



**REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION**

**Board Meeting APPROVED MINUTES**

Wednesday March 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM  
 41550 Eclectic St. Palm Desert, CA 92260  
 78015 Main St. Suite 205, La Quinta, CA 92253  
 415 N. Main Street Blythe CA 92225

**CALL TO ORDER at 9:05 AM by Board Chair A. Wilson**- Roll Call: *S. Benoit, C. Borba, G. Colangeli (joining remotely), M. Evans, C. Galvez, B. Gonzalez, R. Gutierrez, B. Kroonen, R. Ortega, E. Packer, K. Rodgers, T. St. Johns, A. Smith, V. Tanner, J. Pye, P. Cooper, A. Wilson.*

*Excused absences: M. Meyer, M. Gonda, K. Quintanilla, E. Romero.*

*Also present: M. Reyes, G. Holliday, M. Robles, T. Fantini, A. Lackie, A. Nieto, A. Juarez, L. De Lara.*

*Megan Nelson, Director of Operations with Hidden Harvest. Joining remotely: M. Meyer as a public member.*

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

In order to meet Brown Act requirements, items may be added to the agenda only upon decision by a majority of the Board of Directors to add the item because of a need for immediate action.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve the agenda as presented.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>J. Pye</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT - *None***

Hidden Harvest Presentation by Megan Nelson, Director of Operations – *Melissa Nelson made a presentation and addressed questions from board members.*

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required**

- A.** Approval of February 25, 2026 Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Receive and file (Attach. #1)
- B.** CEO Report - Receive and File (Attach. #2)
- C.** Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report – Receive and File (Attach. #3)
- D.** Grant Report - Receive and File. (Attach. #4)
- E.** Facilities Report – Report and File (Attach. #5)

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To receive and file the February 25, 2026 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living, Grants, and Facility Reports.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>M. Evans</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- Update on County matters of interest.

**P. Cooper reported:**

- **Supervisor Perez hosted the CVHS Girls Soccer team celebration the prior evening. The team reached the CIF Finals and placed second. They were recognized by the State Legislature.**
- **The Senior Inspiration Awards luncheon to take place on March 27. Eleven seniors will be honored.**
- **The Board of Supervisors appointed a member of Blythe, Jaclyn Randall, to the Palo Verde Health Care District. Ms. Randall is the Dean of the Needles Campus.**
- **The County of Riverside is hosting the CV Business Economic Forecast on April 30.**

B. NPO Centric Monthly Report & activity highlights- Taly Fantini, NPO Centric Director (Attach. #6).

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File monthly report.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Approve and file the monthly report.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C. Borba</b>	<b>E. Packer</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

C. GRANTS TRACKER FY 2025-2026: (Attach. #7 and #8)

D. GRANT REQUESTS: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANTS #1 and #2.

Sponsorship #1	Inland Congregations United for Change
Program:	2026 Cup of Faith Soccer Tournament
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Faith Cup 2026 is an event built on the principles of inclusion and camaraderie. The tournament welcomes all boys and girls ages 14-17. In a spirit of unity, there is an emphasis of no discrimination based on religion: everyone is welcome, regardless of faith. It will include a Resource Fair.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 James Irvine Foundation: \$40,000; FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Grants Committee (Yes: 4 No: 0): Recommendation: To approve \$5,000.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve request for \$5,000.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C. Borba</b>	<b>R. Gutierrez</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Sponsorship #2	Rotary Club of Indio
Program:	Rotary Math Field Day for Middle School Students (RMFD) – May 2
Requested Amount:	\$1,000
RMFD is the only CV middle school math competition. This valley-wide event provides students with the opportunity to showcase their mathematical abilities alongside peers. There is no other academic competition with students from multiple schools and districts competing and being recognized for their academic skills and dedication. For many participants, RMFD is the only opportunity to meet and engage with students outside their own school. The event fosters interaction, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among students from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$1,000; Small Grant FY 2023-24 and 2024-25: \$1,000 each yr.
NPO Member:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To approve request for \$1,000

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve request for \$1,000.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C.Borba</b>	<b>R.Gutierrez</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

2. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SMALL GRANTS #1 and #2 (with conditions).

