

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025

10:00 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance	The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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 – April 30, 2025 	<u>Motion No. 25.05-44</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of April 30, 2025, Board meeting. Motion carried.
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	<p>A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements</p> <p>Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) and Ben Taub (BT) Hospitals recently completed the Nursing Magnet Status Recertification Survey. Updates were provided on the following projects currently in the construction phase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holly Hall Operations Center Ben Taub Hospital MRI Suite Expansion LBJ Parking Garage Solar Panel Installation LBJ Radiology Interventional Department Reconfiguration LBJ Expansion Hospital Dr. Porsa shared highlights of Patient and Family Advisory Councils (PFAC) activities, including the kickoff meeting for the Ambulatory Care Services PFAC, held on May 14th. <p>Mr. Paul Puente inquired about outreach efforts related to contracting for the ongoing construction projects and asked about the established protocol. Dr. Porsa stated that the organization casts a wide net to engage small businesses within Harris County. He also recommended inviting Mr. Derek Holmes, Vice President of Contract Administration and Contract Diversity, to return to the Board with a formal update on these efforts.</p>	As Presented.

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	<p>B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis stated that the Harris Health System Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome its newest trustee, Mr. Philip Sun. He was appointed to the Board at the May 8, 2025, meeting of the Harris County Commissioners Court, for a term ending May 8, 2027.</p> <p>She noted that Mr. Sun brings extensive leadership experience from across major health care systems, universities, medical research institutes, colleges, health care nonprofits, and foundations. His background includes comprehensive management of capital programs—spanning planning, design, and construction—as well as oversight of finance and administration, facilities management, security, information technology, ancillary services, and real estate portfolios.</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis added that Mr. Sun holds a Bachelor of Arts and a graduate degree in Architecture with a specialization in health care, both from Rice University.</p> <p>On behalf of the Board, she extended a warm welcome to Mr. Sun and expressed her enthusiasm for working with him in service to patients and residents of Harris County.</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis also expressed her sincere appreciation to Mr. Jim Robinson for his dedicated service and valuable contributions over the past two years. She acknowledged Mr. Robinson’s significant impact as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and noted his service on the Compliance and Audit Committee, the Ambulatory Surgical Center at LBJ Governing Body, and in various other important roles.</p>	As Presented.
IV. Public Comment	<p>Ms. Cynthia Cole, Executive Director of Local #1550 – AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees), addressed the Board regarding concerns related to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) department, including equipment issues, safety challenges in the Emergency Center, training needs. She also raised issues related to the Patient Financial Services department at the MLK Health Center and inquired about protocols for handling domestic or wild animals.</p>	As Presented.
V. Executive Session	<p>At 10:16 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.</p>	
	<p>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</p>	No Action Taken.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
	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 10:24 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 May 2025, there were sixteen (16) initial appointments, fifty – six (56) reappointments, six (6) changes/additions of privileges, and thirteen (13) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-45</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>2. Approval of Changes to the Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant General Clinical Privileges</p> <p>A copy of the Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant General Clinical Privileges is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-46</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.2. 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 Egins, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health Correctional Health Medical Staff. In May 2025, there were three (3) initial appointments, two (2) reappointments, and two (2) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-47</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Dr. Cody Pyke, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p>

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VIII. Strategic Discussion		
	A. Harris Health Strategic Plan Initiatives	
	1. Presentation Regarding Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) Update	PULLED
	2. Presentation Regarding the 2025 Harris Health Hurricane Preparedness and Emergency Response Update	PULLED
	B. Committee Reports	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 8, 2025: Budget & Finance Committee • May 8, 2025: Compliance & Audit Committee • May 8, 2025: Joint Conference Committee <p>Dr. Caracostis stated that the Budget and Finance Committee met on May 8, 2025, and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Derek Holmes, Vice President, Contract Administration & Contractor Diversity, provided an update on Harris Health's Contractor Diversity Annual Report. • Mr. Jay Camp, Director, Assistant Controller, Capital Assets, presented the following reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harris Health Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Investment Report ○ Harris Health First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Pension Plan Report ○ Harris Health March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report • The Committee also received, for informational purposes only, the Annual Interest Rate Management Agreement Disclosure and the 2024 Annual Report of the 401k and 457b Administrative Committee Activities. <p>She also noted that the Joint Conference Committee met on May 8, 2025, and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kunal Sharma, Chair of the Medical Executive Board, and Dr. Asim Shah, Vice Chair of the Medical Executive Board, provided the Committee with an update on the activities of the MEB. • Dr. Tien Ko, Chief of Staff at LBJ, and Dr. Sandeep Markan, Chief of Staff at BT, shared updates on the system pavilions. <p>The Compliance and Audit Committee met on May 8, 2025, and discussed the following topics:</p>	As Presented.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ryan Singelton, with Forvis Mazars, LLP, presented the Harris Health Independent Auditor's Planning Communication Regarding the Harris County Hospital District 401(k) and the Harris County Hospital District Pension Benefit Plans for the Year Ended December 31, 2024. Ms. Sharon Brantley-Smith, with the Harris County Internal Auditor's Office, presented the Internal Audit Quarterly Update, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She communicated that two new Senior Auditors recently join the audit team. Summary Status of FY 2025 Internal Audit Plan – The Audit Plan is 29% complete, with eight engagements in progress and four engagements not started. Overview of Completed engagements – The Correctional Health Provider Invoice Audit and the MOVEit Incident Response Assessment were recently completed. The Drug Oversight Assessment was mentioned at the February Compliance and Audit Committee Meeting, and the report was presented at the May meeting. Summary of Outstanding Management Action Plans (MAPs) – There were 16 outstanding MAPs from six prior engagements. The action plans were outstanding because the due dates had not yet passed, or Internal Audit's validation was in progress. The outstanding MAPs include one past-due, high-priority item which was discussed in Executive Session. <p>Next, Internal Audit will be working to complete in-progress engagements, finalize the Internal Audit Strategic Plan for presentation to the Compliance and Audit Committee in September, and kick off the FY26 annual risk assessment process.</p>	
IX. New Items for Board Consideration	A. Approval for Funding of \$71,000,000 for the Calendar Year 2025 Harris County Hospital District Pension Plan	Motion No. 25.05-48 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A. Motion carried.
X. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	

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	<p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A7 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><u>Motion No. 25.05-49</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. of the purchasing recommendations (A1 through A7 of the purchasing matrix). Motion carried.</p>
	B. Consent Committee Recommendations	
	<p>1. Acceptance of the Harris Health Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Investment Report</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>2. Acceptance of the Harris Health First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025 Pension Plan Report</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>3. Acceptance of the Harris Health March 2025 Quarterly Financial Report Subject to Audit</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.</p>
	C. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Item C1 through C3 of the Grant Matrix)</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.</p>
	D. New Consent Items for Board Approval	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
	1. Approval of Revisions to the Harris Health Patient Safety Plan	<u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.
	2. Approval to Acquire a Portion of Harrington Street in Exchange for Consideration and the Conveyance of an Easement to the City of Houston	<u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.
	3. Approval to Convey a Perpetual Blanket Easement and Right of Way to CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC on Harrington Street (the “Easement Area”) Adjacent to the Case de Amigos Health Center	<u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.
	4. Acceptance of the Harris Health April 2025 Financial Report Subject to Audit	<u>Motion No. 25.05-50</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B – D. Motion carried.
	E. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board	
	1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health <i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i>	For Information Only
XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for the Homeless Program		

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
	<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 May 2025 Operational Update <p>Dr. Nelson Gonzales, Grants Project Manager for the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP), presented the May 2025 Operational Update. His report included the following components: the Productivity Report, Patient Satisfaction data, Budget Summary Report, and Carryover Budget.</p> <p>Dr. Gonzales reported that HCHP has served 3,333 unduplicated patients year-to-date, with a total of 10,536 visits. In April 2025 alone, HCHP served 1,472 unduplicated patients, with 3,002 visits completed. This includes 919 patients who received family planning services. He also shared patient satisfaction trending data for the fourth quarter, noting that results were above target in the following categories: recommend facility, recommend provider, provider listened, nurse listened, provider/nurse communication, and wait time.</p> <p>The budget summary for the period ending December 31, 2025, indicated that 15% of operating funds have been utilized. The underspending is primarily due to delays in billing from UT Dental. Dr. Gonzales noted that the program is actively working to establish a contract for psychiatric services. Additionally, Dr. Gonzales presented the 2025 carryover request, which includes an estimated \$629,078 to fund personnel, fringe benefits, and supplies.</p> <p>Dr. Porsa recognized HCHP for its increased productivity and staffing efforts. Dr. Gonzales emphasized that, with full staffing, two sites are now operating 40 hours per week, and two mobile units are currently deployed in the community. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-51</u> Moved by Dr. Cody Pyke, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. Approval of the HCHP Patient Satisfaction Report</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 25.05-52</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.</p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
	C. Approval of the HCHP Budget Summary Report	Motion No. 25.05-53 Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of the HCHP 2025 Carryover Budget	Motion No. 25.05-54 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Philip Sun, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.D. Motion carried.
XII. Executive Session	At 10:41 a.m., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through H' as permitted by law under Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.072, 551.085 and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032.	
	<p>D. Discussion Regarding Committee Reviewed Reports, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Performance for the Three Months Ending March 31, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085 Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Audit Results and Audited Financial Statements for the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2024, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085 	No Action Taken.
	E. 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 Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071 and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
	F. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Executive Orders, State and Federal Legislative Updates Impacting Harris Health, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
	G. 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.
	H. 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 12:29 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.	
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 22, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cody Pyke, MD, JD, LLM
in lieu of Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA