

**THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
LEGAL & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020

**TIME:** 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** MetroHealth Board Room All Virtual Webex Meeting

**COMMITTEE TRUSTEES:** Ms. Whiting

**ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES:** Ms. Dee, Dr. Silvers

**STAFF:** Dr. Boutros, Mr. Frolik, Ms. McBride, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Platten, Mr. Richmond, Dr. Watts

Ms. Whiting called the meeting of the Legal and Government Relations Committee to order at 12:32 p.m. Please note that the minutes are written to conform to the printed agenda and are not necessarily in the order of discussion.

Ms. Whiting called for a brief moment of silence to recognize the loss of a physician and to recognize her family.

- I. The minutes of the regular Legal and Government Relations Committee meeting held on September 9, 2020 were approved as presented.
- II. Information Items
  - A. Government Relations Update

Ms. Jane Platten, Executive Vice President, Administration and Chief of Staff, reported that the Cuyahoga County Executive and the Cuyahoga County Council President approved MetroHealth to receive \$15.6 million in CARES Act money received by Cuyahoga County from the federal government; all expenditures made by MetroHealth to provide care and services not covered by any other federal or state support were provided to Cuyahoga County Council with the exception of labor, which are not included for use with the CARES Act dollars, and a contract was executed and all documentation submitted. Cuyahoga County also embraced the concept of the Cleveland Heights hospital expansion, and in January 2021 MetroHealth will be conducting community meetings with community members, noting there has been no known opposition from the neighborhood. Beginning the first quarter of 2021 MetroHealth will be having discussions with the Cuyahoga County Executive and Cuyahoga County Council to have the property deeds aligned in terms of being titled in the name of The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees.

At the state level, COVID-19 policy developments continue to be monitored and implemented which now includes the topic of the vaccination deployment process, noting an internal group at MetroHealth is communicating and completing policies and protocols for the vaccination deployment. Allison Poullos, Director of Government Relations and MetroHealth's state lobbyist, continues to work with the Department of Medicaid on Telehealth reimbursements and issues. MetroHealth has an amendment to Ohio Revised Code 339 currently pending on a bill in lame duck session at the Ohio House to clarify MetroHealth's ability to enter into collaborative arrangements with various business enterprises.

MetroHealth continues to monitor COVID activities at the federal level with respect to the relief funds and has been actively participating in efforts to urge the Department of Health and Human Services to resist unilateral decisions to withhold certain 340B payments, noting that in the last quarter of 2020 MetroHealth had a virtual visit from Senator Rob Portman and Dr. Boutros and various staff members gave presentations on the Institute of H.O.P.E, Office of Opioid Safety, and the 25th Street Transformation Project.

Dr. Boutros led a discussion of the number of COVID patients at the jail, determined to be approximately 1,300 to 1,400. Dr. Brook Watts is being promoted to Senior Vice President of Quality and Chief Medical Officer for Community Public Health and will be focusing on supporting the Cuyahoga County Public Health Department, putting MetroHealth in a strong position as a public health provider and overseeing the jail concerning mass testing.

B. Update on Risk Management/Insurance Developments

Ms. Laura McBride, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel - Litigation and Risk, provided the report on matters of trade secrets and litigation reserved for Executive Session.

III. Non-Consent/Action Items

A. None

A motion was made, seconded and passed to move the Committee into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets and pending litigation and matters required to be kept confidential by law. The Committee returned to regular session at 1:35 p.m.

IV. Consent Items

A. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System to Purchase Certain Liability Insurance Policies for The MetroHealth System

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

B. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System to Purchase Liability Insurance Policies for the Jail Operations

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

- C. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System to Ratify Settlements of Liability/Workers' Compensation Claims at or Under \$100,000 for 2020

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

- D. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System to Approve a Claim Settlement

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

- E. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System for the Reaffirmation of the Policy Relative to the Open Meetings Law

The Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Phillips  
Senior Vice President and  
Chief Legal Officer