

**MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
**Board Meeting**
**Thursday, July 25, 2024**
**9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
<b>I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance</b>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Dr. Caracostis, Chair. It was noted that a quorum was present and the attendance was recorded. Dr. Caracostis 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. Only participants scheduled to speak have been provided dial in information for the meeting. All others who wish to view the meeting may access the meeting online through the Harris Health website: <a href="http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live">http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live</a>.</p>	<p>A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</p>
<b>II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Meeting – June 27, 2024</li> </ul>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.07-98</b>        Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the June 27, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.</p>
<b>III. Announcements/ Special Presentations</b>	<p><b>A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hurricane Beryl Response</b></li> </ul> <p>Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), delivered the CEO Report. He addressed Hurricane Beryl's impact on Harris Health's facilities and expressed satisfaction with the resilience shown by Harris Health's leadership and employees. He also addressed the impact of the CrowdStrike outage and praised the leadership and staff, particularly the information technology department, for their efforts to address and resolve CrowdStrike's impact on Harris Health. Additionally, Dr. Porsa provided an overview of the notable awards received by Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson Hospitals. Additionally, he highlighted that Harris Health has been included in Forbes' list of America's Best Employers for Women for 2024. Dr. Porsa first acknowledged Dr. Jennifer Small, Executive Vice President of Ambulatory Care Services, for her leadership in organizing the initiative Before highlighting that Harris Health recently held its inaugural Community Collaboration Session, which successfully convened eleven (11) Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) for a joint meeting. He announced that the Center for Accelerating Health Equity (CARE) will host its first listening session on Friday, August 2nd, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Ms. Ingrid Robison, Trustee requested more information regarding Hurricane Beryl. Dr. Porsa reviewed the insights and lessons learned from the emergency preparedness process, focusing on the importance between essential versus non-essential services and needs.</p>	<p>As Presented.</p>

	<p><b>B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</b></p> <p>Mr. Jim Robinson, Trustee, announced that the Harris County Appraisal District has released its preliminary certified estimate of the 2025 taxable property values. Ms. Tijerina, Trustee, honored the late Honorable Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for her dedication and service to the community. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee passed away on July 19, 2024. Dr. Cody Pyke, Trustee, announced that she will attend the 2024 Healthcare Governance Conference hosted by Texas Healthcare Trustees from July 25–27th in San Antonio, Texas. She also shared her reflections on her experience with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Dr. Caracostis announced that The White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders will hold a community-wide engagement event at the Hope Clinic.</p>	As Presented.
<b>IV. Public Comment</b>	There were no public speakers registered to appear before the Board.	
<b>V. Executive Session</b>	At 9:27 a.m., Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items V. 'A and B' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Tex. Occ. Ann. §§151.002 and 160.007, and Tex. Gov't. Code Ann. §551.071.	
	<p><b>A.</b> Report Regarding Quality of Medical and Healthcare, 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, Including Report of the Medical Executive Board in Connection with the Evaluation of the Quality of Medical and Healthcare Services, Including the Harris Health System Quality, Safety Performance Measures, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session</p>	No Action Taken
	<p><b>B.</b> Medical Executive Board Report and Credentialing Discussion, Pursuant to Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §151.002, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §160.007 and Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032 to Receive Peer Review and/or Medical Committee Report, Including Consideration of Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff</p>	No Action Taken
<b>VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting</b>	At 9:37 a.m., Dr. Caracostis reconvened the meeting in open session; she noted that a quorum was present, and that no action was taken in Executive Session.	
<b>VII. General Action Item(s)</b>		
	<b>A.</b> General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Medical Staff	



	<p>1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff</p> <p>Dr. Martha Mims, Chair, Medical Executive Board, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Medical Staff. For July 2024, there were forty – nine (49) initial appointments, twenty – five (25) reappointments, two (2) change/add privileges, five resignation (5) resignations, twenty – eight (28) temporary privileges and one (1) urgent care need privileges. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-99</u></b>  <b>Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Mr. Jim Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p>2. Approval of Changes to the Community Dentistry Service Clinical Privileges</p> <p>Dr. Mims indicated that a request has been made to include Teledentistry to the Community Dentistry Service Clinical Privileges. Ms. Ingrid Robinson, Trustee, inquired about the staffing requirements for tele-dentistry, prescreening procedures, and requested information on the services being offered. This information will be provided as a Board deliverable. A copy of the Community Dentistry Service Clinical Privileges is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-100</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.2. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p>3. Approval of Changes to the Advanced Practice Professional (APP) Sponsoring Physician Agreement</p> <p>Dr. Mims indicated that The APP Sponsoring Physician Agreement was updated with minor changes to provide clarity and simplification of the statements listed in the document per legal and compliance guidance. A copy of the Advanced Practice Professional (APP) Sponsoring Physician Agreement is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-101</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.3. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<b>B. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Correctional Health Medical Staff</b>	
	<p>1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff</p> <p>Dr. Otis Egins, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff. For July 2024, there were three (3) initial appointments. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-102</u></b>  <b>Moved by Mr. Jennifer Tijerina, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</b></p>
<b>VIII. New Items for Board Consideration</b>		

	<b>A.</b> Approval of the Appointment of Ms. Ingrid Robinson as Chair of the Board of Trustees Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-103</u></b> Moved by Ms. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.
	<b>B.</b> Approve Extension of JPMorgan Chase Direct Pay Letter of Credit and the Amended and Restated Fee Letter and Amended and Restated Reimbursement Agreement related to the Series 2010 Bonds	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-104</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.B. Motion carried.
<b>IX. Strategic Discussion</b>		
	<b>A.</b> Discussion Regarding the Harris Health Tax Rate  Mr. Daniel Ramos, Executive Director, Harris County Office of Management and Budget, led the discussion regarding the Harris Health Tax Rate. He provided an overview of the budget timeline, including the budget process, budget hearings, and budget adoption process. Mr. Ramos outlined the different categories of budget revenue, including the general fund (\$2.4B), grant funds (\$2.4B), proprietary funds (\$634M), and special revenue (\$351M), totaling \$5.1B in the fiscal year operating budget. He explained the distinction between tax rates and tax revenue. Additionally, Mr. Ramos discussed the reduction in ARPA funding and its impact on the budget. Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, offered further insight into the budget process, including how the rates are established and how the budgeting process works. To view Harris County's FY 2023-2024 budget and to explore data, visit <a href="http://www.budget.harriscountytexas.gov">www.budget.harriscountytexas.gov</a> . A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	<b>As Presented.</b>
<b>X. Consent Agenda Items</b>		
	<b>A.</b> Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A12)  Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, Trustee, inquired about Item A6 concerning additional funds for law enforcement services for the Texas Medical Center Police Department. Mr. Louis Smith, Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, explained that temporary security officers were used to fill shifts but had other commitments that affected their ability to provide consistent	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-105</u></b> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. Motion carried.

	<p>coverage at Ben Taub or LBJ campuses, underscoring the need for dedicated officers at those sites. Ms. Tijerina also inquired about Items A1 and A2 concerning the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) at LBJ Hospital, specifically asking who is responsible for ensuring their compliance. Mr. Patrick Casey, Senior Vice President, Facilities Construction &amp; Systems Engineering, stated that Harris Health, along with Harris County, is responsible for ensuring the CMARs are in compliance. Ms. Ingrid Robinson, Trustee, emphasized the importance of holding CMARs accountable for communicating with their subcontractors. She also stressed that Harris Health must ensure its Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) goals and intentions are met to enable active community participation in the projects. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p>	
	<p><b>B. Consent Governing Body Recommendations</b></p> <p>Ms. Jennifer Tijerina requested to have consent agenda items X.B.1. brought forward for discussion.</p>	
	<p>1. Approval of the Amended Governing Body Bylaws for the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) at LBJ</p> <p>Ms. Tijerina recognized Dr. Scott Perry, Medical Director of the ASC, and Mr. Matthew Reeder, Administrator of the ASC, for their hard work and dedication to the Ambulatory Surgical Center at LBJ.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-107*</u></b>  <b>Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.B.1. Motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>*Note: this item was taken out of order after the vote on agenda item X.C</b></p>
	<p><b>C. New Consent Items for Board Approval</b></p>	
	<p>1. Approval to Enter into an Agreement with CenterPoint Energy Resource Corporation to Provide Natural Gas Services for the LBJ Hospital Expansion Project</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-106</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1. through X.C.4. Motion carried.</b></p>



	2. Approval to Amend the Lease Agreement between Harris County and Harris Health Regarding the Thomas Street Health Center, Located at 2015 Thomas St., Houston, TX 77009	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-106</u></b> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1. through X.C.4. Motion carried.
	3. Approval of an Increase to Payment for the Total Compensation Amount Not-to-Exceed \$5,386,123.62 for the Fifth Contract Year of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Services Agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-106</u></b> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1. through X.C.4. Motion carried.
	4. Approval to Amend an Agreement between Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health System and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Regarding Inpatient Behavioral Health Services	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-106</u></b> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1. through X.C.4. Motion carried.
	<b>D. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board</b>	
	1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System  <i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i>	<b>For Information Only</b>
<b>XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for the Homeless Program</b>		

	<p><b>A. 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</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCHP July 2024 Operational Update</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Executive Vice President, Ambulatory Care Services, delivered a presentation regarding the Health Care for the Homeless Program July 2024 Operational Update including Productivity Report, Consumer Advisory Report and Quality Improvement Award (QIA): Uniform Data System (UDS+) Award. Dr. Small reported that HCHP has provided care to 4,021 unduplicated patients and conducted a total of 13,879 visits year-to-date. In June, HCHP served 994 unduplicated patients, including 630 who received family practice services and, and completed 2,658 visits. Dr. Small shared that there are three (3) nursing vacancies, with two (2) of those positions currently filled. She highlighted the key council activities from February 2024 to April 2024, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council was briefed on changes to the HCHP eligibility process.</li> <li>• An update was provided on the MLK parking project, particularly regarding mobile units and the need for a HRSA scope change.</li> <li>• The council received information on staff changes and recruitment strategies for nurse practitioners, psychiatrists, and family physicians.</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, Dr. Small presented on the Fiscal Year 2024 Quality Improvement Award: Uniform Data System Patient-Level Submission (QIA: UDS+), which includes funding of \$33,625 for an Epic data analyst to support UDS+ implementation. A copy of the operational update is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-108</u></b>  <b>Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p><b>B. Approval of the HCHP Consumer Advisory Report</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-109</u></b>  <b>Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p><b>C. Approval of the HCHP Budget Narrative for the Fiscal Year 2024 Quality Improvement Award (QIA): Uniform Data System (UDS+)</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.07-110</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.</b></p>

<b>XII. Executive Session</b>	At 10:38 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items XII. 'C through G' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071 and 551.085.	
	<b>C.</b> Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. STAR+Plus, Accreditation and the Financial Performance for the Year-to-Date Ending May 31, 2024, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	<b>No Action Taken</b>
	<b>D.</b> Discussion Regarding Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Matters, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session Related to Internal and External Lines of Credit	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-111</u></b> <b>Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.D. Motion carried.</b>
	<b>E.</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 Status of Fraud and Abuse Investigations, Pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	<b>No Action Taken</b>
	<b>F.</b> Consultation with Attorney Related to Human Resources Policies, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071	<b>No Action Taken</b>
	<b>G.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Amended Resolution Naming Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, the Authority to Act on Behalf of the Hospital District in all Matters Related to the Monies Distributed by the Texas Opioid Abatement Council, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session, Including Approval of the Amended Resolution, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071	<b><u>Motion No. 24.07-112</u></b> <b>Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.G. Motion carried.</b>
<b>XIII. Reconvene</b>	At 11:58 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis reconvened the meeting in open session; she noted that a quorum was present. She stated that the Board will now take action on items XII. 'D and G' of the Executive Session agenda.	
<b>XIV. Adjournment</b>	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.	



I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on July 25, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Pierson, MBA