BOARD OF MANAGERS
Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 11:00 AM

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME**

2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

___ Georgia Neblett, Chair
___ Karen O'Connor Urban
___ Mariana Garza

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

A. Call to order.

B. Establish quorum.

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 Committee 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. **NOTICE REGARDING BUDGET.** The Hospital District's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget ("FY27 Budget") has been duly adopted by the Board and approved by the Commissioners Court. The Committee may discuss the FY27 Budget at this meeting. The adopted FY27 Budget and the required taxpayer impact statement for Fiscal Year 2027 are available for public review on the District's official website at: https://www.nchdcc.org.

5. **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 disclosed at that time.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Committee 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 Committee's responsibilities must sign-in on the "Agenda Item Request to Speak" form provided at the entrance of the Committee 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 Committee'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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee. 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.

7. **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 Committee member 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:

A. Approve Legislative Committee Regular Meeting minutes of August 17, 2026. 4

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

9. Receive information from Legislative Consultants on 90th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. ***(INFORMATION)***

10. Receive a briefing on, discuss, and consider recommending action regarding the potential use of the YourTexasBenefits.com website, operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to additionally facilitate enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program. 8

(ACTION)

11. Discuss and consider recommending action on proposed amendments to the Nueces County Hospital District's Draft 90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda. ***(ACTION)*** 11

12. Consider legislative services contracts with Patricia A. Shipton and Joel J. Romo for the 90th Texas Legislative Session (January 1 – June 30, 2027). ***(INFORMATION)*** 20

13. **ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

A. Next scheduled regular Committee meeting (meeting's date, time, and location subject to change):

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 11:00 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

14. **ADJOURN**

15. Public Notice posting receipt. 22

DRAFT

BOARD OF MANAGERS
NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2026

The Nueces County Hospital District Board of Managers met at 11:30 a.m., August 17, 2026, 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
Mary Esther Guerra	Assistant County Attorney
John B. Martinez	General Counsel
Adam Robison	Legal Counsel
Melissa Quintanilla	Executive Assistant/Human Resources
Carmina Hernandez Moreno	Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Samantha Miears	NCHD Eligibility Supervisor
Rachelle Robles	NCHD Community Health Engagement Coordinator
Mark Hendrix	NCMHID
Mike Davis	NCMHID
Jenny Dorsey	NC Courthouse Attorney
Patricia Shipton	Lobbyist – via Zoom
Joel Romo	Lobbyist – via Zoom
read.ai meeting notes	-via Zoom

1. **WELCOME**

2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

_Y__ Georgia Neblett, Chair
_Y__ Karen O'Connor Urban
_Y__ Mariana Garza

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

A. Call to order – Georgia Neblett, Chair.
The meeting was called to order by Georgia Neblett at 11:47 a.m.

B. Establish quorum – Georgia Neblett, Chair
A quorum was present with all members in attendance.

Georgia Neblett, Chair – PRESENT
Karen O'Connor Urban, Member – PRESENT – via Zoom
Mariana Garza, Member – PRESENT

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 Committee 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. **NOTICE REGARDING BUDGET.** The Hospital District's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget ("FY26 Budget") has been duly adopted by the Board and approved by the Commissioners Court. The Committee may discuss the FY26 Budget at this meeting. The adopted FY26 Budget and the required taxpayer impact statement for Fiscal Year 2026 are available for public review on the District's official website at:
https://www.nchdcc.org/public_notices/finance.php.

The Hospital District's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget ("FY27 Budget") is currently under development and may be discussed by the Committee at this meeting. Because the FY27 Budget has not yet been adopted, a taxpayer impact statement for Fiscal Year 2027 is not currently available.

5. **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 disclosed at that time.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Committee 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 Committee's responsibilities must sign-in on the "Agenda Item Request to Speak" form provided at the entrance of the Committee 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 Committee'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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee. 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.

No one to speak in Public Comment.

7. **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 Committee member 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:

A. Approve Legislative Committee Regular Meeting minutes of June 23, 2026.

Consent Agenda Approved. Motion by Mariana Garza and seconded by Karen O'Connor Urban.
MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Receive information from Legislative Consultants on 90th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. ***(INFORMATION)***

Patricia Shipton and Joel Romo updated board on Legislative matters.

B. Receive a briefing on, discuss, and consider recommending action regarding the potential use of the YourTexasBenefits.com website, operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to additionally facilitate enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program. ***(ACTION)***

C. Discuss and consider recommending action on proposed amendments to the Nueces County Hospital District's Draft 90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda. ***(ACTION)***

Motion by Mariana Garza to table Item B. & C.
and seconded by Karen O'Connor Urban.
MOTION CARRIED.

9. **ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

A. Next scheduled regular Committee meeting (meeting's date, time, and location subject to change):

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 11:00 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

10. **ADJOURN**

Georgia Neblett, Chair motion to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Briefing Paper

SUBJECT: Potential Use of YourTexasBenefits.com to Facilitate Enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program

Purpose

To brief the Board of Managers regarding the potential use of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's YourTexasBenefits.com integrated benefits portal as an additional pathway to facilitate enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program.

Background

The Nueces Aid Program is the District's local indigent health care program for Nueces County residents who do not qualify for other state or federal medical assistance. The program operates as the District's implementation of the County Indigent Health Care Program under Chapter 61 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and provides hospital, clinical, pharmacy, and primary care services to eligible residents.

Enrollment is currently administered independently by the District through its own online and paper application processes. Applicants must provide information and documentation concerning residency, household composition, income, resources, other coverage, and identity. Eligibility is determined after the required documentation is received.

Current Enrollment Process

The District currently accepts Nueces Aid applications through its online enrollment system and by paper application. Applicants are responsible for separately gathering and submitting supporting documentation even when similar information has previously been provided to or verified by another governmental benefits program.

There is presently no direct connection between YourTexasBenefits.com and the Nueces Aid Program. Consequently, an individual who applies for Medicaid through the state portal and is denied must separately identify the Nueces Aid Program and initiate another enrollment process with the District.

Potential YourTexasBenefits.com Pathway

YourTexasBenefits.com is the State's integrated benefits portal for programs including Medicaid, SNAP, CHIP, and TANF. A Medicaid application submitted through the portal collects substantially the same applicant information used in determining Nueces Aid eligibility, including identity and address, county of residence, household composition, income, assets and resources, insurance status, Social Security number, and Medicaid eligibility status.

The briefing identifies photo identification as the principal Nueces Aid documentation requirement not collected through YourTexasBenefits.com. This requirement could be addressed through a supplemental verification step rather than requiring an applicant to repeat the entire application process.

Enrollment Pathway Models

The briefing identifies three potential approaches for using YourTexasBenefits.com information to facilitate Nueces Aid enrollment. The first would provide for automatic referral following a Medicaid denial, with applicant consent, allowing verified eligibility information to be transmitted to the District and used to initiate a Nueces Aid application.

A second approach would establish a direct County Indigent Health Care Program intake pathway within YourTexasBenefits.com, allowing an applicant to initiate a Nueces Aid application through the state portal without first completing a Medicaid application.

A third approach would use an administrative coordination arrangement under existing authority. Under this approach, the District could accept income, household, and other information already verified through

a YourTexasBenefits.com Medicaid application to satisfy corresponding Nueces Aid documentation requirements. Unlike the first two approaches, this model would not depend upon an automated data-transfer system.

Potential Administrative Benefits

Use of verified YourTexasBenefits.com information could reduce duplication in the enrollment process by allowing information already collected and verified by HHSC to be used for Nueces Aid eligibility purposes. This could reduce the amount of documentation applicants must submit separately and lessen administrative processing associated with collecting and verifying duplicative information.

The approach could also provide a more direct connection between Medicaid ineligibility and the local indigent health care program. Medicaid-denied Nueces County residents whose income and resources fall within Nueces Aid standards could be more readily identified and directed to the District's enrollment process.

Eligibility Considerations

The Nueces Aid Program maintains eligibility standards established by the District under its statutory authority, including an income limit of 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and a resource limit established by the District. These standards differ from the minimum eligibility requirements applicable to County Indigent Health Care Programs generally.

Use of YourTexasBenefits.com would therefore function as an enrollment and information-sharing pathway rather than as a replacement for the District's eligibility standards or responsibility for making final Nueces Aid eligibility determinations.

Legal and Operational Considerations

Implementation of the more integrated enrollment approaches would require coordination with HHSC and, for the automatic-referral and direct-portal models described in the briefing, statutory changes contemplated as part of a broader County Indigent Health Care Program streamlining framework.

Any data-sharing arrangement would require applicant consent. The briefing contemplates affirmative authorization for the sharing of applicant information with the applicable local program administrator and provides that refusal to consent would not affect eligibility for other benefit programs.

Operational issues would include establishing data-transfer or documentation procedures, confirming how previously verified information would be accepted by the District, addressing the remaining photo-identification requirement, coordinating referral and applicant-contact processes, and maintaining the District's responsibility for final eligibility determinations.

Potential Phased Approach

The briefing identifies a phased approach under which the District could initially pursue administrative coordination using existing authority while more integrated portal and automatic-referral mechanisms are considered through the legislative and state implementation processes.

Such an approach could allow the District to begin reducing duplicative documentation and enrollment barriers without waiting for development of a fully integrated state-local data pathway.

Fiscal and Administrative Impact

The briefing does not establish a specific fiscal impact or funding requirement. Potential effects would depend upon the enrollment model ultimately pursued, the extent of HHSC coordination or system development required, implementation arrangements, and any changes in enrollment volume or administrative workload.

Potential administrative benefits include reduced duplicative data collection and verification, a more streamlined application process, and improved identification of individuals who may qualify for the Nueces Aid Program following Medicaid denial.

Board Consideration

The Board is being asked to receive and discuss the briefing regarding the potential use of YourTexasBenefits.com to further facilitate enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program. The briefing provides a framework for considering administrative coordination under existing authority as well as potential future integration with the state benefits portal.

Summary

YourTexasBenefits.com collects much of the information required to determine Nueces Aid eligibility and therefore presents an opportunity to streamline enrollment by reusing verified applicant information and reducing duplicative documentation. The briefing identifies administrative and potential statutory pathways ranging from immediate coordination using existing authority to future automatic referral and direct portal integration. Under any approach, the District would retain its eligibility standards and responsibility for determining enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program.

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda
August 17, 2026

Summary
The Nueces County Hospital District supports targeted legislative action to strengthen medical education, expand healthcare workforce capacity, improve access to behavioral health services, and streamline access to indigent health care services in South Texas.

Countywide Benefits
- Increased physician retention.
- Improved behavioral health access.
- Complemented medical infrastructure.
- Strengthened medical education pipelines.
- Enhanced healthcare resilience.
- Expanded access to indigent health care services through streamlined CIHCP eligibility determination.

I. Graduate Medical Education (GME)
Support increased investment in GME to expand physician training and retention.

Advocacy Position:
- Increase Medicaid GME supplemental payments
- Fund existing and new residency slots
- Incentivize expansion of training slots
- Support teaching hospitals
- Expand funding through General Revenue and budget riders

Data Point:
Nueces County faces persistent physician shortages in primary care and specialty fields, limiting access to care.

Impact on Nueces County:
- Expanded local residency and fellowship opportunities.
- Improved long-term physician retention.
- Reduced reliance on temporary providers.
- Enhanced capacity at local teaching hospitals.
- Greater continuity of care.
- Stabilized medical workforce pipeline.

II. Medical Workforce Development

Authorize NCHD to address shortages in essential specialties.

Advocacy Position:

- Allow local designation based on community health needs assessments
- Financial incentives: loan repayment, housing support, income guarantees
- Professional protections: malpractice limits and liability protections
- Recruitment supports: relocation and startup assistance
- Require minimum service commitments

Data Point:
Several high-need specialties remain underrepresented in coastal South Texas.

Impact on Nueces County:

- Improved recruitment in shortage specialties.
- Increased access to essential services.
- Greater competitiveness for healthcare talent.
- Reduced patient outmigration.
- Strengthened provider networks.
- Enhanced sustainability of service lines.

III. Regional Behavioral Health Infrastructure

Expand access to mental health services and support planning for a state-supported mental health facility in the Coastal Bend.

Advocacy Position:

- Establish state-supported regional facilities
- Serve adults, children, and justice-involved populations
- Partner with LMHAs and community providers
- Integrate inpatient, crisis, and outpatient services
- Request state appropriation to fund a feasibility study for establishing a state-supported mental health facility in the Coastal Bend region

Data Point:
Behavioral health wait times in South Texas frequently exceed recommended standards, and the Coastal Bend region lacks a state-supported inpatient mental health facility, requiring patients to travel long distances for acute psychiatric care.

Impact on Nueces County:

- Expanded access to behavioral health services.
- Reduced emergency department boarding.
- Shorter wait times for treatment.

- Improved system coordination.
- Better outcomes for high-risk populations.
- Reduced strain on hospitals and first responders.
- Potential establishment of a regional mental health facility, reducing patient transfer distances and improving access to acute psychiatric care in the Coastal Bend.

IV. CIHCP Streamlining — Integrated Benefits Portal Access

Streamline eligibility determination for the County Indigent Health Care Program (CIHCP) by extending the state's YourTexasBenefits.com integrated benefits portal to all program administrators, including hospital districts.

Legislative Pursuit:

- Amend Chapter 61, Health and Safety Code, to designate YourTexasBenefits.com as an authorized CIHCP application pathway for counties, public hospitals, and hospital districts
- Authorize HHSC to share Medicaid eligibility data with all CIHCP program administrators (new §61.0046)
- Require automatic referral of income-eligible Medicaid denials to the appropriate CIHCP administrator within three business days of denial (new §61.0047)
- Amend Chapter 531, Government Code, to extend the integrated eligibility mandate to county CIHCP programs and hospital districts, and require HHSC to build and maintain a CIHCP intake pathway and county-to-administrator service area mapping on YourTexasBenefits.com
- Add new §285.092 to Chapter 285, Health and Safety Code, clarifying that portal-verified eligibility data satisfies the financial inquiry requirement applicable to all hospital district types under Chapters 281, 282, 283, and 286

Data Point:

CIHCP serves Texans at or below 21% of the federal poverty level who are ineligible for Medicaid and have no other health coverage — among the most economically vulnerable residents served by hospital districts. The current application process is administered independently by each of 143 county programs and hospital districts, with no uniform portal, inconsistent documentation requirements, and no automatic referral pathway. Applicants must first be denied Medicaid and then separately locate and apply to their local CIHCP administrator — a duplicative burden that causes eligible individuals to go without care. The proposed legislation eliminates that duplication while preserving local program administration.

Impact on Nueces County:

- Reduced administrative burden on NCHD CIHCP intake staff through automatic electronic referrals from HHSC upon Medicaid denial.
- Elimination of duplicative income and household verification for patients already screened through YourTexasBenefits.com.

- Explicit statutory clarification (new §285.092) that portal-verified data satisfies NCHD's financial inquiry obligation under its creating statute, reducing legal ambiguity.
- Increased identification of eligible uninsured residents who would otherwise fall through the gap between Medicaid and NCHD's charity care programs.
- Alignment of NCHD intake procedures with a statewide standardized process, reducing training costs and error rates.
- Preservation of NCHD's authority to conduct independent financial inquiries for non-CIHCP services and cost recovery.

Proposed Statutory Changes:

Code	Provision	What It Does	Applies To
H&S Code §61.002(5)	New definition: "program administrator"	Covers counties, public hospitals & hospital districts under one term throughout Ch. 61	All administrators
H&S Code §61.006(c)	YourTexasBenefits.com as authorized portal pathway	Directs HHSC rulemaking; portal data satisfies documentation requirements	All administrators
H&S Code §61.007(b)	Portal data satisfies applicant information requirements	Limits supplemental requests to residency verification only	All administrators
H&S Code §61.0046 [NEW]	HHSC data-sharing authorization	Permits sharing of 6 data categories with appropriate program administrator; data use agreement required	All administrators
H&S Code §61.0047 [NEW]	Auto-referral upon Medicaid denial	Within 3 business days; routes to Sub. B county or Sub. C hospital district/public hospital; denial date = application date	All administrators
H&S Code §61.024	County application procedure (Sub. B)	Adds portal pathway as explicit option; county public notice duty	Counties
H&S Code §61.053	Hospital district/public hospital application procedure (Sub. C)	Parallel to §61.024: portal pathway option; notice duty; referral opt-in	Hospital districts & public hospitals
Gov't Code §531.002(b)	HHSC integrated eligibility mandate expanded	Adds county CIHCP, hospital districts, and public hospitals to HHSC's	Foundational authority

		statewide eligibility mandate	
Gov't Code §531.0255 [NEW]	HHSC portal build-out and county mapping	Requires CIHCP intake pathway on YTB.com; Sub. B/C routing; statewide service-area map; electronic interface; Sept. 1, 2027 deadline	All administrators
Gov't Code §531.0256 [NEW]	Standardized applicant consent	Affirmative opt-in; consent neutral to benefit eligibility; 5-year retention	All administrators
H&S Code §285.092 [NEW]	Hospital district financial inquiry satisfaction	Portal-verified data satisfies Ch. 281/282/283/286 financial inquiry obligations for CIHCP eligibility; preserves cost recovery authority	All hospital districts

Background and Analytical Basis:
This proposal emerged from a comparative analysis of the CIHCP and SNAP application processes that identified significant structural disparities. Key findings:
- CIHCP applicants must first be denied Medicaid (establishing a precondition), then independently locate their county or hospital district CIHCP administrator, then complete a separate application — with no statewide online option and no automatic connection between the two processes.
- The SNAP application through YourTexasBenefits.com already collects substantially all information required for CIHCP eligibility determination (income, household composition, county of residence, assets, insurance status), but no legal mechanism currently permits HHSC to share that data with county or hospital district CIHCP administrators.
- CIHCP's income threshold (21% of FPL) and SNAP's threshold (165% of FPL) serve largely non-overlapping populations; the bill therefore focuses on the Medicaid denial pathway rather than SNAP cross-referral as the primary trigger.
- Existing law (§61.024(b)) already permits counties to use less restrictive procedures than HHSC's baseline, meaning some elements of this reform could be adopted by individual administrators without legislation. However, the critical data-sharing authorization and auto-referral trigger require explicit statutory change.
- Chapter 281 hospital districts (including NCHD) face a specific interpretive risk: §281.071 requires the administrator to independently inquire into a patient's financial circumstances. New §285.092 resolves this by providing that portal-verified data satisfies that obligation for CIHCP purposes across all hospital district types under a single Chapter 285 provision.

Key Implementation Dates (as proposed):

Date	Milestone
Sept. 1, 2027	Act takes effect
Oct. 1, 2027	HHSC notifies all program administrators (counties, hospital districts, public hospitals) of Act provisions and implementation timeline
Jan. 1, 2028	HHSC applies for any required federal waivers or approvals; completes and publishes statewide service-area mapping
Mar. 1, 2028	HHSC adopts implementing rules (portal designation, documentation standards, data use agreement template, consent form)
Sept. 1, 2028	HHSC completes deployment of CIHCP intake pathway on YourTexasBenefits.com; all data use agreements executed; legislative report submitted

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Briefing Paper

SUBJECT: Proposed 90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda — Advocacy Positions and Legislative Pursuits

Purpose

To brief the Board of Managers regarding the District's preliminary agenda for the 90th Texas Legislature and to distinguish between matters presented as Advocacy Positions and matters identified as a Legislative Pursuit.

Overview

The proposed agenda identifies four healthcare priorities intended to strengthen medical education, expand healthcare workforce capacity, improve access to behavioral health services, and streamline access to indigent health care services in South Texas.

The working document places the first three priorities—Graduate Medical Education, Medical Workforce Development, and Regional Behavioral Health Infrastructure—under the heading "Advocacy Position." The fourth priority—CIHCP Streamlining through YourTexasBenefits.com—is expressly identified as a "Legislative Pursuit." This distinction reflects a difference in the specificity and intended method of pursuing the respective priorities.

Distinction Between Advocacy Positions and Legislative Pursuits

For purposes of the proposed agenda, an Advocacy Position expresses a policy, funding, or programmatic objective that the District supports and may advance with legislators, State agencies, healthcare organizations, and other stakeholders. An Advocacy Position establishes the outcome or direction the District favors without necessarily committing the District to seek enactment of a particular bill or specified statutory language.

A Legislative Pursuit is more specific. It identifies an objective for which changes to State law are proposed and describes the statutory provisions, new authorities, or implementation requirements that would be sought through legislation. A Legislative Pursuit therefore contemplates active development, sponsorship, introduction, or support of legislation designed to accomplish the identified changes.

The distinction does not mean that an Advocacy Position could never result in legislation. Legislative action, appropriations, budget riders, or statutory authority may ultimately be necessary to accomplish an advocacy objective. Rather, the distinction describes the current level of specificity and commitment in the working agenda: Advocacy Positions identify outcomes the District supports, while a Legislative Pursuit identifies a defined statutory initiative the District proposes to advance.

Advocacy Position I — Graduate Medical Education

The District's first Advocacy Position supports increased investment in Graduate Medical Education to expand physician training and retention. The agenda calls for increased Medicaid GME supplemental payments, funding for existing and new residency slots, incentives for expansion of training slots, support for teaching hospitals, and additional funding through General Revenue and budget riders.

This priority is appropriately characterized as an Advocacy Position because it identifies funding and policy outcomes the District supports rather than a specific amendment to State law. The District could advocate for these objectives through the State appropriations process, budget riders, agency funding decisions, or legislation developed by other parties.

Advocacy Position II — Medical Workforce Development

The second Advocacy Position seeks authority and tools for the District to address shortages in essential medical specialties based on local community health needs. The agenda identifies potential financial incentives, professional protections, recruitment assistance, and minimum service commitments.

Although portions of this objective—particularly new District authority or liability protections—could require legislation, the working agenda presently describes the desired policy framework rather than identifying specific code sections or proposed statutory amendments. It therefore remains classified as an Advocacy Position at this stage. If the District later develops specific statutory language to confer or clarify these authorities, that portion of the priority could appropriately become a Legislative Pursuit.

Advocacy Position III — Regional Behavioral Health Infrastructure

The third Advocacy Position supports expansion of regional behavioral health infrastructure and planning for a State-supported mental health facility in the Coastal Bend. The agenda supports State-supported regional facilities, services for adults, children, and justice-involved populations, partnerships with local mental health authorities and community providers, integration of inpatient, crisis, and outpatient services, and a State appropriation for a feasibility study.

This priority is framed primarily as advocacy for State investment, planning, and regional infrastructure rather than as a request for specified statutory amendments. The District could pursue the objective through appropriations, budget riders, agency planning, legislative studies, and support for related legislation without necessarily sponsoring a stand-alone statutory proposal.

Legislative Pursuit IV — CIHCP Streamlining and Integrated Benefits Portal Access

The fourth priority is expressly identified as a Legislative Pursuit because it proposes defined changes to State law to integrate the County Indigent Health Care Program with YourTexasBenefits.com and the State's existing eligibility infrastructure.

The proposed pursuit includes amendments to Chapter 61 of the Health and Safety Code to establish the portal as an authorized CIHCP application pathway; new statutory authority for HHSC to share eligibility data; automatic referral of qualifying Medicaid denials; amendments to Chapter 531 of the Government Code to expand the integrated eligibility mandate and require development of a CIHCP intake pathway and statewide service-area mapping; and a new provision in Chapter 285 addressing hospital district reliance on portal-verified financial information.

Unlike the three Advocacy Positions, the CIHCP initiative identifies specific existing statutes to amend, new statutory sections to create, duties to impose on HHSC, and an implementation schedule. It therefore represents a defined legislative proposal rather than a general policy or funding position.

Practical Differences

Characteristic	Advocacy Position	Legislative Pursuit
Primary purpose	State the policy, funding, or program outcome the District supports.	Seek a defined change in State law or statutory authority.
Level of specificity	Broad to moderately specific objectives.	Specific statutory changes, new provisions, or mandated actions.
Method of advancement	Advocacy, appropriations, budget riders, agency engagement, coalitions, or support of related legislation.	Bill development, legislative sponsorship, statutory amendments, and direct legislative advocacy.
Need for District-sponsored legislation	Not necessarily.	Generally contemplated by the proposal.
Current agenda items	GME; Medical Workforce Development; Regional Behavioral Health Infrastructure.	CIHCP Streamlining — Integrated Benefits Portal Access.

Potential Evolution of Agenda Items

The classifications need not be permanent. An Advocacy Position may evolve into a Legislative Pursuit if the District determines that a specific statutory change is necessary and develops a defined legislative proposal. Conversely, the District may continue to advance an Advocacy Position through appropriations, agency action, stakeholder partnerships, or support for legislation initiated by others without developing its own bill.

This distinction allows the Board to support broad healthcare policy priorities while separately identifying those matters for which the District intends to pursue specific legislation.

Fiscal and Administrative Considerations

The preliminary agenda does not itself appropriate District funds or establish a specific fiscal commitment. Fiscal and administrative effects would depend on the particular advocacy activities undertaken, legislation ultimately pursued or enacted, State appropriations, program design, and any local participation requirements.

A Legislative Pursuit may require a more focused implementation effort, including development and review of statutory language, legislative sponsorship, stakeholder coordination, testimony or other legislative support, and subsequent implementation planning if enacted. Advocacy Positions may involve similar external engagement but do not necessarily require development of District-specific legislation.

Board Consideration

The Board is being asked to receive and discuss the preliminary legislative agenda and the distinction between the District's Advocacy Positions and its Legislative Pursuit. The Board may use these classifications to clarify which priorities represent general policy and funding objectives supported by the District and which priorities are intended to be advanced through specific changes to State law.

Summary

The proposed agenda contains three Advocacy Positions and one Legislative Pursuit. Graduate Medical Education, Medical Workforce Development, and Regional Behavioral Health Infrastructure are presented as Advocacy Positions reflecting policy, funding, and program objectives the District supports. CIHCP Streamlining through YourTexasBenefits.com is presented as a Legislative Pursuit because it proposes specific amendments and additions to State law and defined implementation requirements. The distinction provides a practical framework for communicating both the District's broader legislative priorities and the particular statutory initiative it intends to pursue.

Briefing Memorandum

To: Board of Managers

From: Jonny F. Hipp, Administrator

Date: October 27, 2026

Re: Consider legislative services contracts with Patricia A. Shipton and Joel J. Romo for the 90th Texas Legislative Session (January 1 – June 30, 2027)

Purpose

This is to request consideration of personal services contracts with Patricia A. Shipton and Joel J. Romo for legislative services during the 90th Texas Legislative Session. Each contract would run January 1, 2027, through June 30, 2027. Both contractors represented the Hospital District during the 89th Session under similar contracts.

Background

For the 89th Session, the District held identical personal services contracts with Ms. Shipton and Mr. Romo, both effective August 1, 2024. The key terms were:

Term	Patricia A. Shipton	Joel J. Romo
Contract period	Aug 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025	Aug 1, 2024 – Jun 30, 2025
Monthly payment	$5,000	$5,000
Maximum amount payable	$55,000	$55,000
Expenses reimbursed	None	None
Reports to	Administrator	Administrator

Under those contracts, each contractor monitored legislation and budget developments affecting the District and other urban hospital districts. Their work covered indigent care, intergovernmental transfers, Medicaid supplemental payment programs, property taxes, and District finances. They also drafted and analyzed legislation, met with legislators and agency officials, and attended hearings on the District's behalf.

Proposed Contracts

The proposed contracts would use the 89th Session form, updated for the 90th Session, with a shorter six-month term. The 90th Legislature convenes January 12, 2027, and its 140-day

regular session ends May 31, 2027. A June 30 end date also covers the Governor's 20-day veto period, which closes June 20, 2027.

The main changes from the prior contracts are:

- **Term.** January 1 – June 30, 2027 (six months), down from eleven months. The contracts would not cover the interim period before the session begins.
- **Compensation.** At the prior $5,000 monthly rate, six months would total $30,000 per contractor.
- **Session references.** References to the 89th Session in the recitals and Attachments A and B would change to the 90th Session.

All other terms would carry forward. These include the scope of services in Attachment B, monthly invoicing and progress reports to the Administrator, no reimbursement of expenses, and termination by the District on 30 days' written notice. Contractors may not subcontract any of the work and are barred from giving gifts to Board members or District staff.

Authority and Compliance

The Board may approve these contracts without competitive bidding under the personal services provision of Local Government Code §262.024. The Board's authority to manage and control the District comes from Health and Safety Code §§281.047 and 281.048.

Before any payment, each contractor must submit a Form W-9 and a Texas Ethics Commission Form 1295. Each contractor must also warrant current lobbyist registration under Government Code Chapter 305 and disclose any clients with interests in District legislation. To avoid Open Meetings Act issues, contractors who email one Board member must copy all other members and the Administrator.

Fiscal Impact

At the prior $5,000 monthly rate, the total would be $60,000, or $30,000 per contractor. The District would not reimburse travel or other expenses. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Recommendation

Recommend that the Board consider personal services contracts with Patricia A. Shipton and Joel J. Romo for legislative services during the 90th Texas Legislative Session, for January 1 through June 30, 2027.

VG-12-2026-2026000530

Nueces County
Kara Sands
Nueces County Clerk

Instrument Number: 2026000530

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICES

Recorded On: October 21, 2026 10:17 AM

Number of Pages: 6

" Examined and Charged as Follows: "

Total Recording: $0.00

STATE OF TEXAS
Nueces County
I hereby certify that this Instrument was filed in the File Number sequence on the date/time printed hereon, and was duly recorded in the Official Records of Nueces County, Texas

Kara Sands
Nueces County Clerk
Nueces County, TX

Kara Sands

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Kara Sands
Nueces County Clerk
901 Leopard St #201
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Main: (361)888-0580

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Order Total (1) $0.00

Seq	Payment Method	Transaction Id	Comment	Total
1				$0.00

Total Payments (1) $0.00

Change Due $0.00

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

For more information about the County Clerk's office and to search property records online, please visit http://www.nuecesco.com/county-services/county-clerk

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2026
KARA SANDS
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

Nueces County Hospital District

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Location:
Board of Managers Meeting Room, 555 N. Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

The Nueces County Hospital District ("NCHD") Board of Managers or a Committee thereof as specified above will hold a meeting on the date and at the time and location shown above. The agenda item(s) for the meeting are set forth on the accompanying page(s). Agenda item(s) are not necessarily considered in the order listed.

The specified NCHD Board of Managers meeting will be held in-person and via videoconference call. Public participation will be available in-person as well as via videoconference call as allowed under the Texas Open Meetings Act ("Act"). It is the intent that a quorum of the Board of Managers or Committee as required for the specified meeting will be physically present at the meeting location posted in this meeting notice. It is also the intent that the Board member presiding over the meeting be physically present for the specified meeting at the meeting location posted in this meeting notice. Any member of the Board of Managers participating by videoconference call will be visible and audible to the public whenever the member is speaking; Board member participation by audio-only is not permitted. Any member of the public wishing to observe or participate in the meeting via videoconference call may do so through the videoconference call meeting Internet link shown on this meeting notice below and via NCHD's BoardBook meeting management system at https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1886.

The Act defines a "videoconference call" as a communication conducted between two or more persons in which one or more of the participants communicate with the other participants through duplex audio and video signals transmitted over a telephone network, a data network, or the Internet. NCHD will use Zoom to conduct the meeting via videoconference call; Zoom is a cloud-based communications platform that allows users to connect with video, audio, phone, and chat. Using Zoom requires an Internet connection and a supported device.

The agenda for this meeting and its supporting materials are available at: https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1886.

The Meeting may be attended in-person or via videoconference call:

Videoconference Call:
Click the link below or copy and paste the link into a supported web browser address bar.
https://nchdcc-org.zoom.us/j/5746765992?pwd=T2RVWFBpZGJYdHYyQmp1VUdZeUc3Zz09
Meeting ID: **574 676 5992**
Passcode: **195957**

Telephone:
Dial any telephone number below and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode above if required.

One tap mobile:
+13462487799,,5746765992# US (Houston)
+16699006833,,5746765992# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location (United States):
+1 346 248 7799 (Houston)
+1 719 359 4580
+1 253 205 0468
+1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma)
+1 669 444 9171
+1 669 900 6833 (San Jose)
+1 929 205 6099 (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 (Washington DC)
+1 305 224 1968
+1 309 205 3325
+1 312 626 6799 (Chicago)
+1 360 209 5623
+1 386 347 5053
+1 507 473 4847
+1 564 217 2000
+1 646 931 3860
+1 689 278 1000

Find your local number: https://nchdcc-org.zoom.us/u/kbKxLl8Eq4

BOARD OF MANAGERS
Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 11:00 AM

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME**

2. **ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

___ Georgia Neblett, Chair
___ Karen O'Connor Urban
___ Mariana Garza

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

A. Call to order.

B. Establish quorum.

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 Committee 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. **NOTICE REGARDING BUDGET.** The Hospital District's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget ("FY27 Budget") has been duly adopted by the Board and approved by the Commissioners Court. The Committee may discuss the FY27 Budget at this meeting. The adopted FY27 Budget and the required taxpayer impact statement for Fiscal Year 2027 are available for public review on the District's official website at: https://www.nchdcc.org.

5. **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 disclosed at that time.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - This section provides the public the opportunity to address the Committee 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 Committee's responsibilities must sign-in on the "Agenda Item Request to Speak" form provided at the entrance of the Committee 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 Committee'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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee 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 Committee. 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.

7. **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 Committee member 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:

A. Approve Legislative Committee Regular Meeting minutes of August 17, 2026.

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

9. Receive information from Legislative Consultants on 90th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. ***(INFORMATION)***

10. Receive a briefing on, discuss, and consider recommending action regarding the potential use of the YourTexasBenefits.com website, operated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to additionally facilitate enrollment in the Nueces Aid Program.

(ACTION)

11. Discuss and consider recommending action on proposed amendments to the Nueces County Hospital District's Draft 90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda. ***(ACTION)***

12. Consider legislative services contracts with Patricia A. Shipton and Joel J. Romo for the 90th Texas Legislative Session (January 1 – June 30, 2027). ***(INFORMATION)***

13. **ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

A. Next scheduled regular Committee meeting (meeting's date, time, and location subject to change):

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 11:00 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

14. **ADJOURN**

15. Public Notice posting receipt.