

AGENDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

GARRY BREDEFELD
LUIS CHAVEZ
NATHAN MAGSIG
BUDDY MENDES
LARRY MICARI
AMY SHUKLIAN
PETE VANDER POEL

**Meeting Location:
County of Tulare
Board of Supervisors Chambers
2800 W. Burrel Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291
July 17, 2026, 9:00 AM**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SJVIA Manager at (559) 600-1801 or the Assistant SJVIA Manager at (559) 636-4900. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will help enable staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure meaningful access.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Director Bredefeld at 9:00 AM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Director Bredefeld

3. Roll Call

Directors present:

Garry Bredefeld
Buddy Mendes
Amy Shuklian
Pete Vander Poel

Directors not in attendance:

Luis Chavez
Nathan Magsig
Larry Micari

4. Approval of Agenda (A)

Hollis asked for Item 13 to be heard before Item 8

Motion to Approve by Director Mendes; Second by Director Shuklian
Motion Approved Unanimously

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5. Approval of Minutes – Board Meeting of May 1, 2026 (A)

Motion to Approve by Director Mendes; Second by Director Shuklian;
Motion Approved Unanimously

6. Public Comment: At this time, members of the public may comment on any item, within the jurisdiction of the SJVIA, not appearing on the agenda. In order for everyone to be heard, please limit your comments to three minutes or less. Anyone wishing to be placed on the agenda for a specific topic should contact the SJVIA Manager's Office and submit correspondence at least 14 days before the desired date of appearance.

No public comment.

7. Receive Update from Auditor-Treasurer on Cash Flow Projections (I)

Presented by Jose Pelagio, County of Fresno

8. Receive and Consider Request for a Retroactive Reclass of \$272,000 and an Increase in Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2026 of \$7,000,000 (A)

Presented by Jose Pelagio, County of Fresno

Director Vander Poel expressed concern about the continuing trend of increased appropriations and indicated an interest in discussing this matter further during the meeting.

No public comment.

Motion to Approve by Director Shuklian; Second by Director Mendes;
Motion Approved Unanimously

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Item 13, Receive Consultant's Report on Plan Year 2027 Preliminary Renewal and Provide Direction to Staff to Finalize the 2027 Renewal (A) was conducted before Item 9, Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

13. Receive Consultant's Report on the Plan Year 2027 Preliminary Renewal and Provide Direction to Staff to Finalize the 2027 Renewal (A)

Presented by Joy Giblin, USI with additional comments made by Bill Hernandez, USI, and Jess Williams, USI.

Joy presented the renewal projection for medical, dental, and vision benefits, reflecting a projected overall increase of 29.2%.

Director Shuklian inquired whether the observed increase in claims is part of a nationwide trend or specific to SJVIA. USI response: The two Counties are experiencing claims spend significantly higher than the norm.

Director Vander Poel inquired about the average medical trend and how quickly the Board will see the results to help mitigate the projected increase. USI response: Average medical trend is 8%, while SJVIA's trend is currently running at 11.5%. The final renewal will be delivered at the August meeting that will include options to mitigate the renewal increase.

Director Vander Poel inquired whether the primary driver of the increase corresponds to the highest cost plans. USI response: Yes

Lupe commented that their richest plan is associated with high utilization and that alternative plan designs are currently under review. Hollis added that County Fresno is also undertaking a similar review of plan options.

Director Bredefeld asked how much of the increase is attributed to the new weight loss drugs. USI response: From a GLP-1 perspective, it is

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substantial. It is the main driver in pharmacy costs.

Director Vander Poel inquired about the possibility of direct-contracting with drug manufacturers. USI response: Yes, there are direct to consumer programs available, which may allow consumers to obtain certain medications at prices lower than those offered through the health plan.

Hollis confirmed ongoing efforts to engage with the labor groups to discuss and develop viable options that are tenable in relation to the increase.

Public Comment:

Riley Talford, Labor Representative SEIU 521, County of Fresno Chapter emphasized that an approximate 29% increase in health care costs is unsustainable. He hopes to work collaboratively with the County and the Board to consider affordability and accessibility options.

Director Shuklian motions to approve; Second by Director Vander Poel
Motion Approved Unanimously

9. Receive Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (I)

Presented by Daniel Duzyk, USI

No public comment.

10. Receive Consultant's Medical, Dental, and Vision Experience Reports through May 2026 with Update on Projected Plan Experience Accumulation and Projections (I)

Presented by Daniel Duzyk

No public comment.

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11. Receive USI Pharmacy Services' Consultant's Report on Carelon Pharmacy Utilization (I)

Presented by Jess Williams, USI, in person and Dr. Dominic Vu, USI, virtually

Director Vander Poel inquired whether Anti-Obesity Medications, (AOM) represent 23% of the total pharmacy spend and how this compares to industry trends. Also, how much of the AOM prescribing is driven by the members versus the physician pushing the medications? Response: Current industry analyses confirm that AOM spending is increasing nationwide. The consumers seeing colleagues losing weight are pushing for the AOMs.

Lupe commented that CalPERS PPO and PRISM no longer offer GLP-1 for AOMs. They will be looking at options that either eliminate or restrict the GLP-1 for AOMs.

Director Shuklian inquired about the relative cost effectiveness of bariatric surgery compared to GLP-1 for AOMs. USI response: GLP-1 for AOMs does not currently offer an established exit strategy, and patients may require ongoing, potentially lifelong treatment. Nonetheless, the majority of health care professionals are leaning towards AOMs as a safer alternative to bariatric surgery. Further information will be provided at the August meeting.

No public comment.

12. Receive a Review of the SJVIA Plan Year 2027 Stop Loss and Captive Marketing Objectives (I)

Presented by Joy Giblin, USI

No public comment.

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14. Receive Anthem High-Cost Claimant Review (I)

Presented by Emma Rodriguez, Anthem presented in person and Dr. Awsare, M.D., Anthem presented virtually

Lupe requested Emma Rodriguez to provide a written summary of the High-Cost claims to review for the next meeting.

No public comment.

15. SJVIA Director Questions, Announcements, and Activity Reports (Gov. Code, § 54954.2, subd. (a)(2)) (I)

No comments were made.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

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