

**MINUTES
LOWER FLORIDA KEYS HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 7, 2026**

PRESENT: Mrs. Ovide, Mr. Toppino, Mrs. Sterling, Mrs. Swift, Mr. Hammond and Dr. Chambers

ABSENT: Dr. Thompson, Mr. Muir & Mrs. Spottswood

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Fishman, see sign in sheet

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Sterling called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bodner, Mt. Padget and Dr. Norris spoke briefly about RFP process. Dr. Norris stated this would be his last meeting as Chief of Staff and Dr. Blass would be replacing him.

RFP UPDATE:

Akerman went over the updated RFP and timelines. There will also be a contract negotiation phase, and a lot of valuable comments have been received from the board and public which were incorporated into this latest draft of the RFP. Akerman stated the most revised version of the RFP has market analysis data which was largely conducted by Stroudwater. There was also a section added on the facilities due to the engineering report and that report was included as an attachment. Akerman will conduct reverse due diligence and will be researching their background and their financial health of the respondents. Board members are not to reach out to respondents and respondents are not to contact board members. At the end of the 90-day period, Akerman will do an executive summary for the board of who responded and the public portion of the responses will be released but the confidential section will not be available to the public.

Akerman will draft the contract for the operator partnership and will also hire a 3rd party to handle the statutory report which is governed by F.S. 155. This requirement is that the contract is in the best interest to lease the hospital to an operator rather than the district operating it.

Mrs. Sterling asked Akerman to bring back a list of proposals from third party consultants for the drafting of the statutory report. Akerman will also be drafting the NDA and bringing that back to the board for approval in May. The board members and all the respondents will be required to sign an NDA. Mrs. Sterling also reiterated how important it is for everyone to follow the rules of engagement which are that Akerman will receive all submissions from respondents and correspondence through the portal. There is to be no discussions unless they are in a public forum or in the interview section. The board shall enter the cone of silence once the RFP is published.

MEETING DATE CHANGE:

Our regularly quarterly meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026 and Chairman Sterling has a conflict so the board agreed to change the date to August 17, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the District Board, Dr. Chambers motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mrs. Swift seconded and the motion was carried unanimously at 4:00pm.

Approved, Secretary

Date