

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 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 9:01 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: http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live .	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"> Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Workshop Meeting – August 1, 2024 	<u>Motion No. 24.09-127</u> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the August 1, 2024 Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Workshop meeting. Motion carried.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Call Board Meeting – August 22, 2024 	<u>Motion No. 24.09-128</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Mr. Jim Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the August 22, 2024 Special Call Board meeting. Motion carried.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Meeting – August 29, 2024 	<u>Motion No. 24.09-129</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the August 29, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget & Tax Rates Update Public Art Project on the Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital (LBJ) Campus Update Regarding Underground Power Lines on the LBJ Campus <p>Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), presented the CEO Report and provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last week, the Harris County Commissioners Court approved Harris Health's revised FY25 budget and tax rate. Harris Health is requesting seasoned and emerging artists residing in Harris County to submit their qualifications for the LBJ Campus Expansion – Garage Façade Project (Phase I). Dr. Porsa expressed his deepest gratitude to CenterPoint Energy and its CEO, Mr. Jason Wells, for their support in enhancing resilience at our LBJ campus by undergrounding the power lines from the nearest electrical substation, located four miles away. Harris Health 2024 Physician Engagement Survey is currently in progress, and the 2024 Employee Engagement Survey will take place this November. Dr. Porsa also highlighted upcoming events, including a collaboration with the American Heart Association (AHA) to host the world's largest CPR training event on October 16, 2024 for World AIDS Day, along with our annual "Celebrate You" event on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM at 4800 Fournace Place, Bellaire, Texas. 	As Presented.
	B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements <p>There were no announcements made by the Board members.</p>	As Presented.
IV. Public Comment	There were no public speakers registered to appear before the Board.	As Presented.
V. Executive Session	At 9:08 a.m., Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items V. 'A through D' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §§151.002, 160.007 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071.	
	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, Including Report of the Medical Executive Board in Connection with the Evaluation of the Quality of Medical and Healthcare Services, Including the Harris Health Quality, Safety Performance Measures, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.

	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	No Action Taken.
	C. 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	No Action Taken.
	D. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Interlocal Agreement between Harris County and Harris Health Related to Correctional Health Services, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting	At 9:46 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.	
VII. General Action Item(s)		
	A. 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 September 2024, there were forty – six (46) initial appointments, ninety – one (91) reappointments, three (3) change/add privileges, fourteen (14) resignations, eighteen (18) temporary privileges and fourteen (14) urgent patient care need privileges. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-130</u> Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</p>
	B. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Correctional Health Medical Staff	
	<p>1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff</p> <p>Dr. Otis Eging, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff. For September 2024, there were two (2) initial appointments and two (2) reappointments. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-131</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>2. Approval of the Harris Health Correctional Health Medical Staff Bylaws</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis noted that this item has been pulled and will be revisited next month.</p>	<u>PULLED</u>

VIII. New Items for Board Consideration		
	<p>A. Approval of the First Amendment to an Interlocal Agreement between Harris County and Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health for Correctional Healthcare</p> <p>Ms. Sara Thomas, Chief Legal Officer, Harris County Attorney’s Office, indicated that this agreement extends the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) until December 31, 2024 to allow Harris County and Harris Health time to finalize the terms of a new ILA that updates the current arrangements. A copy of the ILA Agreement is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-132</u> Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. Approval of the Revised Harris Health Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget</p> <p>Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, presented the Revised Harris Health Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget, reflecting the new VAR tax rate of \$0.16348 approved by the Harris County Commissioners Court. A copy of the Revised Harris Health Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budget is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-133</u> Moved by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.B. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>C. Approval to Enter into a New Sublease Agreement between Harris Health and Harris County for Clinical Space at Centrico Pasadena Development, 100 Pasadena Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77506</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Executive Vice President, Ambulatory Care Services, shared that Harris Health plans to consolidate and relocate the Monroe Same Day Clinic, Strawberry Health Center, and the Pediatric & Adolescent Health Center-Pasadena into a single facility. The Monroe Same Day Clinic will become an Urgent Care Clinic with an expanded range of services, helping to alleviate pressure on hospital emergency departments, while providing on-site access to laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy services. Additionally, Dr. Small noted that Harris Health plans to start operations in 2027. Mr. Patrick Casey, Senior Vice President, Facilities, Construction & System Engineering, explained that will be a twenty-year Sublease Agreement between Harris Health and Harris County, which includes a five-year renewal option to lease the first floor of the former Dillard’s Department Store. The base rate will cover the costs that Harris County incurs on behalf of Harris Health for the project's development. A discussion followed regarding the use of the remaining building space and the need to vacate the current tenants before acquiring that space. Dr. Porsa further clarified that Harris County's use of the second-floor space in the building will have no financial or operational impact on Harris Health and its services. Dr. Small stated that proper notification and adequate time will be provided to the current tenants leasing the office spaces. Dr. Porsa took a moment to acknowledge the planning efforts over the past year, marking the first step toward the overall strategic plan aimed at enhancing services for Harris Health patients and facilitating co-location services that the County may offer to community members. Ms. Jennifer Tijerina expressed concerns about the proposed location and the limited availability of public transportation, including rideshare options such as Lyft and Uber, in the Pasadena area. Dr. Small shared that she will follow up on this matter. A copy of the new sublease agreement is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-134</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Mr. Jim Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.C. Motion carried.</p>

