

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

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 29, 2024

9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance	The meeting was called to order at 9:02 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> .	A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.
II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Meeting – July 25, 2024</li> </ul>	<u>Motion No. 24.08-113</u> Moved by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the July 25, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	<p>A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget &amp; Tax Rates Update</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), presented the CEO Report and provided the following updates: Ben Taub Hospital was again named a best maternity hospital by Newsweek; a recent survey by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards praised the Harris County Jail Health program as the best it has ever been; and Harris Health hosted multiple significant events, including the first Community Listening session, HR Symposium with former Mayor Sylvester Turner, and discussions with Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia and USDA Department Secretary Ms. Xochitl Torres Small on the Food Farmacy program. Dr. Porsa noted that on Wednesday, August 14th, Harris Health held another Community Town Hall in Precinct 2 at the Leonel Castillo Community Center. Additionally, on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, Harris Health hosted an in-person Leadership Forum featuring Dr. Renu Khator, Chancellor of the University of Houston System, as the special guest speaker. Upcoming events include Restart a Heart Day on October 16, 2024, a Heart Walk on October 26, 2024, and Celebrate You, an annual celebration for employees and their families, including Harris Health's medical partners on November 9, 2024. Additionally, Dr. Porsa provided an update on Harris Health's Budget and Tax Rate. He shared that the proposed budget indicates a projected year-end margin of 3.6% or \$88 million for FY24, down from the previously-projected 5% or \$120 million. For FY25, a 1% operating margin is recommended, and the Board is scheduled to review the proposed budget on August 29, 2024.</p>	As Presented.

	He added that the budget reflects a margin of \$29.1 million, a \$35.1 million decrease from the presentation to the Commissioners Court on August 15th. Dr. Porsa reiterated that Harris Health is working in good faith and full collaboration with the Office of Management and Budget and the Harris County Attorney's Office to find a resolution regarding discussions centered around the correctional health budget. Mr. Jay Aiyer, First Assistant County Attorney at the Harris County Attorney's Office, discussed efforts to collaborate and find a mutually agreeable solution. An interlocal agreement is currently being worked on, which will require approval from both the Board and the Commissioners Court.	
	<b>B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</b>  There were no announcements made by the Board members.	<b>As Presented.</b>
<b>IV. Public Comment</b>	Ms. Cynthia Cole, Executive Director of Local #1550 – AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees), addressed the Board on employee concerns.	<b>As Presented.</b>
<b>V. Executive Session</b>	At 9:16 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.	
	<b>A.</b> 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, 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	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<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 & 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	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<b>C.</b> Report Regarding Harris Health System Correctional Health Quality of Medical and Healthcare, Including Credentialing Discussion and Operational Updates, Pursuant to Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §151.002, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §160.007, Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 to Receive Peer Review and/or Medical Committee Report with Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
<b>VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting</b>	At 9:33 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 August 2024, there were fifty (50) initial appointments, 162 reappointments, eight (8) change/add privileges, twenty – seven (27) resignations, twenty – eight (28) temporary privileges and five (5) urgent care need privileges. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-114</b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>2. Approval of Changes to the General Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinical Privileges</p> <p>Dr. Mims indicated that a request was made to add Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) and Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) to the General Surgery Clinical Privileges and the Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinical Privileges to accommodate practitioners who qualify to request the privilege. A copy of the General Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinical Privileges is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-115</b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.2. Motion carried.</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 Ekins, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff. In August 2024, there was one (1) resignation. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-116</b> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p>
<b>VIII. New Items for Board Consideration</b>		
	<p><b>A. Approval of the Appointment of Mr. Jim Robinson as Chair, and Ms. Ingrid Robinson as a Member of the Board of Trustees Budget &amp; Finance Committee</b></p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-117</b> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.</p>

	<p><b>B. Approval of the Appointment of Ms. Libby Viera-Bland as a Member of the Board of Trustees Governance Committee</b></p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-118</u></b> Moved by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.B. Motion carried.</p>
	<p><b>C. Approval of a Board Resolution Renaming the Margo Hilliard Alford Clinic to Harris Health Urgent Care at The Outpatient Center</b></p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Executive Vice President, Ambulatory Care Services, presented the Board resolution to rename the Margo Hilliard Alford Clinic to Harris Health Urgent Care at The Outpatient Center. Discussion ensued regarding any policies changes related to urgent care services and potential delays in services that might arise from the transition. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-119</u></b> Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.C. Motion carried.</p>
	<p><b>D. Approval of the Proposed Harris Health Public Policy Platform for the Texas 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session</b></p> <p>Mr. R. King Hillier, Vice President Public Policy &amp; Government Relations, presented the Proposed Harris Health Public Policy Platform for the Texas 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. A copy of the platform is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-120</u></b> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.D. Motion carried.</p>
	<p><b>E. Approval of the Proposed Harris Health Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget</b></p> <p>Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Proposed Harris Health Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget. She stated that Administration recommends board approval of the following motion: "Approval of the Harris Health System Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget to be presented to the Harris County Commissioners Court for final approval in conjunction with the adoption of the 2024 Tax Rate that will result in an ad valorem tax revenue not to exceed the amount shown in the proposed budget". An executive summary and Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-121</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.E. Motion carried.</p>

IX. Strategic Discussion		
	<p><b>A. August Committee Reports</b></p> <p><b><u>DEI Committee</u></b></p> <p>Dr. Pyke stated that the Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion Committee met on August 16, 2024 and the following topics were covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Derek Holmes, Administrative Director, Contracting Diversity, delivered an update regarding Harris Health’s Minority/Woman-owned Business (MWBE) Enterprises.</li> <li>• The Committee requested a summary of the presentation by highlighting the following: the three (3) top achievements since the program's launch, the three (3) main areas for growth or improvement, and the three (3) biggest barriers to contracts becoming eligible.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Top 3 Successes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harris Health established a robust Contractor Diversity Outreach program with a focus on developing M/WBE awareness of the program and hosting/participating in events by both trade and industry type.</li> <li>• Harris Health exceeded the program’s initial 20% goal, with FY24 YTD Awards of 29%.</li> <li>• Harris Health developed internal awareness of the program within Procurement function and established processes that ensure timely M/WBE evaluation of solicitations.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Top 3 Barriers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimal M/WBE participation within Cooperative agreements.</li> <li>• Potential restrictive policies by Primes on construction contracts (i.e., Prequalification and Bonding requirements). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Please note certain requirements may be necessary at times; however, there may be ways to reduce these types of participation barriers.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• M/WBEs must register as vendors with Harris Health in order for Harris Health to consider them.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Top 3 Areas for Growth</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue capacity building initiatives.</li> <li>• Identify additional opportunities to include M/WBEs in the pool of vendors available for consideration for purchases under \$250k.</li> <li>• Increase resources to improve monitoring and tracking of payments.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additionally, The Committee discussed the 2024 DEI reporting schedule.</li> </ul>	<p><b>As Presented.</b></p>



	<p><b><u>Quality Committee</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Caracostis stated that the monthly High Reliability Organization (HRO) Video “Hand Hygiene” was displayed in Open Session at the Quality Committee meeting on August 13, 2024.</li> <li>• Harris Health’s Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) with South Texas College of Law – Houston (STCL-Houston) began in October 2022 to address patients’ health harming legal needs, such as housing and guardianship. Connecting patients who want assistance to resources is a key activity in Harris Health’s health equity strategy.</li> </ul>	
<b>X. Consent Agenda Items</b>		
	<b>A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations</b>	
	<p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A16)</p> <p>Mr. DeWight Dopslauf, Purchasing Agent, Harris County, noted that Item A6 will be pulled from the consent agenda. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-122</u></b> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. (Items A1 – A5, and A7 through A16), as presented. Motion carried.</p>
	<b>B. Consent Committee Recommendations</b>	
	<p>Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, Trustee, requested to have consent agenda items X.B.1. and X.D.4. pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.</p>	
	<p>1. Approval to Adopt the Revised 2024 DEI Reporting Schedule to Reflect Bi-monthly Meetings with a Lengthened Meeting Time of 90-Minutes, as recommended by the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee</p> <p>Ms. Tijerina thanked Dr. Pyke for implementing the proposed revisions to the DEI reporting schedule.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-124*</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. and X.D.4. Motion carried.</p> <p>*Note: this item was taken out of order after the vote on agenda item X.C.1.</p>

	<b>C. Consent Grant Recommendations</b>	
	1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Items C1 through C3)	<b><u>Motion No. 24.08-123</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.
	<b>D. New Consent Items for Board Approval</b>	
	1. Acceptance of the Harris Health June 2024 Financial Report Subject to Audit	<b><u>Motion No. 24.08-123</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.
	2. Acceptance of the Harris Health July 2024 Financial Report Subject to Audit	<b><u>Motion No. 24.08-123</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.
	3. Approval to Renew and Amend the Interlocal Agreement Between Harris Health and Harris County, Texas for Legal Representation and Related Support Services Provided by the Harris County Attorney's Office	<b><u>Motion No. 24.08-123</u></b> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.

	<p>4. Approval of Payment of the Total Compensation Amount for the Fifth Contract Year of the Dental Services Agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston</p> <p>Ms. Tijerina inquired about the details of the dental contract agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston). Dr. Porsa responded with concerns regarding the previous provider.</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-124*</b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. and X.D.4. Motion carried.</b></p> <p><b>*Note: this item was taken out of order after the vote on agenda item X.C.1.</b></p>
	<p>5. Approval to Enter into a First Amendment of an Interlocal Agreement between The Harris Center for Mental Health &amp; IDD, Harris County, Texas, and Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health for Electronic Medical Record Software Subscription, Support, and Maintenance</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-123</b>  <b>Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p>6. Approval to Enter into a Second Amendment of an Interlocal Agreement between The Harris Center for Mental Health &amp; IDD and Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health for Electronic Medical Record Software Subscription, Support, and Maintenance</p>	<p><b>Motion No. 24.08-123</b>  <b>Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C.1., X.D.1. through X.D.3., X.D.5., and X.D.6. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p><b>E. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board</b></p>	
	<p>1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System</p> <p><b><i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i></b></p>	<p><b>For Information Only</b></p>



XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for the Homeless Program		
	<p><b>A.</b> 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HCHP August 2024 Operational Update</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Tracey Burdine, Director, Health Care for the Homeless Program, presented the August 2024 Operational Update, which included the Productivity Report and the Q2 Budget Summary Report. She reported that HCHP has provided care to 4,400 unduplicated patients and conducted a total of 15,623 visits year – to – date. In July, HCHP served 971 unduplicated patients, with 660 receiving family practice services. Ms. Burdine observed a decline in services compared to the previous year due to a shortage of providers and also reported 1,746 completed visits for the month of July. Additionally, Ms. Burdine presented the Q2 Budget Summary report, highlighting that the budget covers a multi-year cycle. She noted that at the end of year two, HCHP had utilized 28.4% of the budget. Ms. Burdine discussed the operating items that fell below the 25% threshold, including travel, supplies, equipment, and contractual expenses. She mentioned that while the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) was previously expected to serve approximately 9,775 patients per year, as mandated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the goal has now been revised to 7,225 patients. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-125</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</b></p>
	<p><b>B.</b> Approval of the HCHP Second Quarter Budget Summary Report</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.08-126</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</b></p>
<p><b>XII. Executive Session</b></p>	<p>At 10:25 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through G' as permitted by law under Tex. Health &amp; Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.074, and 551.085.</p>	
	<p><b>D.</b> Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Organizational Update and the Year-to-Date June 2024 Financial Performance, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085</p>	<p><b>No Action Taken.</b></p>

	<b>E.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Jail Medical Services Provided by Harris Health at the Harris County Jail, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<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 Status of Fraud and Abuse Investigations, Pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<b>G.</b> Discussion Regarding the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Evaluation, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.074	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
<b>XIII. Reconvene</b>	At 11:59 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis reconvened the meeting in open session; she noted that a quorum was present, and that no action was taken in Executive Session.	
<b>XIV. Adjournment</b>	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on August 29, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Pierson, MBA