

# MEETING MINUTES

## ROSELAND MEDICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION



Date: September 9, 2024,  
Time: 9:11am  
Meeting called to order by: Vice President Tiffany Hightower

### IN ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners

Joseph Harrington, Tiffany Hightower, Darrell Hill, Dennis O'Malley, Tina Sanders, Harry Wilkins, Timothy Egan

#### Ex Officio Commissioners

Sharron Matthews, Sacella Smith (v)

#### Far South CDC Staff

Interim Executive Director, Abraham Lacy, Patricia Ballay

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Vice President, Tiffany Hightower, at 9:11 am on Monday, September 9, 2024

### II. ROLL CALL

Roll Call was completed by Secretary Tim Egan. In accordance with the Roseland Community Medical District Act 70 ILCS 935/10e, a quorum is established, and the Commission may legally transact business.

- Motion by Tiffany Hightower to allow Ex Officio Commissioner Smith to participate via zoom was seconded by Ex Officio Commissioner Matthews and approved unanimously.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 10, 2024

Commissioner Harrington motioned that the minutes be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Ex Officio Commissioner Matthews and passed unanimously.

### V. PROGRAM REPORT

#### ESTABLISHING REACH: ADDRESSING HOSPITAL FUNDING CHALLENGES

Commissioner Egan discussed the establishment of a new organization called Reach, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Reach was established to address the challenges faced by hospitals due to the loss of funding from the hospital tax assessment. The organization aims to bolster the OB program and expand the behavioral health program. Commissioner Egan also discussed the renovation of the OB department, the creation of a prenatal home for pregnant women suffering from addiction or behavioral health issues, and the establishment of adolescent sustainable healing centers. The organization has secured funding for these initiatives and is working to implement these programs. Revenue Generating and will have a \$90mil impact to the community over the next 5 years.

Commissioner Harrington also mentioned his involvement with State Senator and the State Health Department's task force on infant and maternal mortality, emphasizing the high infant and maternal morbidity and mortality rates in the United States, particularly among African American women and babies, and the potential for significant impact on the local community. He also expressed excitement about the team's work and the potential for synergy in their plans and mentioned a policy summit scheduled annually.

Commissioner Egan discussed the resilience of Roseland Hospital during the Covid-19 pandemic, emphasizing its commitment to serving the community despite significant financial losses. The hospital faced legal battles against defamation and false accusations, which he described as a significant challenge to the hospital's reputation. Commissioner Egan expressed optimism about recent financial transfers and highlighted the challenges of achieving a high rating, attributing this to factors such as marketing and lobbying.

## **VI. FINANCIAL REPORT**

- First payment from CCT check has been received as well as the \$15,000 award. Money is in Far South's Account but will be transferred to RMDC once Accounting Principles have been passed.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Audit and Compliance Committee Approval**

Ex Officio Commissioner Mathews discussed the committee's responsibilities, including ensuring financial procedures are correct and maintaining compliance with integrity. She also highlighted the need to review financial reporting procedures, procurement processes, and sustainability, and emphasized the importance of preparing for a legislative audit meeting. There have been two meetings of this commission. There was a suggestion re: hiring a high-level administrative assistant or office manager due to the limited budget. This committee needs to oversee hiring. There was a draft Charter introduced at the meeting and given to all commissioners. An Advisory Board with 14 members, including Dr. Tony, Holly Betts, Ronnie Havens, Jerry Davis, Kimberly Hodson, Dr. Robert L. House, Tanya Robinson, Karen Lowland, Andrea Reid, Dr. Carolyn Dares, Toby Salon, and Wanda Wright, was established to provide guidance. Commissioner Harrington motioned to approve the committee, which was seconded by Commissioner Sanders and passed unanimously.

### **Finance Committee Approval**

Interim Director Lacy reviewed the accounting policies, which were deemed necessary for proper business transactions. Standard policy and procedures for transacting business. Key points included allowing revisiting standards for online banking and incorporating procurement procedures. Motion to adopt the Accounting Policies Standards and Procedures brought by Ex Officio Commissioner Mathews and seconded by Commissioner Sanders, passed unanimously.

### **RMDC Advisory Board**

The Advisory Board Headed by Commissioner Sanders has 14 members, including Dr. Tonya Roberson, Holle Betts, Dr. Thomas Britt, Diane Latiker, Jerry Davis-EL, Kimberly Hobson, Rev. Dr. Robert House, Marcus Murray, Sherry Nolan, Andrea Reed, Dr. Carol Rodgers, Tony Salaam, and Wanda Wright was established to provide guidance. The overview of the roles and responsibility will fall in the commission bylaws under committees.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

The commission reviewed commission vacancies, discussing working with the mayor's office to fill vacancies by year-end. Interim ED Lacy discussed Governance and Nomination Committee's role in bylaws, hiring, and mission direction, aiming to complete its charter this year and need a chair. Commissioner Hightower expressed interest in the chair position. RMD also discussed challenges in finding suitable office space. And the search continues.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time

## **X. NEXT STEPS**

Put together a November 2024 Town Hall meeting to update the community on major developments like the healthcare transformation collaborative and the district's progress, as well as the need for a new community meeting. We now have more to share, so it is a good time to reengage the community.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

September 10, 2024 at 10:31 am Motion by President Harrington, Second by Commissioner Wilkins.