IX. Strategic Discussion		
	<p>A. Presentation Regarding New Hospital Construction and Costs</p> <p>Mr. Casey delivered a presentation on New Hospital Construction and Costs. He outlined a timeline for the LBJ campus expansion, summarizing the projected construction costs from groundbreaking in May 2024 to the first quarter of 2029. He also emphasized three (3) key categories contributing to these construction costs. Mr. Smith indicated that the Board will receive updates during each phase of the construction process. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.</p>	As Presented.
	<p>B. September Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Committee Dr. Pyke stated that the Quality Committee met on September 10, 2024 and the following topics were covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The monthly High Reliability Organization (HRO) Video “Antibiotics Before Surgery” was displayed. • The Red Rule Policy was updated to ensure all staff operate within a just and accountable culture. The review focused on defining, differentiating, and responding to the three behaviors that can lead to risk and patient harm: (1) human error; (2) at-risk behavior; and (3) reckless behavior. The changes were effective August 26, 2024. • Compliance & Audit Committee Ms. Carol Paret stated that the Compliance & Audit Committee met on September 10, 2024 and the following topics were covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Education: The Committee received compliance education from the Chief Compliance and Risk Officer on Compliance Program Infrastructure: The Seven Elements. • Internal Audit Quarterly Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mention of completed engagements (Baylor Provider Invoicing; Nursing Licenses; M/WBE Program and Policy; Benefits Eligibility). The Baylor and Nursing Licenses audits were privileged and to be discussed in Executive Session. ○ Overview of in-progress engagements – Six engagements were in-progress (IT Asset Management; UKG Post-Implementation; Outpatient Appointment Utilization; Inpatient Non-Formulary Drug Process; Drug Oversight Assessment; Evaluation of Patient Care in EC Boarding). Two were scheduled to start in quarter 4 (Cybersecurity Training Compliance; Outsourced Medical Services Contract Payments), and one was scheduled to start in FY25 quarter 1 (Correctional Health Provider Invoicing). ○ Summary of outstanding management action plans (MAPs) – There were eleven (11) outstanding MAPs from six (6) prior engagements (UT Provider Invoicing; Medical Device Security; M/WBE Program and Policy; Business Continuity and 	As Presented.

	<p>Disaster Recovery; HIPAA Privacy Controls; Vendor Payment Timeliness). This included five past-due, high-priority MAPs to be discussed in Executive Session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Conference Committee Dr. Caracostis stated that the Joint Conference Committee met on September 12, 2024 and the following topics were covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee received an update from Dr. Martha Mims, Chair, Medical Executive Board, regarding the MEB. • The Committee received an update from Dr. Tien Ko, Chief of Staff, LBJ and Dr. Sandeep Markan, Chief of Staff, BT, related to System pavilions. • The Committee received an update from Dr. Fareed Khan, Assistant Chief of Staff, BT and Dr. Mohammad Zare, Assistant Chief of Staff, UT, related to Ambulatory Care Services. 	
X. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A9)</p> <p>Ms. Paige McInnis, Purchasing Agent, Harris County, noted that the total expenditures at the bottom of the purchasing matrix was amended from \$52,798,220 to reflect \$22,798,220. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-135</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. as amended. Motion carried.</p>
	B. Consent Committee Recommendations	
	<p>Ms. Tijerina requested to have consent agenda item X.C.1. (Item C4) pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.</p>	
	<p>1. Approval of the Annual Reports Regarding Neonatal and Maternal Health Programs for Ben Taub and LBJ Hospitals Discussed at the September 10, 2024 Quality Committee</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-136</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. through X.D.1., with the exception of X.C.1. (Item C4) of the Grant Matrix. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion substituted the previous motion, which incorrectly excluded all of Items X.C.1. (C1-C4) of the Grant Matrix.</i></p>

	C. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Items C1 through C4)</p> <p>Ms. Tijerina inquired about grant related to the Harris Health Strategic Fund. Dr. Porsa clarified that while the Strategic Fund Board was established to raise funds for the strategic facilities plan, it can also accept and distribute grants. This award, presented by EPIC, is designated for correctional health for various purposes. A copy of the grant matrix is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-136</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. through X.D.1., with the exception of item X.C.1. (Item C4) of the Grant Matrix. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion substituted the previous motion, which incorrectly excluded all of Items X.C.1. (C1-C4) of the Grant Matrix.</i></p> <p><u>Motion No. 24.09-137</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.C.1. (Item C4) of the Grant Matrix. Motion carried. <i>*Note: this item was taken out of order after it was pulled from the consent agenda.</i></p>
	D. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	<p>1. Acceptance of the Harris Health August 2024 Financial Report Subject to Audit</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-136</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. through X.D.1., with the exception of item X.C.1. (Item C4) of the Grant Matrix. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion substituted the previous motion, which incorrectly excluded all of Items X.C.1. (C1-C4) of the Grant Matrix.</i></p>
	E. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board	

	<p>1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System</p> <p><i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i></p>	For Information Only
XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for the Homeless Program		
	<p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCHP September 2024 Operational Update • HCHP C8E Capital Grant Extension • HCHP Service Area Competition Grant Budget • HCHP Patient Satisfaction Report 	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-138</u> Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>Dr. Nelson Gonzalez, Grants Project Manager, Health Care for the Homeless Program, presented the September 2024 Operational Update. This included details on the HCHP C8E Capital Grant Extension, the HCHP Service Area Competition Grant Budget, and the HCHP Patient Satisfaction Report. He reported that HCHP has provided care to 4,902 unduplicated patients and conducted a total of 18,403 visits year – to – date. In August of 2024, HCHP served 1,240 unduplicated patients, with 805 receiving family practice services. Dr. Gonzalez noted an increase in services compared to the previous year, reporting a total of 2,681 completed visits for the month of August of 2024. He gave an overview of the American Rescue Plan for health center construction and capital improvements, detailing the award date, funding amount, and services offered. He also outlined the budget for the Service Area Competition Grant Application, along with the services provided. Finally, Dr. Gonzalez presented the trending data for HCHP Patient Satisfaction for the second quarter. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.</p>	
	<p>B. Approval of the HCHP C8E Capital Grant Extension</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-139</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</p>

	C. Approval of the HCHP Service Area Competition Grant Budget	Motion No. 24.09-140 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of the HCHP Patient Satisfaction Report	Motion No. 24.09-141 Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Ms. Jennifer Tijerina, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.D. Motion carried.
XII. Executive Session	At 10:48 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items XII. 'E through H' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.074, and 551.085.	
	E. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Organizational Update and the Year-to-Date July 2024 Financial Performance, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	No Action Taken.
	F. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Settlement of Claim with Clark Linbeck, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	Motion No. 24.09-142 Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Mr. Jim Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.F. Motion carried.
	G. 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	No Action Taken.

	<p>H. Discussion Regarding the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Evaluation, Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §551.074 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 24.09-143</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Jim Robinson, and majority passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.H. Ms. Jennifer Tijerina opposed the motion. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion was moved to approve the 2024 Evaluation of the President/CEO as presented in Executive Session.</i></p> <p><u>Motion No. 24.09-144</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and majority passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.H. Ms. Jennifer Tijerina abstained from the vote. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion was moved to approve the first amendment to the employee agreement between Dr. Esmaeil Porsa and Harris Health.</i></p> <p><u>Motion No. 24.09-145</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and majority passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.H. Ms. Jennifer Tijerina abstained from the vote. Motion carried. <i>*NOTE: This motion was moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 CEO Evaluation metrics as presented in Executive Session.</i></p>
XIII. Reconvene	At 12:34 p.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. Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board will now take action on items XII. ‘F and H’ of the Executive Session agenda.	
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on September 26, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Caracostis", written in a cursive style.

Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paret", written in a cursive style.

Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Pierson, MBA