



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, October 15, 2025

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout
Roll Call: 5 Present; 2 Absent - 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: DIRECTOR POLLARD JOINED THE MEETING AFTER THE VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AND PRIOR TO THE DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON ITEM 23

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 September 17, 2025 –
APPROVED
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- CA
4) Proposed Resolution establishing regular meeting dates of the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors for calendar year 2026 –
APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-020
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- CA
5) Proposed rescission of Amendment No. 1 to Co-Applicant Agreement 011-2025 with Kern County Hospital Authority Community Health Center Board of Directors, effective October 15, 2025 –
APPROVED
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- CA
6) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Co-Applicant Agreement 011-2025 with Kern County Hospital Authority Community Health Center Board of Directors, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, clarifying the responsibilities of Kern County Hospital Authority as the Section 330 public agency, effective October 15, 2025 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 114-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- CA
7) Proposed acceptance of donation of travel and related expenses from Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (TIAA) for one Kern Medical Center employee to attend the TIAA Healthcare Advisory Council biannual meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, from October 27-29, 2025 –
APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-021
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- CA
8) Proposed retroactive acceptance of donation of travel and related expenses from Shockwave Medical, Inc. for four Kern Medical Center employees to attend the IVL Super User Course: Interactive Training for Nurses, Technologists & Physicians in Fish Camp, California, from October 3-4, 2025 –
APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-022
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 9) Proposed Master Agreement with GE Health Care, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of Optison imaging agent, effective October 15, 2025, in an annual amount not to exceed \$250,000 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 115-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 10) Proposed Agreement with Schindler Elevator Corporation, an independent contractor, for elevator maintenance and repair services from October 15, 2025 through October 14, 2030, in an amount not to exceed \$360,000 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 116-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 11) Proposed Amendment No. 2 to Agreement 06424 with Rajinder P. Singh, M.D., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Radiology for the period October 7, 2023 through October 6, 2026, increasing the per diem rates for weekday and weekend coverage, and increasing the maximum payable by \$425,000, from \$750,000 to \$1,175,000, to cover the term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 117-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 12) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 165-2023 with Tri M. Ngo, M.D., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Radiology for the period January 3, 2024 through January 2, 2026, extending the term for one year from January 3, 2026 through January 2, 2027, and increasing the maximum payable by \$1,080,000, from \$1,500,000 to \$2,580,000, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 118-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 13) Proposed Agreement with Naheedy & Zarandy Medical Group, Inc., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Radiology from November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2027, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 119-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 14) Proposed Amendment No. 1 to Agreement 065-2024 with Total Renal Care, Inc., a subsidiary of DaVita Inc., an independent contractor, for the provision of acute dialysis services for the period May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2027, revising the fee schedule, effective October 15, 2025 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 120-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 15) Proposed Quote 17119 with Enthermics by Pedigo Products Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of a blanket warmer and stand, in an amount not to exceed \$4,100, plus applicable tax and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 121-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 16) Proposed Amendment No. 6 to Agreement 2016-066 with Regional Anesthesia Associates, Inc., an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Anesthesiology, for the period November 9, 2016 through November 8, 2025, extending the term for three years from November 9, 2025 through October 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$30,333,757 for the period November 9, 2025 through October 31, 2028 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 122-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 17) Proposed Agreement with Jeffrey G. Nalesnik, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical and administrative services in the Department of Surgery from October 18, 2025 through October 17, 2030, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, plus applicable benefits – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 123-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 18) Proposed Agreement with Shahab Hillyer, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical and administrative services in the Department of Surgery from October 18, 2025 through October 17, 2030, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, plus applicable benefits – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 124-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 19) Proposed Agreement with Yvonne M. Wolny, M.D., a contract employee, for professional medical services in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology from January 5, 2026 through January 4, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$1,950,000, plus applicable benefits – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 125-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 20) Proposed Amendment No. 5 to Agreement 099-2023 with Alton Scott Thygerson, a contract employee, for professional services as chief executive officer of Kern County Hospital Authority, adding performance-based metrics for fiscal year 2025-2026 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 126-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 21) Proposed Ordering Document CPQ-4049683 with Oracle America, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase and installation of a new electronic data interchange for the electronic health record from October 15, 2025 through October 14, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$14,963 – APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 127-2025
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

CA

- 22) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements – RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

- 23) Report on the status of the Kern Medical Center Electronic Health Record vendor selection – CO-CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER SANDY BAKICH HEARD; DIRECTOR BERJIS HEARD INQUIRED ABOUT THE PLAN TO CURTAIL FUTURE COSTS IF ORACLE IS THE VENDOR OF CHOICE; MS. BAKICH RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED
Pollard-Pelz: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

- 24) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report – CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; DIRECTOR ANDERSON ASKED HOW THE AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS FOR INDIGENT FUNDING AND THE FREQUENCY OF ADJUSTMENTS; MR. CANTU RESPONDED; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Pelz: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

- 25) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; DIRECTOR BERJIS INQUIRED ABOUT THE CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND HOW THOSE CHANGES WILL IMPACT THE AUTHORITY; MR. THYGERSON DISCUSSED HOW THE CHANGES WILL IMPACT HOSPITALS GENERALLY AND MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT SPECIFICALLY; RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Anderson: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

CA

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

CA

- 27) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of September 30, 2025 – RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pelz: 5 Ayes; 2 Absent - McLaughlin, Pollard

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

- C-28) Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Administrative Report – RECEIVED AND FILED
Merz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

- C-29) Proposed Resolution establishing regular meeting dates of the Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Board of Managers for calendar year 2026 – APPROVED; ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2025-001
Merz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

- C-30) Proposed credentialing recommendations – APPROVED
Merz-Pollard: 6 Ayes; 1 Absent - McLaughlin

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

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION

Merz-Pollard

CLOSED SESSION

- 31) Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 32) CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Margarita Rodriguez, Applicant v. Kern Medical; Adminsure Ontario, Defendants, Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Case Nos. ADJ10932624; ADJ11328261 – SEE RESULTS BELOW
- 33) 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
- 34) 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
- 35) 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
- 36) PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Chief Executive Officer (Government Code Section 54957) – SEE RESULTS BELOW

RECONVENED FROM CLOSED SESSION

Anderson-Pelz

REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Item 31 concerning Request for Closed Session regarding peer review of health practitioners (Health and Safety Code Section 101855(j)(2)) – HEARD; BY A UNANIMOUS VOTE (MOTION BY DIRECTOR POLLARD, SECOND BY DIRECTOR PELZ, 1 ABSENT - DIRECTOR MCLAUGHLIN), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL PRACTITIONERS RECOMMENDED FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT, REAPPOINTMENT, RELEASE OF PROCTORING, REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES, VOLUNTARY RESIGNATION OF PRIVILEGES, AND AUTOMATIC TERMINATION OF PRIVILEGES; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 32 concerning CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - FORMALLY INITIATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) Name of case: Margarita Rodriguez, Applicant v. Kern Medical; Adminsure Ontario, Defendants, Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Case Nos. ADJ10932624; ADJ11328261 – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 33 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

Item 34 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 35 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 36 concerning PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION - Title: Chief Executive Officer (Government Code Section 54957) – HEARD; NO REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

ADJOURNED TO WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025 AT 11:30 A.M.

Pollard



/s/ Mona A. Allen
Authority Board Coordinator



/s/ Amir Berjis, M.D.
Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors
Kern County Hospital Authority