

Celebrating



Years Together

Mixing in some magic

Awards Reception

Thursday, September 15, 2022

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm ✦ *Garden Patio*



ACHD

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE DISTRICTS



AWARD SUMMARY & CRITERIA

ACHD is pleased to continue our tradition of honoring the hard work of our Healthcare Districts, CEOs and Trustees and their significant achievements in governance, strategic planning and partnership, stakeholder relationships, leadership and finance.

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a Healthcare District Trustee who has notably impacted their Healthcare District by taking significant steps to deliver outstanding governance, strategic planning and partnership with constituents.

- ◆ A member of ACHD
- ◆ Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- ◆ Nominated Trustee has attended at least one ACHD education event in the last year
- ◆ Attend the 2022 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee

CEO OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a Healthcare District CEO whose leadership, efforts and achievements have resulted in a positive benefit to their District and community.

- ◆ A member of ACHD
- ◆ Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- ◆ Nominated CEO has attended at least one ACHD education event in the last year
- ◆ Attend the 2022 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee

DISTRICT OF THE YEAR

Honors a Healthcare District that has identified one or more initiatives implemented to improve the health and well-being of District residents.

- ◆ A Certified Healthcare District at the time of submission
- ◆ A member of ACHD
- ◆ Nominated by a Trustee or Executive of a district
- ◆ District Leadership has attended at least one ACHD education event in the last year
- ◆ Attend the 2022 Annual Meeting to be honored as a nominee

TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Leticia De Lara **Desert Healthcare District**

Leticia De Lara, MPA, brings extensive leadership experience and a deep understanding of how government works to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board, where she has served since January 2019. Prior to joining the Regional Access Project Foundation as Chief Executive Officer in

2014, she spent five years as the district director for Fourth District Riverside County Supervisor John J. Benoit. That followed almost 11 years as the chief of staff for Benoit's predecessor, Supervisor Roy Wilson. A lifelong Coachella Valley resident who's made public service a priority, Leticia has served as vice-chairwoman of the Continuum of Care Board of Governance, and board director with Innercare/Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Lift to Rise and Riverside County First 5 Commission.



Linda Greer, RN **Palomar Healthcare District**

Linda Greer is Chairwoman of the Palomar Health District Board of Directors and a registered nurse, patient advocate, and mother of nine. She joined the board 16 years ago and has been instrumental to Palomar Health being named a Newsweek World's Best Hospital three years in

a row. Linda has spent her 40-year career focused on caring for people, no matter who they are, where they are from, or their personal circumstances. Linda is a champion of support services for victims of abuse. Linda brings the kind of experience and passionate leadership that has been critical to the District's success.

CEO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



Conrado Bárzaga **Desert Healthcare District**

Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, is Chief Executive Officer at the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation. He is an internationally recognized public health leader with over 20 years of experience.

Since joining the Healthcare District in July 2019, Dr. Bárzaga has guided the district in achieving state accreditation from the California Special Districts Association and the Association of California Healthcare Districts. In 2020, he led the development of the Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative to implement an equitable COVID-19 response. He officially joined the Association of California Healthcare Districts Board of Directors in 2021, and currently is chairperson of its Advocacy Committee.

Prior to joining the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, he served for over seven years as President & CEO at the Center for Oral Health. Dr. Bárzaga has directed the development of public health programs in the U.S. and abroad. He is a fellow of the Global Child Dental Fund at King's College, London, and a health leadership fellow of Coro, a leading nonpartisan public policy institution.

A native of Cuba, Dr. Bárzaga has extensive experience in philanthropy and international public health systems, such as developing the Community Health Infrastructure with the Bolivian Ministry of Health and Doctors without Borders. He earned his Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the University of Havana in 1994.



Rachel A. Mason, M.S., M.A. Fallbrook Regional Health District

Rachel A. Mason is Chief Executive Officer at the Fallbrook Regional Health District. Before becoming CEO in May of 2019, Ms. Mason served as the Executive Director at the Foundation for Senior Care (a local senior services nonprofit) for nearly four years.

Ms. Mason is a graduate of California State University, Fullerton, and Loma Linda University. She jumped into the nonprofit world in 2004 after completing her education in end-of-life studies. She spent many years working in the hospice industry and credits that work for introducing her to the nonprofit sector.

For several years, Ms. Mason worked as a freelance grant writer and nonprofit consultant for a variety of nonprofit groups throughout Southern California. She has spent much of her professional career in the health and nonprofit industries and has served in almost every capacity from positions in executive leadership, business and fund development, board governance and as a volunteer.

Ms. Mason is very active in her community and has served on several boards and committees for service groups and other non-profit agencies. She is a longtime Rotarian and currently serves as Board President for the Legacy Endowment Community Foundation.



DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

PALOMAR HEALTH

Mental health is one of the top health issues in the North San Diego County community and although Palomar Health was already addressing the

needs on a micro level, they developed an initiative to help solve the behavioral health crisis in the community on a larger scale. The behavioral health initiative implemented by Palomar Health served to meet the patient where they need care most, and included:

- ◆ Opening of the first hospital-based Crisis Stabilization Unit in San Diego County.
- ◆ Creating a Patient Safety Companion program to provide friendly 1:1 interaction/observation for patients who are at risk of harming themselves or others.
- ◆ 24/7 access to a psychiatrist with providers onsite day and night at Palomar Medical Center Escondido who provide assessments in the emergency department and inpatient units.
- ◆ Opening an outpatient substance use disorder center called The Recovery Center at Poway.
- ◆ A combined adult and geriatric psychiatry unit with 29 beds at Palomar Medical Center Poway.
- ◆ Executing a joint venture partnership with Kindred Rehabilitation, the first of its kind, to develop a 120-bed psychiatric hospital.

Palomar Health was the first to open a hospital-based crisis stabilization unit (CSU) in San Diego County. The location of this facility was specifically chosen adjacent to the emergency room at the hospital creating convenient and quick access to the patient and allowing law enforcement to return to the community quicker. The CSU is also staffed with Peer Support Specialists who are employees with past experiences similar to that of the patient's and are an integral component of the care team and patient recovery.



DESERT HEALTHCARE **DISTRICT & FOUNDATION**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (DHCD/F) established the Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative, creating a new model to achieve strategic equitable, and community-wide outreach and service delivery in close partnership with the Riverside County Department of Public Health.

The Collaborative consisted of eight community-based and faith-based nonprofit organizations. These communities, which included farmworkers, seniors, and students among many others, were disproportionately affected by COVID-19 due to multiple barriers to health care. DHCD/F secured funding support to bring these organizations together to identify and remove the barriers preventing protection from the virus for the valley's most vulnerable residents. The Collaborative quickly grew to encompass more than 25 community partners.

The Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative is innovative in its multifaceted, community-centric, grassroots approach to education and the delivery of resources to communities often considered on the fringe or forgotten by society.

A great deal of this work was conducted by promotoras, or community health workers, who are the most innovative component of the Collaborative. While community health leaders continue to advocate for California state board-certification, local promotoras demonstrated they are an invaluable asset at valley test sites, vaccination clinics and more.

An essential educational component was translating communications and marketing materials (social media, flyers, as well as public service announcements on television and radio) that were in English to Spanish and Purépecha, two languages commonly spoken in the Coachella Valley. All these factors contributed to strengthening community-wide protection against a virus that does not discriminate against any population.

DISTRICT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



MORONGO BASIN
HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Morongo Basin Healthcare District, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, has spent over \$500,000 for

local hunger relief in a project called Feeding Morongo Basin."

"Efforts included monthly food distributions coordinated by staff who packed over 4,000 food boxes for distribution at our two Morongo Basin Community Health Centers. Other food relief projects included one-time grants to area food pantries to help them stay afloat during the darkest days of the pandemic, and the establishment of a "Hunger Helpline" food box delivery for those who were homebound or elderly.

After the pandemic when life in the Basin returned to a new "normal," the need for food relief was still evident. Now, the focus is the immediate distribution of food to District health center patients who identify food insecurity as an issue in their current situation. During a patient visit to the health center, two diagnostic questions are administered during the patient intake process to ascertain if food insecurity is present. Affirmative answers trigger health center staff to provide a bag with three-days of non-perishable food and information about other local food resources. Patients are also connected with District staff who are trained to assist them in applying for CalFresh food stamps.

Food distribution to those in need is common with federal and private organizations providing distribution programs. What makes this initiative unique is that it addresses the link between chronic food insecurity and health issues. Based on the understanding that food is medicine, relieving food insecurity in the Morongo Basin is part of the District's strategic plan, seeking to implement multiple solutions to mitigate the negative impact on health.

This program has provided food resources to families who are struggling to make ends meet in our community. The Morongo Basin Healthcare District is proud of our efforts to improve access to nutritious foods for Basin residents and thereby improving their health and overall wellness.



The Fallbrook Regional Health District began hosting Mental Health

First Aid program as part of our effort to support the unmet needs surrounding mental health in our community. Mental Health First Aid teaches the participant how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. The training provides information and skills one may need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem, and provides information on how to help connect them to the appropriate care. Additionally, the program has multiple modules that can be tailored for specific groups (e.g., First responders, teens, medical professionals), it is also offered in Spanish language.

While it is clear that there is an increasing need for mental and behavioral health service, there are few options to dramatically increase the number of providers in any community. Mental Health First Aid allows individual community members to become educated and empowered about basic mental health concerns. Participants also learn easy tactics to use if someone in their workplace, home, or community demonstrates a mental health concern. The program is an 8-hour, nation-wide, evidence-based training course that can also be conducted virtually, thus it is a program that any health district could offer.

The program is offered nation-wide, so even if another District couldn't bring it forward or didn't have County support, the classes can all be accessed virtually. While virtual isn't always the best option, it is an easy way for a District to host a program in a rural community or where individual access could be challenging.

We began the classes in Spring of 2022, and have had 60 individuals finish the certification in four months. The classes have exceeded our initial expectations and we are ramping up the schedule and exploring the additional modules for those attendees who would like to advance to a next level of education.



ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE NETWORKING ACTIVITY

When:

Thursday, September 15, 4:30-5:15 pm, prior to Awards Reception.

Instructions:

Find various members of committees and the Board, as well as ACHD Corporate Sponsors. Introduce yourself and learn more about our committees and sponsors.

Ask those you meet one thing they most enjoy about their involvement with ACHD and note the individual's name in the corresponding square, with the goal to get at least one BINGO. (See definition below)

Each square must represent a unique encounter (for example, you cannot check all of the bronze sponsor boxes with one bronze sponsor encounter).

Goal:

A chance for ACHD committee members, sponsors and Board to network with one another in-person, for prizes, prior to the Awards Ceremony.

Prizes:

Everyone who completes a "BINGO" (defined as one row or column, horizontal, diagonal or vertical checked) will be eligible to enter a drawing to be held after the awards are announced. One entry for each "BINGO" you have!

BINGO CARD

Locate a member of the Education Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate an ACHD Gold Sponsor <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate an ACHD Silver Sponsor <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Advocacy Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>
Locate an ACHD Bronze Sponsor <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Finance Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Education Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the ACHD Board <hr/> <i>Name:</i>
Locate a member of the ACHD Board <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Governance Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the ACHD Finance Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate an ACHD Bronze Sponsor <hr/> <i>Name:</i>
Locate a member of the Education Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Advocacy Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate an ACHD Bronze Sponsor <hr/> <i>Name:</i>	Locate a member of the Education Committee <hr/> <i>Name:</i>



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