

Board of Directors **Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 4, 2021

Bishop, CA – TIHP Conf. Center



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 9:01A.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

Marilyn Bracken would like to add Status of COVID Shots and Dave Moose would like to add Board Meeting Policies for Virtual Meetings. Michael Bacocho, III. would like to know the status of COVID shots. Ervin Lent, Sr. would like to add CIMC Representative. Grant Status will be added under New Business.

MOTION: To approve the meeting agenda with additions.

M/S/C: Michael Bacocho, III. / Janice Mendez hompson / Carried unanimously.

VI. GUESTS

None

IX. TRIBAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 7, 2021

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes for Friday, May 7, 2021 as presented.

M/S/C: Tilford Denver / Robert Zucco / Motion carried unanimously.

VII. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID Vaccination and Meetings via Teleconference

It was discussed how many Board members have had the vaccination as this could be a risk for the other Board Members. We cannot make someone divulge if they have had the shot. I think that if you have not had the vaccine that the person should wear a mask. At Bishop Paiute Tribe

it is mandatory that you wear a mask if you are not vaccinated. This has been vetted through their legal. Richard asked when we are going to have an open meeting. George mentioned that all visitors that come into the meeting wear masks. Discussion was had on enforcement during the meeting. It was a feeling that for social distancing if you have not had the vaccine that this person wear a mask and it is still appropriate to social distance. A policy needs to be developed for vaccinations and virtual meetings. Ervin brought up people challenging policy in regards to getting vaccinated. Dave mentioned that this was discussed at the OV CDC meeting when they approved the policy for vaccination. It was discussed with their legal. Discussion was had on being at the Board meeting in person as attention needs to be paid to the meeting. When people are not at the meeting sometimes their attention is elsewhere.

MOTION: To develop a virtual meeting policy including both Board and Committee meetings.

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

Discussion was had on vaccinations for being on the Board and a policy. This would address pandemics, etc.

The Board discussed the need for Board Members to be vaccinated. Dave and Tilford will share their policies for us to review as they were vetted by each entity and went through legal.

MOTION: To create a pandemic policy.

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

Rick wants to know when are they going to get to Lone Pine to give shots. Dave suggested that they go to each community to give shots. Rick wants to know why the clinic is closed in Lone Pine and when this is going to change. Ethan replied that this was due to COVID and they do not have a front door person at Lone Pine so this is still in place.

Ervin asked about drug testing and are we are going to do this. Discussion was had on impairment and rules at meetings.

Dialysis

Dale reported on the unit and progress on the new dialysis unit. The techs are signed up to take the state test. We have two travelers right now to cover the floor. Right now we are short handed. We did however retain a social worker and her will be here when Dr. Maksy is on site. Dr. Maksy will be here for in person rounding and pre-renal patients. Dale reported on the visit from the State and they did a walk thru of the water room. He stated that their were no findings and left the unit. There was no validity to their complaint. He was very impressed with the water room. The staff and maintenance should be commended for the water room. Joseph added that last week they reviewed the budget and reallocated money to food so that we could do reward lunches, etc.

Dave asked about staffing issues and if staff that were let go could be called back to work. Should this be looked into? As a general practice we don't second guess staff releases and some of the rehire statuses should be reconsidered. This should be referred to the personnel committee. This could be an option if reconsideration is done.

Richard mentioned that vision and podiatry should be brought on board for the Dialysis clinic. Joseph has tasked Jernon with the PRC specialties costs to see what are the most frequently

used services. The CEO would like to see the top one or two specialties to bring them in house in the future.

George asked if the State has responded to their recent visits, which they have not at this time.

MOTION: To approve the Dialysis Report presented by Dale Newell.

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

Program Review and Business Plan Proposal / Strategic Plan

Joseph reported that Inder has requested data and they are reviewing it. Joseph has scheduled a call for Saturday. There were some concerns with the data. The Board Chairman was forwarded the outline going forward. There will be another call tomorrow afternoon to go over accuracy and validity. Ervin asked about inclusion of Bridgeport in this plan, which the plan is all inclusive.

Patient COVID Support

Ethan reviewed that we continue vaccine clinics on Tuesday and Thursdays. We did a survey to see how many people wanted their children to get vaccinated. This resulted in around 83% of people interested. We are sending these children to another provider to get the shot as we do not carry this vaccine. We will be having a meeting internally to discuss what the next phase looks like.

Richard asked about funding that needs to be spent on COVID and what the timelines are.

Jernon mentioned that some of this funding is good until 2024.

Ethan mentioned that we are working to spend this money before it expires.

Richard mentioned the abbott self-testing kits that are available currently. We are prepared to do rapid tests at the clinic currently. Tilford discussed the possibility of using thermal monitors at the entrances.

Ervin asked about the percentage of people in the county that are vaccinated. 62.9% of the county residents are vaccinated with at least one shot in Inyo county.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XII. CEO REPORT

Joseph Herman

Joseph reviewed his report and graphs. Public Health was left off of the forms, by accident and will be resolved in the future. Joseph mentioned that we are trying to keep the overhead down. Medical and Dental are down in numbers due to the virus. We ideally want to get back to post COVID numbers in Medical, Dental and Optometry. Family Services numbers are at their highest ever.

Dave asked about meaningful use revenue for our providers. He would like this looked into so that we do not miss out on revenue.

Joseph reporting on the billing department and we are almost caught up and into real time with billing. Discussion was had on collectible and non-collectible billing and adjustments. Janice asked if we were backbilling or if we were caught up, which we are. Also are we close to capturing all the errors and all the outstanding debts. Joseph reported that we are on a timely filing timeline and have collected as much as possible.

Joseph has been spending time in all the departments to hear what is going on in the company. He has also been spending time with Tribal Council's and patients.

Ethan has been working on finding peer relationships to collaborate on care.

Starting July 1st we will be using best practices for pharmacy audit. An external audit will be done every 6 months. The external firm will be here in August.

Scriptpro has assigned us a manager and we are arranging a call in the future, this will enhance our daily workflow.

Ethan explained the generic brand, which in most cases will be what our pharmacy will carry. The formulary that we carry will be reduced as we carry too many choices for one item.

Lone Pine satellite clinic is picking up, the Bridgeport Clinic has issued flyers to the base to get more patients in the doors. Marilyn mentioned that we need to get with Lone Pine Clinic to see why their no show rate is so low.

We are looking at equipment that will integrate with Nextgen.

We are also looking into signage in the future. Bridgeport signags should be in place next week. TIHP will be accepting travelers in the near future to increase revenue.

The Death Valley expansion is on hold until we stabilize the other three clinics.

Richard mentioned to move the CHSDA further south to cover Kern County. We need to designate someone to make contact with our representative.

Ervin asked about moving forward with services in Walker, which is part of the strategic planning. Joseph would like to use some of the non-recurring funds to purchase a mobile unit. A mobile unit would take care of the problem in the short term. A long term solution is further out and shouldn't be rushed.

Tilford thanked the CEO for the sitewalk and dialysis presentation.

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

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

XIII. COO REPORT

Ethan Dexter

Ethan reviewed his report. Mentioning the signage, dialysis renovation projet, MAT program funding with \$500,000 a year for three years. Fiscal department moved to accommodate the MAT program. We are moving forward with our core network upgrade.

Lone Pine clinic expansion is waiting on a meeting with the Lone Pine Tribal Council.

We have a temporary dentist trying out the clinic. We have a new Public Health department and is working on a grant to expand services.

E-learning are being completed for the Nextgen conversion.

We have sent our MA's to another clinic for peer training to bring best practices to Toiyabe. Scriptpro implementation is being done and the staff are currently working through the problems.

Certified Medi-Cal enrollers are being trained and credentialed. We are working on having a counselor in each department.

We are doing advertising and mailing out postcards and other advertising materials to patients and Tribe's. We also have a Toiyabe UTube page for videos to show patients our services. We are working on rebranding.

Richard Button mentioned that Lone Pine will be taking care of the cost of the broken windows at Toiybe, Lone Pine.

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

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

XIV. FISCAL REPORT

Jernon Kelly

Jernon reviewed the Fiscal Report, mentioning the Nextgen rollout and re-registering every patient. This will ensure that we have up to date information. We are warning the Board that this is coming as their will be complaints.

Jernon discussed the investment account, money market account and cash account. There was no major credit card spending.

Jernon discussed the budget and making cuts, which the Board had approved.

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

M/S/C: Dave Moose / Tilford Denver / Carried unanimously.

XV. NEW BUSINESS

Grant Funding

Michael Bacoch, III. Asked about a grant that was used to build a dance studio on the Big Pine Tribal lands. This could be a preventative medicine grant from years ago. This should have been for a public facility, not a private one. Jernon will look into this question and see what grant it was from.

CIMC Representative

We need to replace the CIMC Representative as Ervin Lent, Sr. does not want to be the representative. Michael Bacoch, III. Would like to be the representative.

MOTION: To appoint Michael Bacoch, III. as the CATAAC Alternate.

M/S/C: Dave Moose / Tilford Denver / Carried unanimously.

XVI. EXTERNAL BOARDS REPORTS

California Area Tribal Advisory Committee (CATAC)

No report no meeting.

California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB)

No report no meeting.

California Indian Manpower Consortium (CIMC)

No report no meeting. Packets were available.

XVII. ACTION ITEMS

Consent Memorandum – Board Committees Report.

MOTION: *To approve the consent memorandum as presented.*

M/S/C: *Dave Moose / Tilford Denver / Carried unanimously.*

XVIII. NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

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

MOTION: *To adjourn the meeting.*

M/S/C: *Michael Bacoch, III. / Janice Mendez / Carried unanimously; the meeting thusly adjourned at 1:17P.M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lovelace
Recording Secretary

Reviewed & authorized by:



Robert Zucco
Secretary, TIHP Board of Directors

