

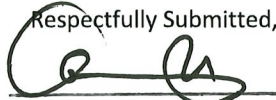

**MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Special Called Board Meeting**  
**January 6, 2022**  
**8:00 am**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
<b>I. Call to Order &amp; Record of Attendance</b>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Arthur Bracey, MD, Chair. It was noted that a quorum was present and the attendance was recorded. Dr. Bracey stated while some of Board members are in the room with us today, others will participate by videoconference as permissible by state law and the Harris Health Videoconferencing Policy. The meeting may be viewed online: <a href="http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live">http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live</a>.</p>	<p><b>A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</b></p>
<b>II. Announcements / Special Presentations</b>	<p>Dr. Bracey announced that Harris Health Board is pleased to welcome Ms. Jennifer Tijerina as our newest Trustee. Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Adrian Garcia requested the appointment of Ms. Tijerina, and her initial two-year term ends November 1, 2023.</p> <p><b>A. CEO Report Including Updates on COVID-19</b></p> <p>Dr. Esmail Porsa, Harris Health System President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), delivered a brief update on COVID-19. He reported a test positivity rate of 28%, which is the highest positivity rate during the entire COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned approximately 9,000 daily new cases in the Greater Houston Area and an average daily rate of 400 new hospitalizations across the TMC system. Dr. Porsa stated that one of the hospital's biggest challenges is staffing, particularly in regards to nursing. He reported a 20% nursing vacancy rate and stated that rates have been exacerbated due to the pandemic.</p> <p>To assist with current staffing constraints, the following has been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• El Franco Lee was closed on January 4, 2022 and staff were deployed to the hospitals. Obstetrics and limited Family Practice services will remain available.</li> <li>• Nurses working in an administrative capacity are being deployed to the hospitals for four (4) to six (6) weeks.</li> <li>• A limited number of crisis nurses are being deployed by the State.</li> <li>• Harris Health is expecting additional crisis staff from the National Guard in the near future.</li> <li>• Attendance bonus was reinstated.</li> <li>• Various other compensation strategies including surge and float pay are being instituted/reinstated.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Dr. Porsa reported approximately 2,414 COVID related discharges since January 1, 2021 through December 30, 2021. He also reported 281 patient deaths due to COVID-19, among which 94.3% of those patients were unvaccinated. Dr. Porsa stated that almost 96% of Harris Health staff are already vaccinated against COVID. He mentioned that the grace period for first dose of vaccination has been extended to January 27, 2022, and the deadline for full vaccination is February 28, 2022. At this time, boosters are not included in the vaccine mandate. Dr. Porsa explained that asymptomatic but exposed workforce members do not require work restriction if they have received all COVID-19 vaccine doses. Workforce members who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 may return to work five (5) days after the positive testing date or symptom onset date, but must be asymptomatic, fever-free and off Tylenol/ Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) therapy for 24 hours.</p> <p>Important COVID Vaccination Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Monday, January 3, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized third doses of Pfizer’s vaccine for all persons ages 12 – 15.</li> <li>• The FDA also said it would allow for children ages 5 – 11 with compromised immune systems to get a third dose.</li> <li>• The period between the second dose and third dose of the Pfizer vaccine has been shortened to five months (from six months) for all age groups.</li> <li>• Once these recommendations are approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Harris Health will begin offering the shots as detailed above.</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the CEO report is available in the permanent record.</p>	
<p><b>III. Public Comment</b></p>		<p>There were no public speakers present.</p>
<p><b>IV. Consideration of Approval of the Proposed Harris Health System Stub Period Operating and Capital Budget (March 2022 – September 2022)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Senior Vice President, Finance, led discussion regarding the Proposed Harris Health System Stub Period Operating and Capital Budget (March 2022 – September 2022). In alignment with the Harris County’s fiscal year transition, Harris Health is presenting for consideration its budget deliverables captured within the two consecutive periods. Ms. Nikitin stated that the first period of the budget information covers seven months from March 2022 through September 2022 and is referred to as the “Stub Period” or “Stub Year.” The second phase reflects a new fiscal year ending September 2023 (FY 2023) and is referred to as the “Planning Budget.” Consistent with its strategic goal of delivering a 2 percent operating margin, Harris Health recommends the same target for both the Stub Period and FY 2023. Ms. Nikitin explained that the proposed Operating Budget for the Stub Period ending September 2022 reflects a margin of \$26.2M; the proposed annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023 reflects a preliminary planning margin of \$43.4M.</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 22.01-01</b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Finder, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IV. Motion carried.</b></p>

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	Additionally, Ms. Nikitin stated that the entire 19-month budget proposal reflects an ongoing effort to manage operations and reinvest in the services and the infrastructure of the System. A copy of the proposed Harris Health System Stub Period Operating and Capital Budget is available in the permanent record.	
<b>V. Adjournment</b>	<p>Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Finder, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 a.m.</p>	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on January 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
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 Arthur Bracey, M.D., Chair  
  
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 Elena Marks, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry Pierson

**Thursday, January 6, 2022**

**Harris Health System Board of Trustees Special Called Board Meeting**

**Note:** For Zoom meeting attendance, if you joined as a group and would like to be counted as present, please submit an email to:  
[BoardofTrustees@harrishealth.org](mailto:BoardofTrustees@harrishealth.org) before close of business the day of the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
Dr. Arthur Bracey (Chair)	Dr. Ewan Johnson
Ms. Elena Marks (Secretary)	
Ms. Alicia Reyes	
Dr. Andrea Caracostis	
Jennifer Tijerina	
Professor Marcia Johnson	
Ms. Mia Mends	
Mr. Lawrence Finder	

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Dr. Esmail Porsa, President & Chief Executive Officer
Ms.Carolynn Jones, Executive Vice President & Chief Compliance and Risk Officer
Dr. Jackie Brock, Executive Vice President & Chief Nursing Executive
Mr. Louis Smith, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Maria Cowles, Senior Vice President, Chief of Staff
Mr. Michael Hill, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy & Integration Officer
Mr. Michael Norby, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Omar Reid, Senior Vice President, Human Resources
Ms. Patricia Darnauer, Executive Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital
Mr. R. King Hillier, Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations
Ms. Sara Thomas, Vice President Legal Affairs/Managing Attorney, Harris County Attorney's Office
Dr. Steven Brass, Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Executive
Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Senior Vice President, Finance

<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>	
Alison Perez	Jerald Summers
Cherry Pierson	Nicholas Bell
Daniel Smith	Paul Lopez
David Attard	Randy Manarang
Ebon Swofford	Tai Nguyen
Elizabeth Winn	Xylia Rosenzweig
Jennifer Zarate	Yasmin Othman