

# **Board of Directors**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, August 7, 2020**

**Bishop, CA – TIHP Conf. Center**



**TOIYABE**  
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

#### **Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley:**

- Virgil "Dave" Moose
- Charlotte David
- Michael Bacock
- Vacant, Alternate

#### **Bishop Paiute Tribe:**

- Brian Poncho
- Kristopher Hohag
- Tilford Denver
- Tuche Stone
- Allen Summers, Alternate

#### **Bridgeport Indian Colony:**

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

#### **Fort Independence Indian Reservation:**

- Marilyn Bracken
- Rick Maddux – TREASURER
- Lindsey Stine, Alternate

#### **Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation:**

- Richard Button
- Robert Zucco – SECRETARY
- Melvin Joseph, Alternate

#### **Timbisha Shoshone Tribe:**

- George Gholson – CHAIRMAN
- White Dove Kennedy – EXEC. MEMBER AT-LARGE
- Dora Jones, Alternate

#### **Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe:**

- Vacant
- Geraldine Cady
- Jerold Blain, Alternate

### **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 9:11A.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. Marilyn Bracken joined the call at 10:15am.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

George would like to add the delegation letter for Bishop and Big Pine to Tribal Correspondence. White Dove Kennedy would like to add checks to Executive Session.

*MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda with additions.*

*M/S/C: Dave Moose / Janice Mendez / Carried unanimously.*

### **VI. GUESTS**

None

### **IX. TRIBAL CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Bishop Paiute Tribe Delegation Letter**

This letter is to seat Tilford Denver, Tuche Stone as delegates and Jeff Romero as alternate.

*MOTION: To accept the letter from the Bishop Paiute Tribe to seat Tilford Denver and Tuche Stone as delegates and Jeff Romero as the alternate.*

*M/S/C: Dave Moose / Geraldine Cady / Motion carried with 2 opposed (RZ/JM).*

#### **Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley Delegation Letter**

This letter is to seat Michael Bacocho, III. and Dave Moose as delegates and Charlotte David as alternate.

Janice Mendez mentioned that people that are going to be seated today have made posts on facebook. George clarified that delegates sign confidentiality and social media policies and must adhere to such when officially seated on the Board.

*MOTION: To accept the letter from the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley to seat Michael Bacocho and Dave Moose as delegates and Charlotte David as the alternate.*

*M/S/C: Robert Zucco / Tuche Stone / Motion carried with one abstention (JM) and one abstention (DM).*

### **X. INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, July 10, 2020

MOTION: *To approve the meeting minutes for Friday, July 10, 2020 with date correction.*

M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Janice Mendez / Motion carried with three abstentions (EL/TD/TS).*

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board By-laws

Geraldine asked about the redlined version, which should be in the mail. This is currently out to the Board for the 30 day comment period.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

MOTION: *To enter Executive Session at 9:35 am.*

M/S/C: *Rick Maddux / Janice Mendez / Carried unanimously.*

Personnel

Checks

MOTION: *To exit Executive Session at 10:43pm.*

M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Marilyn Bracken / Carried unanimously.*

George wants to make sure that the administration conference room is available for the grievance review on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **XII. CEO REPORT**

*Ethan Dexter*

Ethan reported that we are bringing people back to work and increase the amount of patients being seen with sanitization happening between patients. This is currently being re-evaluated due to the increase in COVID cases. The temperature kiosks are currently being utilized at the entry ways. Janice commented that this works very well as she has used the machine. We are working on buying additional equipment and running ads on the radio stations. In July there was a meeting in Lone Pine to work on a new building at the Lone Pine clinic. Medical reimbursement guidelines are being changed to increase the billable encounters. Legislation is being reviewed to increase the amount of time to spend the COVID money and IHS is looking into money for generators, which we need. We will have COVID policies to present at the committee meetings.

Ethan discussed the purchase of the pharmacy robot. We are looking at ScriptPro and the total price is \$437,825.19. This will work with the new EHR system. Geraldine asked about the cur-

rent pharmacy robot and if it was operational. This is very hard to use and requires more work than the amount of medication dispensed. This will be sold back for a credit of \$10,000. The Board wanted to make sure that this goes through the correct process and that there was no impropriety in choosing the vendor. Discussion was had on the NextGen system and if there was research done on the system as in the past the Board was told that some clinics were not happy with the switch to NextGen. The purchase of the pharmacy robot was referred back to the Finance committee. Geraldine asked about where the technician would have to travel from and Ethan will bring that information to the committee meeting. Tilford asked if we had a sole source policy, which George responded we do.

*MOTION: To approve the CEO Report presented by Ethan Dexter.*

*M/S/C: Janice Mendez / Tilford Denver / Carried unanimously.*

### **XIII. COO REPORT**

*Ethan Dexter*

Ethan reviewed his report. Mentioning the non-standard patient model due to COVID. We had started to open up the clinic. We were able to open up hygiene in Dental in July. Ethan mentioned staffing and interviews that were done. Family Services numbers are high and have been since COVID. Medical numbers have remained steady, Public Health CHR's are continuing to see patients, WIC continues to be virtual or telephonic, HR no hires or departures for July, Pharmacy received a visit from the State Board and we received no citations, IT phone switch-over is still being worked on and we are moving towards a new EHR. This change will be to Nextgen, the implementation meeting is next week. This could be online by January and could be sooner. George reported that this is news to the Board and NextGen was not mentioned prior. The Board should be more aware of this as it is being implemented next week. This should have gone to committee and the contract had been signed a few years ago with CRIHB. George stated that we did sign an agreement and changed the servers and then progress stopped on the conversion to NextGen.

Janice would like a report on the top three EHR systems along with recommendations from the department directors and this should be brought to the Finance Committee. Ethan also mentioned that he has reported on this system in the past in his reports.

*MOTION: To approve the COO Report presented by Ethan Dexter.*

*M/S/C: Dave Moose / Michael Bacock / Carried unanimously.*

### **XIV. FISCAL REPORT**

*Jernon Kelly*

Jernon reviewed the Fiscal Report, mentioning that the billing department has transitioned smoothly to working from home as long as the claims do not require conversing with a real person. The filing time should be extended due to COVID.

We received the PPP Loan and due to the size of the loan we will be subject to auditing. Jernon also discussed the other grants and incoming money regarding COVID protections. Dental has

been the biggest lost revenue department and we should be able to use one of these grants for some of this lost revenue.

Jernon has not adjusted revenue projections as this would be very inaccurate at this time. Bank fraud was discussed and we received more of the taken money back this week. We have claims in for other fraud amounts. Jernon's goal is to get all the money back and find out who did this.

The audit is still not closed due to the auditor being out of the office.

Jernon looked into the certified billing training which will be done through CRIHB as soon as they find a trainer. Jernon is also looking into insurance, Amerind was looked into and discussion was had regarding this insurance. Jernon will do some comparison and bring this information back to the Finance Committee.

Dave Moose asked about the CARES ACT funding and if Toiyabe has received any money from CRIHB. We have received money from this funding source. Dave mentioned that we need to work on getting generators for the clinic. At the TGCC meeting last week CRIHB mentioned funding that would be for generators.

*MOTION: To approve the Fiscal Report presented by Jernon Kelly.*

*M/S/C: Dave Moose / Rick Maddux / Carried unanimously.*

## **XV. NEW BUSINESS**

### Dialysis

Ethan does not have any information on this issue.

This will be tabled.

## **XVI. EXTERNAL BOARDS REPORTS**

### California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC)

First portion of the meeting was information on construction money and their might be available money there. Ervin forwarded a packet to the Board members.

Ervin mentioned at the youth wellness center there was one case of COVID at Desert Sage. This has prohibited people from being allowed into the facility. Staff is screened daily and they are hiring and recruiting for Sacred Oaks facility. This facility will open April/May of 2020. In the packet is information if you want to become a contact tracer.

Janice reported that Mono county has a large amount of COVID cases.

*MOTION: To approve the CATAC Report presented by Ervin Lent.*

*M/S/C: Robert Zucco / Rick Maddux / Carried unanimously.*

### California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)

Rick reported on the TGCC meeting and that CRIHB was trying to get approval for purchasing generators for clinics in California. National Indian Health Board is helping to push this through legislature.

Rick gave information on ordering supplies through CALOES, which must be ordered in case amounts. The CRIHB office has been sanitized professionally and there is limited staff in the office.

George asked about a contingency plan for power outages. We do have a small generator to keep vaccines temperature controlled.

*MOTION: To approve the CRIHB Report presented by Rick Maddux.*

*M/S/C: Michael Bacock, III. / Ervin Lent, Sr. / Carried unanimously.*

### California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC)

No report no meeting.

### **XVII. ACTION ITEMS**

#### Consent Memorandum – Board Committees Report.

*MOTION: To approve the consent memorandum.*

*M/S/C: Ervin Lent, Sr. / Michael Bacock, III. / Carried unanimously.*

### **XVIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will be, Friday, September 4, 2020 @ 9:00 A.M. in Bishop, CA, via teleconference.

George would like to see the staff on videoconference during meetings.

Tilford asked about new Board member orientation, which is usually done in October.

Ervin Lent, Sr. mentioned that most corporations do not put their CEO on administrative leave during situations like COVID.

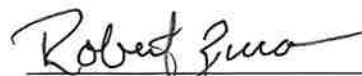
*MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.*

*M/S/C: Tilford Denver / Geraldine Cady / Carried unanimously; the meeting thusly adjourned at 12:30P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lovelace  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed & authorized by:



Robert Zuco  
Secretary, TIHP Board of Directors