

The County of Santa Cruz Integrated Community Health Center Commission

Minute Taker: Mary Olivares

Minutes of the meeting held August 6, 2025

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

Attendance	
Rahn Garcia	Member
Dinah Phillips	Member
Marco Martinez-Galarce	Member
Michelle Morton	Member
Nicole Pfeil	Member
Amy Peeler	County of Santa Cruz, Chief of Clinics
Jennifer Herrera	County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Agency Director
Raquel Ruiz	County of Santa Cruz, Senior Health Services Manager
Julian Wren	County of Santa Cruz, Admin Services Manager
Mary Olivares	County of Santa Cruz, Admin Aide
Meeting Commenced at 1:00 pm and concluded at 2:10 pm	
Excused/Absent:	
Excused: Christina Berberich	
Excused: Len Finocchio	
Absent: Maximus Grisso	
1. Welcome/Introductions	
Juliette Rezzato, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board was present virtually to swear in commission member Nicole Pfeil.	
2. Oral Communications:	
3. July 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Action Required	
Review of July 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes – Recommended for approval. Dinah motioned to accept minutes as presented. Marco second, and the rest of the members present were all in favor.	
4. Policy 300.24 - Coverage for Medical Emergencies During and After-Hours Operating Procedures – Action Required	
Raquel presented Policy 300.24 - Coverage for Medical Emergencies During and After-Hours Operating Procedures. Raquel reported that two policies were combined into one. There were a few questions from commissioners on calling 911 for patients. Raquel will come back at a future meeting with updated policy for review and approval.	
5. Policy 300.31 - Continuity of Care and Hospital Admitting – Action Required	
Raquel reported it had been three years since this policy was reviewed and there were no significant changes. The commissioners had a few questions regarding policy. Raquel will update policy with language suggested and bring back policy at a future meeting for review and approval.	
6. False Claims Act P & P Approval – Action Required	
Julian reported this was a new policy he had brought to the commission a couple of months back and it was the commission's direction that Julian present this to County Counsel for review. Julian reported that County Counsel did not make any changes and approved the language as is. There was a motion from Marco to accept policy as presented. Michelle second, and the rest of the members present were all in favor.	
7. Report on Prop 35 Ramifications for FQHCs	
Julian reported on California Proposition (Prop) 35: Impact on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Julian reported on what is proposition 35 he reported Prop 35 makes the MCO tax permanent, requires federal approval each year, locks funds into Medi-Cal use only, protects Medi-Cal provider rate increases from being cut, and temporarily lifts state budget cap through 2027. Julian reported on the Direct Financial Impacts of FQHCs. He stated it locks in 2023-24 Medi-Cal rate increases, prevents surprise cuts during budget downturns, and supports stable PPS wraparound and APM payments. Lastly Julian reported on final takeaways of prop 35 that there will be more stable funding for Medi-Cal, FQHCs benefit from steady reimbursement and planning confidence, and risk remains if CMS says no.	
8. Quality Management Plan - Action Required	
Raquel reported that the Watsonville Health Center reported on this month's quality improvement project on colorectal cancer screening. Raquel reported that the Community Health workers did a large outreach on getting colorectal screenings kits out to	

patients. They created bilingual, easy to read instructions and as of June every physician numbers had climbed. Raquel also reported Ochin, who is the electronic health record vender had a grant from HRSA and they were in the top 20 performers of their grant. Lastly Raquel reported they had been awarded a healthcare technology grant in the amount of \$50,000. With this grant they will purchase 2 exam tables, immunization refrigerator freezer combo, pharmaceutical refrigerator, ECG/EKG, vital signs monitors, and other miscellaneous supplies.

9. Financial Update

Julian reported at the end of last fiscal year 2024-2025 that the revenue was \$46,894,756 and that was 91.37% of what they had budgeted for. He lastly reported that the deficit was \$3,672,638.00.

10. CEO Update

Amy reported that it is National Health Centers Week, and the Board of Supervisors made a proclamation yesterday, and they will be holding a press conference this week. Amy also reported the new Director of the Health Services Agency will be starting in September. Lastly Amy reported they had been awarded the bronze award through HRSA and that only 5% of Health Centers nationwide receive this award.

Raquel also reported they have a sustainability retreat scheduled later this month for the supervisors.

Next meeting: September 3, 2025, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Meeting Location: In- Person- 150 Westridge Drive, Suite 101, Watsonville, Ca 95076 and 1080 Emeline Ave., Bldg. Clinic. Cruz, CA 95060. Commission will connect through Microsoft Teams Meeting or call in (audio only) [+1 831-454-2222,191727602#](tel:+18314542222191727602) United States, Salinas Phone Conference ID: **191 727 602#**

☐ Minutes approved _____ / / _____
(Signature of Board Chair or Co-Chair) (Date)