**MINUTES**

**LOWER FLORIDA KEYS HOSPITAL DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Ovide, Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. Swift, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Spottswood and Mr. Toppino

**ABSENT:** Mr. Hammond, Mr. Muir & Dr. Chambers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Fishman, see sign in sheet for community members in attendance

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Ovide called the meeting to order at 2:43p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**FACT FINDING COMMITTEE: MR. BATTY**

Mr. Batty stated that the Fact-finding committee met with CHS, Baptist & Mt. Sinai and held informal interviews. The fact-finding committee also met with doctors and health care providers at the Douglas community center. Mr. Padget held a Q&A with Chief of Staff, Dr. Norris and the fact-finding committee felt very good about all the meetings and the way the process is going.

Baptist & Mt. Sinai both have asked for the opportunity to inspect the facility to be able to respond to the RFP accurately. The fact-finding committee has also requested documents from CHS in regard to the KDI transaction but there is a confidentiality statement, so CHS needs to get approval from corporate to release any documents.

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Mr. Padget stated that the potential operators don’t have a level playing field as CHS has more info in regard to the condition of the physical plant as they are the current lessee. Mr. Padget believes the RFP process can be moved along on a quicker timeline than what is presented in Akerman’s timetable.

Dr. Gerth has asked that the district board be in full agreement with any memos or correspondence that is being sent out on behalf of the district board. Mr. Batty stated that the fact-finding committee and other members of the community feel some board members are partial and is requesting that a conflict-of-interest statement be signed by all interested parties. Mr. Batty stated that FS 287.05719 refers to public procurement and FS 496.4055 refers to charitable organizations and public duty and believes this would fall under this statue.

**Mrs. Swift motioned to authorize Akerman to prepare a conflict-of-interest statement for all board members, fact-finding committee, employees and any related parties to sign. Mrs. Sterling seconded for discussion. After discussion Mrs. Cranney- Black called the roll and the vote passed unanimously.**

Mrs. Swift-YES

Dr. Thompson-YES

Mrs. Ovide-YES

Mrs. Spottswood-YES

Mr. Toppino- YES

Mrs. Sterling- YES

Mr. Batty asked about the entity referred to as the Lower Florida Keys Health System that the hospital would revert back to if a deal isn’t negotiated. Kennedy Drive Investors has 2 board members, the district has 4 board members, and the Chief of Staff of the hospital was composed previously. Lower Florida Keys Health Systems is active as far as state annual reporting goes but the entity isn’t currently inoperative.

**DR. NORRIS: CHIEF OF STAFF**

Dr. Norris thanked the district board for allowing him to speak and also thanked the fact-finding committee for the doctors’ meeting they held. Dr. Norris spoke in regard to hospital privileges and stated that that Baptist doesn’t have privileges and Mt. Sinai’s cardiologists does have privileges. Dr. Norris spoke about current specialties the hospital offers and what the community needs.

**ATTORNEY REPORT: MR. FISHMAN:**

Mr. Fishman reported to the board last November that FS 189.0694 requires special districts to adopt goals and objectives for each program and activity of the district as well as the performance measures and standards to determine if the objectives are being achieved. Mrs. Sterling made some revisions to the document, and the board approved the performances measures with revisions.

**Mrs. Spottswood approved the performance measures with revisions. Mr. Toppino seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

**Mrs. Spottswood motioned to request that CHS grant access to Baptist, Mt. Sinai and Tampa General to do an inspection of the hospital. In the event CHS denies the request, the district board has the right to do their own inspection or ask Akerman if the consultant will handle it. Mr. Toppino seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Dr. Thompson-YES

Mrs. Swift-YES

Mr. Toppino-YES

Mrs. Ovide-YES

Dr. Chambers-YES

Mrs. Sterling-YES

**COMMUNITY SPEAKERS:**

Mr. Kaufman and Mr. Krenke both spoke in regard to the RFP process, timelines, potential operators and community needs.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**There being no further business to come before the District Board, Dr. Thompson motioned to adjourn, Mrs. Spottswood seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:13m.**

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Approved, Secretary Date