

Board of Directors **Meeting Minutes**

Friday, July 9, 2021

Bishop, CA – TIHP Conf. Center



TOIYABE
INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley:

- Virgil “Dave” Moose
- Michael Bacocho, III.
- Charlotte David, Alternate

Bishop Paiute Tribe:

- Tilford Denver
- Vacant
- Jeff Romero, 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
- Jimmy-John Thompson – EXEC. MEMBER AT-LARGE
- Carmen Armitage, Alternate

Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe:

- Vacant
- Geraldine Cady
- Jerold Blain, Alternate

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Joseph Herman, 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 9:04A.M.

II. INVOCATION

An invocation was given by Tilford Denver.

III. ROLL CALL

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Robert Zucco would like to add Coleville Clinic Update, Tilford Denver would like to add Appraisal to Unfinished Business, Michael Bacocho, III. Would like to add Follow up on Grant in Big Pine under Unfinished Business. Michael also asked about vaccinations for people under 18, which are being sent to Northern Inyo Hospital.

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

M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Michael Bacocho, III. / Carried unanimously.*

VI. GUESTS

None

IX. TRIBAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 4, 2021

MOTION: *To approve the meeting minutes for Friday, June 4, 2021 as presented.*

M/S/C: *Robert Zucco / Janice Mendez / Motion carried unanimously.*

VII. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dialysis

Joseph gave an update on the progress of the new unit. We are putting the final touches on the development with Greenbough Design. We received our deficiency report from the State. This will be reviewed Monday/Tuesday and a response will be sent to the State by the due date. Only

two of the infractions dealt with the policies. These violations were minor fixes that have already been fixed. A lot of these things should have been resolved in the past. As we have turnover in staff these things are not as consistently reviewed.

The complete design of the new unit will be done by next week. Joseph mentioned that it could take six weeks to change the address, which must then be registered with the State. Joseph mentioned we will have enough funds to complete the Dialysis project. Tilford asked if at the Dialysis Committee they would see the complaints from the State. George replied that the Board usually does not see this report. Tilford thanked Nick for working with the Tribe on their distribution.

We are working on rebuilding the pre-renal clinic. This is an opportunity for Toiyabe to expand and build a patient base.

Program Review and Business Plan Proposal / Strategic Plan

Joseph reported that surveys have been completed. The next step would be to reach out to the Board and setup a meeting. All of this information will be compiled into a Strategic Plan. This is going to be setup in the near future. This will be changed to be titled "Strategic Plan". Dave would like to get an outline and schedule that this company is following.

Dave mentioned that staff have mentioned that they have ideas, but no avenue to express them. Joseph mentioned that this has been remedied and staff have been able to express their ideas.

Patient COVID Support

Richard mentioned that we should be advertising that we are offering the COVID vaccine. Michael mentioned that we should be going out to the communities to administer the vaccine. Joseph stated that we can put up a vaccination tent and have staff give vaccines. The CHR's should be administering the vaccine in homes to elders and other patients that cannot come to the clinic. Janice mentioned that we need to be aware of the vulnerability of the vaccine and that the whole vial needs to be used before it goes bad. Dave asked if we are tracking community wide percentage of patients vaccinated, CRIHB does this tracking. Dave asked about mandatory vaccination policy and if it has been approved. This policy has not been completed at this time. George also mentioned a special meeting for policies.

Janice asked about the variant and what precautions we are taking. We are going to go back to the COVID procedures and masks.

Marilyn mentioned that we should put out some information on the new variant and educational material.

Dave asked why we are so behind on this issue and we need to be making policy and be more consistent. George stated that this should be in writing by the next committee meetings.

Discussion was had on the vaccination card and requirements.

Dave asked if anyone has contacted other clinics to see what they are doing?

Land Appraisal

Tilford mentioned that we need to set up a negotiation team. Gloriana, from the Tribe will be doing the negotiation for the Tribe. This lease change would go back to BIA for approval, once agreed upon.

Jernon reviewed past grants and if we paid a vendor for this dance studio. The person in question was not a vendor in the system. Jernon will look into this more

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: *To enter Executive Session at 10:07 am.*

M/S/C: *Marilyn Bracken / Geraldine Cady / Motion carried unanimously.*

CEO Metric

CEO 3-month Evaluation

MOTION: *To enter Executive Session at 11:18 am.*

M/S/C: *Janice Mendez / Michael Bacoch, III. / Motion carried unanimously.*

MOTION: *To approve the CEO Metric.*

M/S/C: *Michael Bacoch, III. / Jeff Romero / Motion carried unanimously.*

XII. CEO REPORT

Joseph Herman

Joseph reviewed his report and graphs. Mentioning the 3rd party net revenues year over year, inclusion of the Family Services cost center, marketing/advertisement projects, we are situated in a good position to expand at this time, approaching pre-COVID numbers in dental, expanding optometry to get more patients seen, active Medi-Cal enrollment, scrubbing the database and patient registration, Medi-Cal Enrollment numbers, cleanup of accounts receivable and back billing, newsletters to Tribes, newspaper inserts, radio advertisements, verifying appointments including enrollment, certified enrollment counselors, going out to the community with the CHR supervisor, dialysis policies, dialysis staff, EHR system, core network starting implementation, new generator, new phone system, construction project, FQHC provider enrollment done, strategic plan, satellite clinics and capacity per provider. Joseph stated that Delta Dental is not taking grant applications at this time. Janice mentioned that the Bridgeport Tribe has received the insurance money and they would like to rebuild the Bridgeport clinic. Joseph will discuss this with the Tribal Administrator for Bridgeport. Joseph discussed dental turning over rooms faster to see more patients. Bridgeport will be seeing patients via telehealth to increase visits. Signage will be installed along the highway in Bridgeport by Caltrans. We are still pursuing a meeting with Lone Pine Tribe so that we can utilize the BeMar funding on that project. Joseph will expand on the marketing in the future.

Robert asked about copays being collected at the clinic. If you are a Native patient the copays should be covered by PRC, if you are PRC eligible.

MOTION: *To approve the CEO Report presented by Joseph Herman.*

M/S/C: *Jeff Romero / Geraldine Cady / Carried unanimously.*

Dave Moose asked about the PRC dollars for optometry and that we should be billing insurance as well to maximize our PRC dollars.

XIII. COO REPORT

Ethan Dexter

Ethan reviewed his report. Mentioning the Lone Pine modular project, dialysis design and development, MAT program and coordination with NIHD/Mammoth Hospital, Nextgen training, Scriptpro implementation, marketing for all sites, software implementation, class action law-suit for Bridgeport clinic, no shows and patient load, nephrologist communication, pharmacy controlled substances, and reinstatement of diabetic clinic.

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

M/S/C: Tilford Denver / Jeff Romero / Carried unanimously.

Richard Button mentioned the CHSDA in Kern County. We are trying to get the representative to the August Board meeting. The Lake Isabella Tribe has requested a clinic in Ridgecrest, which would also service Timbisha and Ridgecrest Native populations. Tilford also mentioned that he Owens Valley Board of Trustees also has land in the Lake Isabella area, that is for sale.

XIV. FISCAL REPORT

Jernon Kelly

Jernon reviewed the Fiscal Report, mentioning using the 638 funds first, Board expense report, watching large expenses and labor, payments were high this month, dialysis billing, missing reports from DT-Trak, review of bank balances, COVID funds, investment accounts, spending of large amounts, and upcoming contracts.

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

M/S/C: Tilford Denver / Michael Bacocho, III. / Carried unanimously.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

Change to Committee Mtg. Date – 7/21 to 7/27

Discussion was had on a new date for the meetings. It was decided to move the date to the 23rd of July.

MOTION: To approve to move the Committee Meetings to July 23rd.

M/S/C: Michael Bacocho, III. / Marilyn Bracken / Carried unanimously.

CIMC Meeting Request

This request is at the Board level due to past discussion.

MOTION: *To approve CIMC to use the meeting room for their meeting.*
M/S/C: *Janice Mendez / Michael Bacocho, III. / Carried unanimously.*

XVI. EXTERNAL BOARDS REPORTS

California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC)

Janice Mendez reported on the CATAC meeting, including how funding is distributed, YRTC discussion, and COVID discussions. This meeting was very informative. This meeting is facilitated by IHS.

MOTION: *To approve the CATAC report presented by Janice Mendez*
M/S/C: *Tilford Denver / Dave Moose / Carried unanimously.*

California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)

No report no meeting. Next meeting on the 22nd.

California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC)

No report no meeting. Next meeting in August.

XVII. ACTION ITEMS

Property Insurance Proposal (Approved via phone poll)

MOTION: *To approve the property insurance proposal.*
M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Robert Zucco / Carried unanimously.*

Consent Memorandum – Board Committees Report.

Dave asked who the Chairman of the Finance Committee is and if he is on the Executive Committee, which he is.

MOTION: *To approve the consent memorandum as presented.*
M/S/C: *Robert Zucco / Tilford Denver / Carried unanimously.*

XVIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will be, Friday, August 6, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M. in Bishop, CA, in person.

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting.*
M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Michael Bacocho, III. / Carried unanimously; the meeting thusly adjourned at 1:25P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lovelace
Recording Secretary

Reviewed & authorized by:



Robert Zucco
Secretary, TIHP Board of Directors