



Meeting of the Community Oversight Board of Directors

PUBLIC SESSION

May 16, 2018

10:00 AM

University Hospital
150 Bergen Street, Room D-230
Newark, New Jersey

Present: John N. Kastanis, MBA, FACHE, Chair; Nicole Butler; Thomas Daly, FHFMA, CPA; John Gerow; Iris Herrera, MD, FACP; Diane Hill, PhD (via teleconference); Jean Pierce

Excused: Robert L. Barchi, MD, PhD

Guests: Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP, Dean, Rutgers - New Jersey Medical School; Annette Hastings, MS; Carl Kirton, MD; Justin Sambol, MD, Chief, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, University Hospital Associate Professor of Surgery, Rutgers - New Jersey Medical School

I. Opening and Call to Order

Chair Kastanis opened the meeting with a request for a roll call. With a quorum of members present, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chair Kastanis accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2017 meeting of the Community Oversight Board. The minutes were approved unanimously with none opposed.

III. Old Committee Business

Chair Kastanis welcomed all and stated that the agenda would be reordered to discuss the Transition of In-Patient Pediatric Care as there were a number of guests in attendance regarding the topic.

IV. New Committee Business

A. Report of the President and CEO

Chair Kastanis provided an update regarding expansion of programs at the hospital. He highlighted that under the leadership of Dr. Michael Curi, MD, Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, a new Wound Care Center would be opening on D- Level. The previously deactivated Liver Transplant department was revitalized in March with the recruitment of James V. Guarrera, MD, FACS, as Program Director. To date, the department has completed its first successful transplant.

B. Transition of In-Patient Pediatric Care

Chair Kastanis provided brief comments reiterating that the decision to transfer in-patient pediatrics to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center was among other reasons, a matter of quality of care, not financial reimbursement. He then opened the floor to those who wished to make public comment. In addition to representation from HPAE Local 5089 Union, the Central Ward Councilwoman, University Hospital physicians, and concerned citizens provided comment. Notably, a University Hospital nurse put forth several inquiries as well as a signed petition in support of maintaining in-patient pediatric care at the Hospital.

During the public comment portion, Dr. Robert Johnson provided comments supporting the decision to transfer in-patient pediatric services based upon an ongoing decrease in volume. Dr. Johnson underscored that the transition would in no way compromise pediatric emergency medicine or trauma; the children's clinic at University Hospital will continue to operate and remains committed to the care of the children within the community. Lastly, Dr. Herrera stated that this decision was not made arbitrarily. She further noted that while various solutions were researched, any further viable suggestions would absolutely be considered.

Chair Kastanis deferred further discussion regarding the transition of in-patient pediatrics.

C. Call for Trauma Center in Union County

Chair Kastanis briefly reported regarding the application submitted by Trinitas Regional Medical Center to become a Level II Trauma Center. He noted that University Hospital has followed the progress of the application and Hospital medical leaders have spoken to emergency department leaders at neighboring facilities who all expressed a discomfort with there being another trauma center other than University Hospital. Chair Kastanis acknowledged that there has been a great deal of support from hospitals, local government and others for University Hospital to remain the primary trauma center in the region. He acknowledged and thanked HPAE for its letter of support. There has not been a decision made regarding the application from Trinitas, however, Chair Kastanis reminded that the issue may arise again.

V. Public Comment

No requests for public comment were received prior to the meeting, however, a number of individuals in attendance provided commentary regarding the transition of in-patient pediatrics.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Community Oversight Board is scheduled for October 2, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.