

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, June 17, 2026

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout
Roll Call: 4 Present; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, 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

NOTE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON LEFT THE ROOM PRIOR TO THE VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND DID NOT RETURN UNTIL AFTER THE VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

RECOGNITION

- 1) Presentation by the Chief Executive Officer recognizing Sabitha Eppanapally, M.D., for her outstanding leadership and service as President of Staff of the Medical Staff of Kern Medical Center from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026 –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON MADE PRESENTATION; DIRECTOR PELZ THANKED DR. EPPANAPALLY FOR HER PROFESSIONALISM AND Demeanor

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 May 20, 2026 –
APPROVED
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 5) Proposed renewal and binding of insurance coverages for hospital professional liability, general liability and umbrella/excess liability, sexual abuse and molestation liability, workers' compensation and employers liability, automobile liability, heliport and non-owned aircraft liability, directors and officers liability, employment practices liability, healthcare regulatory liability, crime, privacy and security (cyber) liability, underground storage tank liability, employed lawyers professional liability, fiduciary liability, and Kern Medical Surgery Center fiduciary liability with option to finance selected premiums through PRISM and AFCO Direct Capital Finance in an amount not to exceed \$2,492,680, effective July 1, 2026 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO BIND COVERAGE;
AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN PREMIUM FINANCE AGREEMENT-
PROMISSORY NOTE 090-2026 WITH AFCO DIRECT CAPITAL FINANCE; AUTHORIZED
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PRISM
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 6) Proposed Engagement Letter with Baker Tilly US LLP, an independent contractor, regarding the audit of Kern Medical Center financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$227,125 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 091-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 7) Proposed Quote with Bracco Diagnostics, Inc., an independent contractor, for purchase of a contrast injector for the MRI unit, for a term of eight years effective upon delivery, in an amount not to exceed \$46,000, plus applicable fees and taxes –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 092-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 8) Proposed Agreement with Kalderos, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for use of a web-based 340B claim submission platform from June 17, 2026 through June 16, 2028 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 093-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 9) Proposed Quote Q02120 with Sentec, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for scheduled maintenance of a Percussionaire VDR4 ventilator, effective June 17, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$3,500, plus applicable fees and taxes –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 094-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 10) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 61523 with Anh Dao, M.D., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Radiology for the period September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2026, extending the term for two years from September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2028, increasing the maximum payable by \$700,000, from \$750,000 to \$1,450,000, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 095-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 11) Proposed Quote with Baxter International, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for training on Baxter/Welch Allyn vital signs monitors, effective June 17, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$2,100 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 096-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 12) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 29824 with Healthcare Performance Group, Inc., an independent contractor, for professional consulting services for the electronic health record for the period September 2, 2024 through September 1, 2026, extending the term for two years from September 2, 2026 through September 1, 2028 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 097-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 13) Proposed Schedule A-6 to Agreement 29824 with Healthcare Performance Group, Inc., an independent contractor, for managed services support for Oracle Health applications from June 18, 2026 through June 17, 2028, increasing the maximum payable by \$2,802,508, from \$313,620 to \$3,116,128, to cover the additional services –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 098-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 14) Proposed updated Conflict of Interest Policy and Code for Kern County Hospital Authority –
APPROVED; REFERRED TO KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR APPROVAL
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 15) Proposed Amendment No. 3 to the Master License Agreement 28824 with MCG Health, LLC, an independent contractor, for licensing of evidenced-based clinical guidelines for the period May 20, 2024 through June 24, 2026, extending the term for three years from June 25, 2026 through June 24, 2029, increasing the maximum payable by \$173,684, from \$109,512 to \$283,196, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 099-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 16) Proposed Amendment No. 4 to Agreement 09324 with Greg Facktor & Associates, LLC, doing business as Facktor, an independent contractor, for consulting support services for the Federal Health Center Program requirements for the period February 13, 2024 through February 12, 2027, increasing the maximum payable by \$750,000, from \$750,000 to \$1,500,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 100-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 17) Proposed reappointment of Directors Juan Avila and Vernon Kemp to the Kern County Hospital Authority Community Health Center Board of Directors, terms to expire June 30, 2029 –
MADE APPOINTMENTS
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 18) Proposed Amendment No. 7 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 June 28, 2026, extending the term from June 29, 2026 through July 24, 2026, and increasing the maximum payable by \$60,000, from \$8,391,435 to \$8,451,435, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 101-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 19) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 002-2025 with Patrick G. Pieper, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery for the period February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2028, increasing the per diem rate for excess call coverage from \$1,200 to \$1,600, and increasing the maximum payable by \$120,000, from \$2,250,000 to \$2,370,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 102-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 20) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 112-2025 with Tung Thanh Trang, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical and administrative services in the Department of Surgery for the period September 20, 2025 through September 19, 2028, increasing the per diem rate for excess call coverage from \$1,200 to \$1,600 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 103-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 21) Proposed Amendment No. 6 to Agreement 099-2023 with Alton Scott Thygerson, a contract employee, for professional services as chief executive officer of Kern County Hospital Authority for the period July 19, 2023 through July 19, 2026, extending the term for two years from July 19, 2026 through July 19, 2028 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 104-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 22) Proposed Second Amendment to Bylaws of the Medical Staff of Kern Medical Center, amending the procedures for approving amendments to the Bylaws and revisions to the medical staff rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, effective June 17, 2026 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 23) Proposed Eighth Amendment to Operating Agreement of Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, increasing the capital contribution amount by \$1,000,000, from \$9,281,363 to \$10,281,363, for additional working capital, effective June 17, 2026 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 105-2026
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 24) Proposed Amendment No. 3 to Agreement 554-2021 with the County of Kern, as represented by the Administrative Office and Kern County Sheriff's Office for the provision of health care services at Kern Justice Facility for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2026, extending the term for one year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 106-2026
Merz-Stout: 3 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard; 1 Abstention - Anderson

CA

- 25) Proposed Amendment No. 7 to Agreement 718-2016 with the County of Kern, as represented by the Administrative Office, Kern County Sheriff's Office, and Kern County Probation Department for the provision of medical services to adult inmates and juvenile detainees at county-owned and -operated jail facilities for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2026, extending the term for one year from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 107-2026
Merz-Stout: 3 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard; 1 Abstention - Anderson

CA

- 26) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

- 27) Proposed retroactive Engagement Letter with Wipfli Advisory LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for consulting services to establish the Medicaid reimbursement rate for the Federally Qualified Health Center clinics from June 3, 2026 through August 31, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$86,920 –
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD REGARDING THE RETROACTIVITY OF ITEM 27; DIRECTOR ANDERSON ASKED IF THE AGREEMENT WENT TO THE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND IF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL WAS ISSUED FOR THE SERVICES; MR. CANTU AND GENERAL COUNSEL KAREN S. BARNES RESPONDED; APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 108-2026
Merz-Anderson: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- 28) Report on Kern Medical Center supplemental funding programs
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER TYLER WHITEZELL HEARD REGARDING THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO KERN MEDICAL CENTER; CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HITTING METRICS TO DRAW DOWN REVENUE; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Merz: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- 29) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report –
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; DIRECTOR ANDERSON MENTIONED KCERA ACTIVITY THAT COULD AFFECT LOSSES; DIRECTOR PELZ REQUESTED A BREAKDOWN OF INDIGENT REVENUE BY MONTH AND YEAR; MR. CANTU RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- 30) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR ANDERSON MENTIONED THE COUNTY OF KERN HAD RECEIVED WARN NOTICES FROM THE DIGNITY FACILITIES; MR. THYGERSON RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- CA
31) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- CA
32) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of June 30, 2026 –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Stout: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard
- ADJOURNED AS KERN COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS;
RECONVENED AS KERN MEDICAL SURGERY CENTER, LLC BOARD OF MANAGERS
Anderson-Merz
- C-33) Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Administrative Report –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Merz: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

C-34) Proposed credentialing recommendations –
APPROVED

Anderson-Merz: 4 Ayes; 3 Absent - Berjis, McLaughlin, Pollard

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

Anderson-Merz

CLOSED SESSION

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

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Merz-Stout

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 35 concerning Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – HEARD; BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THOSE DIRECTORS PRESENT (MOTION BY DIRECTOR ANDERSON, SECOND BY DIRECTOR MERZ; 3 ABSENT - DIRECTORS BERJIS, MCLAUGHLIN, POLLARD), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL CREDENTIALING RECOMMENDATIONS; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M.

Stout

/s/ Mona A. Allen
Authority Board Coordinator

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