HARRISHEALTH SYSTEM

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 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 9:08 AM by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, Chair. It was noted that a quorum was present, and the attendance was recorded. Some Board members attended in person, while others joined via video conference in accordance with state law and Harris Health's videoconferencing policy. Only participants scheduled to speak were provided dial-in information for the meeting. All others who wish to view the meeting were advised to access the meeting online through the Harris Health website: http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live. Dr. Caracostis thanked all members for adjusting their schedules, as the meeting had been rescheduled from September 25, 2025, due to a lack of quorum. She noted that the board is required to meet monthly to address critical matters such as medical staff credentialing, purchasing and grant obligations under the Homeless Program.	**A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.**
II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting	• Special Called Budget Workshop – August 4, 2025 • Board Meeting – August 28, 2025 Copies of the minutes are available in the permanent record.	**Motion No. 25.09-106** **Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of August 4, 2025, Board meeting. Motion carried.** **Motion No. 25.09-107** **Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of August 28, 2025, Board meeting. Motion carried.**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations	**CEO Report Including Special Announcements** • Mr. Salman Khan, Named as VP Chief Information Security Officer Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), expressed appreciation to the Board members for their flexibility in rescheduling. He noted this was the fourth rescheduled meeting this year due to quorum challenges and extended special thanks to Ms. Jennifer Zarate in the Board office for her coordination and responsiveness. Dr. Porsa introduced Mr. Salman Khan, the new Chief Information Security Officer, and highlighted his 15+ years of experience in cybersecurity leadership across healthcare and public sectors. Mr. Khan most recently served as the Chief Information Security Officer at MRC Global, where he led a successful multi-year cybersecurity transformation.	**As Presented.**
	A. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements No additional announcements were made.	
IV. Public Comment	Mr. Scott Parker, attorney and descendant of August Warneke, expressed disappointment over the inability to prevent condemnation of park land originally deeded by his ancestor. He called for transparency and fair market compensation. Ms. Roslyn Bazzelle Mitchell, Board Chair of Hermann Park Conservancy, acknowledged community concerns and advocated for no net loss of park space. She emphasized transparency, collaboration, and investment in replacement park areas. Mr. Bryan Lopez, representative of The Metropolitan Organization (TMO), supported hospital expansion and emphasized its benefits to underserved communities, calling for continued community engagement. Ms. Barbara Davis, community member, shared her experience as a Ben Taub Hospital (BTH) patient and shared her support for the hospital expansion, noting the underutilization and poor condition of the proposed land being considered for condemnation. Bishop John Ogletree, also representing TMO, expressed support for acquiring 8.9 acres for the BTH expansion. He clarified that the land does not impact Hermann Park or the Zoo and has never been actively used as park space. Dr. James McDeavitt, Executive Vice President and Dean of Clinical Affairs at Baylor College of Medicine, supported the expansion, noting it is a community-driven initiative to improve care for vulnerable populations and strengthen the regional medical system.	**As Presented.**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
V. Executive Session	At 9:31 AM, Dr. Caracostis stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items V. 'A through D' 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.	
	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.**
	D. 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.**
VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting	At 10:13 AM, 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	
	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. For September 2025, there were 49 initial appointments, 122 reappointments, 8 changes/additions of privileges and 16 resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.	**<u>Motion No. 25.09-108</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.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 Egins, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health Correctional Health Medical Staff. For September 2025, there were 6 initial appointments and no reappointments or resignations. A copy of the credentialing report is available in the permanent record.	**Motion No. 25.09-109** **Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.**
	2. Approval of the Proposed Correctional Health Medical Staff Bylaws Dr. Egins noted that there were minor updates to the Correctional Health Medical Staff Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws is available in the permanent record.	**Motion No. 25.09-110** **Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Ms. Afsheen Davis, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.2. Motion carried.**
VIII. New Items for Board Consideration		

	A. Approval of a Resolution Relating to a Public Project to Redevelop and Expand Ben Taub Hospital (the "Project"), Authorizing the Acquisition by Eminent Domain for Public Convenience and Necessity of Three Parcels within Hermann Park Consisting of Approximately 8.9 Acres of Real Property for the Project and Making Certain Findings Pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 26, Texas Parks and Wildlife Code
	
	Dr. Caracostis introduced the resolution, referencing the July 24, 2025 public hearing. Dr. Porsa emphasized:
	• The urgent need for hospital expansion due to overcapacity and aging infrastructure.
	• The site's proximity to Ben Taub and its unique suitability.
	• The 8.9 acres in Hermann Park represent less than 2% of the park and have never been developed or used for recreation.
	• Funding challenges due to:
	    o $1B Medicaid cut from the "One Big Beautiful Bill";
	    o $800M more expected in cuts; and
	    o Expiring ACA subsidies.
		Motion No. 25.09-111
		Moved by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VIII.A. Motion carried.

	Dr. Porsa also shared that support letters were received from Texas Medical Center, Harris County Hospital District Foundation, and others. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record. **Motion:** *Approval of a Resolution Relating to a Public Project to Redevelop and Expand Ben Taub Hospital (the "Project"), Authorizing the Acquisition by Eminent Domain for Public Convenience and Necessity of Three Parcels within Hermann Park Consisting of Approximately 8.9 Acres of Real Property for the Project and Making Certain Findings Pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 26, Texas Parks and Wildlife Code*	
IX. Strategic Discussion		
	A. Committee Report(s) • August 28, 2025 – Governance Committee • September 9, 2025 – Quality Committee • September 11, 2025 – Compliance & Audit Committee • September 11, 2025 – Joint Conference Committee Dr. Caracostis noted that the reports are included in the packet. Copies are the reports are available in the permanent record.	**No presentation. Chair directed Board Members to review reports in their board packet due to time constraints.**
X. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A11 of the Purchasing Matrix) Mr. Jack Adger, Assistant Purchasing Agent, Harris County, presented the purchasing recommendations for the Board's review and approval. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.	**<u>Motion No. 25.09-112</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item X.A.1. of the purchasing recommendations (A1 through A11 of the purchasing matrix). Motion carried.**

	B. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Item B1 through B5 of the Grant Matrix)	**Motion No. 25.09-113** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve consent agenda items X.B. – E. Motion carried.**
	C. Consent Contract Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Contract Recommendations (Items C1 of the Contract Matrix)	**Motion No. 25.09-113** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve consent agenda items X.B. – E. Motion carried.**
	D. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	1. Acceptance of the Harris Health August 2025 Financial Report Subject to Audit	**Motion No. 25.09-113** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve consent agenda items X.B. – E. Motion carried.**
	E. Consent Committee Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Designation of Vice President, Deputy Compliance Officer as Harris Health's Record Management Officer, Pursuant to Local Gov't Code Ann. §203.026	**Motion No. 25.09-113** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve consent agenda items X.B. – E. 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}*	**Information Only**

XI. 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 September 2025 Operational Update Ms. Tracey Burdine, Director of ACS, presented the September 2025 Operational Update for the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP), as required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Burdine reported that the program had served a total of 5,416 unduplicated patients and completed 20,723 year-to-date. In August alone, 1,243 unduplicated patients were served, with 2,613 visits completed—most of which were for family practice services (840 patients). Ms. Burdine presented a new Policy, Affordable access to injectable epinephrine & insulin, and the 2026 Non-Competing Budget Continuation, which is a Routine federal grant requirement. She also shared information about Community Engagement Events with UTHealth and the 5th Ward Missionary Baptist Church. Note: Items A-C were presented together. A copy of each presentation is available in the permanent record.	**<u>Motion No. 25.09-114</u>** **Moved by Ms. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.A. Motion carried.**
	B. Approval of the HCHP Eligibility for Reduced Costs of Injectable Epinephrine & Insulin Policy	**<u>Motion No. 25.09-115</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.B. Motion carried.**
	C. Approval of the HCHP 2026 Non-competing Continuation Budget Period Request	**<u>Motion No. 25.09-116</u>** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera-Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XI.C. Motion carried.**

XII. Executive Session	At 10:35 AM., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter 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, 551.085.	
	E. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Performance for the Seven Months Ending July 31, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	**Deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints. Information was also included in the board packet.**
	F. Consultation with Attorney, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Regarding Litigation, Including Consideration of Approval of a Settlement in Civil Action No. 4:24-cv-05109, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston Division Upon Return to Open Session Dr. Caracostis noted Ms. Davis' recusal on this item related to Texas Children's Hospital. **Motion:** *Approval of the Settlement in Civil Action No. 4:24-cv-05109 in the U.S. District Court, Southern District, Houston Division in the amount of $35,000.00. President/CEO of Harris Health or his designee is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to effect this settlement*	**Motion No. 25.09-117** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.F. Motion carried.**
	G. Consultation with Attorney, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Regarding Opioid Litigation, Including Consideration of Approval to Participate in the Settlement with Alvogen, Inc., Apotex Corp., Amneal Pharmaceuticals LLC, Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Indivior Inc, Viatris Inc. ("Mylan"), Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc., and Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc. in the Texas Opioid Multi-District Litigation Upon Return to Open Session **Motion:** *Approval for Harris Health to Participate in the Settlement with Alvogen, Inc., Apotex Corp., Amneal Pharmaceuticals L.L.C., Hikma Pharmaceuticals USA Inc., Indivior Inc., Viatris Inc. ("Mylan"), Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, Inc., and Zydus Pharmaceuticals (USA) Inc. in the Texas Opioid Multi-District Litigation, MDL No. 2018-63587, in the 152nd District Court of Harris County, Texas. President/CEO of Harris Health or his designee is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to effect this settlement*	**Motion No. 25.09-118** **Moved by Ms. Afsheen Davis, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item XII.G. Motion carried.**
	H. 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	**Deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.**

XIII. Reconvene	At 10:40 AM 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 items XIII. "F and G" of the Executive Session Agenda.	**No action taken.**
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 AM.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Meeting held on September 23, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caracostis

Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair

Carol Paret, BS, Presiding Officer
on behalf of Libby Viera–Bland, AICP, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA