

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting
 Monday, June 30, 2025
 8:30 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance	The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Dr. Cody Pyke, Presiding Officer. It was noted that a quorum was present, and the attendance was recorded. Dr. Pyke shared 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	Board Meeting – May 22, 2025	Motion No. 25.06-55 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of May 22, 2025, Board meeting. Motion carried.
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), thanked Dr. Pyke for her invaluable service to Harris Health as a valued member of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Porsa shared that last week, the Texas Commission on Jail Standards conducted its site visit at the Harris County Jail and issued two (2) technical assistance findings related the medical care: documentation of dietary referrals and recreation for patients admitted to the infirmary.	As Presented.
	B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements Dr. Pyke shared that today will be her last Board meeting, and that serving on the Board has been the highlight of her career. She explained that she is relocating out of state due to recent legislation passed in Texas that she believes creates an unwelcoming environment for the LGBTQ community, making it difficult for her to remain. Dr. Pyke emphasized the broader impact such legislation may have on the state's ability to retain talent. She stated that she would have welcomed the opportunity to continue serving on the Board but felt compelled to leave based on the current legislative climate. Ms. Ingrid Robinson thanked Dr. Pyke for her kindness, dedication and leadership while serving on the Board and enriching the lives of those around her.	As Presented.

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IV. Public Comment	Ms. Nikhat Noorani, Policy Advisor, Harris County, presented Dr. Pyke with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Office of Commissioner Lesley Briones, Precinct 4 in recognition of her service on the Board.	As Presented.
V. Discussion Regarding Board Governance Best Practices	Ms. Karma Bass, CEO/Managing Principal, Via Healthcare Consulting, Inc. led decision regarding Board Governance and Best Practices. She provided an overview of the legally mandated fiduciary duties, key responsibilities of the Boards, the difference between governance and management duties, as well as best practices in CEO evaluation process. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	For Information Only
VI. Executive Session	At 9:13 a.m., Dr. Pyke announced that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items VI. 'A through G' as permitted by law under Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §§151.002, 160.007, Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032, and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§§551.071, 551.072, 551.074, and 551.085.	
	A. Deliberations Regarding the Appointment, Employment, Evaluation, Reassignment, Duties, Discipline, or Dismissal of a Public Officer or Employee, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.074	No Action Taken.
	B. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Expansion of Oncology Service Line on the LBJ Campus, to Include Radiation Therapy and Infusion Services, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.085, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
	C. Consultation with Attorneys Regarding Harris Health's Medical School Affiliation and Support Agreements, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
	D. 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.
	E. 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.

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	F. 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.
	G. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Deliberation of the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.072, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session	No Action Taken.
VII. Reconvene to Open Meeting	At 10:33 a.m., Dr. Pyke reconvened the open session and confirmed that a quorum was present. No action was taken during Executive Session.	
VIII. Discussion Related to Ben Taub Infrastructure and Notice to the City of Houston, Texas (the "City"), Regarding Chapter 26 Hearing on a Proposed Taking by Eminent Domain of Approximately 8.9 Acres out of Hermann Park Adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital for a Project to Expand the Hospital's Facilities	Dr. Porsa led discussion Related to Ben Taub Infrastructure and Notice to the City of Houston, Texas (the "City"), Regarding Chapter 26 Hearing on a Proposed Taking by Eminent Domain of approximately 8.9 Acres out of Hermann Park Adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital for a project to expand the hospital's facilities. He shared that the location at Ben Taub Hospital is landlocked and proposed land acquisition for the Ben Taub Expansion project. Additionally, Dr. Porsa provided an overview of the outcomes of the expanded hospital and outlined next steps regarding a public hearing on the matter. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	For Information Only
IX. General Action Item(s)		
	A. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Medical Staff	
	1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health Medical Staff Dr. Kunal Sharma, Chair, Medical Executive Board, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health Medical Staff. In June 2025, there were thirteen (13) initial appointments, 158 reappointments, eleven (11) changes/additions of privileges, and nine (9) resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-56</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A.1. Motion carried.

	B. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Correctional Health Medical Staff	
	1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health Correctional Health Medical Staff 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 June 2025, there was one (1) initial appointment and four (4) reappointments. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.	Motion No. 25.06-57 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.B.1. Motion carried.
X. Strategic Discussion		
	A. Harris Health Strategic Plan Initiatives	
	1. Presentation Regarding the Harris Health Budget Process Ms. Allison Perez, Vice President, Financial Planning & Analysis, delivered a presentation regarding the Harris Health Budget Process. She provided a high – level overview of the various phases of the budget cycle, including identification of financial goals and priorities, drafting the budget proposal, review and consolidation, approval of the budget, implementation and monitoring as well as strategies of success. Board discussion ensued. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	For Information Only
	B. Committee Report(s)	
	June 13, 2025: Governance Committee Dr. Pyke stated that the Governance Committee met on June 13, 2025 and discussed Board Self Governance and Board Member Meeting Attendance.	As Presented.
XI. New Items for Board Consideration	A. Discussion and Appropriate Action Calling an Interim Officer Election for the Current Term (2025) Resulting from the Vacancy in the Office of Board Vice Chair and any other Resulting Vacancies Required by Article V, Section 3 of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Bylaws Dr. Pyke stated per Article V, Section 2, of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Bylaws, the Board must conduct an interim election to fill the vacancy in the Office of Vice Chair as result of my recent resignation; the newly – elected Interim Board Vice Chair will only serve for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year. Dr. Pyke noted that prior to this meeting, a communication was sent to solicit interest for the interim position of Vice Chair, and the following nomination were received: 1. Current Board Secretary, Carol Paret	Motion No. 25.06-58 Interim Vice Chair Appointment: Ms. Carol Paret Motion No. 25.06-59 Interim Secretary Appointment: Ms. Libby Viera-Bland

	Dr. Pyke then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Board Vice Chair. No nominations were made from the floor after three requests. The nominations for Board Vice Chair were closed. Dr. Pyke then motioned for a vote on the Board Vice Chair position. 1. Dr. Cody Pyke - Aye 2. Dr. Andrea Caracostis - Absent 3. Ms. Afsheen Davis – Absent 4. Ms. Carol Paret - Aye 5. Ms. Ingrid Robinson – Aye 6. Ms. Libby Viera – Bland – Aye 7. Mr. Paul Puente – Aye 8. Mr. Philip Sun – Aye 9. Ms. Sima Ladjevardian – Absent Dr. Pyke announced the results, there were six (6) votes in favor, three (3) absences, and zero (0) opposed. Dr. Pyke noted that because the Board secretary Ms. Paret has been duly elected as the Interim Board Vice Chair, the Board must now fill the new vacancy for the Office of Interim Board Secretary for the remainder of the 2025 calendar year. Dr. Pyke called for nominations from the floor for the position of Board Secretary. Ms. Libby Viera – Bland self – nominated, and no additional nominations were made from the floor after three requests. The nominations for Board Secretary were closed. Dr. Pyke motioned for a vote on the position for Board Secretary. 1. Dr. Cody Pyke - Aye 2. Dr. Andrea Caracostis - Absent 3. Ms. Afsheen Davis – Absent 4. Ms. Carol Paret - Aye 5. Ms. Ingrid Robinson – Aye 6. Ms. Libby Viera – Bland – Aye 7. Mr. Paul Puente – Aye 8. Mr. Philip Sun – Aye 9. Ms. Sima Ladjevardian – Absent Dr. Pyke announced the results, there were six (6) votes in favor, three (3) absences, and zero (0) opposed.	
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	B. Approval of a Resolution Setting the Rate of Mandatory Payment for the Harris County Hospital District Local Provider Participation Fund and Notice of Public Hearing Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, presented a Resolution Setting the Rate of Mandatory Payment for the Harris County Hospital District Local Provider Participation Fund and Notice of Public Hearing. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-60</u> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.
	C. Approval of Staffing Plans and Payment for the Contracted Services Specified in the Harris Health Operating and Support Agreement with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) for the Contract Year Ended June 30, 2026 Ms. Nikitin stated that Administration requests funding for the Harris Health Operating and Support Agreement with Baylor College of Medicine in an amount not to exceed \$292.0 million for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-61</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of Staffing Plans and Payment for the Contracted Services Specified in the Harris Health Operating and Support Agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UT Health) for the Contract Year Ended June 30, 2026 Ms. Nikitin noted Administration request for approval of the funding for the Harris Health Operating and Support Agreement with UT Health in an amount not to exceed \$209.0 million for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-62</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.D. Motion carried.
	E. Presentation of the Harris County Hospital District 401(k) and Pension Plan Independent Auditor's Reports and Overview for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024 Mr. Ryan Singleton, Managing Director, Forvis Marzars, delivered a presentation of the Harris County Hospital District 401(k) and Pension Plan Independent Auditor's Reports and Overview for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2024. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	For Information Only
	1. Acceptance of the Harris County Hospital District 401(k) Plan Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2024, and 2023	<u>Motion No. 25.06-63</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.E.1. Motion carried.

	2. Acceptance of the Harris County Hospital District Pension Plan Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for the Years Ended December 31, 2024, and 2023	Motion No. 25.06-64 Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.E.2. Motion carried.
XII. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A13 of the Purchasing Matrix) A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.	Motion No. 25.06-65 Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.A.1. of the purchasing recommendations (A1 through A13 of the purchasing matrix). Motion carried.
	B. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Items B1 through B2 of the Grant Matrix)	Motion No. 25.06-66 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.
	C. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	1. Approval of Ms. Ingrid Robinson as Chair and Ms. Sima Ladjevardian as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees Budget & Finance Committee	Motion No. 25.06-66 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.

	2. Approval of the Appointment of Mr. Paul Puente as a Member of the Board of Trustees Budget & Finance and Compliance & Audit Committees	<u>Motion No. 25.06-66</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.
	3. Approval of Ms. Sima Ladjevardian as Chair of the Board of Trustees Governance Committee	<u>Motion No. 25.06-66</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.
	4. Approval of a Board Resolution Renaming the Monroe Clinic to Harris Health Urgent Care at Strawberry Health Center	<u>Motion No. 25.06-66</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.
	5. Acceptance of the Harris Health May 2025 Financial Report Subject to Audit	<u>Motion No. 25.06-66</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.B. through D. Motion carried.
	D. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board	
	1. Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health	For Information Only
	2. Staffing Advisory Committee's Semi-Annual Evaluation of the Nurse Staffing Plan & Aggregate Staffing Variance <i>{End of Consent Agenda}</i>	For Information Only
XIII. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for		

the Homeless Program		
	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 HCHP June 2025 Operational Update 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, HCHP Bylaws, 2024 Annual Report and the Quality Management Report. She shared that HCHP has provided care to 3,889 unduplicated patients, with a total of 13,002 visits year-to-date. In May 2025, HCHP served 1,399 unduplicated patients, completing 2,718 visits, including 874 patients who received family planning services. Ms. Burdine presented highlights from the Consumer Advisory Council Report for the period February – April 2025. Key topics included assessment of operational hours, the 2025 Uniform Data System (UDS) Report including productivity, quality, and cost of care outcomes, participation in community events and health fairs, and the Open-Door Mission renovation project updates. Ms. Burdine also presented the revised HCHP Bylaws, reflecting updates to the organization name from “Harris Health System” to “Harris Health” including changing “Gender” to “Sex” in alignment with updated Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) language standards. Additionally, Ms. Burdine provided an overview of the HCHP Annual Report, highlighting the top five (5) general diagnoses in its patients as well as mental health and substance use trends. She reported that in 2024, the program served 6,684 unduplicated patients, which was 89% of the 7,250-target goal) and delivered 27, 306 visits (121% of the 22, 500 goal, reflecting strong service utilization and ongoing opportunities to broaden its reach. Of the 6,684 patients, 4,371 (65%) were male and 2,313 (35% were female. Ms. Burdine stated that most patients fell within the 25-64 age range, reflecting the program’s strong adult patient base. However, these figures highlight the continued need for age – and sex – responsive healthcare services across the homeless population. She reported that over \$4.95M in grant funds were deployed in 2024. Ms. Burdine concluded by presenting a heartfelt patient testimonial. Dr. LaResa Ridge, HCHP, Medical Director, presented the Q4 Quality Management Report, highlighting the following 5 of 17 quality metrics that fell below the benchmark for 2024: 1) Childhood immunization, 2) In Vitro Diagnostics (IVD) & Aspirin, 3) Depression Screening Follow-up, 4) Diabetes A1C > 9, and 5) Early Entry into Prenatal Care. Action plans have been implemented to assess the effectiveness of these measures. A copy of the presentation is available in the permanent record.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-67</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIII.A. Motion carried.

	B. Approval of the HCHP Consumer Advisory Council Report	<u>Motion No. 25.06-68</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIII.B. Motion carried.
	C. Approval of the HCHP Revised Bylaws	<u>Motion No. 25.06-69</u> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIII.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of the HCHP 2024 Annual Progress Report	<u>Motion No. 25.06-70</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIII.D. Motion carried.
	E. Approval of the HCHP Quality Management Report	<u>Motion No. 25.06-71</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIII.E. Motion carried.
XIV. Executive Session	At 11:42 a.m., Dr. Cody Pyke stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XIV. 'H through K' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032. Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§§551.071, 551.072, 551.074 and 551.085.	
	H. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Performance for the Four Months Ending April 30, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	No Action Taken.
	I. 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. 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.

	J. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Settlement with the State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission - Office of Inspector General Related to Reimbursement of Medicaid Payments, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.072, and Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session <u>Motion:</u> Approval of the Settlement with the State of Texas Health and Human Services Commission - Office of Inspector General Related to Reimbursement of Medicaid Payments in the amount of \$2,516,662.27, Pursuant to the terms discussed in the executive session.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-72</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Philip Sun, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIV.J. Motion carried.
	K. 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 <u>Motion No. 1:</u> Approval of the Review of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Evaluation & Compensation recommendations, as presented in executive session. <u>Motion No. 2:</u> Approval of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) goals for the period of July 2025 to June 2026, as presented in executive session.	<u>Motion No. 25.06-73</u> <u>Review of the CEO Evaluation & Compensation Recommendations</u> Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and majority passed that the Board approve agenda item XIV.K. Mr. Philip Sun abstained. Motion carried. <u>Motion No. 25.06-74</u> <u>CEO Goals for July 2025 – June 2026</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XIV.K. Motion carried.
XV. Reconvene	At 1:14 p.m., Dr. Pyke, reconvened the meeting in open session and confirmed that a quorum remained present. No action was taken during Executive Session. The Board took action on item XIV. J and K of the Executive Session agenda.	
XVI. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.	

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair



Carol Paret, BS, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA