

**NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
Board Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, July 23, 2024 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 Regular Meeting minutes of June 27, 2023.

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. Discuss agenda for 89th Texas Legislative Session. (**INFORMATION**) 3

B. Discuss and recommend action related to governmental affairs/lobby professional services for Hospital District-related matters in the 89th Texas Legislative Session. (**ACTION**)

8. **ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:**

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

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 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**

# Memorandum

To: Legislative Committee  
Copy: Board of Managers  
From: Jonny F. Hipp, Administrator *Jonny F. Hipp*  
Date: July 18, 2024  
Re: 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

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## Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline a 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session agenda focused on improving Graduate Medical Education (GME) policies and funding in order to address critical needs in the healthcare workforce in Nueces County.

## Background

Graduate Medical Education plays a crucial role in preparing physicians to meet the healthcare needs of our population. However, current challenges such as funding disparities, workforce shortages, and evolving healthcare demands necessitate strategic legislative interventions.

## Legislative Priorities

1. Increase GME Funding: Advocate for increased federal and state funding to support GME programs across diverse healthcare settings, including rural and underserved areas. This funding should prioritize residency slots in specialties facing shortages, such as primary care and mental health.
2. Expansion of Residency Positions: Encourage federal and state policies that expand the number of residency positions to meet the growing demand for healthcare services. This includes supporting incentives for hospitals and healthcare systems to create new residency programs.
3. Allocate GME Funding to Hospital Districts: Encourage state policies to allocate state GME funds to Hospital Districts.
4. Reallocate Unused GME Funding to Hospital Districts: Encourage state policies to allocate unused state GME funds to Hospital Districts.

## Jonny F. Hipp (NCHD)

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**From:** Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa <juan.hinojosa-senate.texas.gov@shared1.ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 19, 2024 2:13 PM  
**To:** Jonny F. Hipp (NCHD)  
**Subject:** The Demand for Physicians in Texas

**Follow Up Flag:** Flag for follow up  
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## The Demand for Physicians in Texas

*Column by Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, April 2024*

It's no surprise that Texas, with its booming economy and vast opportunities, has one of the fastest-growing populations in the nation. As more people move to the Lone Star State, we are faced with intensifying challenges regarding accessibility to physicians, which have consistently been in short supply.

While the shortage of physicians isn't new or unique to Texas, projections show that our physician distribution lags compared to other states. By 2032, Texas could be short over 10,000 physicians if current trends remain. Other major drivers of the shortage include an aging population that requires increasingly complex care, medical school debt, burnout following the pandemic, and a significant portion of the current physician workforce reaching retirement age.

As lawmakers, we are constantly evaluating how we can increase the supply of high-quality physicians to help achieve our ultimate goal of providing accessible healthcare to all Texans. With 16 medical schools across the state, 7 of which have opened since 2016, the Legislature has continued its commitment to bolstering the physician workforce for generations to come.

However, providing more opportunities for medical school is just one part of the equation. With more students graduating from medical school, it is critical that the state provides adequate opportunities for training through residency programs. Without enough residency slots, students are leaving the state for other graduate medical education programs, some of whom will never return. In response to this trend, the Legislature set a target ratio of 1.1 to 1 for the number of first-year residency positions compared to graduating medical students. Meeting this target would allow all Texas medical school graduates to pursue their residency training within the state, a factor known to boost the likelihood of physicians staying in Texas to practice medicine after completing their training.

To further address the shortage of first-year residency positions, the Legislature initiated several new programs in 2013, including the Unfilled Residency Position Program and the Resident Physician Expansion Program, and provided just over \$14 million in funding. During the following legislative session, legislators consolidated the various programs into the single Graduate Medical Education (GME) Expansion Program and increased funding to over \$49 million. Funding has significantly increased over the years and most recently, the Legislature appropriated over \$233 million for GME, indicating an increase of \$219 million since the GME Expansion Program's establishment. The GME Expansion Program has supported the creation of 508 new first-year residency positions between 2014 and 2023.

We've seen the impact of GME Expansion right here in the Rio Grande Valley. These funds have supported new residency positions in various specialties, like family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, psychiatry, general surgery, and more. Additionally, the UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine, the first podiatry school in Texas, is now eligible for GME funding following the passage of House Bill 2509 during the 2021 Legislative session, which I proudly authored. These funds support residency slots for students to pursue careers in the medical and surgical care of the foot and ankle – an important specialization for the Valley due to its high incidence of diabetes and related diseases of the lower extremities.

More people means more healthcare needs and we must continue to invest in the education of physicians in all corners of the state. The Legislature has made GME Expansion a priority over the years, but the work is not done. As we move forward, we need to ensure that our medical schools and US/Texas students are a priority for GME funding. By further bolstering graduate medical education programs, we can ensure that medical school graduates have the opportunity to train in and ultimately serve the diverse communities across the state.

# # #

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa | 1508 S. Lone Star Way, Suite 6A, Edinburg, TX 78539

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