

**MINUTES
LOWER FLORIDA KEYS HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 7, 2025**

PRESENT: Mrs. Ovide, Dr. Thompson, Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Muir, Mrs. Spottswood, Mr. Halpern, Dr. Chambers, Mr. Hammond & Mr. Toppino (beginning of meeting)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Mason 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 2:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ovide led the attendees to the pledge of allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR MR. HALPERN

The district board took a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Michael Halpern who served on the board.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEETING & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Ovide advised the public that the purpose of the meeting is for the boards to discuss the path of the next hospital operator and a presentation from CHS to give an update of the status of the hospital and

Mr. Padget, Mr. Peter Batty Sr. Mrs. Hiller, Mr. Weekley, Mr. Peter Batty Jr., Dr. Gerth, Mr. German, Mr. Rossi, Mr. Witherspoon

Mr. Batty Sr. provided a statement and asked that the committee act as a fact-finding committee and meet out of the sunshine.

Mrs. Ovide stated that this discussion is not about replacing the facility, it's about establishing a partner. After a partner is selected the discussion of replacement will be addressed at a later date.

CHS COMMUNITY UPDATE REPORT: MR. MASON

Mr. Mason who is the President of Region 1 for Community Health Systems. Mr. Mason had a slide show presentation that he presented at the meeting and sent his condolences to Mr. Halpern and his family.

Mr. Mason gave an overview of the purpose of the presentation, team introductions that were present at the meeting, the state of the union on the lower key's campus, update in recent accomplishments, lease renewal and commitment to renew lease were the topics he would address in his presentation.

The 2023 monetary highlights are as follows for CHS-

- 53 million in compensated care
- 55 million in payroll taxes
- Multimillion dollar housing stipend
- 3.5 million in taxes
- 25 million in capital investments

Mr. Mason went over the following items to expect in the upcoming proposal:

1. National search for CEO
2. Reinvent community focus engagement plan
3. Mr. Saunders is the new Director of Community relations and FTI firm to start outreach
4. Assessment of facilities and equipment
5. Patient demand and scope of services assessment
5. 30-year renewal plan and 5-year front loaded capital

Mr. Padget requested that Mr. Mason bring back to the next meeting a detailed list of capital expenditures on what they have invested in the lower keys building.

Mrs. Hiller asked Mr. Mason what CHS plan for cancer care is. Mr. Mason said they have been working on training, job recruitment and other mechanisms to try and deliver services in 2025. Baptist has secured Legacy Genesis asset and said CHS would be willing to partner with Baptist if they were open to it. Mr. German asked CHS to supply data for the committee to be able to compare metrics that show how the local hospital compares to other rural type hospitals. Mr. Mason will review the current presentation he submitted today and will update it to reflect info from the meeting today to make a final product for the public.

The power point presentation is attached to the official minutes.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE INFORMATION:

Mrs. Ovide asked if the hospital would allow the community committee to hold their meetings there and if Mrs. Cranney-Black to assist the committee in organizing their meetings.

Mrs. Ovide stated they are a fact-finding committee, and they can select officers at their first meeting and this committee should meet prior to the district board meetings to bring data to the board along with a timeframe. The goal of the committee is to speak to the public, physicians, and community leaders and get information that is verifiable to bring forward to the board. Mr. Padget thinks that business plans should be requested from operators interested and what services they would provide etc.

Mrs. Sterling asked where Kennedy Drive Investors fits into this picture and what authority the district board has. Mr. Fishman stated that if the District and Kennedy Drive don't agree that Health Systems reverts back. Mr. Fishman stated that when the district operated the hospital and Kennedy Drive operated Depoo in 1989 they merged as one entity and formed Lower Florida Keys Health Systems. In 1999 an RFP was issued and HMA was the successful bidder and there was a struggle to agree what would happen at the end of the 30-year lease and the conclusion was that it would revert back to Health Systems.

The district board has instructed Mt. Fishman to reach out to Robert Sanchez to see where Kennedy Drive Investors plan is moving forward with a lease operator. The district will discuss it at the next meeting in regard to potentially hiring a consultant once they have more information from Kennedy Drive Investors.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Ovide allowed a few members of the audience to ask a few questions and questions that arose were:

1. Is the district going to hire a separate attorney to review this entanglement?
2. Will the district board seek a separate opinion on this matter?
3. If there was a break-up between Kenned Drive and the District Board and it reverts to Health Systems if the LFKHDB is the governing authority?
4. What is the plan for Cancer care?

Mrs. Ovide stated that at the next quarterly regular meeting they will take citizen input and at this time no additional attorney or consultant will be hired. The district board will wait to hear where Kennedy Drive Investors stands on this topic and will address any other concerns at the Feb 4th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the District Board, Mrs. Sterling motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Muir seconded, and the meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Ovide at 4:51 pm.


Approved, Secretary

2/4/2025
Date