



# UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Newark, New Jersey

Meeting of the University Hospital (“UH”)  
Community Oversight Board (“COB”)

**PUBLIC SESSION**

December 8, 2015

11:30 AM

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School/University Hospital  
Cancer Center  
205 So. Orange Avenue  
Board Room B-1120  
Newark, New Jersey 07103

**Present – UH Community Oversight Board (“COB”) Members:** Nancy Hamstra, Chair; Suzanne H. Atkin, MD; Deborah E. Collins, Esq.; Thomas M. Daly, FHFMA, CPA; Diane Hill, PhD and Jean Pierce (via teleconference)

**Excused – COB Members:** Robert Barchi, MD; Nicole K. Butler; and John Gerow

**Present – UH Leadership and Staff:** Mary Jo Lopez, *Executive Director of Special Projects*; and Tammy Robinson, *Special Assistant*

**Invited Guests:** Qamar Carr, *Director Patient Registration and Financial Counseling*; and James Harris, *New Jersey State Conference of the NAACP*

## Minutes

Chairperson Nancy Hamstra opened the meeting with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act:

*The notice requirements provided of the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act and the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Restructuring Act have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was timely sent to various newspapers in the State of New Jersey and was also timely posted on the website of University Hospital.*

### **Call to Order**

A roll call was conducted and having a quorum of members present, the meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m.

## Approval of Minutes

The COB unanimously approved the minutes of the August 11, 2015 UH Community Oversight Board meeting.

## Organizational Matters

The COB discussed the proposed 2016 meeting schedule for calendar year 2016. There was a brief discussion among Board members regarding the start time for the meetings. COB members discussed scheduling a meeting with an early evening start time to encourage members from the public to attend.

Ms. Hamstra accepted a motion from Dr. Atkin to adopt the 2016 calendar as amended; the motion was seconded by Ms. Collins and approved unanimously. The COB meeting calendar for 2016 is as follows:

- Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 11:30am
- Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 6pm
- Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 11:30am
- Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 11:30am

## Interim President and CEO's Report

Ms. Hamstra reported highlights of UH activities for the last three months which included:

- In October *The Foundation for University Hospital* ("Foundation") and its new Board of Trustees met to discuss its goals for 2016. The Foundation announced that they will be working closely with the Rutgers medical staff to promote the Annual Golf Classic scheduled for June 2, 2016.
- The UH Emergency Preparedness team in conjunction with local police officials are conducting "active shooter" ("Code Silver") drills on the hospital campus. These drills are part of the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation program and are meant to prepare hospital and medical staff in the event of such an incident.
- UH is working closely with the New Jersey Energy Resiliency Bank to procure federal dollars available from a \$200 million Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery grant as a result of Hurricane Sandy.
- UH is in the process of upgrading CT diagnostic equipment with 128 Slice and 64 Slice CT Scanners.
- The Epic "Beaker" Clinical Laboratory System is in the final week of testing. This clinical laboratory system replaces a 24 year old system. This is the last major software upgrade required for our EPIC environment.
- The Stroke Center at UH's Neurological Institute of New Jersey ("NINJ") has recently been designated as a Comprehensive Stroke Program by The Joint Commission. UH is the only hospital

in the area with such a distinction. Previously the program was licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health (“DOH”) as a comprehensive stroke center.

