



## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Kern Medical Center  
1700 Mount Vernon Avenue  
Conference Room 1058  
Bakersfield, California 93306**

**Regular Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

11:30 A.M.

#### BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout  
Roll Call: 6 Present; 1 Absent - Berjis

NOTE: The vote is displayed in bold below each item. For example, Berjis-Pelz denotes Director Berjis made the motion and Director Pelz seconded the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA/OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: ALL ITEMS LISTED WITH A "CA" OR "C" WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE AND APPROVED BY ONE MOTION.

#### BOARD ACTION SHOWN IN CAPS

#### RECOGNITION

- 1) Presentation recognizing the memory of David Weinstein, M.D., Department of Psychiatry –  
RECEIVED AND FILED

#### PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2) This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Board on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Board. Board members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Board at a later meeting. In addition, the Board may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. **SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION. THANK YOU!**  
**NO ONE HEARD**

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS

- 3) On their own initiative, Board members may make an announcement or a report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code section 54954.2(a)(2)) –  
**NO ONE HEARD**

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- CA  
4) Minutes for the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors regular meeting on January 21, 2026 –  
APPROVED  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

- CA  
5) Proposed Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 69022 with Wilbur Nelson Montana, D.O., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Medicine for the period December 1, 2022 through February 28, 2026, extending the term for two years from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2028, and increasing the maximum payable by \$1,800,000, from \$2,300,000 to \$4,100,000, to cover the extended term –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 015-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

- CA  
6) Proposed Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 16523 with Yasser Ratl Mrad, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical and administrative services in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the period March 16, 2023 through March 15, 2026, extending the term for three years from March 16, 2026 through March 15, 2029, and increasing the maximum payable by \$2,250,000, from \$2,250,000 to \$4,500,000, to cover the extended term –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 016-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

- CA  
7) Proposed Amendment No. 5 to Agreement 041-2023 with Tarun Rustagi, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Medicine for the period March 16, 2023 through March 15, 2026, extending the term for an additional period from March 16, 2026 through May 29, 2026, and increasing the maximum payable by \$400,000, from \$7,226,435 to \$7,626,435, to cover the initial term –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 017-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

- CA  
8) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 147-2025 with Sequoia Brain & Spine, Inc., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery, revising the term of the Agreement from May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2029 to April 15, 2026 through April 30, 2029 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 018-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 9) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-4034314 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of professional services to design and deploy a custom Blood Bank CCL Tag modification, for a project term of 90 days, in an amount not to exceed \$7,531 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 019-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 10) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-4220419 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of FetaLink Connectivity equipment and support, from February 18, 2026 to February 17, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$16,841, plus applicable fees and taxes –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 020-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 11) Proposed retroactive First Amendment to the Agreement 037-2024 with Elevate Patient Financial Solutions, LLC, an independent contractor, revising the current fee schedule, with an estimated annual cost of \$384,000, effective February 1, 2026 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 021-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 12) Proposed Quotation 000489722.3 with Getinge USA Sales, LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for maintenance and repair services of the intra-aortic balloon pump from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2031, in an amount not to exceed \$29,863 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 022-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 13) Proposed retroactive Agreement with Interim Diagnostic Imaging, LLC, an independent contractor, for a mobile MRI trailer from December 29, 2025 through July 27, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$385,000 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 86025  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 14) Proposed retroactive Change Order No. 8 to Agreement 034-2024 with McMurtrey Lince, Inc., an independent contractor, for design changes for HCAI approval of the Pediatric Emergency Department, increasing the maximum payable by \$163,914, from \$3,696,169 to \$3,860,083 –  
MADE FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW PER SECTIONS 15301, 15302 AND 15061(b)(3) OF STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 023-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 15) Proposed retroactive Lease Agreement with RW Bakersfield LTD, an independent contractor, for clinic space at 9300 Stockdale Highway, Suite 200, Bakersfield, CA 93311 from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2035, in an amount not to exceed \$5,290,050 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 024-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 16) Proposed retroactive Lease Agreement with RW Bakersfield LTD, an independent contractor, for clinic space at 9300 Stockdale Highway, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93311 from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2035, in an amount not to exceed \$2,508,500 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 025-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 17) Proposed Quote 230761188 with California Mobile Kitchens, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for temporary kitchen trailer units, effective February 18, 2026, through project completion, in an amount not exceed \$277,420 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 026-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 18) Proposed Change Order No. 3 to Agreement 160-2024 with Nwestco, LLC, an independent contractor, for installation of an above ground fuel tank, increasing the maximum payable by \$7,408, from \$207,210, effective February 18, 2026 – MADE FINDING THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT FROM FURTHER CEQA REVIEW PER SECTIONS 15301, 15302 AND 15061(b)(3) OF STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 027-2026; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 19) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Master Services Agreement 053-2021A-D, with Stericycle, Inc., an independent contractor, adding 8500 Stockdale Highway, Suite 150 as a waste disposal location from February 18, 2026 through August 31, 2026, increasing the maximum payable by \$5,000, from \$1,692,000 to \$1,697,000, to cover the term – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 028-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

