

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
October 28, 2021
8:00 am

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>I. Call to Order & Record of Attendance</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Arthur Bracey, MD, Chair. It was noted there was a quorum 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. The meeting may be viewed online: http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live.</p>	<p>A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</p>
<p>II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting – September 23, 2021 • Special Called Board Meeting – September 29, 2021 	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-97</u> Moved by Mr. Lawrence Finder seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<p>III. Announcements / Special Presentations</p>	<p>1. CEO Report Including Updates on COVID-19 and Special Announcements</p> <p>Dr. Esmail Porsa, Harris Health System President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), recognized the following executive leadership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Rodriguez, Named as Vice President of Community Engagement & Corporate Communications • Dr. Michael Nnadi, Named as Senior Vice President and Chief Pharmacy & Laboratory Officer • Mr. David Attard, Named as Senior Vice President of Facilities, Construction & System Engineering <p>Dr. Porsa recognized Ben Taub Hospital (BTH) on a successful trauma survey. He stated that although BT received a deficiency of high diversion, it was recognized that BT has started corrective actions with two (2) months of favorable data and will continue to track for six (6) months to resolve this deficiency. Dr. Porsa touched upon the following strengths observed by the survey team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources provided to serve a very unique patient population • Active participation from EMS to support the Trauma program • Strong leadership • Availability and active involvement of neurosurgery to support the program • 24/7 onsite availability of Radiologist attending for immediate CT/MRI read 	<p>As reported.</p>

- TNCC certified nurses in the frontline (PACU/ICU)
- Dedicated FTEs trauma coordinators Trauma registry/ trauma documentation
- Impressive QAPI process with complete loop closure on PI activities

Dr. Porsa recognized Mr. Clarence Gibson, BT Guest Transportation, for his courageous efforts to save the life of an unconscious transfer patient by performing chest compressions while waiting for the Rapid Response Team (RRT) to arrive.

Dr. Porsa stated that the COVID-19 booster doses are contributing to a significant increase in vaccines administered by Texas Medical Center (TMC) Institutions. He reported a test positivity rate of 3.7%, approximately 700 daily new cases in the Greater Houston Area, and an average daily rate of 89 new hospitalizations across the TMC system. He also noted a decline in Harris Health COVID numbers in its medical surgical (med-surg) as well as intensive care unit (ICU) beds. Dr. Porsa reported approximately 2,233 COVID related hospitalizations and deaths since January 1, 2021 through October 19, 2021. Dr. Porsa noted 249 patient deaths due to COVID-19, among which 94% of those patients were unvaccinated. A copy of the CEO report is available in the permanent record.



2. Board Member Announcements regarding Board member advocacy and community engagements.
 There were no Board member announcements.

<p>IV. Public Comment</p>	<p>Mr. Miguel A. De La Mora, Harris Health employee, requested to address the Board regarding the current state of morale for BT nurses. He stated that several nurses have expressed their concerns regarding Harris Health's staffing shortage, leadership's decision to increase pay for emergency room (ER) and ICU nurses, as well as the decision to hire travel nurses at a higher rate than current employees. Mr. De La Mora stated that many nurses were left feeling unappreciated and undervalued. He also stated that as the nurses issued a two-week resignation, Human Resources did not make an effort to address retention or offer a pay increase. Mr. De La Mora asked that the Board and administration speak with nurses and offer a town-hall meeting to address their concerns.</p>	<p>As reported.</p>
<p>V. Consent Agenda Items</p>	<p>A. Consent Recommended Committee Approvals</p> <p>Dr. Bracey stated that the following consent agenda items were discussed at length during the October committee meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval to Increase the Quentin Mease Renovation Project Guaranteed Maximum Price by \$3,896,570.00 for an Amended GMP of \$35,151,258.66 and Owner's Contingency from 5% to 9% of Total Project Cost. 2. Approval of Subsidy Payments to Community Health Choice, Inc. for the Health Insurance Marketplace Non-Federal Premium Payments for Eligible Harris Health Patients for Calendar Year 2022. 3. Acceptance of the Harris Health System Second Quarter Fiscal 2022 Investment Report. 4. Acceptance of the Harris Health System August 2021 Quarterly Financial Report Subject to Audit. 	<p>Motion No. 21.10-98 Moved by Dr. Ewan Johnson, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items V.A.1. through V.A.4. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. Consent Affiliation Agreements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of Affiliation Agreements (Items B1 through B2) <i>Mr. Finder Recused from Items B1 through B2.</i> 	<p>Motion No. 21.10-99 Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.B.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>C. Consent Grant Agreements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of Approval of Grant Agreements (Items C1 through C3) 	<p>Motion No. 21.10-100 Moved by Dr. Ewan Johnson, seconded by Ms. Elena Marks, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.C.1. Motion carried.</p>

	<p>D. Consent Purchasing Recommendations</p> <p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A66)</p> <p>Dr. Bracey noted that Purchasing’s Transmittals (B1 through B17) are not for approval.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-101</u> Moved by Ms. Anne Clutterback, seconded by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.D.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>E. New Consent Items for Board Approval</p> <p>1. Approval to Donate Medical Equipment to Open Door Mission for Use with a Planned Respite Care Unit of Up to 28 Beds.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-102</u> Moved by Ms. Anne Clutterback, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item V.E.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>F. Consent Item for Information Only</p> <p>1. Harris Health System Council-At-Large Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 12, 2021 • August 9, 2021 • September 27, 2021 <p>2. Harris Health System September 2021 Financial Reports Subject to Audit</p> <p>3. Harris Health System FY2021 Annual Report</p> <p><i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i></p>	<p>For informational purposes only - No action required.</p>
<p>VI. New Item for Board Consideration</p>	<p>A. Approval of 2022 Board Meeting Calendar, Subject to Further Action</p> <p>Professor Marcia Johnson inquired regarding the rationale for a quarterly reporting structure of the Budget and Finance committee meetings. Ms. Anne Clutterback stated that the Finance department has advocated for a quarterly meeting. She mentioned that this will allow for more robust discussion and does not preclude the Board’s monthly obligation to review Harris Health financial statements. Ms. Marks expressed her desire to reduce the frequency of meetings held, increase the richness of the meetings and to utilize everyone’s time efficiently.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-103</u> Moved by Mr. Lawrence Finder, seconded by Ms. Anne Clutterback, and majority passed that the Board approve agenda item VI.A. Motion carried. Professor Marcia Johnson and Ms. Linda Morales opposed this motion.</p>

	<p>The Board discussed the change in schedule, how the decision was made as well as the importance of the financials and purchasing agenda. Ms. Clutterback welcomed suggestions regarding the frequency, agenda topics, and deliverables as it relates to the Budget and Finance Committee meetings. Professor Marcia Johnson and Ms. Linda Morales opposed this motion. A copy of the calendar is available in the permanent record.</p>	
<p>VII. Executive Session</p>	<p>At 8:41 a.m., Dr. Arthur Bracey stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session as permitted by law under Texas Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Texas Gov't Code Ann. §551.072, Texas Gov't Code Ann. §551.085, Texas Health and Safety Code §161.032, Texas Occupations Code §151.002, Texas Occupations Codes §160.007.</p>	
<p>VIII. Reconvene</p>	<p>At 11:51 a.m., Dr. Arthur Bracey reconvened the meeting and stated that the Board will take action on item "F" of the Executive Session agenda.</p>	
	<p>A. Report Regarding Quality of Medical and Healthcare, Pursuant to Tex. Health & 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 Healthcare Services, Including the Harris Health System Quality and Safety Performance Measures, and Discussion Regarding Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff. Dr. Arthur Bracey recused from credentialing discussion related to Baylor College of Medicine (BCM)</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>
	<p>B. Report by the Executive Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, Regarding Compliance with Medicare, Medicaid, HIPAA and Other Federal and State Healthcare Program Requirements and a Status of Fraud and Abuse Investigations, Pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Including Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>
	<p>C. Discussion Regarding Hospital and Primary Care Infrastructure Planning and Communication Plans, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.072, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session. Dr. Arthur Bracey on this matter related to primary care decisions related to BCM</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>
	<p>D. Discussion Regarding the Acquisition of Real Property, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.072 and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>
	<p>E. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Collaborative Opportunities with M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.072, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session. Mr. Lawrence Finder recused on this matter related to collaborative opportunities with M.D. Anderson.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>

	<p>F. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Opioid Litigation, Pursuant to TX. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action to Consider Approval to Participate in the Statewide Settlement Agreement Reached with Janssen, (Johnson & Johnson) as Set Forth in the Janssen Texas State-Wide Opioid Settlement Agreement and Settlement Term Sheet, Executed on October 18, 2021.</p> <p><i>Harris Health, by and through the Board of Trustees, hereby authorizes approval for Harris Health to Participate in the Statewide Settlement Agreement Reached with Janssen, (Johnson & Johnson) as Set Forth in the Janssen Texas State-Wide Opioid Settlement Agreement and Settlement Term Sheet, Executed on October 18, 2021.</i></p>	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-104</u> Moved by Ms. Anne Clutterbuck, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.F. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>G. Consultation with Attorney Regarding the Harris County Hospital District Foundation, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session.</p>	<p>No Action Taken.</p>
<p>IX. General Action Items</p>	<p>A. Item(s) Related to Quality Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acceptance of the Medical Executive Board Report to Include Notice of Appointments and Selection of New Service Chiefs. Dr. John Foringer, Chair, Medical Executive Board, stated the Bylaws committee has been working diligently to evaluate all medical staff committees, review its organization, committee members and to assess how effective each medical staff committees is performing. A copy of the MEB report is available in the permanent record. 2. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff. There were twelve (12) temporary privileges, thirty-nine (39) initial appointments, eighty-nine (89) reappointments, four (4) change/add privileges, eight (8) resignations, and one (1) file for discussion. A copy of the credential report is available in the permanent record. Dr. Arthur Bracey recused from on this matter related to BCM. 	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-105</u> Moved by Ms. Elena Marks, seconded by Ms. Alicia Reyes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A.1. Motion carried.</p>
<p>X. Strategic Discussion</p>	<p>A. Harris Health System Legislative Initiatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System <p>B. Harris Health System Strategic Plan Initiatives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quality & Patient Safety Presentation 2. Outpatient Specialty Care Presentation 	<p><u>Motion No. 21.10-106</u> Moved by Ms. Alicia Reyes, seconded by Dr. Ewan Johnson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A.2. Motion carried.</p>
		<p>PULLED</p>
		<p>PULLED</p>

<p>XI. Item(s) Related to Health Care for the Homeless Program</p>	<p>C. Harris Health System Board Education</p> <p>1. Health System Hospital Comparisons: Tax and Operating Information</p>	<p>PULLED</p>
<p>A.</p> <p>Review and Acceptance of the Following Reports for the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCHP October 2021 Operational Update Report • June 2021-August 2021 Consumer Advisory Council Report <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Interim Vice President & Associate Administrator, Ambulatory Care Services, presented the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) operational update. She stated that there were 166 new adult patients associated with the program. HCHP is expected to see approximately 9,775 patients per year as required by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As of September, HCHP served 6,084 unduplicated patients and completed 16,157 total visits. Dr. Small stated that the amount of unduplicated patients seen overall has trended downward due to unforeseen factors such as weather events and a provider being out on medical leave. As a result, HCHP has experienced a slight decline in patient visits for the month. Dr. Small provided an overview of the Council activities from June 2021 through August 2021 and delivered a brief summary of the HCHP Bylaws noting that there were no revisions made. Additionally, Dr. Small presented a summary of HRSA’s operational site visit (OSV) preparations and provided an update on the change in scope for Harmony House. She explained that the change in scope will temporarily discontinue services at Harmony House due to fire and water damage that has destroyed the facility. A copy of the report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>Motion No. 21.10-107 Moved by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, seconded by Dr. Ewan Johnson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</p>	
<p>B.</p> <p>Approval of Health Care for the Homeless Program Bylaws [Annual Accountability: No Revisions] Material on the 2022 Service Area Competition Application Budget is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>Motion No. 21.10-108 Moved by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, seconded by Dr. Ewan Johnson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</p>	<p>Motion No. 21.10-108 Moved by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, seconded by Dr. Ewan Johnson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</p>

	<p>C. Approval of Changes in Scope to Services Provided at Harris Health System Health Care for the Homeless Program Clinic, Located in Harmony House.</p>	<p>Motion No. 21.10-109 Moved by Dr. Ms Alicia Reyes, seconded by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.</p>
<p>XII. Adjournment</p>	<p>Moved by Dr. Ewan Johnson, seconded by Mr. Lawrence Finder, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.</p>	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 28, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Arthur Bracey, M.D., Chair



Elena Marks, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry Pierson