



# West Side Health Care District

119 Adkisson Way Taft, CA 93268 (661) 765-7234

## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 10:00 am

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President, Eric Cooper, called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Pledge of Alligence was led by Virginia Miller. Those present were:

Eric Cooper	President
Adele Ward	Vice President
Virginia Miller	Board Secretary/Treasurer
Jan Ashley	Board Member
Darren Walrath	Board Member
Gerald Starr	Executive Director
Ryan Shultz	Director of Clinical Operation

In attendance, Ed Whiting, Taft City Council member, Brent Moon, Kern County Fire Department (retired) and Craig Jones, Taft City Manager.

**2. PUBLIC INPUT**

None at this time.

**3. REVIEW/DISCUSS EMERGENCY DISASTER PREPARDNESS PLANNING**

Mr. Cooper welcomed all in attendance and noted the Special Board Meeting is called to review and discuss emergency preparedness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eric requested that Mr. Starr initiate discussions with a review of recent activities in response to the potential surge of patients given the experiences in metropolitan New York and Los Angeles.

Mr. Starr distributed four documents (attached): 1. Suggested issues for discussion; 2. Memorandum of the 3/23 and 3/24 meetings with City and School leaders; 3. Information regarding support for surge provided to Mercy Southwest Hospital; and 4. a diagram of the TUHS Boys Gym as an alternate site. Following Mr. Starr comments Mr. Cooper asked Dr. Ostrom for a summary of recent COVID-19 activity in the Bakersfield Emergency Departments.

Dr. Ostrom indicated the volume of patients in the Emergency Departments was down approximately 20%, however, the acuity of patients was higher. The experience of the pandemic in urban areas and Europe would indicate that we could expect an increase in patient volume as the COVID-19 continues to spread to less populated areas. He noted that the challenge for the Westside in supporting the urban hospitals in that surge would be to provide care for patients that can be discharged to a lower level of care.

Open discussion led to options for preparing to take care of patients at a lower of care were had. Options and activities to provide for support staff and equipment were offered and discussed: existing WSFHC space; the TUHS boy's gym; and, tents were discussed with noted pros and cons for each potential site. Various options (e.g., OMNI, MCCF, PHMRC, etc.) for additional medical staff were discussed.

Following discussion the following sequence of actions will be pursued: 1. WSFHC will establish/evaluate model observation beds in the examination rooms of the previous Clinic. 2. Continue to evaluate the potential of establishing the gym as a site for shelter, quarantine and isolation of patients. This could support a Westside surge as well as lower level of care patients discharged from Bakersfield Hospitals.

Future planning for biological or natural disasters would follow using the lessons-learned after the COVID-19 activity subsides.

Discussions continued regarding an Incident Command System for Command, Communication and Control of this and future emergency situations. The communications process through the City Manager and Department of Public Health were discussed. The present communications between the WSHCD and the Department of Public Health were noted. The daily conference calls between City Mangers were noted. There was discussion regarding the need to establish procedures to obtain funding/reimbursement from Government resources (FEMA for example).

There was discussion that the WSHCD Board should officially declare that sufficient data and prudent planning would support a Declaration of a health care pandemic emergency.

President, Eric Cooper appointed Mr. Walrath and Ms. Ashley as members of the Board representing the District in future planning sessions.

Mr. Cooper appointed Mr. Walrath and Ms. Ashley as members of the Board representing the District in future planning sessions. Following that discussion a motion to approve was made by Darren Walrath and seconded by Adele Ward.

Wording of the Resolution from Ryan Shultz

There was further discussion that the existence of a Long-term or Skilled Nursing Facility on the Westside would facilitate future planning for care of patients in a surge situation in the event of a biological or natural disaster.

4. **CLOSED SESSION**

The board did not enter into Closed Session.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, the Special Board meeting of March 31, 2020, was adjourned at 12:10pm

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Virginia Miller, Board Secretary/Treasurer