

# The County of Santa Cruz Integrated Community Health Center Commission

**Minute Taker: Mary Olivares**

Minutes of the meeting held November 1, 2023.

**TELECOMMUNICATION MEETING:** Microsoft Teams Meeting - or call-in number +1 916-318-9542 – PIN# 500021499#

Attendance	
Len Finocchio	Co-Chair Officer
Rahn Garcia	Member
Dinah Phillips	Member
Marco Martinez-Galarce	Member
Maximus Grisso	Member
Gidget Martinez	Member
Tammi Rose	Member
Jennifer Phan	County of Santa Cruz
Miku Sodhi	County of Santa Cruz, Asst. Director of HSA
Raquel Ramirez Ruiz	County of Santa Cruz, Sr. Health Services Manager
Julian Wren	County of Santa Cruz, Admin Services Manager
Mary Olivares	County of Santa Cruz, Admin Aide
<b>Meeting Commenced at 4:03 pm and concluded at 5:15 pm</b>	
Excused/Absent:	
Excused: Christina Berberich Absent: Michelle Morton	
1. Welcome/Introductions	
2. Oral Communications:	
Commission Member Gidget Martinez was sworn in by Juliette Burke.	
3. October 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Action Required	
Review of October 4, 2023, Meeting Minutes – Recommended for Approval. Rahn moved to accept minutes as presented. Marco second, Len abstained, and the rest of the members present were all in favor.	
4. Service Area Review – Action Required	
<p>Jennifer presented on the Annual Service Area Review and the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis (HVA). She stated the goal is to define and review the boundaries of the catchment area to be served, including the identification of the medically underserved population(s). Jennifer reported we are seeing an increase in the number of patients that we are serving at our health center’s as well as an increase in the number of patients residing outside of our service area. She stated the service area boundaries continue to conform to relevant political subdivision boundaries. She reported two out of the three health center locations reside directly within an area that has been identified as having medically underserved populations. The 3<sup>rd</sup> health center (Emeline Health Center) is located just right outside of the medically underserved area in North County but is still accessible via public transit (Santa Cruz Metro). Health Centers are located both in North County &amp; South County, eliminating geographical barriers to health care access for patients. Our service sites continue to be available and accessible to residents of the area appropriately. Jennifer is requesting approval for the following: Approval of new zip code edits on HRSA Form 5B to accurately reflect where most of our health center patients reside and approval for continuation of current service delivery sites &amp; services as well as recommended edits to service delivery sites hours of operations. Rahn moved to approved as recommended. Dinah second, and the rest of the members present were all in favor.</p> <p>Jennifer also reported HVA stands for “Hazards Vulnerability Analysis”. She stated this is a systematic approach to recognize, identify, &amp; rank top hazards that may significantly impact health center operations. Jennifer went through each clinics top three hazards. The Watsonville clinic had Tsunami listed as one of their top three. There was question on this from one of the commissioners as to why this would be a top three item, Jennifer will follow up with Walter. There is no action on this item.</p>	
5. Proposed Changes to the Sliding Fee Discount Scale – Action Required	
Julian presented on the proposed changed to the sliding fee discount scale. Julian reported the schedule of fees must be based on the reasonable cost of providing the service and must be adjusted periodically to reflect changes in the cost of providing the service. He stated the health center must make and continue to make every reasonable effort to collect appropriate reimbursement for its costs based on the full amount of fees and payments for health center services. The health center must ensure that any fees or payments required by the health center for health care services will be reduce or waived to assure that no patient will be	

denied such services due to an individual's inability to pay for services. Julian reviewed the data, benefits, and goals with the commissioners. Julian stated the action needed is approval of the proposed update of the Santa Cruz County Health Center's Sliding Fee Discount Schedule to an all-inclusive flat fee and approval of the proposal to increase the overall fee schedule structure for each Tier. Dinah moved to approved as recommended. Maximus second, and the rest of the members present were all in favor.

At this point of the meeting Rahn moved to add an additional ten minutes to today's commission meeting.

6. Board Composition and Meeting Times

This item was brought up at our last meeting to see if we wanted to change the date and time of our meeting's. It was suggested that we put this on the top of next month's agenda and send out a quick survey to commissioners on availabilities. Raquel also stated that we need more commissioners for our commission board.

7. Quality Management Update

Raquel reported they were encouraged by the Alliance to apply for funding available through The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Raquel stated the Central California Alliance for Health will review our application first then forward our application to DHCS. Raquel reported the potential amount we could receive is \$2,250,000.00 and this would be used to hire Community Health Workers, Clinical Quality Nurses and a Panel Manager. This is an action item Raquel will bring back. Rahn suggest putting this item to ratify the action to submit the grant so it's a verification on our part.

Raquel also reported on a previous follow up item on Medi-Cal continuous coverage unwinding. She stated starting in April, members with a June renewal date received redetermination paperwork in the mail. Counties will have 14 months to complete their backlog of redeterminations and members will have 90 days to submit paperwork.

8. Social Justice

Delete this item from agenda.

9. Financial Update

Julian reported on revenue and expenditures he stated for the first three months of this fiscal year, the total expenditures vs revenue is \$5.5 million, most of the expenditures is in the salary area. Julian also presented on the grant summary, he stated there is quite a bit of revenue we are getting ready to draw down and this will help reduce the deficit. Julian also reported the two billing staff vacancies are now filled. He increased the frequency in which he is provides expenditure information to the Health Center Managers so they are informed on the budget status and gave them access to the reports so they can look up the data for themselves. He lastly reported there are two clinician positions in Watsonville that have been filled, two positions at IBH and for the month of October clinics had an increase of 1000 patients.

10. CEO/COVID 19 update

No COVID 19 update today. Please get the word out on Emeline's Medical Director vacancy. Amy wanted Raquel to mention that a card had been sent to Caitlin and Coach.

Next meeting: December 6, 2023, 4:00pm - 5:00pm

**Meeting Location: In- Person-** 1430 Freedom Blvd., Suite F, Watsonville, Ca 95076 and 1080 Emeline Ave., Bldg. D, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Commission will connect through Microsoft Teams Meeting or call in (audio only) [+1 916-318-9542](tel:+19163189542), [500021499#](tel:+19163189542) United States, Sacramento Phone Conference ID: **500 021 499#**

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Board Chair or Co-Chair) (Date)