



**BOARD OF MANAGERS
Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 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 2026 budget has been duly adopted by the Board and approved by Commissioners Court. At this meeting, the Committee may discuss the budget. The 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.

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.

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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 December 10, 2024. 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:

A. Receive and discuss reports from Legislative Consultants. (*INFORMATION*)

B. Review and consider matters relating to approved interim committee charges for the 90th Texas Legislature. (*ACTION*) 7

C. Discuss and consider recommending a legislative agenda for the 90th Texas Legislative Session. (*ACTION*) 10

9. ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:

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

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 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

11. Public Notice posting receipt. 12

DRAFT

**BOARD OF MANAGERS
NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2024**

The Nueces County Hospital District Board of Managers met at 11:45 am, December 10, 2024 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:

Stephen Rybak	MDR
Sherry Robeson	MDR
Jenny Dorsey	NC Attorney
Cassidy Willie	Gjerset & Lorenz – via Zoom
Joel Romo	Lobbyist – via Zoom
Becky Rios	Christus Spohn – via Zoom
Lee Lopez	Corpus Christi Medical Center – via Zoom

**BOARD OF MANAGERS
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2024**

1. WELCOME

2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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

A. Call to order – Arthur Granado, Chairman.
The meeting was called to order by Mr. Granado at 12:05 p.m.

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

Arthur Granado, Chairman – PRESENT
Vishnu V. Reddy, M.D., Member – PRESENT
Judge Mariana Garza, 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 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.

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**BOARD OF MANAGERS
LEGISLATIVE MEETING
MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2024**

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.

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 October 22, 2024.

Consent Agenda approved. Motion by Dr. Reddy and seconded by Mr. Granado. MOTION CARRIED.

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 and consider recommending amendment of the 89th Texas Legislative Session Agenda. (*ACTION*)

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

8. ADMINISTRATOR'S BRIEFING:

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

1. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 11:45 AM in NCHD Board of Managers Meeting Room at 555 North Carancahua Street, Room 950-A, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401.

9. ADJOURN

**Motion to adjourn by Mr. Granado, Chairman
at 12:17 p.m.**

Nueces County Hospital District
Interim Charges
90th Texas Legislative Session
Approved: January 27, 2026

Study of Physician and Mental Health Workforce Shortages in Rural Areas and Regional Population Centers of Texas, with Emphasis on the Coastal Bend and South Texas

Background

Texas continues to experience persistent and worsening shortages of physicians in **rural areas and regional population centers**, particularly in **the Coastal Bend and South Texas**, where large geographic catchment areas depend on a limited number of safety-net hospitals, regional health systems, and publicly supported facilities. These shortages affect access to primary care, specialty services, behavioral health, obstetrical care, and emergency services, with significant implications for population health, hospital sustainability, Medicaid access, workforce participation, and regional economic development.

In addition, **the Coastal Bend and South Texas face limited access to state-supported inpatient and outpatient mental health facilities**, resulting in prolonged emergency department boarding, increased pressure on county jails, law-enforcement involvement in behavioral health crises, and delayed or foregone treatment for individuals with serious mental illness. The Legislature should examine whether current state mental-health infrastructure, facility placement, and workforce capacity adequately serve regions with large rural catchment areas and growing behavioral-health needs.

During the interim, the Legislature should examine the scope, causes, and potential solutions to physician and mental-health workforce shortages outside of major metropolitan areas, with focused attention on regions that serve extensive rural populations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Public Health

Interim Charge 1: Physician Workforce Distribution

Study the current supply, geographic distribution, and specialty mix of physicians practicing in **rural areas and regional population centers**, including those located in **the Coastal Bend and South Texas**. Analyze Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designations, trends over the

Nueces County Hospital District
Interim Charges
90th Texas Legislative Session
Approved: January 27, 2026

past decade, and projected workforce needs based on population growth, aging, physician retirement, and changing patterns of health-care delivery in these regions.

Interim Charge 2: Graduate Medical Education Expansion in Rural-Serving Regions

Examine opportunities to expand state-supported graduate medical education, including funding for additional primary care and high-need specialty residency positions at safety-net hospitals and teaching facilities that serve **the Coastal Bend, South Texas, and surrounding rural areas**. Review existing federal and state funding mechanisms and statutory authority under the Texas Health and Safety Code and Texas Government Code. Assess the workforce return on investment associated with placing residency programs in regional population centers that function as hubs for large rural catchment areas.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Higher Education

Interim Charge 3: Medical School Placement and Regional Training Capacity

Evaluate the feasibility and potential impact of establishing one or more new medical schools, branch campuses, or longitudinal clinical training hubs focused on primary care and high-need specialty physician training in **regional population centers serving the Coastal Bend and South Texas**. Assess coordination, approval, and oversight authority under the Texas Education Code, including the role of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and evaluate anticipated workforce outcomes, start-up and operating costs, and implementation timelines for these regions.

Nueces County Hospital District
Interim Charges
90th Texas Legislative Session
Approved: January 27, 2026

SENATE

Committee on Health and Human Services

Interim Charge 4: Licensure, Access, and Care Delivery in Rural-Serving Regions

Review physician licensure requirements, alternative entry-to-practice pathways, and telemedicine policies affecting physician supply and patient access in **rural areas and regional population centers**, with particular emphasis on **the Coastal Bend and South Texas**. Evaluate regulatory barriers and opportunities related to licensure, supervision, telehealth, and reimbursement under the Texas Occupations Code, Texas Government Code, and Texas Health and Safety Code.

Interim Charge 5: State-Supported Mental Health Facility Capacity

Study the availability, geographic distribution, and capacity of **state-supported mental health facilities**, including state hospitals and community-based inpatient and outpatient services, serving **the Coastal Bend and South Texas**. Evaluate whether current facility placement, bed capacity, and staffing levels adequately meet regional demand, particularly for individuals experiencing acute psychiatric crises. Examine the impacts of limited state-supported capacity on emergency departments, county jails, law enforcement, and local health systems, and identify potential options to expand or realign mental-health infrastructure in rural-serving regions.

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
90th Texas Legislative Session Agenda
February 24, 2026

Summary

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

Countywide Benefits

- Increased physician retention.
 - Improved behavioral health access.
 - Complemented medical infrastructure.
 - Strengthened medical education pipelines.
 - Enhanced healthcare resilience.
-

I. Graduate Medical Education (GME)

Support increased investment in GME to expand physician training and retention.

- 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.

- 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.

- Establish state-supported regional facilities
- Serve adults, children, and justice-involved populations
- Partner with LMHAs and community providers
- Integrate inpatient, crisis, and outpatient services

Data Point:

Behavioral health wait times in South Texas frequently exceed recommended standards.

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.



VG-12-2026-2026000092

Nueces County
Kara Sands
Nueces County Clerk

Instrument Number: 2026000092

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICES

Recorded On: February 18, 2026 09:42 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

***** THIS PAGE IS PART OF THE INSTRUMENT *****

Any provision herein which restricts the Sale, Rental or use of the described REAL PROPERTY because of color or race is invalid and unenforceable under federal law.

File Information:

Document Number: 2026000092
Receipt Number: 20260218000035
Recorded Date/Time: February 18, 2026 09:42 AM
User: Lisa C
Station: CLERK06

Record and Return To:

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD OF MANAGERS



Kara Sands

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

Main: (361)888-0580

Receipt: 20260218000035

Date: 02/18/2026

Time: 09:42AM

By: Lisa C

Station: CLERK06

Status: ORIGINAL COPY

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Document Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number Of</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
1	Public Notice	PBN	2026000092	6	\$0.00	
				Order Total	(1)	\$0.00

<u>Seq</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Transaction Id</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Total</u>		
1				\$0.00		
				Total Payments	(1)	\$0.00
				Change Due		\$0.00

NUECES COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT BOARD
OF MANAGERS



**Nueces County
Hospital District**

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2026

KARA SANDS
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT
NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

BOARD OF MANAGERS

**Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 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=T2RVWFBoZGJYdHYyQmp1VUdZeUc3Zz09>

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>



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Legislative Committee - Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 11:00 AM**

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