

**MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
<b>I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance</b>	The meeting was called to order at 9:36 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.
<b>II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Meeting – September 26, 2024</li> </ul>	<u>Motion No. 24.10-146</u> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of the September 26, 2024 Board meeting. Motion carried.
<b>III. Announcements/ Special Presentations</b>	<p><b>A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements</b></p> <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"> <li>A total of 180 nurses from Harris Health were recognized with the Good Samaritan Excellence in Nursing awards:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold Award: Jessica Sennett, DNP, RN</li> <li>Silver Award: Rizalina Bonuel, PhD, RN</li> </ul> </li> <li>On October 16th, Harris Health, in partnership with the American Heart Association (AHA), hosted one of the largest Hands-Only CPR training events in observance of World Restart a Heart Day.</li> <li>On October 16th, Harris Health celebrated its first joint UT Health at Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Research Day, where faculty, residents, and employees showcased their research and quality improvement efforts, with Dr. Caracostis, Trustee, in attendance.</li> <li>Ms. Maria Cowles, Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer, was honored with the Women Who Mean Business award by the Houston Business Journal.</li> </ul>	As Presented.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Harris Health held its annual Pink Out event to recognize its breast cancer program and celebrate several breast cancer survivors, with Dr. Caracostis serving as the master of ceremonies.</li> <li>This month, Harris Health hosted two community town hall meetings in Precincts 1 and 3. The Precinct 4 town hall meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Bayland Community Center. The Precinct 2 town hall meeting took place in September.</li> <li>Harris Health participated in the 2nd Annual Uplift Her Wellness Day, offering mammography screenings, eligibility assistance, CPR education, and health education.</li> <li>Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, Trustee, was named this year's awardee of the Habitat for Humanity Building Dreams Award for her leadership and contribution to providing affordable housing, which is essential for the health and well-being of our community members.</li> <li>Upcoming events include the Houston Heart Walk on October 26<sup>th</sup> and Harris Health's 3rd Annual Celebrate You event, featuring Field Day activities, on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</b></p> <p>There were no announcements made by the Board members.</p>	<b>As Presented.</b>
<b>IV. Public Comment</b>	Ms. Cynthia Cole, Executive Director, Local #1550 – AFSCME, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, addressed the Board, advocating for fair treatment, wages, and safe working environments for employees.	<b>As Presented.</b>
<b>V. Executive Session</b>	At 9:47 a.m., Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items V. 'A through C' 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.	
	<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 Quality, Safety Performance Measures, Good Catch Recipients, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Quality Reporting 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 Harris Health Medical Staff	<b>No Action Taken.</b>

	<b>C.</b> Report Regarding Harris Health 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 10:20 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 October 2024, there were thirty – three (33) initial appointments, 270 reappointments, twelve (12) change/add privileges, thirty - one (31) resignations, eighteen (18) temporary privileges and eight (8) urgent patient care need privileges. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-147</u></b> <b>Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</b>
	<b>B.</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 Ekins, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health System Correctional Health Medical Staff. For October 2024, there were two (2) initial appointments, seven (7) reappointments and three (3) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-148</u></b> <b>Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</b>
<b>VIII. New Items for Board Consideration</b>		
	<b>A.</b> Approval of the Appointment of Mr. Jim Robinson as a Member of the Board of Trustees Compliance and Audit Committee	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-149</u></b> <b>Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.</b>



	<p><b>B.</b> Approval of the Appointment of Ms. Libby Viera-Bland as a Member of the Board of Trustees Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Ambulatory Surgical Center at LBJ Governing Body</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.10-150</u></b> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.B. Motion carried.</p>
<b>IX. Strategic Discussion</b>		
	<p><b>A.</b> Harris Health Strategic Plan Initiatives</p>	
	<p>1. Presentation Regarding the Harris Health 2021-2025 Strategic Plan Update</p>	<p><b>Agenda Item Tabled.</b></p>
	<p>2. Review and Consideration of Approval Regarding the Naming and Launch of the Sheila Jackson Lee Center for Accelerating Health Equity</p> <p>Dr. Chethan Bachireddy, Senior Vice President, Chief Health Officer, presented a resolution regarding the naming and launch of the Sheila Jackson Lee Center for Accelerating Health Equity, honoring the tireless work and legacy of the late U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.10-151</u></b> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A.2. Motion carried.</p>
	<p><b>B.</b> October Committee Reports</p> <p><b><u>Quality Committee</u></b> Dr. Caracostis reported that the monthly High Reliability Organization (HRO) Video “Clostridioides difficile (C. diff)” was displayed in Open Session at the Quality Committee meeting on October 8, 2024. She emphasized that Harris Health’s commitment to the safety of employees and patients is unwavering and continues to evolve as conditions evolve. She also highlighted opportunities for future improvements in workplace safety and violence prevention, including reaching people through videos, website communications, emails, flyers, and monthly committee meetings.</p> <p><b><u>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee</u></b> Ms. Ingrid Robinson shared that the Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion Committee met on October 11, 2024, covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Chethan Bachireddy, Senior Vice President, Chief Health Officer, delivered a presentation regarding Partnering with Patients and Communities to Advance Access to Care. Dr. Bachireddy highlighted the Settegast Community Action Plan activities, the patient orientation initiative, and the medical home for the primary care program. He also covered community outreach and partner engagement efforts, including health fairs, ongoing training for community partners, and articles published in newspapers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>As Presented.</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jobi Martinez, Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, provided an overview of the 2023 Employee Engagement Survey, an analysis of DEI Employee Engagement findings, a review of employee engagement resources and initiatives for 2024, and discussed the statistical significance of the findings.</li> <li>• The Committee also discussed the proposed 2025 DEI reporting schedule.</li> </ul>	
<b>X. Consent Agenda Items</b>		
	<b>A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations</b>	
	1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A3 of the Purchasing Matrix)  A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-152</u></b> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. Motion carried.
	2. Approval of the Harris Health Premier Spend Report for Quarter 3 of Fiscal Year 2024	<b>For Information Only.</b>
	<b>B. Consent Committee Recommendations</b>	
	Ms. Ingrid Robinson requested to have consent agenda item X.B.1. brought forward for discussion.	
	1. Approval of the 2025 DEI Reporting Schedule  It was noted that the DEI Committee discussed the proposed 2025 DEI reporting schedule, emphasizing the recommended months with no changes to the dates.	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-154</u></b> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.1. Motion carried.  <i>*Note: this item was taken out of order after the vote on agenda items X.C-D.</i>
	<b>C. Consent Grant Recommendations</b>	
	1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Items C1 of the Grant Matrix)	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-153</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C-D. Motion carried.
	<b>D. New Consent Items for Board Approval</b>	

	1. Approval of the Re-Appointment of Dr. Sandeep Markan as Chief of Staff for Ben Taub Hospital	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-153</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C-D. Motion carried.
	2. Approval of a Second Amendment to the Interlocal Subrecipient Agreement Between Harris County and Harris Health for Funds to Support Expansion of Harris Health's Food Rx and Food Pharmacy Program	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-153</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C-D. Motion carried.
	3. Approval of a Second Amendment to the Population Health Collaboration Agreement between The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Harris Health	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-153</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C-D. Motion carried.
	4. Approval to Amend the Lease with Houston Business Development, Inc. for the Dental Center located at 5220-5250 Griggs Rd., Houston, Texas 77021	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-153</u></b> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C-D. Motion carried.
	<b>E. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board</b>	
	1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health System  <b><i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i></b>	<b>For Information Only.</b>



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 October 2024 Operational Update</li> <li>• HCHP Consumer Advisory Report</li> <li>• HCHP Revised Legislative Mandate Policy</li> <li>• HCHP HIV Prevention Funding</li> <li>• HCHP Quality Management Report</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Tracy Burdine, Director of the Health Care for the Homeless Program, presented the October 2024 Operational Update, which included information on the Productivity Report, Consumer Advisory Report, Revised Legislative Mandate Policy, HIV Prevention Funding, Community Engagement, and the Quality Management Report. She reported that HCHP has provided care to 5,324 unduplicated patients and conducted a total of 20,654 visits year – to – date. In September of 2024, HCHP served 1,194 unduplicated patients, with 766 receiving family practice services. Ms. Burdine shared that despite challenges with provider vacancies, HCHP saw a 6% increase in services compared to the previous year. Additionally, Ms. Burdine reported that a total of 2,250 visits were completed in the month of September. Ms. Burdine presented the following highlights of Council activities from May 2024 to July 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council was informed about the HRSA Behavioral Health Service Expansion notice of funding opportunity and approved the grant application.</li> <li>• The council was informed about the HRSA Service Area Competition notice of funding opportunity and approved the grant application.</li> <li>• The council reviewed and approved revisions to the 2024 Quality Management Plan.</li> <li>• The council was informed about the operations and locations of services for the new mobile units.</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Burdine provided an overview of the revisions to the HCHP Legislative Mandate policy, including changes in verbiage and updates to the funding acknowledgement. She also discussed the HIV Epidemic Grant Funding, outlining the award date, funding amount, and the services offered. HCHP community engagement efforts include outreach, educational awareness, and primary care services provided to the community from June to October 2024.</p>	<p><b><u>Motion No. 24.10-155</u></b>  <b>Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A for the HCHP October 2024 Operational Update. Motion carried.</b></p>

	Dr. LaResa Ridge, Medical Director for the Health Care for the Homeless Program, presented the Q2 Quality Management Report. She reported that HCHP has met Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) benchmarks as well as its own internal benchmarks for 11 out of 14 quality standards. The three (3) standards with the most room for improvement are childhood immunization status, depression remission at 12 months, and diabetes A1c >9. Action plans have been implemented to assess the effectiveness of these measures. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	
	<b>B. Approval of the HCHP Consumer Advisory Report</b>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-156</u></b> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.
	<b>C. Approval of the HCHP Revised Legislative Mandate Policy</b>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-157</u></b> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.
	<b>D. Approval of the HCHP HIV Prevention Funding</b>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-158</u></b> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.D. Motion carried.
	<b>E. Approval of the HCHP Quality Management Report</b>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-159</u></b> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.E. Motion carried.



<b>XII. Executive Session</b>	At 10:54 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through I' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071 and 551.085.	
	<b>D.</b> Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Organizational Update and the Year-to-Date August 2024 Financial Performance, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<b>E.</b> Discussion Regarding Expansion of Clinical Service Lines, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.072 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<b>F.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Settlement of Claim with Johnston, LLC, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session  <i>Harris Health, by and through its Board of Trustees, hereby authorizes settlement of a claim between Harris Health and Johnston, LLC payable to Harris Health in the amounts of \$75,800 for the Ben Taub Observation Project and \$39,400 for the Ben Taub Neuropsychiatric Center Level 3 &amp; 4 Project. President/CEO of Harris Health or his designee is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to affect this settlement.</i>	<b><u>Motion No. 24.10-160</u></b> <b>Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.F. Motion carried.</b>
	<b>G.</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>H.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Jail Interlocal Agreement, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.071	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
	<b>I.</b> Consultation with Attorney Regarding Council-at-Large Bylaws, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.071	<b>No Action Taken.</b>
<b>XIII. Reconvene</b>	At 12:13 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' of the Executive Session agenda.	
<b>XIV. Adjournment</b>	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health System Board of Trustees Meeting held on October 24, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Pierson, MBA