



Ventura County Community Health Center (CHC) Board Meeting Minutes

Theresa Cho, MD
Ventura County HCA, Director

Vikram Kumar, MD
Ventura County Ambulatory Care
Chief Executive Officer
CHC Executive Director

Marth Ann Knutson
County of Ventura
Assistant County Counsel

Chaya Turrow
Ventura County Ambulatory Care
CHC Co-Applicant Board Clerk

Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2025
12:30 - 2:00 PM

2240 E Gonzales Rd,
Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93036

CHC BOARD MEMBERS:

RALPH REYES, District 3
Chair

LORETTA DENERING DrPH, MS,
District 2
Vice Chair

ESPY GONZALEZ, District 2
Secretary

JAMES MASON, District 5
Treasurer

MANUEL MINJARES, District 3

RENEE HIGGINS, MD, District 3

ROGER ROBINSON, District 2

DAVID TOVAR, District 3

RENA SEPULVEDA, District 1

Call to Order:

Ralph Reyes called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM.

1. Roll Call

Ralph Reyes	Present
Loretta Denering, DrPH, MS	Present
Espy Gonzalez	Present
James Mason	Present
Renee Higgins, MD	Present
Roger Robinson	Present
Rena Sepulveda	Absent
Manuel Minjares	Absent
David Tovar	Absent

Roll call confirmed that a quorum was present.

2. **Ventura County Staff Present**

Theresa Cho, MD, HCA
Martha Knutson – County Counsel
Octavius Gonzaga, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Jason Cavender, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Allison Blaze, MD, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Dee Pupa, HCA – Health Care Plan
Marty Hahn, HCA – Ambulatory Care
Lizeth Barretto, HCA – Ambulatory Care

Public Present

None

3. **Public Comments - None**

Action Items:

4. **Approval of CHC Board Meeting Agenda for December 18, 2025**

Board Treasurer Mason motioned to approve the meeting agenda. Board Vice Chair Denering seconded. Motion passed.

5. **Approval of CHC Minutes for November 20, 2025**

Board Treasurer Mason motioned to approve the minutes from November 20th. Board Secretary Gonzalez seconded. Motion passed.

6. **Approval of the FYE June 2025 Fiscal Report**

Octavius Gonzaga shared the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) June 2025 (July 2024 – June 2025) report.

Mr. Gonzaga shared the FQHC Net Patient Revenue and Provider Visits graph.

The Net Patient Revenue, which is the amount we expect to collect, showed an increase of \$23M versus the prior year. FY 23-24: \$76M | FY 24-25: \$99M

Visits increased from 358k to 366k (about 8k) versus the prior year.

The Net Operating Loss, or clinic operating expenses, showed a decrease of \$16M versus the prior year.

FQHC Net Patient Revenue Per Provider Visits

This shows an increase from \$213.9 to \$272.69 per visit. The increase is from our request of seven clinic changes within scope (PPR rates).

FQHC Statement of Revenue and Expenses Comparative

The Net Patient Revenue increased by about 30%. And Total Operating Expenses

increased by about 6%.

Mr. Gonzaga also shared the Ventura County Medical System Summary

Ventura County Medical System							
Financial Summary Presentation FY June 2024-25							
	FY2024-25 Compared to Budget				Comparison to Prior Year		
	FY 24-25	Budget	Variance	%	FY 23-24	Variance	%
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	735,699,726	721,403,325	14,296,401	2%	652,832,688	82,867,038	13%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	727,883,163	720,985,486	6,897,677	1%	666,728,149	61,155,014	9%
NET INCOME	7,816,563	417,839	7,398,724		(13,895,461)	21,712,024	

Board Vice Chair Denering asked what else happened to have a net loss of \$16M? Mr. Gonzaga clarified that there was an increase in contacted professional fees by \$3.5M, building and repairs (some covered by insurance), and a lot more revenue to cover expenses. The loss was much higher in 23-24 than 24-25.

Board Treasurer Mason asked if the biggest factor was the PPR changes? Mr. Gonzaga confirmed, yes. Board Treasurer Mason asked if we are at the maximum for each clinic or are there other clinics to reaccess? Mr. Gonzaga said that we are looking at Santa Paula and Magnolia East this upcoming year, but based on last year's bottom line, there will be three clinics that will affect next year. Ms. Barretto also said that John K. Flynn and HCH moved to intermittent, which increased their rates.

Board Member Higgins motioned to approve the fiscal report. Board Treasurer Mason seconded. The motion passed.

Discussion Items:

7. Continued Business

- a. Ms. Turrow, with approval from Dr. Cho and Dr. Sevet Johnson, will be sending physical letters to each of the Board of Supervisor's offices. These letters are to recruit community members for the CHC Board. Board Chair Reyes will sign off on the letters.

8. Ambulatory Care Chief Executive Officer Update – Presented by Dr. Allison Blaze and Lizeth Barretto, HCA

Compliance – Dr. Blaze shared that we hired a Process Improvement person to help with Chart Completion Delinquency. It's a lot of effort but showing us areas where physicians need extra support.

Additionally, the federal court extended the preliminary injunction blocking the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from using California's Medi-Cal data for immigration enforcement through January 5, 2026. We will continue to monitor.

Strategic Plan – Ms. Barretto shared a few updates on the pillars of the Strategic Plan.

Access – We are phasing Magnolia, West Ventura, Conejo, and Sierra Vista into the Call Center. We are also changing the way we are processing referrals, internally, by assigning

people by specialty. GI went smoothly. The referral doesn't get delayed and goes straight to the external providers. Board Chair Reyes asked if the clunky part was the overflow process? Ms. Barretto clarified that it doesn't go into Cerner, so it is hard to understand the volume. We don't have provider directory, so we have to manually enter these.

Fiscal –Cash collection started a couple months ago. We have increased our collection rate. Adding some point-of-sale machines at the clinics to increase this. We are also reviewing service lines to see where the barriers are.

Quality – Our focus remains on 100% achievement with quality metrics.

Contracts - Dr. Blaze and Dr. Kumar are reviewing contracts.

AC Encounters by Month and Year - December is seeing an increase from 2024. No rhyme or reason.

Continuous Learning – We are in the process of the deeming application for FTCA (federal malpractice). Dr. Blaze did the Risk Management training. Part of risk management is implementing process improvement. Dr. Breckenridge is now the lab director for all the labs, since separating from the hospital.

Miscellaneous – Ms. Barretto shared that our Clinicas contract changed. We took a higher rate for specialty and will also no longer have to get a prior authorization.

9. **Board Comments** – None. Board Chair Reyes thanked everyone for the productive year.

10. **Staff Comments** - None

11. **Adjournment – 1:10pm**

Audio files of the CHC Co-Applicant Board meetings are available by contacting the CHC Co-Applicant Board Clerk at chcboardclerk@ventura.org

Minutes submitted by: Chaya Turrow, CHC Board Clerk

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2026
2240 E Gonzalez Rd, Suite 200, Oxnard, CA 93036**