



**The Board of Directors of University Hospital ("UH")**

Public Meeting  
March 26, 2020  
10:00 a.m.

Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey  
at University Hospital  
205 South Orange Avenue, Board Room B-1120  
Newark, New Jersey

**Present via Teleconference:** Tanya L. Freeman, Esq., Chair; James M. Orsini, MD, Vice Chair; Cecile A. Feldman, DMD, MBA; Keith H. Green; Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP; David T. Molowa, PhD; Mary O'Dowd, MPH; Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH

**Excused:** Robert J. Rubino, MD

**I. Opening Statement and Roll Call**

Chairwoman Freeman opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance, and wishes for all to remain well and safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic. At the direction of Chairwoman Freeman, Ms. Tammy Robinson read University Hospital's statement of compliance with the Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act and the New Jersey Medical and Health Sciences Education Restructuring Act, and called the roll. With a quorum of members participating, the meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

**II. Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Dr. Shereef Elnahal addressed the Board with an update of the hospital's status in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Acknowledging the unprecedented scope of the virus, Dr. Elnahal noted the unique position of University Hospital as the only public, acute care Level I Trauma center for all of Northern New Jersey. He underscored that as such, the hospital stands as a frontline responder and resource in caring for the surge of patients being infected. He credits the strong Leadership team, frontline clinicians and staff at every level who are aiding in maintaining an optimal environment of care on the patient floors and in the Command Center. Dr. Elnahal also reported that the excellent collaborative support from New Jersey Medical School, School of Dental Medicine and School of Nursing have been invaluable with respect to providing human resources, much needed clinical space and supplies. In addition, Dr. Elnahal noted that he maintains daily contact with State and Federal delegations for information, resources and funding.

Dr. Elnahal further extended thanks to the members of the Board for providing guidance and support before and during this crisis. Chairwoman Freeman echoed those sentiments and thanked Dr. Elnahal for his leadership.

### **III. Public Comment**

Chairwoman Freeman opened the meeting to public comment. Individuals from the community and hospital provided statements of appreciation and support for the Leadership team and all of the hospital staff for their dedication and hard work caring for patients during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, they provided the following remarks:

Ms. Jean Pierce, Public Policy staff for Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE) expressed appreciation for the consistent and supportive communication provided by Dr. Elnahal and Eva Serruto, Esq., to the HPAA Union in response to the pandemic.

Ms. Nicole Wheeler, a UH patient inquired regarding the purpose of the tents outside the emergency department. The tents were erected to serve as an interim location for outpatient ancillary services.

Ms. Ingrid Hill of the Peoples Organization for Progress, inquired as to what resources the hospital may need going forward. Individuals are being directed to the Foundation for University Hospital for further direction in providing resources.

Mr. Pankaj Kapodia, a UH employee inquired as to what assistance has been offered to the hospital by local and State government officials. Dr. Elnahal stated that he is in close communication with these individuals to receive assistance on a continuing basis.

Ms. Lavita Johnson, a Community Advocate inquired what is in place to ensure that first responders remain safe and protected on the job. Dr. Elnahal stated that the protection of the frontline employees is of utmost importance and is being ensured by adhering to infection control protocols as well as supplying personal protective equipment. In addition, childcare, meals and psycho-social support has been made available to staff.

Dr. Catherine Mazzola, a UH physician reported that her department is prepared to provide Pediatric Neurosurgery consultations through telemedicine if the need arises.

### **IV. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2020**

Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **V. Proposed Actions**

A summary of the following proposed action items was presented for approval:



#### A. Ratification of the Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA)

The VOCA grant was received from the Attorney General's office and requires a resolution to fulfill the award. The resolution was previously approved by the Governance, Ethics and Legal Committee acting as the Executive Committee and is being submitted to the Board for ratification.

#### B. Ratification of Prior Actions

The resolution was previously approved by the Finance, Investment, Administration and Audit Committee and was identified during an internal audit to be submitted to the Board for ratification.

#### C. Approval of COVID-19 emergency procurement

The resolution eliminates the need for case-by-case approvals and serve the twofold purpose of allowing overall acceptance of donation and funds, and preemptively allow expeditious purchases not to exceed \$7 million on procurements related to COVID-19.

#### D. Approval of Contracts

The resolution amends the previous resolution to contract Dr. Peter Pronovost; another employment commitment resulted in the hospital contracting with Dr. Hanan Jaber Aboumatar and Dr. Sarah E. Cosgrove as substitutes in his stead. There were no other changes to the contract.

The other two actions relate to awards of contract for medical supplies that were previously approved at the Committee level.

Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded to approve the action items. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call vote of the members.

### **VI. Executive Session**

With all actions of the Board complete, Chairwoman Freeman accepted a motion, duly seconded, to convene in an Executive Session to discuss COVID-19 preparedness measures and personnel matters.

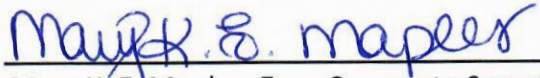
### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the public meeting of the Board of Directors of University Hospital adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., in the Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey at University Hospital located at 205 South Orange Avenue, Room B-1120, Newark, New Jersey.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, MARY K. E. MAPLES, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary of University Hospital, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Minutes of the University Hospital Board of Directors meeting held on March 26, 2020.

  
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Mary K. E. Maples, Esq., Corporate Secretary