- Three (3) UH nurses were recently honored for their services in the nursing industry. Linda Arnold, RN was honored by the by the New Jersey Board of Nursing. Ingrid Bruce, RN and Soledad Merced, RN were finalists for the *Nurse of the Year* award. Deborah Wiggins, Manager of Supplier Diversity, was nominated for a Woman of the Year award within her industry.
- The UH Board of Directors has not issued new task orders to Barnabas Health. Current task orders support activities that include program improvement initiatives.
- Ms. Hamstra announced that Dr. Carl Kirton has accepted the UH offer to serve as the Chief Nursing Officer. Dr. Kirton will begin employment January 4, 2016. Dr. Kirton is the former Chief Nurse Executive and Deputy Executive Director at Lincoln Hospital and Mental Health Center in New York City.
- UH presented Employee Service Awards to approximately 390 staff recognizing 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service. Those employees having 25+ years of service were recognized in a separate awards ceremony.
- Ms. Hamstra advised that Union negotiations are a high priority for the Board and senior leadership. She shared that negotiation meetings have been scheduled with all Unions and UH senior leadership hopes to resolve outstanding issues in the coming weeks.
- The following community events are scheduled for December:
  - December 7<sup>th</sup>, UH launched the holiday season with the lighting of the holiday tree;
  - December 8<sup>th</sup>, UH senior leadership will serve a holiday dinner this evening and donate hats, scarves and socks at the United Community Corporation;
  - December 9<sup>th</sup>, is Holiday Sweater day at UH and the United Airlines Fantasy Flight to the North Pole for 60 local children receiving medical treatment at either University or Newark Beth Israel Hospital;
  - December 10<sup>th</sup> members of the New Jersey Devils will visit the pediatric patients at UH;
  - By December 17<sup>th</sup> 150++ UH and medical staff will drop off their selected “Angel Giving Gift” to be distributed to residents of Newark; and
  - December 17<sup>th</sup> the UH holiday party will be conducted at Mayfair Farms.

In response to a previous inquiry, Ms. Hamstra presented statistical data highlighting all active employees by ethnicity and sex as of 11/23/15. She noted that senior leadership has met with various interested parties to discuss this data and employment practices at University Hospital.

## **Video: “University Hospital – Amazing Medicine Practiced Here”**

Ms. Hamstra presented the UH video *“University Hospital – Amazing Medicine Practiced Here”*. This new video focuses on patient stories, and highlights the extraordinary work of the medical and nursing staffs at UH. COB members commented that the patient stories recounted in the video were very powerful statements depicting the amazing efforts of the hospital and medical staff. Ms. Hamstra recognized Barbara Hurley and the Marketing and Media staff for producing this video.

## **Affordable Care Act Update: Impact on Essex County and University Hospital**

Qamar Carr, Director, Financial Counseling and Admission Services, provided statistical data on the medical services received in 2015 at University Hospital. The data that she presented clearly identified the significant drop in patients enrolled in Charity Care and the significant increase of patients enrolled in NJ Medicaid. Dr. Atkin noted that the New Jersey formulary for Charity Care has never provided payments for physician services, but Medicaid programs do reimburse physicians for professional services. Thomas Daly, UH Chief Financial Officer, shared that the significant increase in Medicaid patients has had a positive impact on the hospital’s revenue. Ms. Pierce wanted the Board to realize that Charity Care funding for UH was significantly reduced in 2015. Mr. Daly advised that the hospital continues to have discussions with the state regarding the 15% cut in the hospital’s Charity Care funding, particularly since all other hospitals in the state were cut no more than 7%.

During this discussion, Ms. Pierce asked if the Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield Omnia hospital network would have any impact on UH. Mr. Daly advised that UH is a Tier II hospital in the Omnia hospital network. Mr. Daly explained how the product would “steer” patients to Tier 1 Hospitals’; however, he shared that many of the patients at UH originate as emergency department admissions. Therefore, the rules for out of network services for Omnia members would be waived.

## **Public Comments**

Mr. James Harris thanked the Board for inviting him to attend the COB meeting. He expressed his pleasure that there seems to be more diversity with the Boards, senior leadership and community committees. He acknowledged that senior leadership has met with him and other interested parties to explore ways that the hospital can support residents in the community. Highlights of his suggestions are:

- UH needs to brand the hospital as a Level I Trauma Center versus a ‘city hospital’;
- UH could reach out to local Church leaders to help promote the hospital to their congregations;
- Recommended that UH present the employee stats that Ms. Hamstra reported earlier to the local communities;
- UH could reach out to the local schools to help promote Math/Science curriculums that can lead to careers in healthcare;
- Community groups need to be informed about the 15% Charity Care cuts in state subsidies so that they can support the hospital in their discussions with the state; and
- He made an inquiry of the status of the Newark Agreement with the separation of UMDNJ.

In response to the inquiry regarding the status of the Newark Agreement, Dr. Hill suggested that UH reach out to Dr. John Johnson at Rutgers and possibly request his attendance at the April meeting to provide an update regarding the Newark Agreement.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

There being no further business, the UH COB meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. with all in favor.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting**

**The** next meeting of the UH COB will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the Cancer Center, 205 South Orange Avenue, B-Level, Room B1120, Newark, New Jersey.