



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
September 16, 2026**

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

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

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: VICE-CHAIRMAN BERJIS ANNOUNCED A CORRECTION TO THE TERMINATION DATE IN AGENDA ITEM 16 FROM MARCH 15, 2026 TO MARCH 15, 2027

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

CA

- 3) Minutes for the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors regular meeting on August 19, 2026 –
APPROVED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 4) Proposed ratification of appointment of Joshua L. Tobias, M.D., as Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine, effective September 16, 2026 –
RATIFIED APPOINTMENT
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 5) Proposed payment of incentive compensation in the amount of \$14,874, less all applicable federal and state taxes and withholdings, pursuant to Agreement 099-2023 with Alton Scott Thygerson, a contract employee, for Chief Executive Officer services for the period July 19, 2023 through July 19, 2028, for completion of certain annual performance-based metrics for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026 –
APPROVED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 6) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Memorandum of Understanding 058-2026 with the County of Kern, as represented by Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services for the period April 1, 2026 through September 30, 2026, extending the term for three months from October 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN AGREEMENT 136-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 7) Proposed Agreement with Patton Sheet Metal Works, Inc., doing business as Patton Air Conditioning, an independent contractor, for maintenance, repair, and emergency response services for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems from September 16, 2026 through September 15, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$950,000 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 137-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 8) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 153-2023 with Xanitos, Inc., an independent contractor, for environmental services for the period December 1, 2023 through November 30, 2026, extending the term from December 1, 2026 through November 30, 2029, increasing the maximum payable by \$2,194,988, from \$2,109,775 to \$4,304,742, to cover the extended term –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 138-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 9) Proposed First Amendment to Agreement 14220 with Bluesight, Inc., an independent contractor, for medication management software and related services for the period March 27, 2020 through November 3, 2026, extending the term for three years from November 4, 2026 through November 3, 2029, and increasing the maximum payable by \$19,500, from \$18,000 to \$37,500, to cover the extended term –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 139-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 10) Proposed Change Letter to Agreement 079-2026 with De Lage Landen Financial, an independent contractor, amending the amortization schedule for purchase of a Kinevo neurosurgical microscope, increasing the maximum payable by \$20,332, from \$757,143 to \$777,475 –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 140-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 11) Proposed Agreement with Welch Allyn, Inc., a subsidiary of Baxter International, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of vital sign machines, in an amount not to exceed \$19,000, plus applicable fees and taxes –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 141-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 12) Proposed retroactive Third Amendment to the Kern County Hospital Authority Defined Contribution Plan for Physician Employees, amending the definition of “Eligible Employee” to include the chief medical officer as a Plan participant, effective September 1, 2026 –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 142-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 13) Proposed Amendment No. 12 to Agreement 947-2008 with Toyon Associates, Inc., an independent contractor, for third-party reimbursement services for the period October 14, 2008 through October 13, 2026, extending the term for two years from October 14, 2026 through October 13, 2028, updating the service pricing, and increasing the maximum payable by \$950,000, from \$6,190,000 to \$7,140,000, to cover the extended term –

APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 143-2026

Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 14) Proposed Agreement with The Chartis Group, LLC doing business as The Greeley Company, LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions for medical staff leadership development, in an amount not to exceed \$16,200 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 144-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 15) Proposed Amendment No. 5 to Agreement 006-2020 with Neurodiagnostic Workforce LLC, an independent contractor, for neurodiagnostic monitoring services for the period February 12, 2020 through February 11, 2028, increasing the monthly stipend from \$37,500 to \$42,500 for an annual increase of \$60,000, and increasing the maximum payable by \$85,000, from \$3,452,000 to \$3,537,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 145-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 16) Proposed Amendment No. 10 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 September 18, 2026, extending the term from September 19, 2026 through March 15, 2027, revising the compensation methodology, and increasing the maximum payable by \$1,950,000, from \$11,016,787 to \$12,966,787, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 146-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 17) Proposed retroactive Amendment No. 4 to Agreement 103-2022 with Jack C. Hou, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery for the period September 22, 2022 through September 21, 2026, revising the compensation schedule for outside call coverage –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 147-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 18) Proposed Agreement with Jack C. Hou, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery from September 22, 2026 through September 21, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$2,550,000, plus applicable benefits –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 148-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 19) Proposed Master Services Agreement and Statement of Work with Sollucio, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for technical support services for the electronic health record, in an amount not to exceed \$119,600, effective September 16, 2026 through project completion –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 149-2026
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 20) Proposed Compliance Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 –
APPROVED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 21) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout
- 22) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report –
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED
Pollard-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout
- 23) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR BERJIS ASKED
IF THE F STREET PSYCHIATRY CLINIC IS A JOINT VENTURE WITH KERNBHRS;
DIRECTOR MERZ ASKED HOW MANY PRACTITIONERS ARE ASSIGNED TO THE CLINIC;
MR. THYGERSON RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 24) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

CA

- 25) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of August 31, 2026 –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pollard: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Stout

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Pollard-Anderson

CLOSED SESSION

- 26) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 27) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health facilities (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: Service Employees International Union, Local 521, Plaintiff/Petitioner, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, et al., Defendants/Respondents, Kern County Superior Court Case No. 26CUB02463 – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 29) 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
- 30) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Chief Executive Officer (Government Code Section 54957) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Pollard-Pelz

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 26 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 POLLARD, SECOND BY DIRECTOR PELZ; 2 ABSENT - DIRECTORS MCLAUGHLIN AND STOUT) THE BOARD APPROVED ALL CREDENTIALING RECOMMENDATIONS; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 27 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 28 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Service Employees International Union, Local 521, Plaintiff/Petitioner, v. Kern County Hospital Authority, et al., Defendants/Respondents, Kern County Superior Court Case No. 26CUB02463 – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 29 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

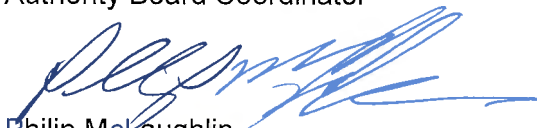
Item 30 concerning PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Chief Executive Officer (Government Code Section 54957) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026 AT 11:30 A.M.

ANDERSON



/s/ Mona A. Allen
Authority Board Coordinator



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