

**MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board Meeting**

**April 22, 2021**

**8:00 am**

| AGENDA ITEM   | DISCUSSION  | ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS   |
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| <p><b>I. Call to Order &amp; Record of Attendance</b></p>     | <p>The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Arthur Bracey, MD, Chair. It was noted there was a quorum present and the attendance was recorded. Dr. Bracey announced that the meeting is being conducted by videoconference. Per temporary meeting suspension rules issued by Governor Greg Abbott due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting may be viewed online: <a href="http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live">http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live</a>. Please note that the Board will be going into Executive Session immediately after Public Comment instead of at the end of the meeting. The Board will return to open session for the remainder of the agenda.</p> | <p><b>A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</b></p>  |
| <p><b>II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board Meeting – March 25, 2021</b></li> </ul>   | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-37</u></b><br/> <b>Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Ms. Linda Morales, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.</b></p> |
| <p><b>III. Announcements/ Special Presentations</b></p>       | <p><b>A. Special Announcement</b> – Dr. Arthur Bracey recognized the recipient of the Good Catch Award. In line with the Board’s commitment to Zero Harm, the Board continues to recognize Harris Health employee who exemplify and embody that same commitment. Dr. Bracey recognized Ms. Marisa Adam, Registered Nurse (RN), Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital (LBJ), as the Zero Harm Award recipient. Her escalation, advocacy and intervention demonstrates commitment to the care of the patient.</p>  |  |
|   | <p><b>B. CEO Report Including Updates on COVID-19, Vaccinations and Special Announcements</b><br/> Dr. Esmail Porsa, Harris Health System President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), recognized the following senior leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Vinh Truong, named as Vice President, Chief Technology Officer</li> <li>• Mr. Terry Elliott, named as Administrative Director, Facilities Engineering</li> <li>• Dr. Jackie Brock, named Chief Nursing Executive, Effective May 17, 2021</li> </ul>   |  |

Dr. Porsa provided an update regarding COVID-19, stating that half of all adults in the United States (US) have received at least one (1) COVID-19 vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported almost 130M people 18 (eighteen) or older have received at least one dose of the vaccine, or 50.4% of the total adult population. Almost 84M adults, or approximately 32.5% of the population, have been fully vaccinated. Dr. Porsa stated that there is still some resistance to getting the vaccine; however, overall the willingness to get vaccinated continues to increase. Additionally, Dr. Porsa stated that Texas Medical Center (TMC) institutions have administered 1.5M vaccines and 785,525 people are fully vaccinated. Harris Health has administered approximately 140,000 vaccines in addition to 93,025 total vaccines that have been transferred to other entities in Harris County. To date, Harris Health has administered 295 doses of the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines. Harris Health has been able to complete wellness checks on all but forty (40) of its patients who were vaccinated using the J&J vaccine. Dr. Porsa reported that none of Harris Health patients has experienced an ill effect due to J&J vaccine. He stated that there has been a continued flattening of the positivity rate for COVID-19 test across TMC hospitals. Additionally, Dr. Porsa reported that there is a new slight increase in the number of daily new COVID-19 cases in the region as well as a slight increase in the number of daily new COVID-19 hospitalizations in TMC hospitals. Dr. Porsa announced on Tuesday, April 26, 2021, Det Norske Veritas (DNV) will conduct its regular annual survey of Harris Health System. He also noted that Dr. Bracey has been invited to attend the opening session.

**C. Update Regarding Harris Health Strategic Plan**

Mr. Michael Hill, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, provided a brief update regarding the Harris Health Strategic Plan. Mr. Hill stated that Harris Health has identified physician partners from Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He also noted that a project manager has been assigned to ensure that the goals, objectives and metrics within the five (5) pillars continue to progress. Additionally, Mr. Hill highlighted the establishment of the Operations Executive Board. In tandem with Harris Health medical school partners, the goal is to develop operational excellence within Harris Health by streamlining processes through a single health system approach for the benefit of the patient population served. Mr. Hill stated that the Board's initial areas of focus include case management, social work and patient navigation. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.

**D. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements.**

Dr. Bracey stated that he alongside Ms. Alicia Reyes had the pleasure of attending the Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) meeting. The forum serves as a formal mechanism for patients and families to offer their input and perspective on processes and programs that

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|                                    | <p>impact the patient experience. Dr. Bracey announced that April 18-24, 2021 is National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW). He expressed his thanks by recognizing all medical laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in health care and patient advocacy. In honor of National Doctor’s Day, Ms. Linda Morales recognized Harris Health physicians for their dedication and contributions provided every day. She also recognized Harris Health CEO, Dr. Porsa, and Board members, Dr. Bracey, Dr. Ewan Johnson and Dr. Andrea Caracostis, for the hard work and dedication as physicians’ providing for patients and the community. Ms. Anne Clutterbuck recognized Dr. Peggy Smith, Director, Baylor Teen Health Clinic, for extending an invitation to participate in a ribbon cutting and reception for the BCM Teen Health Clinic. The new clinic will offer free or low-cost comprehensive health care and education to students ages 13 and older enrolled at the Tejano Center’s Raul Yzaguirre School for Success, an open enrollment charter school.</p> |                          |
| <p><b>IV. Public Comment</b></p>   | <p>Ms. Cynthia Cole, Executive Director, Local #1550 – AFSCME, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, addressed the Board regarding employee relation matters related to Harris Health interpretation services, Paid Time Off (PTO) and emergency disaster preparedness training. She provided the Board with specifics regarding the various employee complaints and urged the Board to review and address these concerns. Dr. Bracey thanked Ms. Cole for her comments, stating that the Board will carefully evaluate any actions needed to provide reasonable accommodations.</p>  |                          |
| <p><b>V. Executive Session</b></p> | <p>At 8:27 a.m., Dr. Arthur Bracey stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session under Texas Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Texas Occupations Code Ann. §151.002, and Texas Occupations Code Ann. §160.007, Texas Gov’t Code Ann. §551.071 and Texas Gov’t Code Ann. §551.074.</p>   |                          |
| <p><b>VI. Reconvene</b></p>        | <p>At 10.28 a.m., Dr. Arthur Bracey reconvened the meeting and stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.</p>   |                          |
|                                    | <p><b>A.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Jail Health and Commissioners Court Updates, Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>  | <p><b>No Action.</b></p> |
|                                    | <p><b>B.</b> Discussion Regarding the Evaluation of Chief Executive Officer, Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §551.074, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>   | <p><b>No Action.</b></p> |

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|  | <p><b>C.</b> Report Regarding Quality of Medical and Health Care, Pursuant to Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §160.007, and Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §151.002 to Receive Peer Review and/or Medical Committee Report in Connection with the Evaluation of the Quality of Medical and Health Care Services, Including the Harris Health System Quality and Safety Performance Measures, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session, Including Consideration of Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff.</p>  | <p><b>No Action.</b></p>  |
|  | <p><b>D.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Status of Opioid Litigation, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session, Including Authorizing Litigation Against Responsible Parties to Recover Damages Suffered by Harris Health as a Result of Improper Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Opioid Medications.</p> <p><i>Harris Health by and through its Board of Trustees authorizes Special Counsel and the Harris County Attorney to file suit against Responsible Parties to Recover Damages Suffered by Harris Health as a Result of Improper Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Opioid Medications.</i></p> | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-38</u></b><br/><b>Moved by Mr. Lawrence Finder, seconded by Ms. Linda Morales, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.D. Motion carried.</b></p> |
|  | <p><b>E.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding QIPP (Quality Incentive Payment Program), Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session, Including Approval of Agreements Related to the Operation of Focused Care at Pasadena and Focused Care at Burnet Bay and Participation in the Quality Incentive Payment Program.</p> <p><i>Harris Health by and through its Board of Trustees authorizes approval of Agreements Related to the Operation of Focused Care at Pasadena and Focused Care at Burnet Bay and Participation in the Quality Incentive Payment Program.</i></p>  | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-39</u></b><br/><b>Moved by Ms. Linda Morales, seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.E. Motion carried.</b></p>     |
|  | <p><b>F.</b> Report by the Executive Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, Regarding Compliance with Medicare, Medicaid, HIPAA and Other Federal and State Health Care Program Requirements, Including an Update on the CLIA Survey and a Status of Fraud and Abuse Investigations, Pursuant to Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>   | <p><b>No Action.</b></p>  |
|  | <p><b>G.</b> Report by the Executive Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, Regarding Enterprise Risk Matters, Pursuant to Tex. Health and Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071.</p>  | <p><b>No Action.</b></p>  |

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|   | <p><b>H.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Patient Safety Incident, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §160.007, and Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §151.002, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>   | <p><b>No Action.</b></p>   |
|   | <p><b>I.</b> Consultation with the County Attorney Regarding Settlement Pertaining to the Reimbursement of Charges Incorrectly Billed to Harris Health System Pursuant to a Contract with OptumRx, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p> <p><i>Harris Health, by and through its Board of Trustees, approves and hereby authorizes a settlement for the reimbursement of payments made by Harris Health to OptumRx due to incorrect billing for Opioid Risk Management Member Education and Opioid Risk Management Intensive Care Management pursuant to a contract with OptumRx., in the amount of \$90,561.64 payable to Harris Health. Esmail Porsa, M.D., President/CEO of Harris Health, is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to effect this settlement.</i></p> | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-40</u></b><br/> <b>Moved by Ms. Linda Morales, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Finder, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.I. Motion carried.</b></p>               |
| <p><b>VII. Consent Agenda Items</b></p> | <p><b>A. Recommended Committee Approvals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acceptance of the Harris Health System February 2021 Financial Report Subject to Audit.</li> <li>2. Approval for Additional Funding of \$20,000,000 for the Harris County Hospital District Pension Plan for Calendar Year 2021.</li> </ol>  | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-41</u></b><br/> <b>Moved by Ms. Linda Morales, seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items VII.A.1. and VII.A.2. Motion carried.</b></p> |
|   | <p><b>B. New Consent Agenda Grant Agreements for Board Approval</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approval of Grant Agreements (Items C1 through C3).<br/> <b>(See Attached Grant Summary: April 22, 2021)</b></li> </ol>   | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-42</u></b><br/> <b>Moved by Mr. Lawrence Finder, seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</b></p>             |
|   | <p><b>C. New Consent Agenda Items for Information Only</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harris Health System Council-At-Large Meeting Minutes.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i></b></p>   | <p><b>No Action Required.</b></p>  |

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| <b>VIII. Items for Board Consideration</b> | <b>A. Approval of Ben Taub Hospital Trauma Resolution</b><br><br>Dr. Glorimar Medina, Executive Vice President & Administrator, Ben Taub Hospital (BTH) presented the Ben Taub Trauma Resolution. She noted that the resolution is a requirement of the Level 1 Trauma Center at Ben Taub Hospital as well as a renewal of the continued support by Harris Health System Board of Trustees and Administration to provide trauma services for the citizens of Houston and Harris County. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.   | <b><u>Motion No. 21.04-43</u></b><br><b>Moved by Ms. Alicia Reyes, seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.</b>     |
|  | <b>B. Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint Professor Marcia Johnson, as a Member of the Harris Health Board of Trustee’s Budget and Finance Committee.</b>  | <b><u>Motion No. 21.04-44</u></b><br><b>Moved by Ms. Linda Morales seconded by Mr. Lawrence Finder, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.B. Motion carried.</b> |
| <b>IX. Strategic Discussion</b>            | <b>C. Harris Health System Legislative Initiatives</b><br><br>1. Update and Discussion Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System.<br><br>Mr. R. King Hillier, Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations, led discussion regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System. He noted that the House is scheduled to debate more than 245 amendments to a proposed \$246B budget. He reported approximately 35 amendments are healthcare related and that there will be robust discussion on the floor regarding the potential of Medicaid Expansion. Mr. Hillier stated that the House passed to provide children with 12 months of continuous coverage under Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) as well as extending pregnancy-related coverage for 12 months postpartum for women. Chairman Coleman’s Harris County LPPF legislation voted favorably from Committee and was sent to the Local and Consent Calendar Committee to be set for a House Floor vote. All requested provisions for the revision of the bill remain intact. On April 16, 2021, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) rescinded the 10-year extension of Texas’ Medicaid 1115 Waiver. Harris Health delivered an impact statement to Harris County noting the recent CMS action on the 1115 waiver and the lack of Medicaid expansion in Texas. A copy of the legislative report is available in the permanent record. | <b>As Reported.</b>   |

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| <p><b>X. General Action Items</b></p>                                     | <p><b>A. Item(s) Related to Quality Committee</b></p>  |   |
|   | <p>1. Acceptance of the Medical Executive Board Report to Include Notice of Appointments and Selection of New Service Chiefs.</p> <p>A copy of the report is available in the permanent record.</p>  | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-45</u></b></p> <p>Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. Motion carried.</p>  |
|   | <p>2. Acceptance of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff Subject to Review of Files for Discussion. Dr. Arthur Bracey recused from this agenda item.</p> <p>Dr. John Foringer, Chair, Medical Executive Board (MEB), presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff. He reported that there were three (3) temporary privileges, nine (9) initial appointments, seventy-seven (77) reappointments, two (2) change/add privileges and twenty-one (21) resignations. A copy of the report is available in the permanent record.</p>                | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-46</u></b></p> <p>Moved by Dr. Ewan Johnson, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.2. Motion carried. Dr. Arthur Bracey recused from this agenda item.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>B. Item(s) Related to Budget &amp; Finance Committee</b></p>   |   |
|   | <p>1. Consideration of Purchasing Recommendations Requiring Board Approval (Items (A(1) through A(45)).</p> <p>Ms. Clutterbuck noted that purchasing letter A9 has been revised under previous year cost from \$951,310 to \$698,550. Ms. Linda Morales inquired regarding purchasing letter A20, stating how many employees are utilizing Care.com. Mr. Omar Reid, Senior Vice President, Human Resources, stated that he would provide the Board with an update. Mr. Lawrence recused from purchasing item A45 and abstained from purchasing item A22. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p> | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-47</u></b></p> <p>Moved by Ms. Linda Morales, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X. B.1. Motion carried. Mr. Lawrence recused from purchasing item A45 and abstained from purchasing item A22.</p>                                 |
| <p><b>XI. Item(s) Related to Health Care for the Homeless Program</b></p> | <p><b>A. Approval of the Following Reports for the Health Care for the Homeless Program as Required by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Which Provides Funding to the Harris County Hospital District d/b/a/Harris Health System to Provide Health Services to Persons Experiencing Homelessness under Section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act Health Care for the Homeless Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2021 Quality Management Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Consumer Advisory Council Report</b></li> <li>• <b>Service Area Analysis Report</b></li> </ul>             | <p><b><u>Motion No. 21.04-48</u></b></p> <p>Moved by Ms. Anne Clutterbuck, seconded by Ms. Andrea Caracostis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Caracostis inquired about the Uniform Data System (UDS) approval, stating that she would like</p> |

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|                         | <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Vice President &amp; Associate Administrator, Ambulatory Care Services, presented the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) operational update including Patient Services, 2021 Quality Management Plan, Consumer Advisory Council Report and Service Area Analysis Report. For the month of April, there were 89 new adult patients associated with the program and 138 telehealth visits. HCHP is expected to see approximately 9,775 patients per year as required by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As of April, HCHP served 2556 unduplicated patients with 4804 total visits completed. Dr. Small mentioned that the amount of unduplicated patients seen overall has trended upward since the prior month. Dr. Small noted that the market drop in February attributed to facility closures during Winter Storm Uri. She explained that one of Harris Health’s shelters, Jackson Hinds Gardens, sustained significant damage due to the storm and is unable to reopen at this time. However, the program has continued to provide services through its mobile unit. The following Consumer Advisory Council Activities were presented for December 2020 through February 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members received updates on ongoing operational changes at Harris Health and the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) because of the COVID-19 pandemic, including updates on locations for testing for COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness. The council received updates on COVID-19 testing and flu vaccination clinics and the new COVID-19 vaccination program. The council members’ questions regarding vaccine safety and differences in vaccines by manufacturers were addressed and education was provided.</li><li>• The council was updated on staffing changes at the HCHP, including the new medical director and interim nurse manager.</li><li>• Members were updated on HCHP clinic closures because of COVID-19 outbreaks among HCHP staff.</li><li>• The council was informed about the changes in scope to close the administrative site at Holly Hall and to add the administrative site at Fournace.</li></ul> <p>Dr. Small provided the Board a high-level summary of the HCHP 2021 Quality Management Plan, which includes goals, objectives and performance measures for the program. She presented the 2020 Uniform Data System (UDS) report stating that HCHP has seen 8,335 patients during the prior year. Dr. Small reported 79% of patients were uninsured and the remaining had Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance plans. Dr. Small also reported that the primary service areas include Downtown, Midtown, Sunnyside, Washington Avenue, Memorial Park and Second Ward. A copy of the report is available in the permanent record.</p> | have the UDS Report presented on an annual basis. |
| <b>XII. Adjournment</b> | Moved by Dr. Ewan Johnson, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.   |   |



I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on April 22, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dr. Arthur Bracey*  
Arthur Bracey, M.D., Chair

*Elena Marks*  
Elena Marks, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry Pierson