

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES

Goal

The MCHD Board values public input and wishes to receive public comment in a productive manner.

Background

The right of public attendance guaranteed by the Public Meetings Law does not include the right to participate by public testimony or comment. The MCHD Board of Directors has adopted the practice of holding a public comment period at regular meetings of the Board. The Board has inherent authority to keep order and to impose reasonable restrictions necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of the meeting; this includes moderating and limiting the public comment period.

Guidelines

1. Members of the public wishing to make comment shall sign up and list the topic they wish to comment on.
2. The public comment period is not a time for dialogue between board members and members of the public. Communication is intended to be one-way (from the public to the Board).
3. Persons wishing to make comment shall have a maximum of 3 minutes to make comment. Members of the public may not interject during Board deliberations or other agenda items.
4. Multiple comments on the same topic need to be combined through one speaker.
5. Public comment is not the appropriate forum to make complaints about patient care or District personnel. All such complaints should be directed to the District's Compliance Officer, Julie Baker, at julieb@mocohd.org or 541-676-2935. The Board will not entertain public comments about specific patients or personnel.
6. A maximum of 30 minutes may be allocated for public comment at the end of the Board meeting prior to entering executive session.
7. The public comment period will be conducted in a civil manner at all times.
8. Members of the public who repeatedly violate these guidelines may be prohibited from making public comment in the future.
9. Any person who fails to comply with reasonable rules of conduct or who causes a disturbance may be asked or required to leave.
10. Any Board member may object to public comments not following these guidelines, which may result in limiting the commentary in question and/or other limitations to the public comment period necessary to maintain order and productive discourse.