

DRAFT

**BOARD OF MANAGERS
NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 25, 2025**

The Nueces County Hospital District Board of Managers met at 12.:00 p.m., March 25, 2025 in the NCHD Board Room at 555 N. Carancahua, Suite 950 – A Corpus Christi, Texas.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES:

Jonny F. Hipp	Administrator/CEO
Belinda Espinoza	Asst. Administrator, Admin. Services
Donna Littlefield	Director, Accounting & Finance
John B. Martinez	General Counsel
Adam Robison	Legal Counsel
Melissa Quintanilla	Executive Assistant/Human Resources
Carmina Hernandez Moreno	Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jenny Dorsey	NC Courthouse Attorney
Dr. Shan Islam	Christus Spohn Board Member
Lee Lopez	Corpus Christi Medical Center – via Zoom
Becky Rios	Christus Spohn Hospital – via Zoom
Joel Romo	Lobbyist – via Zoom
David McElwain	Meeder Investments – Via Zoom
Mark Hendrix	NC Mental Health Intellectual Disabilities – via Zoom
Pge7688	- via Zoom

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1. WELCOME

2. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

☒ Y__ Belinda Flores, Chair
☒ Y__ Vishnu V. Reddy, Vice Chair
☒ Y__ Sylvia Tryon Oliver
☒ X__ Mariana Garza
☒ Y__ Efrain Guerrero, Jr.
☒ X__ Georgia Neblett
☒ Y__ Karen O'Connor Urban

**3. CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM, MEETING POSTING
CONFIRMATION, AND CLOSED MEETING NOTICE:**

A. Call to order – Belinda Flores, Chairman.

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

B. Establish quorum – Ms. Flores, Chairman.

A quorum was present with five members in attendance.

Belinda Flores, Chair – PRESENT

Vishnu V. Reddy, Vice Chair – PRESENT – via Zoom

Sylvia Tryon Oliver, Member – PRESENT

Karen O'Connor Urban, Member – PRESENT

Efrain Guerrero, Jr., Member – PRESENT

Mariana Garza, Member – ABSENT

Georgia Neblett, Member – ABSENT

C. Confirm posting of Meeting's public notice in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

D. Public notice is hereby given that the Board of Managers may elect to go into Closed Meeting session(s) at any time during the meeting to discuss any matter(s) listed on the agenda when so authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT ON DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. Any Conflicts of Interest or Appearance of a Conflict of Interest with items on this agenda shall be declared at this time. Members with conflicts will refrain from voting and are asked to refrain from discussion on such items. Conflicts discovered later in the meeting shall be

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disclosed at that time.

5. REGULAR SESSION

A. PUBLIC COMMENT - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Board on any issues within its authority. Persons attending in-person and wishing to comment on any item(s) on the agenda or any subject within the Board's responsibilities must sign-in on the "Agenda Item Request to Speak" form provided at the entrance of the Board meeting room at least five (5) minutes prior to commencement of the meeting. Persons attending via audio or video conference and wishing to comment on any item(s) on the agenda or any subject within the Board's responsibilities must verbally notify the presiding officer of their desire to comment when the officer calls for public comment from those attending via audio and video conference. Commenters shall limit their comments to three (3) minutes, except that commenters addressing the Board through a translator shall limit their comments to six (6) minutes. The presiding officer may, if he/she deems it necessary, limit both the number of commenters and the time allotted to each commenter. Under the law, the Board may only take action on items specifically listed on the agenda. Subject matter presented which is not part of the agenda will be referred to District staff for review if appropriate. Materials submitted to the Board during public comment will not be returned. At least ten (10) copies of any document to be used by any commenter should be available for distribution to the Board. The commenter is responsible for preparation of the copies. The commenter's name and, if applicable, meeting agenda item number should be clearly marked on such documents.

Dr. Shah Islam

B. CONSENT AGENDA - The Consent Agenda consists of those agenda items which are routine, administrative in nature, not in need of separate attention, and which a member of the Board has not requested be discussed separately. If requested to be discussed separately, that agenda item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by the presiding officer to the Regular Agenda and discussed as a part of the Regular Agenda at the appropriate time. All remaining items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted upon in a single vote:

1. Approve Board of Managers Regular Meeting minutes of February 26, 2025.
2. Receive listing of new vendors as of March 21, 2025 listing provided pursuant to Board of Managers Bylaws, §2.1.B and Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 176.
3. Receive summary payment information on Nueces County health care disbursements for Fiscal Year 2025 year-to-date:

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- a. Salaries, benefits, and supplies at/for the City of Corpus Christi/Nueces County Public Health District;
 - b. Emergency medical services provided in unincorporated areas of Nueces County;
 - c. Supplemental and jail diversion program funding for Nueces Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities;
 - d. Medical services provided at County correctional facilities:
 - 1. Nueces County Jail; and
 - 2. Nueces County Juvenile Detention Center;
 - e. Funding for alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs:
 - 1. Cenikor (Charlie's Place); and
 - 2. Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse;
 - f. Funding for diabetes prevention and supporting programs; and
 - g. Public health grants.
4. Receive summary imputed claims information on medical and hospital care provided to the Nueces Aid Program population consistent with the CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Corporation Amended and Restated Membership Agreement for fiscal year-to-date period-ended February 28, 2025.
5. Receive fiscal year-to-date Specified Annual Percentage-related revenue reports; revenue receipts pursuant to CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Corporation Amended and Restated Membership Agreement, Section 5.03.
6. Receive statement of amounts deposited to and/or withdrawn from Local Provider Participation Fund for fiscal year-to-date; deposits and withdrawals pursuant to Board of Managers Order authorizing participation in a health care provider participation program pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 298C, as amended.
7. Receive summary report of cumulative actual intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) made in support of local and other healthcare providers participating in Medicaid directed and supplemental payment programs sponsored by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and receive estimates of provider payments

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resulting from the IGTs:

- a. Directed Payment Programs - IGTs for HHSC's Medicaid managed care organization payments to healthcare providers that support overall Medicaid program goals and objectives:
 1. Aligning Technology by Linking Interoperable Systems for Client Health Outcomes Program (ATLIS);
 2. Comprehensive Hospital Increase Reimbursement Program (CHIRP);
 3. Network Access Improvement Program (NAIP); and
 4. Texas Incentives for Physicians and Professional Services (TIPPS); and
- b. Supplemental Payment Programs - IGTs for HHSC Medicaid payments made to hospitals, separate from and in addition to base payments, for achieving certain goals or to support health care providers that see significant numbers of uninsured or persons without much money:
 1. Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH);
 2. Graduate Medical Education (GME);
 3. Hospital Augmented Reimbursement Program (HARP); and
 4. Hospital Uncompensated Care (UC).

8. Receive reports relating to Nueces Aid Program enrollment for the month-ended February 28, 2025:

- a. Total Persons and Households Enrolled;
- b. Enrollment Summary;
- c. Denials;
- d. Application Processing Summary; and
- e. Enrollment by Zip Code.

Consent Agenda Approved. Motion by Sylvia Tryon Oliver and seconded by Efrain Guerrero. MOTION CARRIED.

C. REGULAR AGENDA - The Regular Agenda consists of those agenda items which are non-routine, not administrative in nature, or are otherwise in need of separate attention. Each Regular Agenda item will be voted upon separately if action is required:

1. Finance:

- a. Financial Statements:
 1. Receive and approve unaudited financial statements for the month and fiscal year-to-date period ended February 28, 2025. (**ACTION**)

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**Motion by Karen O'Connor Urban and seconded by
Sylvia Tryon Oliver. MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Investment Report:

1. Receive and approve Quarterly Investment Report for fiscal quarter-ended December 31, 2024 and ratify related investment transactions.
(ACTION)

**David McElwain presented and updated the
Quarterly Investment Reports.**

**Motion by Karen O'Connor Urban and seconded by
Efrain Guerrero. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Legislation:

**a. Receive information on Nueces County Hospital District's 89th Texas Session
Legislative Agenda, as amended:**

1. Introduced Session Bills: H.B. 4801 and S.B. 2666, relating to the establishment of a grant program to allow the Hospital District to recruit and retain certain medical professionals; and
2. 2026-2027 Biennium Budget Rider requests relating to local graduate medical education and regional mental health inpatient facilities. **(INFORMATION)**

**b. Discuss and consider adopting Board of Managers Resolutions requesting and
supporting legislation during the 89th Texas Session:**

1. Legislation relating to the establishment of a grant program to allow the Nueces County Hospital District to recruit and retain certain physicians and increase the number of residency positions at hospitals in the District; and
2. 2026-2027 Biennium Budget Riders for:
 - a. Graduate Medical Education; and
 - b. Construction of mental health inpatient facilities in the Coastal Bend region, including a 50-bed state hospital maximum security facility, or a local mental health inpatient facility with at least 50 percent forensic capacity. **(ACTION)**

**Motion by Sylvia Tryon Oliver and seconded by
Karen O'Connor Urban. MOTION CARRIED.**

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3. Medical Specialties Demand:

- a. Receive and discuss information on Projected Medical Specialty Supply, Demand, and Needs for Nueces County; information meets requirement of December 14, 2023, Emergency Medicine Support Letter Agreement between the Hospital District and CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Corporation. **(INFORMATION)**

4. Nueces Aid Program's Eligibility Guidelines:

- a. Receive reference information relating to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines:
 - 1. Annual update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines from Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 11, January 17, 2025, pp. 5917-5918; and
 - 2. Prior HHS Poverty Guidelines and Federal Register References, 1982-2024. **(INFORMATION)**
- b. Receive notice of annual increase adjustments of Nueces Aid Program's Eligibility Guidelines; adjustments effective March 1, 2025 for:
 - 1. Household Resources as required by the Program's Handbook Policy No. NA002, Attachment 2, Sections I-B, I-C-1, I-C-23, and I-F; and
 - 2. Household Income as required by Program's Handbook Policy No. NA002, Attachment 4, Section I-F-3. **(INFORMATION)**

5. Board of Managers Business:

- a. Elect Board of Managers Vice Chair for the period March 26 - September 30, 2025; elections pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, §281.023(a) and Board of Managers Bylaws, §2.2.A. **(ACTION)**

**Table Item 5. A. Motion by Karen O'Connor Urban
and seconded by Sylvia Tryon Oliver.
MOTION CARRIED.**

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6. CHRISTUS Spohn Board of Directors:

- a. Discuss and consider a reappointment to CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Corporation's Board of Directors for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2027; appointment pursuant to CHRISTUS

Spohn Health System Membership Agreement, Article IV, Section 4.01(b). **(ACTION)**

**Motion by Dr. Vishnu Reddy and seconded by
Karen O'Connor Urban. MOTION CARRIED.**

7. Administrator's Actions:

- a. Ratify Administrator's action(s) performed as part of his duties directing the affairs of the Hospital District and/or as required by the Board of Managers; duties established pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code, §281.026(e):

1. Pursuit of 89th Texas Legislative Session Agenda, including but not limited to actions relating to Bills and Riders; and

2. Submission of Calendar Year 2024 unreimbursed health care expenditure amounts to the Texas Department of State Health Services for pro rata share of the annual distribution of income from the Tobacco Permanent Settlement Trust Account by the Comptroller of Public Accounts; expenditure submission pursuant to Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 102, Rules §102.1(b) and §102.3(a), (e)(2), and (f).
(ACTION)

**Motion by Karen O'Connor Urban and seconded by
Sylvia Tryon Oliver. MOTION CARRIED.**

8. Administrator's Briefing:

- a. Next scheduled Board of Managers regular meeting (meeting date, time, and location are subject to change):

1. Board of Managers: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 12:00 PM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401. **(INFORMATION)**

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6. CLOSED MEETING - Public Notice is hereby given that the Board of Managers may go into closed meeting session(s) at any time during the meeting to discuss any matter(s) listed on the agenda, when so authorized by the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. *To the extent there has been a past practice of distinguishing items for public deliberation and those for executive session, the public is advised that the Board is departing from that practice and reserves the right to discuss any listed agenda items in a closed meeting when authorized by law to do so.* When the Board goes into closed session(s) regarding an agenda item(s), the section(s) of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the closed session will be publicly announced by the presiding officer. Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in closed session(s), then the final action, final decision, or final vote shall be either: (a) in the open meeting covered by the Notice upon reconvening of the public meeting; or (b) at a subsequent public meeting of the Board upon notice thereof, as the Board shall determine pursuant to applicable laws. The Board specifically expects to go into a closed session(s) on the matters listed below pursuant to the Act, §551.071.

A. Consult with attorneys on legislative matters.

B. Consult with attorneys on matters relating to Hospital District appointments to the CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Corporation's Board of Directors.

**Belinda Flores, Chair called for Closed Session
at 1:42 p.m.**

7. OPEN MEETING - Following the Closed Meeting, the Board of Managers will reconvene the Open Meeting prior to taking any action(s) on matters considered in the Closed Meeting or adjourning the meeting.

**Belinda Flores, Chair called for Open Meeting
at 2:07 p.m.**

A. Consider final action, decision, or vote on matters considered in the Closed Meeting.
(ACTION AS NEEDED)

No Action taken.

8. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Belinda Flores, Chair at 2:07 p.m.

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PRESIDING OFFICER:

Belinda Flores, Chair

ATTEST:

Jonny F. Hipp, Secretary
Board of Managers
Nueces County Hospital District