

**NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
Board Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 11:45 AM**

**AGENDA**

**1. WELCOME**

**2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\_\_\_ Arthur Granado, Chairman  
\_\_\_ Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D.  
\_\_\_ Judge 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. 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.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT** - 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.

6. **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 minutes:
  - 1. Regular Meeting of January 24, 2023; and 3
  - 2. Special Meeting of February 21, 2023. 6

7. **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 on 88th Texas Session Legislative Agenda, as amended. (**INFORMATION**) 9

8. **ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

- A. Next scheduled regular Committee meeting (meeting's date, time, and location subject to change):
  - 1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 11:45 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

9. **ADJOURN**

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

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The Nueces County Hospital District Board of Managers met at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2023 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	Assistant Administrator, Administrative Services
Donna Littlefield	Director, Accounting & Finance
Mary Esther Guerra	Assistant County Attorney
Melissa Quintanilla	Executive Assistant/Human Resources
Carmina Hernandez Moreno	Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bert Ramos	Christus Spohn
Craig Desmond	Christus Spohn
Andrea Kovarik	MHID
Mark Hendrix	MHID
Mike Davis	MHID
Govind Nadkarin	MHID
Shawn Barnes	CCPD
Hilda Dalfonso	CCMC – via Zoom

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**1. WELCOME**

**2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

  Y   Arthur Granado, Chairman  
  Y   Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D.  
  Y   Judge Mariana Garza

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

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

A. Call to order – Mr. Arthur Granado, Chairman  
The meeting was called to order by Mr. Granado at 11:47 a.m.

B. Establish quorum – Mr. Granado.  
A quorum was present with all members in attendance.

**Arthur Granado, Chairman – PRESENT  
Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D., Member – PRESENT  
Judge 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. PUBLIC COMMENT** - 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.

**No one to speak in public comment.**

**5. 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

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
LEGISLATIVE MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

remaining items listed under the Consent Agenda will be voted upon in a single vote:

A. Approve Legislative Committee Regular Meeting minutes of December 13, 2022.

**6. 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 on 88th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. (*INFORMATION*)

B. Discuss and consider recommending an amendment or amendments to 88th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. (*ACTION*)

**No Action, as per Mr. Hipp it will be a recurring item which will also be taken up at the board meeting.**

**7. ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

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

1. Next Meeting: February 28, 2023, 11:45 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

**8. ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Granado. Motion by Judge Garza and seconded by Dr. Reddy. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.**

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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The Nueces County Hospital District Board of Managers met at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 21, 2023 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	Assistant Administrator, Administrative Services
Donna Littlefield	Director, Accounting & Finance
Mary Esther Guerra	Assistant County Attorney
Melissa Quintanilla	Executive Assistant/Human Resources
Carmina Hernandez Moreno	Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Craig Desmond	Christus Spohn – via Zoom
Dr. Shah Islam	CSHS Board of Trustees. Place 3 - via Zoom

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**1. WELCOME**

**2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

  Y   Arthur Granado, Chairman  
  Y   Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D.  
  X   Judge Mariana Garza

**MINUTES  
BOARDS OF MANAGERS  
LEGISLATIVE – SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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

A. Call to order – Mr. Arthur Granado, Chairman.  
The meeting was called to order by Mr. Granado at 10:07 a.m.

B. Establish quorum – Mr. Granado  
A quorum was present with two members in attendance.

**Arthur Granado, Chairman – PRESENT  
Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D., Member – PRESENT  
Judge Mariana Garza, Member - via Zoom 10:14 a.m. and  
off via Zoom @ 10:17 a.m.**

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. PUBLIC COMMENT** - 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.

**No one to speak in public comment.**

**5. 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 on 88th Texas Session Legislative Agenda. **(INFORMATION)**

**MINUTES  
BOARDS OF MANAGERS  
LEGISLATIVE – SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

B. Recommend adoption of Board of Managers Resolution requesting and supporting legislation to use a broker for the sale of Hospital District real property. *(ACTION)*

**Motion by Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Recommend amendment of the 88th Texas Session Legislative Agenda to additionally include preservation of the Hospital District's authority to issue Certificates of Obligation. *(ACTION)*

**Motion by Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado, as  
written. MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Recommend actions on introduced legislation HB 1489 relating to the issuance of Certificates of Obligation by local governments. *(ACTION)*

**Motion by Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

E. Recommend use of Nueces County's legislative consultants, as needed, on matters related to HB 1489, preservation of the Hospital District's authority to issue Certificates of Obligation, and any other related proposed legislation which may affect the Hospital District. *(ACTION)*

**Motion by Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado.  
MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. ADJOURN**

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Granado. Motion by  
Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.**

# Nueces County Hospital District

## 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Priorities

February 21, 2023

### Local Priorities

#### **L1. Establishment of Authority for Individual Commissioners to Appoint Board of Managers Members**

Under current statutes, the full local Commissioners Court appoints members to the Nueces County Hospital District's Board of Managers; Commissioners do not have the authority to make individual appointments to the Board.

NCHD Supports:

- [Option 1] Adoption of local statutes allowing for each of the five Commissioners Court members to make an appointment to the Board of Managers and for the full court to make the remaining two appointments.
- [Option 2] Adoption of local statutes allowing Commissioners Court members to rotate making appointments to the Board of Managers.

#### **L2. Establishment of Qualifications for Board of Managers Appointments**

There are no statutes governing the qualifications of office for individuals to be appointed by Commissioners Court to the Nueces County Hospital District's Board of Managers.

NCHD Supports:

- Adoption of local statutes establishing qualifications for appointment to the Board of Managers. The statutes should provide that Commissioners Court may not appoint a person to the Board if the person is: (1) not a County resident; (2) an employee of the Hospital District; (3) an employee of Nueces County; (4) an employee of any town, municipality, or City located within the District's boundaries; (5) employee of any institutional health care provider located in the District, as such provider is defined in Chapter 298C, Texas Health and Safety Code; and (6) related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code, to a member of the Commissioners Court or to a person described in (1), (2), or (3) above.

### **L3. Issuance of Certificates of Appointment for Board of Managers**

Currently, when persons are appointed by Commissioners Court to the Nueces County Hospital District's Board of Managers they receive an appointment letter from the County Judge. Conclusive evidence of an appointment to the Board of Managers should be established.

NCHD Supports:

- Adoption of local statutes providing for conclusive evidence of Commissioners Court's appointment of a person to the Board of Managers. Conclusive evidence of the appointment of a Board of Managers member should state on a Certificate of Appointment the appointee's (1) legal name; (2) physical address; (3) effective date of appointment; (4) term of appointment; (5) ending date of appointment; (6) conditions of the appointment or removal; and (7) Commissioners Court's place number. The Certificate of Appointment should be signed by the entire Commissioners Court, sealed to authenticate the Court's act, and filed with the County Clerk

### **L4. Establishment of Conditions for Board of Manager's Member Removal**

There are no statutes governing the removal of individuals appointed to the Nueces County Hospital District's Board of Managers.

NCHD Supports:

- Adoption of local statutes establishing conditions for removal of existing Board of Managers members. The statutes should provide that members of the Board are considered to have resigned the member's position if the member: (1) is absent from all the regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a 90-day period; (2) is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings that the member is eligible to attend during a 12-month period; or (3) fails to pay County ad valorem taxes.

### **L5. Authority to Sell Hospital District-Owned Real Property Using a Broker**

Currently, the Hospital District is required to sell real property using the sealed bid procedures of Section 272.001, Local Government Code.

NCHD Supports:

- Legislation that allows for sale of Hospital District-owned real property through use of a broker without complying with the requirements of Section 272.001, Local Government Code.

## **L6. Support Identification of State Resources or Local Methods for Mental Health Services Funded by Hospital District**

The Hospital District provides funding for non-indigent health care expenses, including mental health services.

NCHD Supports:

- Identification of state resources or local methods which may require voter approval that provide funding for non-indigent health care expenses, including mental health services.

## **L7. No Support of Unfunded or Underfunded Mandates and Policies Contrary to Hospital District and Local Hospital Provider's Interests**

Occasionally, unfunded, and underfunded mandates and policies contrary to the Hospital District's interests are passed down from higher levels of government to lower levels.

NCHD Does Not Support:

- Unfunded or underfunded mandates.
- Policies contrary to the Hospital District and local hospital provider's interests.

## Statewide Priorities

### **S1. Support Access to Behavioral Health Services**

While the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated additional funding for behavioral health services and facilities, timely access to these services continues to be a barrier for some individuals, including children and adolescents.

NCHD Supports:

- Continuing investments in the state’s mental health workforce.
- Ongoing initiatives to increase psychiatric beds, including additional community, forensic, and state hospital beds.
- Maintaining funding to ensure access to inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services.
- Creating proof of concept funding for adult behavioral healthcare resources like the Child Psychiatry Access Network and Texas Child Health Access Telemedicine.

### **S2. Safeguard Local Health Care Systems and Public Health Response**

Safeguard the ability of hospital districts to meet current, known healthcare needs and to plan for and invest in responsiveness to unexpected needs.

NCHD Supports:

- Upholding the Special Taxing Unit exemption for hospital districts at the current eight percent rollback rate.
- Preserving hospital districts’ current bond and certificate of obligation authority.
- Preserving hospital district’s eminent domain authority.

### **S3. Safeguard Ability to Use Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPFs)**

Safeguard the ability of hospital districts to generate Local Provider Participation Funds (LPPFs) for support of Health and Human Service Commission-sponsored Medicaid supplemental and directed payment programs.

NCHD Supports:

- Preserving the authority of local hospital districts to require Local Provider Participation Funds for intergovernmental transfers from inpatient hospital providers in their jurisdictions to provide matching funds for state-sponsored Medicaid supplemental and directed payment programs.
- Initiatives to increase transparency of sources for funds used for intergovernmental transfers.

#### **S4. Safeguard Trauma Center Funding and Emergency Preparedness**

The Texas trauma system provides critical infrastructure to respond to mass casualty events, significant weather events, and pandemics as well as heart attacks, strokes, and other individual accidents and injuries, such as motor vehicle crashes. Level I-designated trauma centers provide the highest level of trauma care, have 24/7 responsiveness and are central to a coordinated, statewide trauma response. Additionally, Level-II-designated trauma centers provide decisive care for all injured patients and offers immediate coverage by many specialists including general surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, neurosurgeons, and critical care.

NCHD Supports:

- Maintaining Texas trauma center funding at last biennium's level, at a minimum, including the trauma, rural, and safety-net hospital add-ons.

#### **S5. Stabilize and Strengthen Care Delivery and Innovation**

Ensuring the recovery and long-term stability of local hospital and health system's services, patient care, and community investments. Following three years of COVID-19 response and two years of uncertainty stemming from ongoing negotiations between the state and federal governments and changes in Texas' 1115 waiver and directed payment programs, Texas' hospitals and health systems are restabilizing and operating in a changed healthcare environment. Financing changes, increasing costs, inflationary pressures, ongoing workforce disruptions and shortages, along with the anticipated end of the public health emergency and continuous Medicaid enrollment will shift more Texans into indigent health care systems.

NCHD Supports:

- Preserving state general revenue to ensure stability for the Medicaid program.
- Continuing transparency in Medicaid hospital payments and policies.
- Investing in Medicaid funding to achieve funding parity among hospital types and to target funding for critical safety net system priorities and services.
- Continuing provider-enabled innovation and value-based adaptations to improve access and outcomes, including telehealth/telemedicine, audio only for non-behavioral health services, and the hospital at home program.
- Supporting equity in local financing solutions, such as local provider participation funds to support Medicaid payments.
- Protecting 340B participating hospitals from differential contracting and reimbursement practices by third-party payers.

## **S6. Preserve Hospital Districts' Authority to Issue Certificates of Obligation**

With the approval of their commissioners courts, hospital districts may issue certificates of obligation in accordance with Subchapter C, Chapter 271, Local Government Code, for district purposes as authorized by the governing statute (Texas Health and Safety Code, §281.106). The Nueces County Hospital District plans to expand the Dr. Hector P. Garcia Memorial Family Health Center in the future and certificates of obligation are an option for financing the expansion.

### **NCHD Supports:**

- Preservation of Hospital Districts' authority to issue certificates of obligation.

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