Small Grant #1	PS Test Inc
Program:	HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Prevention and Treatment Program
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Reviewer's Scores:	81% Three reviewers scoring: 80, 82, 82
<p>PS Test's program reduces healthcare disparities among at risk populations that are exacerbated by cost and stigma, two of the most significant barriers to testing and treatment. Co-payments for primary care visits and laboratory testing can amount to \$50 to \$100 or more per visit and therefore can be a prohibitive barrier to testing and treatment, particularly for uninsured or under insured low-income patients. PS Test absorbs all co-payments and fees for primary care visits and laboratory testing for HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and other STIs. To reduce stigma, our healthcare professionals provide nonjudgmental and comprehensive patient care and offer patients the opportunity to receive anonymous care.</p> <p>Support from RAP will facilitate the ability of PS Test to expand our capacity to meet growing needs for HIV, STI, and HCV testing throughout the Coachella Valley, including in underserved east Valley communities.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$ 10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To approve the request for \$10,000

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the request for \$10,000.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>C.Galvez</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Small Grant #2	Grassroots Junior Tennis (GJT)
Program:	Grassroots Junior Tennis 2026
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Reviewer's Scores:	76% Three reviewers scoring: 82,78,68
<p>GJT has the belief that all children, regardless of their financial status, should have the opportunity and privilege to learn from professional tennis teachers. The goal is to give each child a chance to be a "winner". Instruction focuses on the importance of cooperation and fitness, with tennis helping to build character and integrity. Tennis is taught as an educational and recreational sport that builds a lifetime of teamwork, sportsmanship and social skills, led by a USPTA certified professional tennis instructor and community volunteers.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$5,000, FY23-24 Small Grant: \$5,000, FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000
NPO Member:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To approve the request for \$5,000 and \$149 to cover the cost of NPO Centric membership. There is a condition that the applicant agree to participate in NPO Centric membership activities.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the request for \$5,000 and \$149 to cover the cost of NPO Centric membership. There is a condition that the applicant agree to participate in NPO Centric membership activities. Future funding requests will be dependant on participation on NPO Centric membership activities.</b>
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<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>C. Galvez</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**E. Requests for Proposal Change of Funding for FY 2025-2026 Health and Mental Health and FY 2026-2027 Juvenile Intervention.**

The FY 2025–2027 Health and Mental Health Request for Proposals (RFP) grant application is due on April 2. Nearly 200 individuals attended the Mental Health bidders’ meeting, and seventy-five (75) Letters of Intent (LOIs) were received. The Grants Manager suggested the following two alternatives:

1. Increase the Mental Health funding to \$825,000 for YEAR 1, allocating an additional \$325,000 from the Juvenile Intervention funds for this year. The FY 2026–2027 Juvenile Intervention Grant would then be opened to the public in Fall 2026. The Health and Mental Health Request for Proposal for YEAR 2 will remain at \$500,000.
2. Select the same recipients for the Juvenile Intervention Grant for a third consecutive year, and open the next Juvenile Intervention Grant cycle in early 2027. The FY25-27 Health and Mental Health Request for Proposal will remain the same for both years at \$500,000 with a total of \$1,000,000 total.

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0): To select option #1 above.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>Increase the Mental Health funding to \$825,000 for YEAR 1, the Health and Mental Health Request for Proposal for YEAR 2 will remain at \$500,000.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>E. Packer</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**F. Coachella Valley Healthy Living Status –** The Executive Committee received a status on the funding application to the Desert HealthCare District. The application is being recommended by the DHCD Program Committee to deny due to budget limit for current fiscal year and rating of “low priority” for their current Strategic Plan. CVHL staff will resubmit the application upon approval of new DHCD Strategic Plan which appears to identify this community need.

Executive Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To present to the Board an update no later than 6 months.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To present to the Board an update no later than 6 months for re-evaluation.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**G. Resolution 2026.06-Creation of Coachella Valley Healthy Living Committee (Attach.# 9)** The Executive Committee reviewed the formation and provided input to produce this final document.

