

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

9:00 A.M.

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION |
|---|--|---|
| <p>I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance</p> | <p>The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by Dr. Andrea Caracostis, Chair. 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. All others wishing to view the meeting were advised to access the meeting online through the Harris Health website: http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live. A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</p> | <p>A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.</p> |
| <p>II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Meeting – February 11, 2026 | | <p>Motion No. 26.03-31 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of February 11, 2026, Board meeting. Motion carried.</p> |
| <p>III. Announcements/ Special Presentations</p> | | |
| | <p>A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50th Service Anniversary Recognition <p>Dr. Esmail Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), delivered remarks recognizing frontline staff contributions to the organization’s success. Dr. Porsa highlighted the extraordinary service of Ms. Shirley Moss, a Supply Chain and Mailroom team member who recently celebrated her 50th work anniversary with Harris Health. Dr. Porsa commended Ms. Moss for her dedication to the organization and the community over five decades. Ms. Moss addressed the Board, expressing gratitude and attributing her longevity in service to her commitment to faith and purpose in her work. Board members joined Dr. Porsa in congratulating Ms. Moss and acknowledging her example of service and dedication.</p> | <p>As Presented.</p> |

| AGENDA ITEM | DISCUSSION | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | <p>B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</p> <p>There were no Board member announcements.</p> | |
| <p>IV. Public Comment</p> | <p>Mr. Stephen K, public commenter, expressed concerns regarding a ban from Harris Health facilities, alleged discrimination related to his disability, and difficulties obtaining mental health care services.</p> | |
| <p>V. Executive Session</p> | <p>At 9:09 AM, Dr. Andrea 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, Including Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session</p> <p><i>Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.</i></p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>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 the Harris Health Medical Staff Upon Return to Open Session</p> <p><i>Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.</i></p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>C. Report Regarding Harris Health Correctional Health Quality of Medical and Healthcare, with 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, Including Consideration of Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Correctional Health Medical Staff Upon Return to Open Session</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| <p>VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting</p> | <p>At 9:18 AM, Dr. Andrea Caracostis reconvened the meeting in open session, noting that a quorum was present and no action was taken during Executive Session.</p> | |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 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 of the Medical Executive Board, presented credentialing changes for members of the Harris Health Medical Staff for March 2026. He reported that there were 19 initial appointments and no reappointments or changes of privileges, 8 resignations, and 1 file was reviewed in Executive Session. Copies of the credentialing report were available in the permanent record.</p> <p><i>Dr. Hooli was recused from this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.</i></p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-32</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, 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 Eging, Chief Medical Officer of Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the Correctional Health Medical Staff credentialing report detailing 5 initial appointments. Copies of the credentialing report were available in the permanent record.</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-33</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p> |
| VIII. Strategic Discussion | | |
| | <p>A. Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 24, 2026 – Governance Committee • February 24, 2026 – Quality Committee • February 26, 2026 – Budget & Finance Committee • February 26, 2026 – Compliance & Audit Committee • February 26, 2026 – Joint Conference Committee <p>The Governance Committee report summarized discussions from its February 24, 2026 meeting. The committee reviewed the 2025 Board Self-Assessment results, noting strong overall performance and identifying opportunities to strengthen trustee attendance, continuing education, and onboarding for new board members. The committee also discussed improved processes for reviewing correspondence received by the Board office and ongoing monitoring of trustee attendance. Board members were encouraged to attend the Texas Healthcare Trustees conference scheduled for June 4–6.</p> | <p>As Presented.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | <p>The Quality Committee report highlighted discussions on patient safety and quality initiatives, including a presentation on fall prevention strategies and quality performance monitoring across Harris Health facilities.</p> <p>The Joint Conference Committee reported on updates from physician leadership, including operational progress across hospitals and ambulatory services, the continued development of the LBJ Hospital expansion project, workforce planning, and expanded specialty care services. The committee emphasized the importance of collaboration among clinical leaders, resident education, and improved access to care.</p> <p>The Budget and Finance Committee reported receipt of the First Quarter Fiscal Year 2026 Investment Report, the Fourth Quarter Calendar Year 2025 Pension Plan Report, and the December 2025 Quarterly Financial Report (subject to audit). These reports reflected stable investment performance and strong financial performance during the first quarter of the fiscal year.</p> <p>The Compliance and Audit Committee received an internal audit update, including progress on the Fiscal Year 2026 Internal Audit Plan. One audit engagement had been completed, nine were in progress or pending, and management continued implementing recommendations from prior assessments. No past-due high-priority action items were reported.</p> | |
