

# CHCC Board of Trustees

Minutes of August 8, 2024

Prepared by: Trinidad S. Diaz	Approved by: Board of Trustees
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**Present:**

Juan Babauta, Chair  
 Mariah Barcinas, Trustee  
 Corinne Santos, Trustee  
 Esther Muna, CEO  
 Stephen Anson, AAG

**Gallery:**

Tiffany Crisostomo  
 Eleanor Cabrera  
 Jesse Tudela (Audio)  
 Warren Villagomez  
 Grace Laxina  
 Trinidad Diaz

**Absent:**

Polly Masga, Trustee (excused)  
 Phyllis Chong, Trustee (excused)

Topic	Discussion	Resolution/Action
I. Meeting called to order	Meeting called to order.	Start time is 1230 pm
II. Quorum	Three (3) Trustees present: Juan Babauta, Chairman; Trustee; Mariah Barcinas, Trustee; and Corinne Santos, Trustee	Quorum determined with three (3) Trustees present.
III. Approval of Agenda	A motion was made to amend the agenda to include Item XV – Board Committee Reports. Was seconded. Without objection from the Trustees the motion was approved.	Agenda approved with amendment.
IV. Approval of Minutes for May 30, 2024	A Motion to approve Minutes for May 30, 2024 was made. Was seconded. Without objection from the Trustees, the motion was approved.	Minutes for May 30, 2024 is approved.
V. Public Comments	No public comments received; No public present.	
VI. Credentials	<p>Credentials documents for each applicant were sent to all the Trustees for review.</p> <p><b><u>New Applicants</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Christopher Racine, Psychiatry – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</li> <li>2. Dr. Katherine Hoekstra, Internal Medicine – IP/Locum, without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</li> <li>3. Dr. Thomas Flowers, Emergency Medicine/Locum – DEA License will expire on 9/30/2024 – window for renewal of DEA License opens 30 days before expiration date; must ensure renewal is done; without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</li> <li>4. Tian Schiera, Physician Assistant/ER – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Privileges approved up to the expiration of license; expires 7/30/2026.</li> <li>2.Privileges approved up to the expiration of contract; expires 10/13/2024</li> <li>3.Privileges approved up to the expiration of contract; expires 2/01/2025</li> <li>4.Privileges approved up to the expiration of license; 7/31/2026</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Renewal Applicants</b></p> <p>5. Dr. Andreqj Szeffler, Family Medicine/FCC - without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p> <p>6. Dr. Jacob Wingerter, Pediatric – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p> <p>7. Dr. Deanne Hufnagel Wingerter, Pediatric – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p> <p>8. Dr. Daniel Shead, Podiatry – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p> <p>9. Qiwei Wang, Nurse Practitioner (IP-IM), without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p> <p>10. Pamela White, Nurse Practitioner/THC – without objections from the Trustees, Applicant is approved.</p>	<p>5. Privileges approved up to the expiration of license; expires 2/28/2026</p> <p>6. Privileges approved up to expiration of license; expires 2/28/2026</p> <p>7. Privileges approved up to the expiration of license; expires 5/31/2026</p> <p>8. Privileges approved up to the expiration of license; expires 6/30/2025</p> <p>9. Privileges approved up to expiration of License; expires 10/26/2024</p> <p>10. Privileges approved up to expiration of License; expires 7/23/2026.</p>
<p>VII. Review &amp; Approve Chagemaster Fee Edits</p>	<p>One new service was added, and a couple of charges were increased. The increases are adjusted to match the current Medicare rates. Everything else are for new services and codes. A motion to approved was made; was seconded; motion approved.</p>	<p>Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.</p>
<p>VIII. HNP</p>	<p>The last time funding was received from the CHNMI government was the appropriation in the amount of \$200K. Subsistence total about \$20K a week – an increase from \$11K. CHCC is subsidizing this program. In 2022 \$11M was received. 2023 \$4.3M was received. Medicaid reimbursement is only for travel transportation. 2022 expenditures were reduced; still hard to get additional funding. With the focus on subsistence – payment in the rental of housing was late. Borrowed funds from the general account to make payment to the Ronald McDonald so patients don't get kicked out.; as well as Windham Hotel in Guam, behind 2 or 3 months; hotels in Hawaii and San Diego are paid through credit card to secure the rooms; credit card has to be paid.</p> <p>No urgency from the government to fund the subsistence – law clearly states that the government should not be put into debt paying for these expenses, expenses need to be appropriated.</p> <p>Current cost for subsistence is about \$20K a week = \$1.5M a year. Have been making request for funds, was told by law makers that they are looking for funding. The question now is do we suspend the subsistence, or give 30-day notice to everyone that it will suspend until further notice or give notice of termination. Notification will go to the Governor and Legislature that the subsistence for Medical Referral will be terminated at the end August.</p> <p>Motion to suspend the subsistence allowance for Medical Referral patients until it is budgeted. Notice will be sent out to the patients by the 17<sup>th</sup> to let them know. Motion was seconded. Motion is approved.</p>	<p>Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.</p>
<p>IX. CUC</p>	<p>Meeting was held with Executive Director, Kevin Watson, with their attorney – mentioned that CHCC has no money, like the rest of the government. Three options were presented by CUC: 10-year monthly payment, 20-year month payment, and 30-year monthly payment.</p>	<p>Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.</p>

	<p>Current MOU payment is \$525K a month. Recommendation was to pay commercial rate – not acceptable to CUC. Mr. Watson shared that they are trying to collect as much as possible – despite the meeting no agreement was reached; they expect payment. CHCC recommendation was to pay commercial rate and to continue to pay; request for a deferment until we are in a better place with Medicaid. As to the AG – CUC is concerned about the \$35M in arrears; CHCC does not dispute paying at commercial rate. AG’s proposal is to take the \$34M, identify what the amount would be if it were at the commercial rate (about \$10M); take that amount and enter into a payment plan for 10- or 20-year plan to pay commercial rate and arrears; remaining (about \$14M) in government rate – defer until the legislature could address it. Therefore, giving CUC something to take to Judge Carter – that proposal will cover a big amount on the arrears at the commercial rate. The legislature is looking at modifying the rates for the Corporation.</p> <p>Motion – CEO will respond to Mr. Watson in response to CUC’s proposal. Counter proposal – will reconcile based on commercial rate; calculate the arrears under commercial rate – less payments and penalties; submit options in regards to a 20- or 30-year plan after amortization by CFO. Under this proposal CUC will forgive the penalties. Was seconded. Motion approved.</p>	
<p>X. Microgrid – Micronesian Renewal Energy</p>	<p>Met with Micronesian Renewable Energy to verify exactly what it is that is being paid for; initial proposal contained fives pages – came back with more than 80 pages; asked Mark Fleetwood to take a look at the proposal; said that it was a lot of money – a lot of interest as well; loan amount is about \$30M @5% interest rate; cumulative interest is about \$6M for 25 years; getting the microgrid will reduce payments; CUC payment is about \$300K monthly – even with commercial rate; will help financially now, but in the long run have to pay all the interest.</p> <p>-National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will be here next week to do a feasibility study; make sure that it is the right thing for CHCC; reached out to them – willing to assist to make sure that the right equipment and maintenance is in the contract; suggested to continue the pursuit of the microgrid; will assist in putting together an RFP; technical assistance is provided which is funded by DOI to help territories in regards to renewable energy; if approved for further discussion with NREL – will know more of what the benefits are.</p> <p>-There are risks associated entering into alternative energy deal. Willing to take risk to counter CUC with money owed to them; paying in excess of \$600K monthly – electric, water, and sewer. Concerns by federal partners aired that the solar panels have been installed but not powered; phase 2 has started – savings will start.</p> <p>-Motion was made to authorize CEO to look into renewable energy; to pursue and agreement to procure a microgrid solution with NREL – assist to develop the specifics for proposing an RFP; with a timeline of three to six months to be considered by the Board. Motion seconded. Motion Approved.</p>	<p>Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.</p>
<p>XI. Foundation Law</p>	<p>-One of the strategic pillars of the financial health is to pursue legislation to amend the corporate power to help establish and assist in the organization of a Charitable Foundation. Bill 2387, HS 1 was signed into law. 3CMC § 2824 – amended letter S to allow for the Foundation. The Board of Trustees shall designate a Trustee to serve</p>	

	<p>on the Foundation Board and designate the CEO as an ex-officio board member. Staff currently serving shall automatically resign. Transfer of all documents is in process.</p> <p>-Vicky Benavente and Lynn Tenorio are the current board members. The Bylaws dictate up to a total of seven board members.</p> <p>-Motion was made to designate Trustee Corinne Santos as a board member for the Foundation was made. Was seconded. Motion approved.</p> <p>-Participating members should consist of 51% from the community served by CHCC; 49% or less may include individuals from areas that share the same vision. Recommending to have members with expertise in either area of law, tax, and financial investment.</p> <p>-Asia Pacific Association will conduct a training on August 22, on financial investments and fiduciary duties for board members. Recommend to send the two current members of the Foundation to attend.</p> <p>-The Bylaws could be amended by the new Board they deem necessary. Term for the members is for two years. Should the CHCC Trustee's term not renew – it would be classified as a general board member - CHCC Board of Trustees have to designate another Trustee.</p>	<p>Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.</p>
<p>XII. Helmsley Grant for MRI</p>	<p>-Time to be fully operation is next year November; possibly shave off three months, depending on the timing of the arrival of the materials; potentially August 2025 – will have first MRI in the facility.</p> <p>-The Helmsley Foundation covers every thing from the facility to the equipment of the MRI; including generator, reverse osmosis – everything except for the furniture; close to \$2.6M; will also pay for the operational supplies at least for a year. Does not cover the staffing, but CHCC has already invested in the training of staff to do pain management; two Interventional Radiologist.</p> <p>-Helmsley visited the Tinian Health Center – no specific amount was given; the same list of things needed that was given to the Mayor's Office was shared; high ticket items were picked up; portable x-ray machine and other radiology equipment that was needed. Update for Tinian: purchase order the equipment for the Radiology Department; gave the deposit for the detector; made full payment for the SA Ultrasound; training starts later this month, or early next month.</p> <p>-Also visited Rota – have not said how much. CHCC received three fourths of what was allotted for the territories.</p>	
<p>XIII. CFO Report</p>	<p>Current with all tax payments. Update on MPLT loan request: all documents requested have been provided, except for the audit report. Audits: 2019 audit is done; working on 2020. According to Earnest and Young 2019 audit is completed; compliance report and work performed by the team supporting the findings are still under review by E &amp; Y executives. Will send draft once cleared for review and comments.</p>	
<p>XIV. CEO Report</p>	<p>PIHOA: there are concerns of what is happening in the office of the Secretariat; PIHOA is the bona fide agent for RMI; when grants are being applied for – PIHOA is applying for grants for RMI. The current Executive Director, Amy is from RMI – this was learned from the CDC. After discussing with some members, I mentioned that we will start boycotting meetings; it was suggested that the strategic planning be finalized and to identify what the Secretariats role is. One</p>	

	<p>frustration with them is their lack of assistance with our Medicaid issues.; not very supportive of the CNMI as part of PIHOA's mission to USAPI.</p> <p>-Motion was made to terminate the PIHOA membership effective immediately was made. Was seconded. Motion approved.</p> <p>-Budget: still putting together data; now scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup>, Thursday at the Senate; all are welcome to attend.</p>	Without objections from the Trustees present, Motion is approved.
XV. Board Committee Report	<p>1.Patient and Quality Committee – copy of the Patient Grievance was sent to everyone which is a step up from the current process; should patient or family member not be satisfied it will go to the next level. Once approved will be in compliance with the condition of participation for CMS.</p> <p>2.Governance Committee – Drafted the Grievance Procedure; was forwarded to AAG; currently dealing with an employee who has filed an appeal. Next step – handle appeal and finalize grievance procedure. Charter will be discussed in the next Governance Committee meeting; once completed everyone will be able to review before it is adopted.</p> <p>3. Finance Committee</p>	
XV. Executive Session	With no objections from the Trustees present, the meeting moved into Executive Session to discuss current grievance that is pending appeal and other personnel issues with the Legal Counsel.	Meeting moved into executive session at 2:40pm to 3:06pm.
XVI. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Without objections, meeting adjourned.	Meeting adjourned at 307pm.