

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting
 Wednesday, April 30, 2025
 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. Andrea Caracostis, Chair. It was noted that a quorum was present, and the attendance was recorded. Dr. Caracostis noted that while some Board members were present in person, others were participating via videoconference, in accordance with state law and the Harris Health Videoconferencing Policy. The meeting was accessible for public viewing 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"> Board Meeting – March 27, 2025 	<u>Motion No. 25.04-34</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of March 27, 2025, Board meeting. Motion carried.
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), shared that Harris Health had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Bruce Siegel, President and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals. Dr. Porsa presented data from the 2022 Annual Member Characteristics Survey conducted by America's Essential Hospitals, noting that 35% of Harris Health's visits are inpatient and 53% are outpatient. He highlighted that while the average amount of uncompensated care provided by Essential Hospitals is \$63 million, Harris Health provided over \$720 million in uncompensated care last year. He concluded by sharing updates from the Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFACs) at Lyndon B. Johnson and Ben Taub Hospitals. He also announced the upcoming launch of the Ambulatory Care Services (ACS) PFAC on May 14, which has already received over 300 applications, with at least one representative from each clinic location. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	As Presented.
	B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements Dr. Caracostis provided an update on the Harris Health Annual Faculty Medical Staff Event, held on April 23, which featured Dr. Jeffrey Kuhlman, former Physician to the President and Chief White House Physician, as the special guest speaker.	As Presented.
IV. Public Comment	Ms. Cynthia Cole, Executive Director of Local #1550 – AFSCME (American Federation of State, County,	As Presented.

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	<p>and Municipal Employees), addressed the Board on key topics related to employees, including workplace safety, cost – of – living wages, and benefits related to anxiety and mental health concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Josh Mica, a community member, addressed the Board regarding the transition from the Council – at – Large to the Patient and Family Advisory Council, as well as communication during this process.</p>	
V. Executive Session	At 9:17 a.m., Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board would enter 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.	
	A. Report Regarding Quality of Medical and Healthcare, Pursuant to Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §§151.002, 160.007 and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 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, and also the Harris Health Quality, Safety Performance Measures, Good Catch Recipients, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Quality Reporting with 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, 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 Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
	C. 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, 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.
VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting	At 9:45 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 Medical Staff</p> <p>Dr. Kunal Sharma, Chair, Medical Executive Board, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health Medical Staff. In April 2025, there were ten (10) initial appointments, seventy – one (71) reappointments, fifteen (15) changes/additions of privileges, and five (5) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.04-35</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, 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 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 Correctional Health Medical Staff. In April 2025, there were no initial appointments, five (5) reappointments, and two (2) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.04-36</u> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p>
VIII. Strategic Discussion		
	<p>A. Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 8, 2025: Quality Committee <p>Dr. Caracostis stated that the Quality Committee met on April 8, 2025, and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The HRO Safety Video, “Informed Consent Done Right” was viewed. ○ Harris Health’s commitment to Workplace Safety & Violence is unwavering. Current improvements and methods to get the message to people were presented, i.e., snippets from current videos demonstrating current efforts and programs. Some included Workplace Safety Briefs and the updated website. 	<p>As Presented.</p>

IX. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A13 of the Purchasing Matrix)</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis stated that the purchasing recommendations (Items A1 through A13 of the purchasing matrix) were included in the Board packet. She noted that Agenda Item A2 is being presented for informational purposes only. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>Motion No. 25.04-37 Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A.1. of the purchasing recommendations (A1 through A13 of the purchasing matrix). Motion carried.</p>
	<p>2. Harris Health First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 Premier Spend Report for Information Only</p> <p>A copy of the Harris Health First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025 Premier Spend Report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>For Information Only</p>
	B. Consent Committee Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Revisions to the Board of Trustees Quality Committee Charter</p>	<p>Motion No. 25.04-38 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B – F. Motion carried.</p>
	C. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of a Grant Recommendation (Item C1 of the Grant Matrix)</p>	<p>Motion No. 25.04-38 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B – F. Motion carried.</p>


	D. Consent Contract Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Contract Recommendations (Items D1 through D2 of the Contract Matrix)	Motion No. 25.04-38 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B – F. Motion carried.
	E. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	1. Approval of the Appointment of Ms. Sima Ladjevardian as a Member of the Board of Trustees Governance and Budget & Finance Committees	Motion No. 25.04-38 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B – F. Motion carried.
	F. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board	
	1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health {End of Consent Agenda}	For Information Only
X. Item(s) Related to Thomas Street Health Center		
	A. Discussion Regarding the Grant Assurance Form from The Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group (TRG) to Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health Ms. Dawn Jenkins, Director, HIV Services, led a discussion regarding the Grant Assurance Form from The Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group (TRG) to Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health. The assurance form, provided by TRG, is required to be presented to the Harris Health Board of Trustees for discussion, and the signed form must be documented in the official meeting minutes. The grant assurance form is part of the grantor’s annual form update to subrecipients, and the signing of this form ensure compliance with grantor’s funding requirements. Dr. Caracostis inquired about the role Houston Regional HIV Resource Group (TRG). Dr. Jenkins clarified that TRG, Inc. is an agency which serves as the community – based administrative agency for collaborative HIV/AIDS services funding across Texas. A copy of the assurance form is available in the permanent record.	As Presented.

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 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 April 2025 Operational Update <p>Ms. Tracy Burdine, Director, Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP), presented the April 2025 Operational Update. Her report included the Productivity Report, Consumer Advisory Council Report, Risk Management Report and Service Area Analysis. She shared that HCHP has provided care to 2,641 unduplicated patients, with a total of 7,273 visits year-to-date. In March 2025, HCHP served 1,566 unduplicated patients, completing 2,629 visits, including 797 patients who received family planning services.</p> <p>Ms. Burdine noted that, as a health center funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), HCHP is required to have a governing board with appropriate oversight authority. The annual Risk Management Report informs the Board of ongoing efforts to mitigate risks, improve outcomes, and ensure the delivery of safe, efficient, and effective care. She provided an overview of 2024 risk management activities and identified areas for improvement. She also presented the 2024 Service Area Analysis, highlighting that HCHP serves the City of Houston through shelter-based clinics and mobile outreach units (medical and dental). These clinics are strategically located in areas where individuals experiencing homelessness congregate, primarily Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.04-39</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. Approval of the HCHP Consumer Advisory Council Report</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Small, Chief Executive Officer, Ambulatory Care Services, presented highlights from the Consumer Advisory Council Report for the period November 2024 – January 2025. Key topics included staff vacancies, updates on mobile unit operations, and the onboard of three (3) nurse practitioners who are now actively seeing patients. She also shared information related to the Uniform Data System (UDS) report and HCHP participation in community events and health fairs. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.04-40</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</p>

	C. Approval of the HCHP 2024 Annual Risk Management Report	<u>Motion No. 25.04-41</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of the HCHP 2024 Service Area Analysis Report	<u>Motion No. 25.04-42</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.D. Motion carried.
XII. Executive Session	At 10:04 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through G' as permitted by law under Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.072, 551.085 and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032.	
	D. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Performance for the Month Ending February 28, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	No Action Taken.
	E. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Litigation, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Including Consideration of Approval of a Settlement in Civil Action No. 4:17-cv-02749, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas Upon Return to Open Session	<u>Motion No. 25.04-43</u> Moved by Mr. Jim Robinson, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.E. Motion carried.
	F. Consultation with Attorneys Regarding Harris Health's Medical School Affiliation and Support Agreements, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.71, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
	G. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Deliberation of the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.072, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
XIII. Reconvene	At 10:46 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. The Board took action on item XII.E of the Executive Session agenda.	
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Meeting held on April 30, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA