HARRISHEALTH

MINUTES OF THE HARRIS HEALTH BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 8, 2026
9:00 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance	The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Ms. Carol Paret, Presiding Officer. A quorum was present. She noted that while some board members were present in the boardroom, others were participating remotely by video conference in accordance with the Harris Health Video Conferencing Policy and applicable state law. All others wishing to view the meeting were advised to access the meeting online through the Harris Health website: http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live. Attendance was recorded and is appended to the archived minutes.	**A copy of the attendance is appended to the archived minutes.**
II. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting • Board Meeting – June 10, 2026		**Motion No. 26.07-88** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the minutes of June 10, 2026, Board meeting. Motion carried.**
III. Announcements/ Special Presentations		
	A. CEO Report Including Special Announcements • Archbishop Vasquez and TMO Visit to Harris Health • Recognition by Newsweek as One of America's Greatest Workplaces in Health Care 2026 • Operational Excellence Recognition by America's Essential Hospitals of Harris Health's Hospital at Home, Home-based Primary Care and Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy Program Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, President and Chief Executive Officer, presented the CEO Report and highlighted several organizational accomplishments and community partnerships. He noted that Harris Health recently hosted Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez, representatives from The Metropolitan Organization (TMO), and international faith-based leaders at the Harris Health Community Dialysis Center. Dr. Porsa stated that the visit demonstrated the value of partnerships between public healthcare systems and faith-based organizations in advancing health equity, social justice, and services for vulnerable populations. He emphasized Harris Health's longstanding commitment to providing chronic hemodialysis services for uninsured patients, noting that the program originated through grassroots advocacy led by TMO.	**As Presented.**

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	Dr. Porsa announced that Newsweek recognized Harris Health as one of America's Greatest Workplaces in Health Care for 2026, acknowledging the organization's workplace culture and employee engagement. He also reported that America's Essential Hospitals recognized Harris Health's Hospital at Home, Home-Based Primary Care, and Outpatient Parenteral Antibiotic Therapy (OPAT) Program for operational excellence and innovation in patient care delivery. Additionally, Dr. Porsa shared a patient testimonial expressing appreciation for the compassionate care received throughout treatment for a rare medical condition. He noted that the message reflected Harris Health's commitment to patient-centered care and recognized the dedication of staff and providers across the system.	
	B. Board Member Announcements Regarding Board Member Advocacy and Community Engagements Board members did not provide additional announcements or advocacy updates.	
IV. Public Comment	Ms. Tameika Aaron, representing Alpha and Omega Community Services, discussed opportunities to collaborate with Harris Health in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness through transitional housing, behavioral health services, workforce development, and wraparound care.	**As Presented.**
V. Executive Session	At 9:10 AM, Ms. Paret 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.	
	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, the Harris Health Quality and Safety Performance Measures, Good Catch Recipients, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Quality Reporting, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session *Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.*	**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 the Harris Health Medical Staff Upon Return to Open Session *Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.*	**No Action Taken.**

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	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	**No Action Taken.**
VI. Reconvene to Open Meeting	At 9:21 AM, Ms. Paret reconvened the meeting in open session, noting that a quorum was present and no action was taken during 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 of the Medical Executive Board, presented the July 2026 Medical Staff Credentials Report. He reported that the credentialing recommendations included 32 initial appointments, zero reappointments or changes in clinical privileges, four resignations, and five files for discussion in executive session. Copies of the credentialing report were available in the permanent record. *Dr. Hooli was recused from discussion on this item related to Baylor College of Medicine.*	<u>**Motion No. 26.07-89**</u> **Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, 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 of Harris Health Correctional Health, presented credentialing changes for Correctional Health Medical Staff and stated nine initial appointments. Copies of the credentialing report were available in the permanent record.	<u>**Motion No. 26.07-90**</u> **Moved by Ms. Paul Puente, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera - Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda item VII.B.1. Motion carried.**

VIII. Strategic Discussion		
	A. Harris Health Strategic Plan Initiatives	
	1. Presentation Regarding Harris Health's Community Alignment Initiatives Dr. Jennifer Small, Chief Executive Officer, ACS, presented an update on Harris Health's Community Alignment Initiatives under Strategic Pillar 6: Access. She described the organization's expanded strategy to strengthen collaboration with Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), FQHC Look-Alikes, and charity clinics throughout Harris County to improve coordinated access to care. Dr. Small stated that Harris Health has transitioned from geographically focused partnerships to a countywide collaborative model designed to strengthen the healthcare safety net. She discussed ongoing efforts to establish structured partnerships through memoranda of understanding, recurring leadership meetings, standardized referral pathways, eligibility education, and enhanced communication between organizations. Dr. Small highlighted the importance of bidirectional referrals, allowing patients to access services across participating organizations regardless of where they receive primary care. She noted that Harris Health has conducted on-site visits with community partners to better understand operational challenges, identify service gaps, and collaboratively develop solutions. Technology enhancements are also being pursued to improve referral management, expand access to diagnostic services, and strengthen care coordination. Ms. Krystal Carter, Director of Ambulatory Operations, discussed implementation strategies supporting the initiative. She highlighted community engagement efforts, including participation in more than 80 community outreach events throughout Harris County during the year. Ms. Carter noted that Harris Health continues to increase public awareness of available services while strengthening relationships with community providers and organizations. She also outlined future priorities focused on patient navigation, standardized partner communication, performance metrics, and measurable outcomes to evaluate the effectiveness of the collaborative strategy. Board members discussed the importance of maintaining long-term partnerships with community organizations, strengthening referral coordination, enhancing access through technology, and ensuring continuity of care for vulnerable populations. Additional discussion emphasized opportunities to expand collaboration with emergency departments and other healthcare providers while maintaining strong relationships with FQHC partners. A copy of the presentation is included in the permanent record.	**As Presented.**

	B. Committee Reports • June 23, 2026 – Quality Committee • June 25, 2026 – Joint Conference Committee Ms. Libby Viera – Bland presented the report from the June 23, 2026 Quality Committee meeting. She reported that the committee received Harris Health's monthly patient safety presentation focusing on prevention and management of Clostridioides difficile infections, including infection prevention strategies, environmental cleaning, hand hygiene, early detection, and antibiotic stewardship. Ms. Viera – Bland also stated that the committee received presentations regarding Harris Health's population health strategy, cardiovascular health initiatives, and the Food Rx Program. Discussion highlighted efforts to improve chronic disease management through community partnerships and expanded access to healthy food resources. The committee also reviewed collaborative initiatives demonstrating improvements in diabetes management among participating patients. Ms. Sima Ladjevardian presented the report from the June 25, 2026 Joint Conference Committee meeting. She stated that physician leaders from Ben Taub Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, and Harris Health provided updates regarding clinical operations, patient safety, emergency preparedness, physician leadership transitions, academic partnerships, and ongoing collaboration across the health system. The committee also discussed continued implementation of the One Harris Health approach, operational efficiencies, trauma readiness, patient satisfaction initiatives, and expanded coordination among physician leaders. Ms. Ladjevardian commended the strong collaboration across the organization and recognized the collective commitment to delivering high-quality patient care.	**As Presented.**
IX. Consent Agenda Items		
	A. Consent Purchasing Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Purchasing Recommendations (Items A1 through A11 of the Purchasing Matrix) A copy of the purchasing agenda is available in the permanent record.	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-91</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, and unanimously passed that the Board approve the purchasing recommendations (Items A1 through A11 of the Purchasing Matrix). Motion carried.**

	B. Consent Grant Recommendations	
	1. Approval of Grant Recommendations (Items B1 of the Grant Matrix)	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-92</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B through C. Motion carried.**
	C. New Consent Items for Board Approval	
	1. Acceptance of the Harris Health May 2026 Financial Report Subject to Audit	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-92</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items IX.B through C. Motion carried.**

X. Item(s) Related to the Health Care for 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 July 2026 Operational Update Ms. Tracey Burdine, Director of Ambulatory Care Services (ACS), presented the HCHP report. She reviewed the July 2026 operational update, reporting continued progress toward annual patient service goals while acknowledging temporary impacts related to provider onboarding. She reported that Harris Health had served more than 3,200 unduplicated patients during the reporting period and discussed ongoing efforts to improve productivity as additional providers join the program. Ms. Burdine also announced that the program received a $10,000 America's Essential Hospitals Mobile Learning Collaborative Grant, which will support participation in national mobile health learning activities, best practice collaboration, and staff education. The proposed grant budget was presented for Board approval. Ms. Burdine also reviewed the Consumer Advisory Council report, including updates regarding temporary relocation of services due to structural repairs at the 419 Emancipation clinic, continued mobile health operations, collaboration with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, and ongoing dental services for individuals experiencing homelessness. Copies of the presentations and supporting documentation were included in the permanent record. **Note:** Items X. A through C were presented together and considered separately for Board action.	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-93</u>** **Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.A. Motion carried.**
	B. Notice of a Grant Award from America's Essential Hospitals (AEH), Including Consideration of Approval of the HCHP Budget for the AEH Mobile Learning Collaborative Grant	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-94</u>** **Moved by Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.B. Motion carried.**

	C. Approval of the HCHP Consumer Advisory Council Report	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-95</u>** **Moved by Dr. Shubhada Hooli, seconded by Mr. Paul Puente, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items X.C. Motion carried.**
XI. Executive Session	At 10:10 AM, Ms. Paret stated that the Board would enter Executive Session for Items XI. 'D through G' as permitted by law under Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§§§551.071, 551.072, 551.074 and 551.085.	
	D. Review of the Community Health Choice, Inc. and Community Health Choice Texas, Inc. Financial Performance for the Five Months Ending May 31, 2026, and Other Material Business Matters Related to Affiliated Health Plan Entity, 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 Tex. Health & Safety Code Ann. §161.032 and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §551.071, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	**No action taken.**
	F. Deliberation Regarding the Purchase, Exchange, Lease or Value of Real Property, Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §§551.071, 551.072, and Possible Action Regarding this Matter Upon Return to Open Session	**No action taken.**
	G. 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 ***Motion:*** *Approval of the FY 2026 CEO Evaluation as presented in Executive Session* ***Motion:*** *Approval of the FY 2027 CEO Goals as presented in Executive Session*	**<u>Motion No. 26.07-96</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.G. (FY26 CEO Evaluation). Motion carried.** **<u>Motion No. 26.07-96</u>** **Moved by Ms. Libby Viera – Bland, seconded by Ms. Ingrid Robinson, and unanimously passed that the Board approve agenda items XII.G. (FY27 CEO Goals). Motion carried.**

XIII. Reconvene	At 11:25 A.M., Ms. Paret 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 XI. G of the Executive Session Agenda. No action was taken on Items XI. D through F.	
XIV. Adjournment	There being no further business to come before the Board; without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.	

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Paret, BS, Presiding Officer
in lieu of Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Chair

Libby Viera – Bland, AICP, Secretary

Minutes transcribed by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA