



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, April 16, 2025

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout
Roll Call: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- 1) 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

- 2) 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

RECOGNITION

- 3) Presentation by the Chief Executive Officer recognizing Kern Medical Center nurses Jenny Wilson, MSN, RN, Exemplary Nurse Leader and Marie Ruffin, BSN, RN, Humanitarian Nurse Leader, Brock Beeney, BSN, RN, Lori Cantugan, RN, Virginia Killian, BSN, RN, Gloria Torres, BSN, RN, and Vannessa Jauregui, BSN, RN, honored by the Kern County Chapter of the Association of California Nurse Leaders on April 10, 2025 –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON MADE PRESENTATION; CHIEF NURSING OFFICER TONYA BARRAZA HEARD

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

CA

- 4) Minutes for the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors regular meeting on March 19, 2025 –
APPROVED
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 5) Proposed reappointment of Directors Philip McLaughlin and Eric Merz to the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors, terms to expire June 30, 2028 –
REFERRED TO KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 6) Proposed Change Order to Schedule A-3 to Agreement 039-2021 with Healthcare Performance Group, Inc., an independent contractor, for information technology consulting services for the Kern County Hospital Authority Community Health Center for the period, September 2, 2024 through September 1, 2026, increasing the maximum payable by \$28,000, from \$267,620 to \$295,620, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 032-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 7) Proposed Schedule A-5 to Agreement 29824 with Healthcare Performance Group, Inc., an independent contractor, for information technology consulting and training services related to the Electronic Health Record for the period September 2, 2024 through September 1, 2026, increasing the maximum payable by \$18,000, from \$295,620 to \$313,620, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 033-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 8) Proposed Amendment No. 6 to Master Service Agreement 30718 with JDM Solutions Inc., an independent contractor, for professional consulting services related to the Oracle Electronic Health Record for the period November 21, 2018 through April 30, 2026, increasing the maximum payable by \$714,456 from \$4,294,780 to \$5,009,236 to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 034-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 9) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-3807903 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, for purchase of Altera telephone services from April 16, 2025 through December 31, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$900 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 035-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 10) Proposed Service Contract with Sciton, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for laser device repairs, for a term of one year from June 3, 2025 through June 2, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$23,876 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 036-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 11) Proposed Purchaser Specific Agreement with Health Trust Purchasing Group L.P. and Agiliti Surgical, Inc., independent contractors, for purchase of surgical equipment and maintenance for a term of three years from April 16, 2025 through April 15, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 037-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 12) Proposed Resolution in the matter of institutional support for and commitment to the Kern Medical Center trauma program –
APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-013
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 13) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 5 to Memorandum of Understanding 61320 with Kern Health Systems, an independent contractor, for the provision of translation services to Kern Medical Center patients for the period December 14, 2020 through December 31, 2024, extending the term from January 1, 2025 through February 27, 2028 –
APPROVE; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 038-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 14) Proposed Amendment No. 4 to Agreement 29216 with Beckman Coulter, an independent contractor, for service and maintenance of laboratory equipment for the period November 20, 2016 through April 19, 2025, extending the term for one year from April 20, 2025 through April 19, 2026, and increasing the maximum payable by \$165,000, from \$1,085,000 to \$1,250,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 039-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 15) Proposed Service Order Form with Therapeutic Research Center, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for continuing education resources for the Pharmacy Department from April 16, 2025 through March 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$20,930, plus applicable taxes and fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 040-2025
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 16) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 17) Proposed retroactive Master Service Agreement with Steris Instrument Management Service, Inc., an independent contractor, for service, maintenance and repair of surgical scopes and instruments from March 24, 2025 through March 23, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$766,889, plus applicable tax and shipping –
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TYLER WHITEZELL HEARD REGARDING RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 17; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 18925
Merz-Anderson: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 18) Proposed retroactive Addendum to Agreement 79524 with Advanced Imaging Services, Inc., an independent contractor, for preventive maintenance, repairs and service to the Siemens MRI and trailer for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, increasing the maximum payable by \$318,560, from \$541,440 to \$860,000, to cover the term –
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TYLER WHITEZELL HEARD REGARDING RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 18; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 14325
Anderson-Pelz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 19) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 040-2023 with Desert Hand and Plastic Surgery PC, an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery for the period April 9, 2023 through April 8, 2025, extending the term for three years from April 9, 2025 through April 8, 2028, and increasing the maximum payable by \$2,300,000, from \$1,200,000 to \$3,500,000, to cover the extended term –
NATALEE GARRETT, VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC PLANNING, HEARD REGARDING RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 19; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 041-2025
Stout-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 20) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 2 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, increasing the maximum payable by \$1,866,000, from \$3,860,435 to \$5,726,435, to cover the term, effective December 1, 2024 –
NATALEE GARRETT, VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC PLANNING, HEARD REGARDING RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 20; DIRECTOR PELZ HEARD REGARDING STATUS OF PAYMENT FROM ADVENTIST HEALTH; MS. GARRETT RESPONDED; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 042-2025
Anderson-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 21) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report –
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Pelz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard
- 22) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR ANDERSON INQUIRED ABOUT COORDINATION WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER JASMEET BAINS REGARDING HER EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN KERN COUNTY; MR. THYGERSON RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED

Merz-Anderson: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 23) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center –
RECEIVED AND FILED

Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

CA

- 24) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of March 31, 2025 –
RECEIVED AND FILED

Pelz-Merz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

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

Pelz-Anderson

- C-25) Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Administrative Report –
RECEIVED AND FILED

Anderson-Pelz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

- C-26) Proposed credentialing recommendations –
APPROVED

Anderson-Pelz: 5 Present; 2 Absent - Berjis, Pollard

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

Merz-Stout

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Pelz-Anderson

CLOSED SESSION

- 27) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 28) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Jeffry Huffman, an individual, Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, a California Public Entity; and DOES 1-25, inclusive, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-23-103540-GP – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 29) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Maria Elena Lopez-Rodriguez, v. Kern County Hospital Authority (an organization form unknown) and DOES 3-100, inclusive, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-20-100510 BCB – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 30) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Melissa Perry, individually and as successor-in-interest of Decedent Kimberly Morrissey-Scalia, Plaintiff, et al., v. County of Kern, a municipal corporation, Kern County Hospital Authority, et al., United States District Court, Eastern District of California, Case No. 1:17-cv-01097-KES-CDB – SEE RESULTS BELOW

- 31) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Weatherby Locums, Inc., a Florida corporation v. Kern County Hospital Authority, United States District Court, Eastern District of California Case No. 1:20-cv-00949-JLT-CDB – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 32) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Novarad Corporation, a Utah corporation, Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, Defendant, United States District Court, Eastern District of California Case No. 1:25-cv-00332-KES-CDB – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 33) 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

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION
Stout-Anderson

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 27 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 ANDERSON; 2 ABSENT - BERJIS, POLLARD), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL PRACTITIONERS RECOMMENDED FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT, REAPPOINTMENT, RELEASE OF PROCTORING, REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN STAFF STATUS, AND VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION OF PRIVILEGES; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 28 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Jeffry Huffman, an individual, Plaintiff, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, a California Public Entity; and DOES 1-25, inclusive, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-23-103540-GP – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 29 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Maria Elena Lopez-Rodriguez, v. Kern County Hospital Authority (an organization form unknown) and DOES 3-100, inclusive, Defendants, Kern County Superior Court Case No. BCV-20-100510 BCB – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

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Item 33 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

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 AT 11:30 A.M.

Merz



/s/ Mona A. Allen
Authority Board Coordinator



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