

BYLAWS OF
THE COUNTY OF SOLANO
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE BOARD

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Introduction

This body shall be known as the County of Solano Community Healthcare Board and shall be thereafter referred to as the “Board”. The Board is also known as “Board” under Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Board shall serve as the independent local co-applicant governing board of the Solano County Family Health Services Health Centers pursuant to the Public Health Services Act and its implementing regulations. The County of Solano, a public entity and political subdivision of the State of California, shall act as co-applicant with the Board. In addition to the Bylaws, the activities and authority of the Board shall be guided by the Co-Applicant Agreement between the County of Solano and the Board.

Article I: Purpose

The Board is the patient/community-based governing board mandated by the Health Resources Services Administration's ("HRSA") Bureau of Primary Health Care ("BPHC") to set health center policy and provide oversight of the county's network of federally qualified health centers ("FQHCs" or "health center(s)").

The Board shall work cooperatively with the County of Solano Board of Supervisors acting in its role as co-applicant, to support and guide the Solano County Family Health Services Health Centers ("FHS") in its mission to provide comprehensive health care that is quality-driven, affordable and culturally competent to the people of Solano County.

Article II: Responsibilities

The Board has specific responsibilities to meet the governance expectations of HRSA, while day-to-day operational and management authority reside with FHS staff according to the Co-Applicant Agreement.

The Board's responsibilities include providing advice, leadership and guidance in support of FHS's mission.

The Board shall work with FHS's management and community leaders to actively engage in long-term strategic planning to position FHS now and into the future.

The Board will be knowledgeable about marketplace trends and shall have the responsibility for assisting and advising FHS to ensure that FHS remains viable in its marketplace while it pursues its mission.

The Board shall have the following responsibilities:

- Hold monthly meetings and maintain a record of all official actions;
- Identification and consultation about the services to be delivered and the hours of operation;
- Review and approve financial priorities and recommend approval of the FQHC clinic budget and Health Center Program project budget in accordance with financial management policies retained by the Board of Supervisors;
- Monitoring the financial status of the health center, including reviewing financial status reports and results of the annual audit, and recommending that appropriate follow-up actions are taken;
- Adoption of policies necessary and proper for the efficient and effective operation of the FQHC clinics;
- Periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the FQHC clinics in making services accessible to County residents;
- Review and approval of a procedure for hearing and resolving patient grievances;
- Approval of the implementation and ongoing operation of the FQHC clinics;
- Adoption of a quality of care audit procedure;
- Assuring that the health center operates in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations;
- Adoption of bylaws;
- Approve health center services and the location and hours of operation of health center sites.
- Evaluate the performance of the health centers.
- Approve the selection, performance evaluation, retention, and dismissal of the health center's Project Director/CEO;
- Approve any clinic fees and discount program;
- Long-term strategic planning, which would include regular updating of the health center's mission, goals, and plans, as appropriate;
- Evaluating the health center's progress in meeting its annual and long-term goals; and
- Approving applications related to the health center project including grants/designation application and other HRSA requests regarding scope of project.
- Delegate approval of credentialing and privileging of providers to the Chief Medical Officer – Medical Services Division Director

Article III: Limitations of Authority

The Board of Supervisors shall maintain the authority to set general policy on fiscal and personnel matters pertaining to the FQHC clinics, including financial management practices, charging and rate setting, labor relations and conditions of employment, as well as any other authorities as set forth in the Co-Applicant Agreement. The Board may not adopt any policy or practice, or take any action, which is inconsistent with the County Code, or which alters the scope of any policy of the Board of Supervisors regarding fiscal or personnel issues.

Articles XI and XII of these Bylaws notwithstanding, and subject to the Co-Applicant Agreement, no other individual, entity or committee, including, but not limited to the Executive Committee authorized by the Board reserves or shall have approval or veto power over the Board with regards to the required HRSA authorities and functions. Furthermore, no collaborations or contracts shall restrict or infringe upon the health center Board's required HRSA authorities and functions.

Article IV: Members

Section I – Membership

There shall be at least nine (9) and no more than nineteen (19) at large voting members of the Board and one ex-officio non-voting member.

1. Membership categories:

A. Patient Members selected from patients of the Solano County FQHCs ("Patient Members").

B. Community Members ("Community Members") from differing segments of the County with expertise in community affairs, finance, legal affairs, or business or other commercial concerns; and

C. The FQHC Project Director/CEO, who shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board.

2. Following the establishment of the Board and the seating of its initial members, the selection and appointment of any member and the filling of any vacancy shall be made by the Board by a majority vote. The FQHC Project Director/CEO shall submit a recommended a list of nominees to the Board. The Director shall ensure that each nominee meets the requirements discussed in Article IV.

Section II – Membership Qualifications.

1. No more than one-half of the Community Members may receive more than ten percent (10%) of his or her annual income from the health care industry.

2. All Community Members must either be living or working in the service area of the health centers located in Solano County, are representative of the community served by the health center or the health center's service area or have a demonstrable connection to the community. No member of the Board shall be an employee or an immediate family member, by blood, adoption or marriage, of an employee of the County of Solano. No member shall have a financial interest, which would constitute a conflict of interest. Community Members are selected to provide relevant expertise and skills such as community affairs, local government, fiancé and banking, legal affairs, and other commercial and industrial concerns.

3. A majority of members of the Board (at least 51 percent) must be individuals who are served by the health center.

4. Patient Board Members must be a current registered patient of the health center and must have accessed the health center in the past 24 months to receive at least one or more in-scope service(s) that generated a health center visit at an in-scope site.

5. As a group, Patient Members of the Board must reasonably represent the individuals who are served by the health center in terms of race, ethnicity, and gender. Health centers are also encouraged to consider patient members' representation in terms of other factors such as socioeconomic status, age, and other relevant demographic factors.

6. A legal guardian of a patient who is a dependent child or adult, or a legal sponsor of an immigrant, may also be considered a patient for purposes of Board representation.

7. As a recipient of section 330(h) grant funds (Healthcare for the Homeless), at least one member of the Board shall represent the homeless population served by the health center. This Board member shall either be a Patient or Community Member as defined in Section I of this Article IV. Representation could include advocates for the homeless population, someone who currently is or has experienced homelessness, or has expertise about, or works closely with the homeless population.

Section III - Responsibilities and Rights of Members

1. All members must:

A. Attend all Board meetings subject to the requirements of Article VI.

B. Serve without compensation from the FQHC; however, mileage and meal expenses may be allowable in accordance with the reimbursement policies of the County of Solano.

C. Be subject to the conflict of interest rules applicable to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Solano and the laws of the State of California.

2. Members shall be entitled to receive agendas, minutes, and all other materials related to the Board, may vote at meetings of the Board, and may hold office and may Chair Board committees.

Article V: Term of Office

The term of office for Board members shall be for four (4) years. A member shall be limited to no more than three (3) consecutive terms of membership. The effective date of membership corresponds to the date of appointment.

Article VI: Removal

Any member may be removed whenever the best interests of FHS or the Board will be served. The member whose removal is placed in issue shall be given prior notice of his/her proposed removal, and a reasonable opportunity to appear and be heard at a meeting of the Board. A member may be removed pursuant to this section by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total number of members then serving on the Board.

Continuous and frequent absences from the Board meetings, without reasonable excuse, shall be among the causes for removal. In the event that any member is absent from three (3) consecutive Board meetings or from four (4) meetings within a period of six (6) months, the Board shall automatically give consideration to the removal of such person from the Board in accordance with the procedures outlined in this Article.

The Board will accept a verbal resignation of a Board member as long as it is properly documented. The Board will send an email or letter to the Board member confirming the resignation. Following seven days (7) of receipt of the letter by the Board, the resignation is accepted.

Article VII: Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is a transaction with FHS in which a Board member has a direct or indirect economic or financial interest. Conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict of interest by Board members, employees, consultants and those who furnish goods or services to FHS must be declared. Board members are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest by completing a conflict of interest declaration form (see Appendix "A").

In situations when a real or apparent conflict of interest may exist for a member, the member shall declare in writing and explain the real or apparent conflict of interest. No member of the Board shall vote in a situation where a personal conflict of interest exists for that member.

No member of the Board shall be an employee or an immediate family member of an employee of the Solano County FQHCs, provided however that a member may otherwise be an employee of the County.

In addition to the requirements imposed by these Bylaws, Board members shall also be subject to all applicable state and federal conflict of interest laws.

Article VIII: Compensation

Members of the Board shall serve without compensation from the FQHC. Travel, lodging, and meal expenses when traveling for Board business shall be approved in advance by the Board.

Article IX: Meetings

Section I - Regular Meetings

The Board shall meet at least monthly and maintain records/minutes that verify and document the board's functioning. Where geography or other circumstances make monthly, in-person participation in board meetings burdensome, monthly meetings may be conducted by telephone or other means of electronic communication where all parties can both listen and speak to all other parties.

Section II - Conduct of Meeting

The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* unless otherwise specified by these bylaws.

Section III - Open and Public

All meetings will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, open public meeting law, as amended.

Section IV - Notice, Agenda and Supportive Materials

- A. Written notice of each regular meeting of the Board, specifying the time, place and agenda items, shall be sent to each member not less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting except as permitted by the Ralph M. Brown Act. Preparation of the agenda shall be the responsibility of the Chair in conjunction with the FQHC Project Director/CEO, or his or her designee.
- B. The agenda of each regular meeting shall be posted in each FQHC clinic location and on the clinic's website or any other websites
- C. Supportive materials for policy decisions to be voted upon shall be distributed to all members along with the agenda. If, on a rare occasion, such prior submission is precluded by time pressures, and if the urgency of a Board vote is established by the Chair of the Board, an item may be placed on the agenda although supporting materials are not available in time to be distributed; however, such material shall be available at the meeting.
- D. Items which qualify as an emergency can be added to the agenda pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- E. To hold a special meeting, advance notice of such meeting shall be given.

Section V - Quorum and Voting Requirements

- A. A quorum is necessary to conduct business and make recommendations. A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of a majority of the appointed members of the Board.
- B. A majority vote of those Board members present and voting is required to take any action.
- C. Each member shall be entitled to one vote. Voting must be in person or telephonically; no proxy votes will be accepted.
- D. Teleconferencing may be used as a method for conducting meetings whereby members of the Board may be counted towards a quorum and participate in the meeting from remote locations. The following requirements apply:
 - 1. The remote locations may be connected to the meeting location by telephone, video or both;
 - 2. The notice and agenda of the meeting must identify the remote locations;
 - 3. The remote locations must be posted and accessible to the public;
 - 4. All votes must be by roll call; and
 - 5. The meeting must comply with the Brown Act, including participation by members of the public present in remote locations. A quorum of the legislative body must participate from locations within the jurisdiction, but other members may participate from outside the jurisdiction.
- E. Board member attendance at all meetings shall be recorded on a sign-in sheet. Members are responsible for signing the attendance sheet. The names of members attending shall be recorded in the official minutes. Where geography or other circumstances make monthly, in-person participation in board meetings burdensome, monthly meetings may be conducted by telephone or other means of electronic communication where all parties can both listen and speak to all other parties.
- F. The FQHC Project Director/CEO shall have direct administrative responsibility for the operation of the FQHCs and shall attend or assign a delegate in his/her absence to all meetings of the Board but shall not be entitled to vote.

Article X: Officers

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be chosen from among the members of the Board .

Section 1: Nomination & Election

Nominees for officers shall be selected from the Board membership. Nominations for officers shall be made at the regular November meeting. A nominee may decline nomination.

Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of these members present and voting, as the first order of business at the December meeting of the Board.

Initial selection of officers upon creation of the Board will transpire at the same Board meeting following the adoption of these bylaws.

Section 2: Appointment of Chair/Vice Chair

Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1) year and shall be limited to no more than four (4) consecutive terms of membership. A term of office for an officer shall start January 1, and shall terminate December 31, of the same year, or shall serve until a successor is elected. An officer may be appointed to fill the unexpired term of a previous Chair/Vice Chair and such period of time shall not be counted towards the four (4) consecutive terms of membership.

Section 3: Vacancies

Vacancies created during the term of an officer shall be filled for the remaining portion of the term by special election by the Board, at a regular or special meeting in accordance with this Article.

Section 4: Responsibilities

The officers shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as from time to time shall be specified in these Bylaws, or other directives of the Board.

1. Chair

The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Board, shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and shall perform the other specific duties prescribed by these Bylaws or that may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

2. Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the latter's absence and shall provide additional duties that may from time to time be prescribed by the Board.

Article XI: Executive Committee

Section 1: Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet on an as needed basis and at such time and place as it may designate and shall keep a record of all its proceedings and actions.

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called on one (1) days' notice by the Chair.

Section 2: Membership

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and one (1) member of the Board elected as a member-at-large. Patient members shall be strongly encouraged to serve on the Executive Committee. The outgoing Chair is encouraged to participate as an ex-officio member.

Section 3: Election

Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of these members present and voting, as the first order of business at the December meeting of the Board, in accordance with Article X.

Section 4: Powers

The Executive Committee shall coordinate the activities of all committees; and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Board,

Section 5: Voting

The Executive Committee shall act by majority vote of those present at a meeting having a quorum. Two (2) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any actions of the Executive Committee must be approved and ratified by the full Board at its next scheduled meeting.

Section 6: Vacancies

Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by special election at a regular or special meeting of the Board, in accordance with Article X.

Article XII: Committees

In addition to Executive Committees pursuant to Article XI, the Board may designate one or more committees as the Board sees as appropriate to carry out its responsibilities. The designation shall be adopted at a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present. Each standing committee shall be subject to the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Each committee shall consist of two (2) or more Board members, at least one (1) of who is a patient member. Committees may also consist of additional persons from the community chosen for their knowledge and concern about a specific issue or field or endeavor who are not members of the Board.

The designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of its responsibility. Any actions or recommendations of a committee must be approved by the Board.

Section 1: Committee Appointments

A. Chair

The Chair of the Board shall appoint the Committee Chair from the members of the committee.

B. Members

Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board and are subject to the review of the Board.

C. Term of Office

The Chair of a committee shall hold office for a maximum on one (1) year or until a successor is appointed and approved. All members of each committee shall hold office for one (1) year. A person shall be limited to no more than four (4) consecutive terms of membership.

D. Vacancies

The Chair, with the approval of the Board, shall have the power to fill any vacancies that occur on the committee.

Section 2: Meetings

All meetings of the committees shall meet at such time and place as designated by the Chair of the committee and as often as necessary to accomplish their duties.

Section 3: Minutes

All committees shall maintain written minutes of all meetings, which shall be available to the Board. They shall report in writing to the Board as necessary, in the form of reports or recommendations.

Article XIII: Amendments and Dissolution

Amendments: The bylaws may be repealed or amended, or new Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present, by two-thirds (2/3) of those present and voting. At least fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to each member of the intention as to alter, amend, repeal, or to adopt new Bylaws at such meetings, as well as the written alteration, amendment or substitution proposed. Any revisions and amendments must be approved by the Board.

Dissolution: Dissolution of the Board shall only be by affirmative vote of the Board and County Board of Supervisors at duly scheduled meetings. The causes for dissolution may include changes in laws, regulations, or external environments, circumstances that dictate dissolution such as the identification of an environment that would constitute a threat to patient, employee, or public safety, clinical care, or inappropriateness, or any other circumstance that would constitute a violation of the County Law, or laws and regulations governing FQHC programs, or threaten credentialing, accreditation, or certifications that permit the delivery of services to patients. In considering dissolution, the Board and County Board shall take into consideration the importance of FHS services to the community, and only exercise such authority as a last resort or remedy.

CERTIFICATION

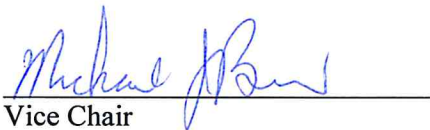
These bylaws were approved at a meeting of the Board by a two thirds majority vote on June 21, 2023



Chair



Date



Vice Chair



Date

APPENDIX “A” Conflict of Interest

Conflict of Interest. Defined as an actual or perceived interest by the member in an action which results or has the appearance of resulting in personal, organizational, or professional gain.

Duty of Loyalty. Board members be faithful to the organization and can never use information obtained in his/her position as a Board member for personal gain.

Responsibilities of Board Members

1. A Board member must declare and explain any potential conflicts of interest related to:
 - Using her/his Board appointment in any way to obtain financial gain for the member’s household or family, or for any business with which the Board member or a Board member’s household or family is associated; and
 - Taking any action on behalf of the Board, the effect of which would be to the member’s household or family’s, private financial gain or loss.
2. No member of the Board shall vote in a situation where a personal conflict of interest exists for that member.
3. No member of the Board shall be an employee or an immediate family member of an employee of the FQHC clinics; however, a member may otherwise be an employee of the county.
4. No Board member shall be an employee of an FQHC or an immediate family member of an employee.
5. Any member may challenge any other member(s) as having a conflict of interest by the procedures outlined in the Board’s Bylaws, Article IX.

As a Board member, my signature below acknowledges that I have received, read and had an opportunity to ask clarifying questions regarding these conflict of interest requirements. I understand that any violation of these requirements may be grounds for removal from Board membership. I further understand that I may be subject to all other applicable state and federal conflict of interest requirements in addition to the provisions set forth in these bylaws.

Board Member’s name (please print):

Board Member’s signature:

_____ Date: _____