

**MINUTES
LOWER FLORIDA KEYS HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 1, 2025**

PRESENT: Mrs. Ovide, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Muir, Mrs. Spottswood, Mr. Hammond, Mrs. Swift

ABSENT: Mr. Toppino, Dr. Chambers

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Fishman, and residents from the community (sign-in sheet attached to official minutes).

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ovide called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

BOARD APPOINTED FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE: -

Mr. Padget & Mr. Witherspoon presented it on behalf of the fact-finding committee and gave an update on what the fact-finding committee has completed since 1/7/25. They have held organizational meetings and selected officers. The committee has asked the District Board to hire Vernis & Bowling as their legal counsel and produced an attorney/client privilege agreement to the district for review based off of the 4-3 vote at the March meeting.

Mr. Fishman advised the committee that the board had requested at the last meeting to retain an attorney with healthcare, governmental law and transactional law experience. Mrs. Sterling thinks there could possibly be an issue with the district engaging an attorney for the fact-finding committee and has asked Mr. Fishman to research the law and also reach out to Juniper Advisory on the fee schedule. Mrs. Sterling would like to move forward on a consultant and an attorney at the May meeting.

Mr. Sterling motioned to direct Mr. Fishman to research the law to see if the district was able to give the fact-finding committee funds to retain an attorney, Mrs. Spottswood seconded, and the roll was called for a vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. Spottswood-yes
Mr. Muir-yes
Mr. Hammond- yes
Mrs. Ovide- no
Dr. Thompson-yes
Dr. Chambers- yes
Mrs. Sterling- yes

The vote passed with a 6-1 vote.


CITIZEN INPUT:


There were a few members from the community that spoke on behalf of the process and community needs. They asked the board to continue with the process and keep the community needs first and foremost throughout this process. The community members that spoke were:

Dr. Norris, Mr. Rossi, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Kaufman, Dr. Gannon and Mrs. Romero.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the District Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.


Approved, Secretary


Date