Executive Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): For the Board to approve Resolution to form the Coachella Valley Healthy Living Committee.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To recommend approval to the Board.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>K. Rodgers</i>	<i>R. Gutierrez</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**H. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Collaboration Agreement with CV Unified School District (Attach. #10)**

Executive Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): For the Board to approve the MOU with Coachella Valley Unified School District.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To recommend approval to the Board.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>

I. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Collaboration Agreement with Palm Springs Unified School District (Attach. #11)

Executive Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): For the Board to approve the MOU with Palm Springs Unified School District.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To recommend approval to the Board.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C.Borba</b>	<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

J. Review Resolution 2025.05 (Attach. #12) Establishing a Whistle Blower Policy. At the annual review of policies, staff noted a need to clarify Section 2, Section 5, Section 7, Section 8 , Section 9.

Governance – Human Resources Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No:0): For the Board to approve Resolution 2026.06.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approver Resolution 2026.06 Amending the Whistleblower Policy.</b>			
<b>yeMotion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C.Borba</b>	<b>B.Kroonen</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>J. Pye</b>	<b>0</b>

K. Desert Health Care District (DHCD) Long-Term Collaborative Expanded Partnership Updates –  
 On Feb. 25, 2026, the RAP Board directed staff to proceed with a Proposal to the DHCD. The NPO Centric Committee met on March 9. They reviewed a Draft of the Long Term Collaborative Expanded document. After discussion, they provided direction to staff to proceed with the plan as proposed.  
 An update of the proposal was provided to the Executive Committee on March 17. The Executive Committee shared some concern about costs associated with services. After discussion with DHCD staff, RAP staff proposed an alternative to address the concerns brought up earlier in the day at the Executive Committee. The DHCD Board meets on March 24. The NPO Centric Director, Taly Fantini and RAP’s Controller, George Holliday reported to the RAP Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary, (the NPO Centric Committee Chair was not available to join the time sensitive meeting) and received direction to proceed with the plan as presented. The updated proposal is attached. (Attach. #13) The Final Agreement, not yet available, will be brought forward to the Board at a later date.

Executive Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No:0): To give direction to staff to present the full Agreement to the Board prior to ratifying it.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>For the Board to direct staff to proceed with the proposal to DHCD.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C. Borba</b>	<b>K. Rodgers</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## VI. Information Items

- A. Board Attendance for 2025-2026 (Attach. #14)
- B. RAP Committee Assignments (Attach. #15)
- C. Grants Committee: Met on March 16, approved Feb. 17 Minutes (Attach. #16). Next meeting April 13.
- D. Executive Committee: Met on March 17, approved Feb. 17 Minutes (Attach. #17). Next meeting April 13
- E. Finance/Investment Committee: Cancelled the March 17 Committee meeting. Next meeting ~~March 16-~~ **April 13 – Error pointed out by board member E. Packer.**
- F. NPO Centric Committee: Met on March 9, approved Jan. 26, 2026 Minutes (Attach. #18). Next meeting April 20.
- G. Strategic Funding Committee: Next meeting TBD.
- H. Audit Committee – Next meeting TBD.
- I. Nominations Committee – Next meeting TBD.
- J. Facilities Committee–Met on Feb. 25. Next meeting April 13
- K. Governance- Human Resources Committee-Met on March 3. Approved Feb. 10, 2026 Minutes (Attach. #19). Next meeting TBD.

## VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

- 1. Introduce Anitza Juarez, NPO Centric team member – **Anitza provided a brief intro.**
- 2. Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon - Friday March 27, 2026
- 3. Tuesday April 7, Mental Health Wellness Day by Alianza at Palm Springs Art Museum 10 am - 2 pm
- 4. Do the Right Thing Awards Ceremony: April 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM at Palm Springs ~~Police Department, 200 S. Civic Drive, Palm Springs, CA~~ – **J. Pye announced that the location is changed to Palm Springs City Hall.**
- 5. **L. De Lara reminded board members to submit their Form 700 by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Also, there are some Conflict of Interest Forms still not submitted.**
- 6. **L. De Lara announced the April 30 Business Conference at Fantasy Springs Resort from 8 – 10 AM.**
- 7. **Board member C. Galvez announced that the Innercare was approved for a \$3M grant from Desert HealthCare District to fund a new medical residency program.**
- 8. **Board member R. Gutierrez announced that he is not able to attend the SIA luncheon due to another commitment.**

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: **10:37 AM** Next meeting April 22, 2026 at 9 AM.