CA

- 20) Proposed Master Services and Business Associate Agreements with RSM US LLP, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for virtual Chief Information Security Officer services, from February 18, 2026 through February 17, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$203,250 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 029-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

- CA  
21) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-4243568 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for equipment and support for FetaLink box components for Labor and Delivery, from February 18, 2026 through February 17, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$1,474 –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 030-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- CA  
22) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 21323 with Healthware, Inc., an independent contractor, for web-based pharmacokinetic services for the period April 18, 2023 through April 17, 2026, extending the term three years from April 18, 2026 through April 17, 2029, and increasing the maximum payable by \$31,800, from \$9,900 to \$41,700, plus applicable fees and taxes, to cover the extended term –  
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 031-2026  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- CA  
23) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –  
RECEIVED AND FILED  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- 24) Proposed retroactive Subscription Agreement and Business Associate Agreement with Keona Health, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for implementation of a nurse triage platform and call center from February 3, 2026 through February 2, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$182,000 –  
CHIEF AMBULATORY AND OUTREACH OFFICER RENEE VILLANUEVA AND CHIEF CO-CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER SANDY BAKICH HEARD REGARDING THE RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 24; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENTS 07626 AND 07726  
**Anderson-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- 25) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report –  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED  
**Pollard-Pelz: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- 26) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report –  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED  
**Pollard-Merz: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- CA  
27) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center –  
RECEIVED AND FILED  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**
- CA  
28) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of January 31, 2026 –  
RECEIVED AND FILED  
**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

ADJOURNED AS KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS;  
RECONVENED AS KERN MEDICAL SURGERY CENTER, LLC BOARD OF MANAGERS

**Anderson-Stout**

C-29) Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Administrative Report –  
RECEIVED AND FILED

**Merz-Stout: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

C-30) Proposed Service Agreement with Paychex PEO Holdings, LLC, an independent contractor,  
containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for monthly payroll services, in an estimated  
monthly amount not to exceed of \$12,000 –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 032-2026

**Merz-Stout: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

31) Proposed retroactive Quote 97-00088 with Olympus America Inc., an independent contractor,  
containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for maintenance and support of endoscopy  
software and equipment from January 8, 2026 through January 7, 2029, in an amount not to  
exceed \$46,671, plus applicable fees and taxes –

CHIEF AMBULATORY AND OUTREACH OFFICER RENEE VILLANUEVA HEARD  
REGARDING THE RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 31; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 05126

**Pelz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - Berjis**

ADJOURNED AS KERN MEDICAL SURGERY CENTER, LLC, BOARD OF MANAGERS;  
RECONVENED AS KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS

**Anderson-Stout**

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

**Pollard-Anderson**

CLOSED SESSION

32) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety  
Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

33) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health facilities (Health and Safety Code  
Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

NOTE: DIRECTOR PELZ LEFT THE MEETING AT 1:00 P.M. AND DID NOT RETURN

34) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government  
Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Daniel Bazan Jr., Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital  
Authority; Dignity Health; James Sverchek, M.D.; Chase Luther, M.D.; Larissa Morsky, M.D.;  
Janpreet Bhandohal, M.D.; Patrick Pieper, M.D.; Roldine Banatte-Garcon, N.P.; and DOES 1  
through 75, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-24-103099 GP – SEE  
RESULTS BELOW

35) CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Agency designated representatives: Chief  
Executive Officer Scott Thygerson, and designated staff - Employee organizations: Service  
Employees International Union, Local 521 (Government Code Section 54957.6) – SEE  
RESULTS BELOW

- 36) Request for Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or taking action on authority trade secrets (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(e)(1)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

**Pollard-Stout**

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 32 concerning Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – HEARD; BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THOSE DIRECTORS PRESENT (MOTION BY DIRECTOR PELZ, SECOND BY DIRECTOR POLLARD; 1 ABSENT - BERJIS), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL CREDENTIALING RECOMMENDATIONS; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 33 concerning Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health facilities (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 34 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Daniel Bazan Jr., Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority; Dignity Health; James Sverchek, M.D.; Chase Luther, M.D.; Larissa Morsky, M.D.; Janpreet Bhandohal, M.D.; Patrick Pieper, M.D.; Roldine Banatte-Garcon, N.P.; and DOES 1 through 75, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-24-103099 GP – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 35 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Agency designated representatives: Chief Executive Officer Scott Thygerson, and designated staff - Employee organizations: Service Employees International Union, Local 521 (Government Code Section 54957.6) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 36 concerning Request for Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or taking action on authority trade secrets (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(e)(1)) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M.

**Pollard**

/s/ Mona A. Allen  
Authority Board Coordinator

/s/ Philip McLaughlin  
Chairman, Board of Governors  
Kern County Hospital Authority