinHealth. The family expressed deep gratitude for the excellent care, kindness, compassion, and flexibility provided by the staff.



Dr. Su shared the passing of Joe Garbarino, a local figure instrumental in California's recycling initiatives. He also conveyed the Garbarino family's gratitude for care Mr. Garbarino received at MarinHealth.

Ms. Ramirez expressed appreciation for Dr. Klein's discussion on the rules surrounding hospitals and immigration status, emphasizing the importance of preparedness in schools and healthcare institutions. Ms. Ramirez highlighted the significant levels of fear, anxiety, sadness, and stress within the community, particularly in response to ongoing events.

9. Agenda Suggestions for Future Meetings

Dr. Lisa Santora to discuss their strategies regarding the impact of the new administration on the immigrant community.

Commission on Aging to come in the spring.

Ms. Rienks suggested inviting Marin Community Clinic to a future meeting.

10. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Chair Alfrey adjourned the meeting at 6:51 pm.