



North Sonoma County Healthcare District

**North Sonoma County HealthCare District**

**November 30, 2023**

**Special Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- a. The Board of Directors of the North Sonoma County Healthcare District met in person at 1381 University Avenue, Conf. Room 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Healdsburg, CA and via Zoom Teleconference. Chair Jim Nantell called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.
  
- b. Director Galvan was not able to participate in-person due to a sudden onset of influenza. The Board Clerk, Ms. Dougan, asked legal counsel Ms. Erica Gonzales, if Director Galvan can continue to participate in all aspects of the meeting. Ms. Gonzales cited California Rule AB2249 which provides a ‘just cause’ exception, allowing Director Galvan to participate fully. Ms. Dougan proceeded to call the roll. The following Board members were present constituting a quorum:

David Anderson, MD, Member at Large  
Sue Campbell, Board Treasurer  
Jim Nantell, Chair  
Hector Galvan, Member at Large (remote with just cause pursuant to Rule AB2249)

Absent: Erin Gore, Member at Large

Also present: Erica Gonzales, Esq., District Counsel  
Ms. Melissa Martini  
Ms. Becky Ennis  
Ms. Ramona Faith (Remote)  
Ms. Kim Bender

Chair Nantell called for conflicts on the agenda items listed below. There were none. Chair Nantell then opened the floor for members of the public to comment on open session, non-agendized items. There were no comments.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1. Consent Calendar**

- **November 30, 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda**
- **October 19, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes**
- **October 31, 2023 Financial Statements**
- **2024 NSCHD Board Meeting Dates**

**Director Nantell called for a motion. A Motion was made by Director Campbell to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Anderson seconded the motion. Director Nantell called for a vote by show of hands, which was as follows:**



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Vote: Anderson: Y Campbell: Y Galvan: Y Gore: Absent Nantell: Y. The motion was approved 4-0. With one absent.

#### 2. Discussion: Presentation by SOS Community Counseling

Director Galvan introduced Ms. Becky Ennis, Executive Director and Ms. Melissa Martini of SOS Community Counseling from SOS Community Counseling. Ms. Ennis provided a background of SOS (Save Our Students) Community Counseling which was established in 1993 to focus on the community and school mental health needs. The group consists of 28 pre-licensed therapists and 4 licensed marriage family therapist support three programs:

- Clinical Program Model – traditional private practice environment.
- Team Success Program – placing therapists in schools in the District.
- Juvenile Justice Program – placing therapists in school districts to work with higher risk youth referred through law enforcement via citation or school administration in lieu of suspension.

The counseling is provided at no-cost to the individuals or their families. The therapists go through over 3,000 hours of training, prior to becoming licensed. Ms. Martini is an associate who provides counseling for approximately 25 students at Cloverdale High School, in addition to supporting group sessions, four days a week. Her impact on one student struggling with a mental health crisis was featured in a local newspaper publication.

Financial support for the program is derived from service contracts, private fee for service and grants. Currently the program is operating with a \$180,000 shortfall for six months. The average staff member makes approximately \$20/hr. Continued success will rely on successful collaborations with partners to assure that trainees going through the program will have a job offered as a licensed therapist. Current funding from the County is in jeopardy of expiring, effecting the ability of the program to continue. Restructuring the budget and staffing is underway to continue with the limited funds available.

The Board was very appreciative of the critical work SOS Community Counseling is doing for the youth in the schools which is in alignment of the focused needs as prioritized by the District Board of Directors.

#### 3. Discussion / Possible Action: Grant Funding Policy Review and Planning

Director Nantell welcomed Ms. Ramona Faith, CEO, Healthy Petaluma District and Foundation and Ms. Kim Bender from the Healthcare Foundation to discuss their approach to Grant giving in order to inform a more future grant process for the NSCHD Board.

Ms. Faith shared that the Health Petaluma Foundation Board has received 24 grant applications with the focus on supporting treatment of mental health in any aspect. During the study sessions that were held at recent Healthy Petaluma Board meetings focusing on Women's Health, Senior Care and Mental Health,



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the overall main need the panelists shared was for preventative mental health care. Most of the cases that are being treated are at the crisis stage. Additionally, providing counseling in schools at an early age is critical, and including family members in the treatment plan.

Healthy Petaluma's grant process for next year will be modeled after a general operations support model which is less restrictive compared to a programmatic grant model. The funds allocated for 2024 are currently \$150,000 but may be increased based on the number of grantees selected. Ms. Faith reminded the group that the funds that will be granted by the NSCHD Board are public funds and may be subject to public scrutiny.

The Healthy Petaluma Foundation Board has enlisted the health of Ms. Karin Demarist as a consultant as well as the support of Ms. Faith, Mr. Ben Spierings and an administrative assistant to support the grant giving process. The grant giving process must have dedicated staff to administer the process.

Ms. Kim Bender from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Sonoma County (the "Foundation") outlined the process that they go through when administering grants. The Foundation generally utilizes a competitive process when awarding grants, with a support staff of 1.8 full-time individuals, which includes Ms. Bender. Ms. Bender shared the Foundation's strategic plan which is included with these minutes as Attachment 1.

Ms. Bender suggested that the NSCHD may want to consider allowing the Foundation to administer the grant monies, with clear parameters of how the funds are to be given, with the possibility of obtaining matching funds with the Foundation, Providence, or other agencies. The Foundation charges a 15% management fee. Part of the services provided would include advertising in local newspapers and newsletters about how the grant funds are allocated and how they are used.

The Board thanked both Ms. Faith and Ms. Bender for their insights. Discussion continued that due to the lack of administrative support, the Board may opt to give the grant monies to the Foundation to administer, with clear oversight. The Board members in attendance shared their support for working with the Foundation, but a formal decision will need to be delayed until the entire Board is able to discuss and an Action taken.

**4. Discussion / Possible Action: Financial Matters**

Director Campbell suggested that the Board should consider adopting the Budget in January. Last year the Budget was adopted in February.

Mr. Troy Gideon, interim CAO of Providence Healdsburg Hospital will be presenting his strategic plan at the January Board meeting set for January 25, 2024.



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Director Campbell reported that Mr. Nathanael Oliver suggested that the Board should consider charging Providence an administrative fee for the staff time spent on collecting the parcel tax monies that are received by Providence. Each year applications for exemptions need to be processed, reviewed and approved by the County. Director Campbell, Ms. Dougan, Mr. Oliver and the Accountant spent a considerable amount of time logging each interaction with each constituent.

Director Anderson suggested determining what other Districts charge for this service. Director Campbell indicated that it would be similar to how the Board charged 1.5% for administering the IGT funds. After further discussion, the Board determined that an estimated calculation of the time spent on processing the parcel tax exemptions should be the next step.

#### 5. Discussion / Action: Hospital Matters

- Community Board Meetings

Director Campbell attended a Community Board Meeting in Petaluma. The Providence Healdsburg Hospital will be going live with EPIC the weekend of December 2, 2023. Healdsburg Hospital is the last of the Providence hospitals to transition to EPIC, which will be improving data sharing and quality reporting, as well as improving physician access.

Dr. Paul Marguglio will serve as the Community Board Chair starting January 2024.

- Quality Committee – There was no meeting/nothing to report.
- Community Benefit Committee

Director Anderson reported that the Council on Aging performed a survey of seniors, which showed the greatest concern facing those 65-70 was the cost of housing and access to transportation. Individuals over the age of 70 did not respond. Out of the 2800 questionnaires distributed, only 400 responded. The Council on Aging was criticized for not capturing a wider population.

Director Anderson also attended a meeting of the Harm Reduction Task Force (HRTF). The HRTF has obtained a large disposal bin to collect used needles/sharp instruments that was financed by a local agency. The location of the bin is yet to be determined assuring it is accessible to everyone, not just the homeless. The HRTF is also creating 3–5-minute training videos and will distribute to several organizations on how to administer Narcan. The roll-out is scheduled for January/February 2024.

Director Campbell suggested that awareness of the opioid crisis will become more aware when the Portrait of Sonoma is published and the Board may consider inviting Ms. Dana Codron back to a future Board meeting for an update on what Providence is planning on financially supporting.

#### 6. Discussion / Possible Action: Regarding District Housekeeping

Currently, the December Board meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2023. The only topic on the agenda would be to decide on the Slate of Officers for 2024. Discussion continued that since Chair



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Nantell assumed the role mid-year, he offered to continue as Chair through 2024. Director Campbell agreed to stay on as Treasurer. Director Galvan would like to continue to acclimate to his role as a Board member prior to considering becoming an officer. Without the entire Board present, it was felt that an Action should be delayed. It was decided that since the Slate of Officers decision was the only topic for the December meeting, the December 2023 meeting will be cancelled.

Ms. Gonzalez was asked if delaying appointing the Slate of Officers until the January 25, 2024, meeting was allowed. Ms. Gonzalez responded that the appointments can be made at the beginning of the January meeting, to be effective January 1, 2024. If Ms. Gonzalez discovers any requirement to the contrary, she will inform the Board.

**7. Legal Report.**

There was no report.

**8. Share information from other meetings attended by Board Members.**

There was nothing additional to share.

**9. Consideration of Materials Disseminated by Board Members.**

There was nothing additional to share.

Chair Jim Nantell adjourned the meeting at 5:53 PM.