

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Joint Conference Committee

Thursday, June 25, 2026  
12:00 PM

The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and may be viewed online at:  
<http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live>.

### Mission

Harris Health is a public, integrated health system dedicated to improving the health of our communities by delivering high-quality, person-centered care in collaboration with community and academic partners.

## AGENDA

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|---|--|----------------------------------|
| <b>I. Call to Order and Record of Attendance</b>  | <b>Ms. Sima Ladjevardian</b>                       | <b>2 min</b>                     |
| <b>II. <a href="#">Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</a></b>                              | <b>Ms. Sima Ladjevardian</b>                       | <b>2 min</b>                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Joint Conference Committee Meeting – April 23, 2026</li></ul> |  |                                  |
| <b>III. Physician Leadership Reports</b>  | <b>Ms. Sima Ladjevardian</b>                       | <b>25 min</b>                    |
| <b>A. Medical Executive Board (MEB) Chair/Vice Chair</b>  | <b>Dr. Kunal Sharma and<br/>Dr. Asim Shah</b>      | <i>(5 min)</i>                   |
| <b>B. Chiefs of Staff</b>   |  |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ben Taub Hospital</li><li>LBJ Hospital</li></ul>              | <b>Dr. Sandeep Markan</b><br><b>Dr. Tien Ko</b>    | <i>(5 min)</i><br><i>(5 min)</i> |
| <b>C. Assistant Chiefs of Staff</b>   |  |                                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>BCM</li><li>UT</li></ul>                                      | <b>Dr. Fareed Khan</b><br><b>Dr. Mohammad Zare</b> | <i>(5 min)</i><br><i>(5 min)</i> |
| <b>IV. Adjournment</b>  | <b>Ms. Sima Ladjevardian</b>                       | <b>1 min</b>                     |

**HARRIS HEALTH**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2026**

AGENDA ITEM		DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
I.	<b>Call to Order and Record of Attendance</b>	Ms. Sima Ladjevardian, Presiding Officer, called the meeting to order at 12:06 P.M. It was noted there was a quorum present, and the attendance was recorded. The meeting may be viewed online through the Harris Health website: <a href="http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live">http://harrishealthtx.swagit.com/live</a> .	
II.	<b>Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Conference Committee Meeting – February 26, 2026</li> </ul>		<b>Moved by Dr. Kunal Sharma, seconded by Dr. Tien Ko, and unanimously approved the minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting. Motion carried.</b>
III.	<b>Physician Leadership Reports</b>		
	<b>A. Medical Executive Board Chair/Vice Chair</b>	Dr. Kunal Sharma, Chair of the Medical Executive Board (MEB), and Dr. Asim Shah, Vice Chair, MEB, provided updates regarding physician engagement, organizational initiatives, and system priorities. Dr. Sharma reflected on the annual Medical Staff Appreciation Event held on April 22, 2026, and noted the event’s focus on service excellence and patient experience improvement strategies. He expressed appreciation to the Medical Staff Services team and Harris Health leadership for recognizing the contributions of the medical staff. Dr. Sharma also discussed physician support for several major Harris Health capital projects, including the Ben Taub Hospital (BTH) expansion and continued construction progress at the new Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Hospital campus. He noted that physicians across the system recognize the long-term impact these projects will have on patient care access and healthcare delivery. Dr. Sharma further reported that physician leadership continues to collaborate with the Harris Health administration to strengthen communication, supervision, and escalation processes among trainees, supervising physicians, and nursing staff to support patient safety and quality care.	<b>As Reported.</b>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>Dr. Andrea Caracostis, Committee Chair, acknowledged the strong leadership and collegiality demonstrated by Harris Health physicians and emphasized the importance of transparency, collaboration, and accountability in shaping the future of healthcare delivery. Dr. Shah provided additional remarks regarding upcoming leadership transitions at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), including the departures of Dr. Paul Klotman and Dr. Jim McDeavitt in June 2026. He reaffirmed BCM’s continued commitment and partnership with Harris Health and expressed support for the ongoing supervision and escalation initiatives discussed by Dr. Sharma.</p>	
<p><b>B. Chief of Staffs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Taub Hospital</li> <li>• LBJ Hospital</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Tien Ko, Chief of Staff at LBJ Hospital, reported that construction of the new LBJ Hospital campus remains on schedule and is approximately 50 percent complete. He stated that Harris Health has engaged a consulting firm to assist with operational transition planning and that tabletop exercises have begun with physicians, nurses, and operational leaders to evaluate patient flow, safety procedures, emergency operations, and departmental workflows within the future facility. Dr. Ko also discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen supervision and escalation practices for medical trainees and emphasized the importance of reinforcing accountability and encouraging trainees to seek assistance when needed. He expressed appreciation to Harris Health leadership for recognizing physicians during recent appreciation events. Committee members discussed operational planning efforts and expressed enthusiasm regarding the progress of the new LBJ Hospital campus.</p> <p>Dr. Sandeep Markan, Chief of Staff at Ben Taub Hospital, discussed the continued progress of the new LBJ Hospital project and commended Harris Health leadership for advancing the initiative from concept to active construction. Dr. Markan also discussed the recent approval of the Ben Taub Hospital expansion project by the Harris County Commissioners Court and noted that the approval reflected extensive public engagement and strong community support for Harris Health’s mission. In addition, Dr. Markan addressed operational challenges related to patient capacity and throughput and noted ongoing collaboration between physicians and operational leaders to improve length of stay management, coordination between ambulatory and inpatient services, and stewardship of system resources. He also referenced continued investments in infrastructure modernization, including Epic system enhancements and facility improvements. Dr. Markan acknowledged upcoming leadership transitions at BCM and reaffirmed the organization’s continued partnership with Harris Health.</p>	<p><b>As Reported.</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>C. Assistant Chiefs of Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCM</li> <li>• UT</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. Mohammad Zare, Assistant Chief of Staff at UTHealth Houston, expressed appreciation to the Board and Harris Health leadership for recognizing physicians and medical staff during recent appreciation events. Dr. Zare discussed efforts to strengthen community partnerships through health fairs and preventive care initiatives focused on underserved and immigrant populations. These initiatives included blood pressure screenings, diabetes screenings, nutrition education, and enrollment assistance for Harris Health services. He also reported that physician leaders are collaborating with Dr. Matasha Russell, Chief Medical Officer, Harris Health Ambulatory Care Services, to analyze healthcare disparities using Harris Health data to identify differences in patient outcomes across demographic and geographic populations in support of health equity initiatives. Dr. Zare further discussed the evolving physician-patient relationship and the increasing prevalence of patients utilizing internet and AI-based health information resources.</p> <p>Dr. Fareed Khan, Assistant Chief of Staff at BCM, discussed the continued expansion of ambulatory care services and outpatient specialty programs, emphasizing the importance of preventive care and outpatient access in improving healthcare outcomes and reducing unnecessary hospital utilization. Dr. Khan also discussed opportunities to leverage technology solutions, including AI-assisted clinical documentation tools and future Epic enhancements, to reduce physician administrative burden and support physician recruitment and retention efforts. Additional ambulatory care initiatives were discussed, including expanded cardiology outpatient services, digital translation services, expanded optometry services, and implementation of medication pickup locker systems to improve patient access to prescriptions. Dr. Khan further highlighted workforce development initiatives, including nurse-led blood pressure management clinics and programs designed to transition patient care assistants into medical assistant roles. Additional committee discussion focused on opportunities to expand hospital-at-home programs, hospice services, and community partnerships to support a broader continuum of care for Harris County residents. Board leadership expressed support for continued innovation and exploration of AI-assisted technologies to improve patient care and provider satisfaction.</p>	<p><b>As Reported.</b></p>

<b>IV.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	There being no further business and without objection from the Members of the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M.	
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I certify that the foregoing are the Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Conference Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Harris Health System held on April 23, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Caracostis, MD, MPH, Committee Chair,

Recorded by Cherry A. Joseph, MBA

Board of Trustees  
 Joint Conference Committee I Thursday, April 23, 2026  
 ATTENDANCE RECORD

PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS	ABSENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS	OTHER PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS
Dr. Andrea Caracostis, Committee Chair		
Sima Ladjevardian, Board Committee Member		
Dr. Sandeep Markan, Chief of Staff <i>(BT Hospital)</i>		
Dr. Tien Ko, Chief of Staff <i>(LBJ Hospital)</i>		
Dr. Fareed Khan, Assistant Chief of Staff <i>(BCM)</i>		
Dr. Mohammad Zare, Assistant Chief of Staff <i>(UT)</i>		
Dr. Kunal Sharma, Medical Executive Board Chair		
Dr. Asim Shah, Medical Executive Board Vice Chair		
Dr. Esmail Porsa, President & Chief Executive Officer		
Louis Smith, Sr. EVP & Chief Operating Officer		
Dr. Thomas Cummins, EVP & Chief Medical Executive Officer		
Dr. Matasha Russell, Chief Medical Officer <i>(ACS)</i>		

PRESENT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP, STAFF & GUESTS	
Alexander Barrie	John Matcek
Binta Baudy	Maria Cowles
Cherry Joseph	Sara Thomas <i>(Harris County Attorney's Office)</i>
Daniel Smith	Shawn DeCosta
Jennifer Zarate	

Virtual Attendee Notice: *If you joined as a group and would like your attendance to be added to the official record, please submit an email to: [BoardofTrustees@harrishealth.org](mailto:BoardofTrustees@harrishealth.org) before the close of business on the day of the meeting.*