

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 08, 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 9:04 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 – March 11, 2026 	<p>Dr. Caracostis presented the minutes of the Board meeting held on March 11, 2026 for approval. A copy of the minutes is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>Motion No. 26.04-45 Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjewardian, seconded by Ms. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of March 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"> • Update Regarding the March 19th Commissioners Court Meeting • Second Annual Pathways to Health Summit • Announcement of Garnet Coleman Health Equity Award Recipient <p>Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer, delivered the CEO report and highlighted several major organizational updates. Dr. Porsa reported on the March 19, 2026 Harris County Commissioners Court meeting, noting the unanimous approval to proceed with the acquisition of approximately 8.9 acres of land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital for expansion through eminent domain. He described this as a historic milestone for Harris Health and acknowledged the extensive advocacy and collaboration from community stakeholders, elected officials, and Board members.</p>	<p>As Presented.</p>

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	<p>Dr. Porsa further presented an update on the Second Annual Pathways to Health Summit, convened through the Sheila Jackson Lee Center for Accelerated Health Outcomes. He reported participation from nearly 200 attendees representing approximately 100 community organizations. The Summit focused on collaborative strategies to improve population health outcomes, with presentations delivered by academic and community leaders, including Dr. Ruth Lopez – Turley, Rice University; Dr. Shreela Sharma, UT Health Houston School of Public Health; Ms. Lharissa Jacobs, FitHouston, and other subject matter experts.</p> <p>Dr. Porsa also announced the recipient of the Garnet Coleman Health Equity Award, recognizing The Metropolitan Organization (TMO) for decades of sustained advocacy in advancing health equity and improving community health outcomes. He emphasized the organization’s longstanding partnership with Harris Health and its contributions to key system initiatives.</p> <p>Board members expressed appreciation for the CEO’s report and acknowledged the significance of the milestones presented, particularly the hospital expansion and community partnership achievements.</p>	
	<p>B. Naming and Recognition</p> <p>Dr. Porsa presented a resolution for consideration to name the chapel at John M. O’Quinn Hospital in recognition of its community contributions and advocacy. Dr. Porsa detailed the historical and philanthropic significance of the proposed designation and its alignment with Harris Health’s mission.</p> <p>Dr. Porsa also introduced a second recognition item regarding the memorialization and recognition agreement for the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center. He acknowledged the longstanding contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Mithoff to trauma care and public health initiatives. Copies of the resolutions are available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>As Presented.</p>
	<p>1. Approval of a Resolution Naming the Chapel at John M. O’Quinn Hospital</p>	<p>Motion No. 26.04-46 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item III.B.1. Motion carried.</p>

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	<p>2. Approval of the Memorialization and Recognition Agreement for the Naming of the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center</p>	<p>Motion No. 26.04-47 Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjvardian, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item III.B.2. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>C. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements</p> <p>Dr. Caracostis invited Board members to provide updates on advocacy and community engagement activities. She announced a congratulatory note recognizing the birth of a child to a fellow Board member and extended well wishes on behalf of the Board. No further announcements were made.</p>	
<p>IV. Public Comment</p>	<p>Mr. Stephen K, public commenter, addressed the Board, expressing concerns regarding access to services, prior communications with Harris Health staff, and allegations related to patient restrictions and discrimination. He also referenced ongoing legal matters and broader concerns regarding community services.</p>	
<p>V. Executive Session</p>	<p>At 9:21 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>

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	<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 9:32 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>	
<p>VII. General Action Item(s)</p>		
	<p>A. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Medical Staff</p>	
	<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 April 2026. He reported that there were 14 initial appointments, zero reappointments, 5 changes of privileges, 6 resignations, and 2 files were 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>Motion No. 26.04-48 Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjvardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.A.1. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. General Action Item(s) Related to Quality: Correctional Health Medical Staff</p>	
	<p>1. Approval of Credentialing Changes for Members of the Harris Health Correctional Health Medical Staff</p> <p>Dr. Otis Ekins, Chief Medical Officer of Harris Health Correctional Health, presented the Correctional Health Medical Staff credentialing report detailing 5 initial appointments and 4 resignations. Copies of the credentialing report were available in the permanent record.</p>	<p>Motion No. 26.04-49 Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.</p>

<p>VIII. Strategic Discussion</p>		
	<p>A. Committee Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 24, 2026 – Quality Committee <p>Dr. Caracostis presented the March 24, 2026, Quality Committee Meeting report. The report included updates on patient safety initiatives led by Dr. Thomas Cummins, who emphasized reinforcement of universal safety protocols, including pre-procedure verification, site marking, and surgical timeouts. Additionally, Dr. Amy Smith and Dr. Shazi presented on the Hospital at Home program, highlighting improved access, reduced admissions, zero unexpected mortality, and high patient satisfaction. They noted federal extension approval and ongoing challenges related to patient engagement with technology.</p>	<p>As Presented.</p>
<p>IX. New Items for Board Consideration</p>	<p>A. Approval of a Resolution Committing Support by Harris Health’s Board of Trustees and Administration for Level III Trauma Services at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital</p> <p>Ms.Carolynn Jones, Executive Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, presented a resolution supporting Level III Trauma Services at Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital. She explained that Board approval is required to support accreditation submissions and demonstrate institutional commitment. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-50</u> Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.A. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>B. Approval of a Resolution Committing Support by Harris Health’s Board of Trustees for Maternal Level of Care Program at Ben Taub Hospital</p> <p>Ms. Jones presented a resolution supporting the Maternal Level of Care Program at Ben Taub Hospital. Dr. Caracostis and Dr. Porsa emphasized the importance of addressing maternal morbidity and mortality challenges in Harris County. A copy of the resolution is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-51</u> Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item IX.B. Motion carried.</p>

X. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	<p>1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A7 of the Purchasing Matrix)</p> <p>Mr. Jack Adger, Assistant Purchasing Agent, Harris County, presented the purchasing recommendations (Items A1–A7), noting that Item A2 was informational only. A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-52</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the purchasing recommendations (Items A1 through A7 of the Purchasing Matrix). Motion carried.</p>
	2. Harris Health First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2026 Premier Spend Report	<u>For Information Only</u>
	B. Consent Contract Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Contract Recommendations (Items B1 – B3 of the Contract Matrix)	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-53</u> Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through C. Motion carried.</p>
	C. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	1. Acceptance of the Harris Health February 2026 Financial Report Subject to Audit	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-53</u> Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through C. Motion carried.</p>
	2. Approval to Transfer Ownership via Warranty Deed of a Sanitary Sewer at 2525 Holly Hall Street to the City of Houston	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-53</u> Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. through C. Motion carried.</p>

	<p>D. Consent Reports and Updates to the Board</p>	
	<p>1. Bi-monthly Updates Regarding Pending State and Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Harris Health</p>	<p><u>For Information Only</u></p>
<p>XI. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for Homeless Program</p>		
	<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 2026 Operational Update <p>Ms. Tracey Burdine, Director of Ambulatory Care Services (ACS), presented the HCHP April 2026 operational update, including service utilization, clinic activity, and outreach efforts. The presentation included a review of February 2026 productivity data, showing that the program served 1,712 unduplicated patients and completed 4,100 visits during the reporting period. Within February alone, approximately 1,100 unduplicated patients were served, with 609 patients receiving family practice services and about 2,100 visits completed in that service line. Overall, program performance was reported to be on target with established service delivery goals.</p> <p>Ms. Burdine also presented updates from the Consumer Advisory Council for the reporting period of November 2025 through January 2026, which focused on program operations, access to services, and community partnerships. Key updates included staffing and recruitment progress as well as operational changes related to the temporary suspension of the mobile medical and dental unit due to repairs, with services continuing at two satellite dental locations. She also noted that a future change of scope would be presented to the Board regarding mobile dental services. Strategic initiatives included potential service expansion at the City of Houston Navigation Hub in coordination with the Harris Center, along with ongoing outreach efforts tied to upcoming community events.</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-54</u> Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Paul Puentes, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.A. Motion carried.</p>

	<p>The report further outlined HRSA compliance requirements, emphasizing the Board’s responsibility for oversight of service delivery sites and hours of operation. For 2026, HCHP will operate four open-access clinics serving both sheltered and unsheltered individuals, three closed sites serving designated populations, and mobile medical, dental, and primary care services, with mobile dental services currently suspended pending repair. Operating hours remain 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>In addition, Ms. Burdine reviewed patient satisfaction and quality improvement efforts, noting the implementation of standardized patient feedback tools across all HCHP and ACS sites to support real-time service evaluation. The current communication performance score was reported at 72.3, with most clinics meeting or exceeding access goals, although three clinics were identified as needing improvement. Action steps include increased point-of-care engagement with patients during visits to improve communication and satisfaction outcomes.</p> <p>During Board discussion, members raised questions regarding staffing, residency involvement, and service expansion in underserved areas. It was noted that residents are not currently rotated through the program, though the idea was discussed as a potential opportunity to enhance training and exposure to underserved populations, subject to credentialing and supervision requirements. Staffing updates indicated that two nurse practitioners have recently joined the program, and recruitment for a medical director is ongoing. Board members also discussed outreach efforts along the FM 1960 Corridor in Northeast Harris County, where mobile units were deployed in coordination with law enforcement and community partners to provide triage and connect individuals to appropriate levels of care, including shelters, clinics, and emergency services. The initiative was described as successful in building community engagement and expanding access, though continued refinement and long-term planning for sustained service delivery in the area were noted as necessary. Additional discussion focused on potential expansion into North Houston, including plans for a new brick-and-mortar clinic in the Greenspoint area to support long-term service stability beyond mobile unit operations. 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 Consumer Advisory Report</p>	<p><u>Motion No. 26.04-55</u> Moved by Ms. Carol Paret, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.B. Motion carried.</p>

	C. Approval of the HCHP 2025 Annual Risk Management Report	<i>Item taken out of order</i> Motion No. 26.04-57 Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Carol Paret, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.C. Motion carried.
	D. Approval of the HCHP 2026 Shelter Based Clinics List	Motion No. 26.04-56 Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XI.D. Motion carried.
XII. Executive Session	At 9:58 AM., Dr. Andrea Caracostis stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XII. 'D through I' as permitted by law under Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§551.071, 551.085, and Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032.	
	D. 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, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	No action taken.
	E. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Unaudited Financial Performance for the Two Months Ending February 28, 2026, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.085	No action taken.
	F. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Settlement of Claims, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, Including Possible Action Upon Return to Open Session Motion: Approval of the Settlement of claims with Yoland Creecy in an amount not to exceed \$100,000. President/CEO of Harris Health or his designee is authorized to execute any agreement, release, or any other necessary documents to effectuate this settlement.	Motion No. 26.04-58 Moved by Mr. Paul Puente, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.F. Motion carried.
	G. 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.

	H. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Texas Open Meetings Act, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	No action taken.
	I. Consultation with Attorney Regarding Conflict of Interest, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	No action taken.
XIII. Reconvene	At 11:22 A.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 item XII. "F" of the Executive Session Agenda. There were no action on Items XII. D, E, G, H, and I.	
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.	

I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Harris Health Board of Trustees Meeting held on April 8, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair

Libby Viera – Bland, AICP, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA