

The County of Santa Cruz Integrated Community Health Center Commission

Minute Taker: Mary Olivares

Minutes of the meeting held August 12, 2026

TELECOMMUNICATION MEETING: Microsoft Teams Meeting - or call-in number +1 916-318-9542 – PIN# 500021499#

Attendance	
Christina Berberich	Executive Board - Chair
Len Finocchio	Executive Board – Co-Chair
Dinah Phillips	Member
Marco Martinez-Galarce	Member
Maximus Grisso	Member
Nicole Pfeil	Member
Joseph Eaton	Member
Amy Peeler	County of Santa Cruz, Chief of Clinics
Raquel Ruiz	County of Santa Cruz, Senior Health Services Manager
Julian Wren	County of Santa Cruz, Admin Services Manager
Jennifer Phan	County of Santa Cruz, Health Services Manager
Meeting Commenced at 1:00 pm and concluded at 1:45 pm	
Excused/Absent:	
Excused: Rahn Garcia	
Absent: Michelle Morton	
1. Welcome/Introductions	
Amy announced that Mike Weatherford will officially be on the commission board next month.	
2. Oral Communications:	
A Commission member asked about the cost of Xerox copies and expressed concern about the amount of paper being used to print After-Visit Reports for patients. The member asked whether these reports could be provided electronically or sent directly to patients through the patient portal. Amy will follow up with JMac to explore available options for reducing paper use and providing these reports electronically.	
3. July 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Action Required	
The minutes from July 8, 2026, meeting were reviewed and recommended for approval. Marco motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Nicole seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor.	
4. Commission Bylaws Review – Action Required	
This item was tabled for next month meeting.	
5. Quality Management Update	
Raquel provided an update on the Quality Management Committee. She reported that, during this month’s meeting, Emeline Clinic presented its quality management project, which focuses on improving access to free vaccines. The clinic developed a tool to help determine vaccine eligibility and identify whether a vaccine should be obtained through a free vaccine program, a pharmacy, or a clinic purchase. The goal of the project is to increase access to free vaccines for eligible patients. Commissioners asked how patients and staff can determine which vaccine option they qualify for. Raquel will have Mary share the process flow with the Commissioners. A question was also raised about the cost to the County for each vaccine option. Raquel will work with Julian to provide Commissioners with a breakdown of the costs associated with each category, including how much is paid by the County, the pharmacy, and the clinic, as well as the potential out-of-pocket cost to the patient if they choose to pay. Raquel also reported on the Central California Alliance for Health (CCAH) Care Based Incentives (CBI) Mid-Year Quality of Care Performance Report, she reviewed the report with the commissioners. Raquel to share tool to commissioners on how incentives are calculated. Lastly Raquel reported there is an all-staff Meeting scheduled on 8/19/26 and they will be having a themed chart review on Hypertension. Raquel also reported that the Quality Management Committee reviewed four monthly Peer Review Chart Audits as part of a deeper review process.	
6. Sliding Fee Schedule Review	
Julian reported what they are doing is responding to feedback, A direct response to our Oversight Committee's requests to increase program awareness and ensure absolute consistency across all clinics. The committee observed that eligibility guidelines felt unequal from day to day or across clinics and patients were frequently unaware that sliding scale discounts were an option. Julian reported they simplified workflows & staff reviews, and every registration desk now operates on standard checklists from Policy 100.04. Supervisors verify registration steps daily to maintain perfect consistency. Lastly Julian reported that no one is ever	

turned away for ability to pay. The primary mission of Santa Cruz County HSA clinics is that healthcare is a right. Under Policy 100.04, medical services are never denied due to a lack of immediate payment. Even if a patient cannot pay the nominal co-payment fee during their visit, staff are trained to establish worry-free, flexible deferred payment options.

7. Financial Update

Julian reported Behavioral Health did not need to utilize approximately \$9 million in Trust Funds that had been budgeted for FY 2025–26. The Agency only utilized approximately \$1.7 million in Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funding, compared to the nearly \$13 million that had been budgeted and overall, HSA successfully closed the fiscal year with a balanced budget, an incredible accomplishment that reflects the thoughtful financial management happening across every division. Julian reported on the Health Centers charges for services for the last five years and the trend has increased each year. One commissioner asked for future meetings he would like to see Patients by payor source how many medical, Medicare, how many sliding fees, etc. Lastly Julian reported that the team is working on requesting a rate review. As part of the process, they will provide information to the State for review. If approved, the rate adjustment could result in an increase of approximately \$7 million in annual funding. Julian noted that this will be a lengthy process.

8. CEO Update

Amy reported that covid numbers are going up. And at the next meeting she will give an update on the recuperative care center.

Next meeting: September 9, 2026, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Meeting Location: In- Person- 150 Westridge Drive, Suite 101, Watsonville, Ca 95076 and 1080 Emeline Ave., Bldg. Clinic. Cruz, CA 95060. Commission will connect through Microsoft Teams Meeting or call in (audio only) [+1 831-454-2222](tel:+18314542222), [191727602#](tel:+18314542222) United States, Salinas Phone Conference ID: **191 727 602#**

☐ Minutes approved _____ / / _____
(Signature of Board Chair or Co-Chair) (Date)