| <p>IX. New Items for Board Consideration</p> | <p>A. Approval to the Revised Bylaws of the Harris Health Board of Trustees</p> <p>Ms. Sara Thomas, Chief Legal Officer, presented proposed revisions to the Harris Health Board of Trustees Bylaws. The revisions primarily included legal updates, clarifications aligning policies with current governance practices, adjustments to board member appointment dates to reflect the Harris County Commissioners Court process, and statutory updates regarding meeting notice requirements and pension board training requirements. Additional revisions clarified committee structures and relocated public comment procedures to administrative guidelines in compliance with state law. A copy of the Bylaws is available in the permanent record.</p> | <p><i>*Item Taken Out of Order</i></p> <p>Motion No. 26.03-35 Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>B. Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Harris County Hospital District Approving the Form of the Order of the Harris County Commissioners Court Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of Harris County Hospital District, Limited Tax Bonds and Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, which may be Issued in One or More Series in Accordance with Specified Parameters; Levying a Continuing Direct Annual Ad Valorem Tax for the Payment of Principal and Interest; Authorizing the Authorized Representative to Approve the Amounts, Interest Rates, Prices, Terms and Redemption Provisions Thereof; Providing for the Refunding and Defeasance of Certain Outstanding Obligations of the District; Approving the Preparation of Financing Documents and Prescribing the Terms and Form Thereof; Authorizing the Preparation and Distribution of One or More Official Statements in Connection with the Sale of the Bonds; and Making Other Provisions and Authorizing Other Actions Supporting the Issuance and Administration of Such Bonds</p> | <p>Motion No. 26.03-34 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.B. Motion carried.</p> |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>Ms. Victoria Nikitin, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, presented a resolution related to the issuance and sale of Harris County Hospital District limited tax bonds and limited tax refunding bonds, consistent with the voter-approved \$2.5 billion bond referendum passed in 2023. The proposed authorization allows issuance of bonds up to \$850 million in one or more series and includes provisions for refunding certain outstanding obligations when financially advantageous. The Board approved the resolution authorizing continuation of the financing process, with an anticipated bond pricing in June 2026. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.</p> | |
| X. Consent Agenda Items | | |
| | A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations | |
| | <p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A5 of the Purchasing Matrix)</p> <p>Mr. Jack Adger, Assistant Purchasing Agent, Harris County, presented the purchasing recommendations. Ms. Ingrid Robinson raised concerns regarding the number of sole-source procurement items and encouraged the Harris County Purchasing Office to review procurement processes to ensure competitive sourcing and optimal value for the system. Mr. Adger acknowledged the concern and agreed to review the procurement practices. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-36</u> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the purchasing recommendations (Items A1 through A5 of the Purchasing Matrix). Motion carried.</p> |
| | B. Consent Contract Recommendations | |
| | <p>1. Approval of Contract Recommendations (Item B1 of the Contract Matrix)</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through D. Motion carried.</p> |
| | C. Consent Committee Recommendations | |
| | <p>1. Acceptance of the Harris Health First Quarter Fiscal Year 2026 Investment Report</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through D. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>2. Acceptance of the Harris Health Fourth Quarter Calendar Year 2025 Pension Plan Report</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | | through D. Motion carried. |
| | 3. Acceptance of the Harris Health December 2025 Quarterly Financial Report Subject to Audit | <u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through D. Motion carried. |
| | D. New Consent Items for Board Approval | |
| | 1. Acceptance of the Harris Health January 2026 Financial Report Subject to Audit | <u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through D. Motion carried. |
| | 2. Approval of the Removal of Sima Ladjevardian as a Member of the Quality Committee | <u>Motion No. 26.03-37</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through D. Motion carried. |
| XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for 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 March 2026 Operational Update <p>Ms. Tracey Burdine, Director of Ambulatory Care Services (ACS), presented the operational update for the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) for March 2026. Ms. Burdine reported that in January 2026, the program served 1,060 unduplicated patients and conducted approximately 1,948 completed visits, with the majority of visits provided through family practice and primary care services. She also outlined the 2026 Sliding Fee Scale, which aligns with updated federal poverty guidelines while maintaining minimal patient charges ranging from \$0 to \$3 to reduce barriers to care.</p> | <u>Motion No. 26.03-38</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.A. Motion carried. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>Ms. Burdine reviewed the 2025 Budget Summary Report, which showed a total program budget of \$8.1 million, with expenditures of approximately \$5.07 million, reflecting a 62.7% utilization rate aligned with strategic cost-containment priorities. Major spending categories included personnel, travel, supplies, equipment, and contractual services.</p> <p>Ms. Burdine also presented the Fourth Quarter Patient Satisfaction Report, which indicated performance below established targets in several domains, including communication, wait times, and nursing interaction. Board members asked questions regarding recruitment challenges, staffing shortages, patient survey methodology, and strategies to improve communication and patient experience. Ms. Burdine described initiatives including standardized communication scripts, improved care-path explanations for patients, and targeted recruitment efforts for clinical staff serving the homeless population. Copies of the presentations and updated policy documents were included in the permanent record.</p> <p>Note: Items A – D were presented together.</p> | |
| | <p>B. Approval of the HCHP 2026 Sliding Fee Scale</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-39</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.B. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>C. Approval of the HCHP 2025 Budget Summary Report</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-40</u> Moved by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.C. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>D. Approval of the HCHP Fourth Quarter Patient Satisfaction Report</p> | <p><u>Motion No. 26.03-41</u> Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.D. Motion carried.</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| XII. Executive Session | <p>At 9:58 AM., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through M' as permitted by law under Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.072, 551.074, 551.085, Tex. Occ. Code. Ann. §151.002 and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032.</p> | |
| | <p>D. Review of the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCHP) 2025 Quality Management Report, Pursuant to Tex. Occ. Code Ann. §151.002 and Tex. Health & Safety Code §161.032, Including Consideration of Approval of the HCHP 2025 Quality Management Report</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> <i>Acceptance of HCHP 2025 Quality Management Report Operational Update</i></p> | <p>Motion No. 26.03-42 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.D. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>E. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Settlement of Claim with Johnston, LLC, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §551.071, Including Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> <i>Approval of the Settlement of a claim with Johnston, LLC in the amount up to \$100,000.00. President/CEO of Harris Health or his designee is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to effectuate this settlement.</i></p> | <p>Motion No. 26.03-43 Moved by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.E. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>E. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Unaudited, Financial Performance for the 12-month Year Ending December 31, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>F. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Unaudited, Financial Performance for the 12-month Year Ending December 31, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>G. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Investment Report for the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2025, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>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</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| | <p>I. Consultation with Attorney 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</p> <p><i>Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.</i></p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>J. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Harris Health’s Proposed Acquisition by Eminent Domain of Approximately 8.9 Acres of Hermann Park Adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital for the Redevelopment and Expansion of Ben Taub Hospital and Related Legal Matters, Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §551.071, Including Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session</p> | No action taken. |
| | <p>K. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc., Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.085, Including Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session</p> <p><i>Motion: Adopt and present to CHC the Reporting to Harris Health Framework as presented in Executive Session; and (2) direct Harris Health Administration to engage consultants for the Board to recommend best practices in Corporate Governance in furtherance of the Board’s fiduciary duty, reserved powers and oversight of Community Health Choice and Community Health Choice Inc.</i></p> | <p>Motion No. 26.03-44 Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.K. Motion carried.</p> |
| | <p>L. Consultation with Attorney Related to Prevailing Wage Matters, Pursuant to Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session</p> <p><i>Mr. Paul Puente was recused from discussion on this item.</i></p> | No action taken. |
| | <p>M. 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</p> | No action taken. |
| XIII. Reconvene | <p>At 1:07 P.M., Dr. Andrea Caracostis reconvened the meeting in open session and confirmed that a quorum remained present. She noted that no action was taken in Executive Session. The Board took action on items XII. “D, E and K” of the Executive Session Agenda. There were no action on Items XII. F, G, H, I, J, L, and M.</p> | |
| XIV. Adjournment | <p>There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.</p> | |

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Meeting held on February 11, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair

Carol Paret, BS, Vice Chair

on behalf of Libby Viera-Bland, AICP, Secretary