



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, December 17, 2025

11:30 A.M.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Members: Anderson, Berjis, McLaughlin, Merz, Pelz, Pollard, Stout
Roll Call: 7 Present

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

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

CA

- 3) Minutes for the Kern County Hospital Authority Board of Governors regular meeting on November 19, 2025 –
APPROVED
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 4) Proposed Agreement with Beckman Coulter, an independent contractor, for purchase of laboratory equipment, service, and maintenance from December 17, 2025 through December 16, 2032, in an amount not to exceed \$1,150,000, plus applicable taxes and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 137-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 5) Proposed First Amendment to Agreement 556-2016 with the County of Kern for use, maintenance, repair, and replacement of common areas within the Kern Medical Center complex –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 138-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 6) Proposed Quotation 7000469537 with Acist Medical Systems, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for repair of a contrast injector, effective December 17, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$3,075, plus applicable taxes and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 139-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 7) Proposed Quotation 00209271 with Advanced Sterilization Products, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for service and maintenance of surgical instruments from December 17, 2025 through December 16, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$116,802, plus applicable taxes and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 140-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 8) Proposed Agreement with Nwestco, LLC, an independent contractor, for removal of the underground fuel tank, in an amount not to exceed \$119,630, effective December 17, 2025, until project completion –
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 141-2025; AUTHORIZED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO SIGN FUTURE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$119,630
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 9) Proposed Agreement with Organon, LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for the purchase of the Jada System 2.0 vacuum induced hemorrhage control system, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000, plus applicable taxes and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 142-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 10) Proposed Agreement with Aurora Surgical LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of surgical eyelid implants and supplies from December 17, 2025 through December 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$30,000, plus applicable taxes and shipping fees –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 143-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 11) Proposed Quote Q-1404817 with Lansweeper Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of a software subscription to support Information Technology Asset Management, from December 17, 2025 through December 16, 2026, in an amount not to exceed \$18,896 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 144-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 12) Proposed Quote Q-468557 with Imprivata, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase compliance and privacy software from December 31, 2025 through December 30, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$171,361 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 145-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 13) Proposed Renewal Subscription to License Agreement 04518 with Decision Resources Group, Inc., an affiliate of Clarivate PLC, on behalf of its Healthcare Business Insights division, an independent contractor, for renewal of the Revenue Cycle Academy/E-Learning Membership for the period February 12, 2018 through February 11, 2026, extending the term one year from February 12, 2026 through February 11, 2027, and increasing the maximum payable by \$32,676, from \$223,978 to \$256,654, to cover the extended term –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 146-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 14) Proposed Agreement with Sequoia Brain & Spine, Inc., A California Medical Corporation, an independent contractor, for professional medical services in the Department of Surgery from May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$9,330,675 –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 147-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 15) Proposed Order Form with ICare USA, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for purchase of a IC200 Tonometer intraocular pressure measurement device, in an amount not to exceed \$5,456, plus applicable taxes and shipping –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 148-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 16) Proposed Order Form with ICare USA, Inc., an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for repair of a IC100 Tonometer intraocular pressure measurement device, in an amount not to exceed \$930, plus applicable taxes and shipping –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 149-2025
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 17) Report on upcoming anticipated retroactive agreements –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

- 18) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Financial Officer report –
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU HEARD; DIRECTOR PELZ HEARD REGARDING STATUS OF RESERVES; DIRECTOR BERJIS ASKED IF THE DECREASE IN CENSUS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A PARTICULAR ISSUE; RECEIVED AND FILED
Berjis-Pollard: All Ayes

- 19) Kern County Hospital Authority Chief Executive Officer report –
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SCOTT THYGERSON HEARD; RECEIVED AND FILED
Anderson-Stout: All Ayes

CA

- 20) Monthly report on What's Happening at Kern Medical Center –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

CA

- 21) Claims and Lawsuits Filed as of November 30, 2025 –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Merz: All Ayes

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

- C-22) Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC, Administrative Report –
RECEIVED AND FILED
Pollard-Berjis: All Ayes
- C-23) Proposed credentialing recommendations –
APPROVED
Pollard-Berjis: All Ayes
- C-24) Proposed Agreement with Global Healthcare Exchange, LLC, an independent contractor, containing nonstandard terms and conditions, for access to the Vendormate platform for the screening and monitoring of vendor representatives from December 17, 2025 through December 16, 2028, at no cost –
APPROVED; AUTHORIZED CHAIRMAN TO SIGN AGREEMENT 150-2025
Pollard-Berjis: All Ayes
- 25) Presentation on Report of Independent Auditors from Baker Tilly US, LLP, regarding the audit of Kern Medical Surgery Center, LLC financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 –
KIMBERLY SOKOLOFF AND KRISTEN OLKO, BAKER TILLY US, LLP, MADE PRESENTATION; DIRECTOR MCLAUGHLIN HEARD INQUIRED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF MATERIAL FINDINGS; DIRECTORS ANDERSON AND STOUT HEARD REGARDING GUIDANCE ON INTERNAL CONTROLS TO MITIGATE POTENTIAL RISKS; CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANDREW CANTU RESPONDED THAT CHANGES ARE BEING MADE TO TIGHTEN INTERNAL CONTROLS; RECEIVED AND FILED
Pelz-Anderson: All Ayes

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

ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION
Pollard-Merz

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

- 29) 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
- 30) 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
Pelz-Pollard

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 A UNANIMOUS VOTE (MOTION BY DIRECTOR MERZ, SECOND BY DIRECTOR STOUT), THE BOARD APPROVED ALL CREDENTIALING RECOMMENDATIONS; NO OTHER REPORTABLE ACTION TAKEN

Item 27 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 28 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 29 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 30 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, JANUARY 21, 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