

Session B Title: Navigating Growth: A 50 Year Health Care District Strategy

Time: 11:00-11:45 am

Location: San Carlos 2

Presenters: Dr. Karin Freese, Chief Executive Officer, Del Puerto Health Care District & Paul Willette, Director of Ambulance Operations for Patterson District Ambulance

Session Description: How can a healthcare district expand access to care when traditional funding sources are limited and community needs continue to grow? Del Puerto Health Care District is taking a long-term approach through the development of a 38.5-acre healthcare and mixed-use campus designed to serve the west side of Stanislaus County for the next 50 years.

Learn how the District combined healthcare planning, community partnerships, behavioral health investment, emergency medical services, senior care, land use strategy, development impact fees and phased capital development into one comprehensive vision. What began as an effort to address a healthcare need has grown to encompass land use planning, economic development, housing growth, transportation, workforce attraction and broader community infrastructure.

Attendees will gain practical insights into long-range master planning, innovative funding strategies, stakeholder engagement and phased development. The session will also share lessons learned from the District's planning and entitlement process and offer strategies healthcare districts of any size can use to align facilities, services and community growth while building a sustainable vision for the future.



Dr. Karin Freese PhD, MBA, has served as Chief Executive Officer of Del Puerto Health Care District since 2016, leading its work to improve access to care on the west side of Stanislaus County. She leads the District's rural health clinic and advanced life support ambulance service, with a focus on expanding timely, local access to care. Dr. Freese is advancing a visionary healthcare and mixed-use campus that brings together clinical care, behavioral health, emergency services, housing, and community-serving development. Her work reflects a practical commitment to board leadership, public stewardship, and long-term community health.



Paul Willette is Director of Ambulance Operations for Patterson District Ambulance, a role he has held since 2014. He brings 45 years of emergency medical services experience to the district, including 25 years with the Stockton Fire Department, where he retired as Deputy Chief of Administration. Paul's career combines frontline emergency-service experience with executive leadership in operations, staffing, finance, and public safety system management. He is committed to strengthening dependable, locally governed emergency medical services for communities on the west side of Stanislaus County.