

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 3, 2020

Bishop, CA – TIHP Conf. Center



TOIYABE
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley:

- Virgil "Dave" Moose – TREASURER
- Cheryl Andreas
- Charlotte David, Alternate

Bishop Paiute Tribe:

- Brian Poncho
- Kristopher Hohag
- Allen Summers, Alternate

Bridgeport Indian Colony:

- Ervin Lent, Sr.
- Janice Mendez – VICE-CHAIRPERSON
- Vacant, Alternate

Fort Independence Indian Reservation:

- Marilyn Bracken
- Rick Maddux
- Lindsey Stine, Alternate

Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation:

- Richard Button
- Robert ZUCCO – EXEC. MEMBER AT-LARGE
- Melvin Joseph, Alternate

Timbisha Shoshone Tribe:

- George Gholson – CHAIRMAN
- White Dove Kennedy
- Dora Jones, Alternate

Ututu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe:

- Joseph Saulque
- Geraldine Cady
- Jerold Blain, Alternate

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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kori Novak, Chief Executive Officer
- Ethan Dexter, Chief Operations Officer
- Jernon Kelly, Chief Financial Officer
- Summer Frazier, Chief Medical Officer
- Susan Lovelace, Executive Assistant to the CEO

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman, George Gholson, called the meeting to order at 9:15A.M.

II. INVOCATION

An invocation was given by Janice Mendez.

III. ROLL CALL

Board Secretary, conducted roll call, establishing a quorum to conduct business with 12 Board members present.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: *To approve the meeting agenda as presented.*
M/S/C: Marilyn Bracken / Janice Mendez / Carried unanimously.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI. GUESTS

None

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Kristopher Hohag would like to add in the guest section, “until he got on the Board and read the By-laws and Incorporation.” To when he spoke during Leanne’s public comment. This was just for clarification.

Friday, March 6, 2020

MOTION: *To approve the meeting minutes for Friday, March 6, 2020 with one change.*
M/S/C: Janice Mendez / Robert Zucco / Carried unanimously.

IX. TRIBAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: *To enter Executive Session at 9:22 am.*
M/S/C: Marilyn Bracken / Geraldine Cady / Carried unanimously.

Board By-laws

MOTION: *To exit Executive Session at 10:36 am.*
M/S/C: Marilyn Bracken / Ervin Lent, Sr. / Carried unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the removal of Joseph Saulque, Board member for violating Article III. Section 6, B and send information to the Board Member's Tribe.

M/S/C: Janice Mendez / Marilyn Bracken / Carried unanimously.

It was noted that a letter from Joseph Saulque was accepted by the Board in regards to his right to be heard regarding appealing his removal.

XII. CEO REPORT

Ethan Dexter

Ethan reported that most of the month has been dealing with COVID-19. Summer was present to report on what is going on in the clinic. Summer let the Board know that we are cutting down traffic into the clinic. We have cut down on most of the in-house operations, Dialysis is working still and Dental/Optomety are on call.

The cut down on traffic is in line with the other hospitals and health dept. recommendations. We are making sure that we are in line with protocols of other health entities, we have also shortened hours to 9a-5p. We are keeping the staff and not rotating through at this time to keep exposure down.

Kris asked what the plan is for people that have tested positive. Right now they are being sent home to self quarantine/isolate, what is the next level? Summer stated that it is best to remove yourself from this situation if possible. If people are showing signs of deterioration we are sending them to the hospital and/or checking in on them. Summer is open to suggestions. The incubation period is 4 or 5 days. Kris asked if we are doing enough and if not what can we do more? Summer recommends that we wear masks as we may see peaking here in a couple of weeks and in our community it may be later than that as we are more secluded. Ervin Lent, Sr. asked how many people that have contracted the virus are from here or are from out of the area. Most of the cases in Inyo county are from here locally, we do not know any information from Mono county. This information is not put out to the public. Janice stated that the motels locally are filling up as travelers are coming from out of the area to get away from the virus. We do not have the ability to take on a big surge and law enforcement has only taken a small stance on climbers in the area. Ervin mentioned that Mammoth has a paper towel that can be reused, which could be used as a mask. Kris recommends that we send the mask patterns to all the Tribes and Board members, so they can decide if they should distribute to their members. We need to encourage people to make their own masks and help each other. Ervin asked how is the Bishop Paiute Tribe helping their members, Brian stated that they have a plan, broken down in phases. Brian will look into getting the plan distributed to the Board members. Brian asked about positive test patients, what information is given and can supplies be given to them at this point? Summer stated that we check on positive test patients and for signs that they are getting worse. Summer recommends that if people the infected person lives with can go elsewhere they should. We are not testing everyone due to just contact, they must qualify to be tested. Brian asked if there will be any information given out on who has the virus, such as various statistics. Ethan stated that, no we cannot provide this information with respect to HIPAA. Once it is later in the epidemic data might be compiled.

Keck school of medicine, Death Valley clinic, reduction of rent in Coleville are still moving forward, just more on hold due to the virus. Clinic operations are closed for the most part, except

emergencies until the virus is more under control. Majority of the Toiyabe staff are working from home. IT is looking into a new EHR system. Dialysis is treating patients in full PPE at this time and not seeing travelers.

MOTION: *To approve the CEO Report presented by Ethan Dexter.*
M/S/C: *Robert Zucco / White Dove Kennedy / Carried unanimously.*

XIII. COO REPORT

Ethan Dexter

Ethan reviewed his report. Mentioning the data that he is reporting on is from February. Lone Pine dental staff was discussed. Family Services encounters are increasing as well as Optometry. Public Health is concerned with how this virus is going to affect the community and especially our Elders. Our courier services in Lone Pine have stopped due to concerns about the virus, we have staff that have taken this job over. There also were no complaints or compliments. Brian asked how complaints are being addressed. Ethan confirmed that this is being done in the same manner as before and drop off locations are still inside the clinic.

MOTION: *To approve the COO Report presented by Ethan Dexter.*
M/S/C: *Ervin Lent, Sr. / Geraldine Cady / Motion carried.*

XIV. FISCAL REPORT

Jernon Kelly

Jernon reviewed the Fiscal Report, mentioning we are at 42% of the year realizing 49% of the revenue for the year. Payments are listed in the summary and the bank balance has changed due to our IHS funds being deposited into the bank account. Janice asked about the 9 million dollars that we are in debt, Janice would like this explained. Jernon explained that we had a budget showing a loss of 2 million of which 8 million is covered by grant funds.

MOTION: *To approve the Fiscal Report presented by Jernon Kelly.*
M/S/C: *Janice Mendez / Robert Zucco / Carried unanimously.*

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

105L Lease

As reported from CRIHB as we still have a lease on the building this will not benefit Toiyabe, while we have a mortgage on the building. Also, we would lose our M&I money. Brian asked if at the next meeting we could have Ron Moody on the phone to answer any questions that the Board may have regarding this item. The Board would like to have a special meeting to talk to Ron. Brian asked for a side by side comparison which would be helpful.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

None

XVI. EXTERNAL BOARDS REPORTS

California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC)

Ervin reported on that CATAC elected Janice Mendez as an alternate for our district. IHS presented information on the facilities and staffing at the Sacred Oaks facility. It could be a year before staff is on site. Ervin reported that the sites are non-native in design, which Tribal designs were requested by the Tribes.

California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)

No report meeting is later in April.

California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC)

The next meeting is May 16th.

XVII. ACTION ITEMS

Proposed for New Internet/Phone Systems

Ethan reported on this item in Shawn's absence. Shawn has been getting quotes on this item and the quotes are in the packet. Shawn received three bids for the phone system and internet package. The recommendation was to go with the Prosys contract as they are the most responsive and the phone system was bundled into the bid. Discussion was had on the system and any work that needed to be done. Kris asked about the internet system and what Schat owned and what the Tribe or digital 395 owns. Kris suggested that we talk to the Tribe to see if it is possible to go through them for internet services. Robert Zucco also mentioned that Lone Pine has an internet hub on their reservation and Lone Pine might be able to do a line of sight hookup. Janice asked if the Board could pre-approve this contract pending investigation into Tribal internet. The deadline to make a decision is as soon as possible due to work that needs to be done. Shawn will be in charge of getting more information from the Tribes to see if there is a better way to go about internet service. This could be approved via phone poll. Ervin warned about disruption of service.

Consent Memorandum – Board Committees Report.

None

Discussion was had on who would sign checks and it was decided White Dove Kennedy would sign along with Ethan and Dale Newell will sign White Dove's check.

Kris asked about masks and if we should be advocating to our communities. Templates are available online.

Janice would like to have the template to create masks. Ethan will forward to all the Board members.

XVIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will be, Friday, May 1, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M. in Bishop, CA, via teleconference.

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting.*

M/S/C: *Janice Mendez / Ervin Lent, Sr. / Carried unanimously; the meeting thusly adjourned at 12:53P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lovelace
Recording Secretary

Reviewed & authorized by:



Robert Zucco
Secretary, TIHP Board of Directors

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