

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

DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2019

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

PLACE: MetroHealth Medical Center
K107, Business Services Building

**COMMITTEE
TRUSTEES:** Ms. Whiting

**ADDITIONAL
TRUSTEES:** Ms. Dee, Mr. McDonald and Dr. Silvers

STAFF: Mr. Dalton, Mr. Frolik, Ms. McBride, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Richmond, and Dr. Watts

Ms. Whiting called the meeting of the Legal and Government Relations Committee to order at 12:40 p.m. Please note that the minutes are written to conform to the printed agenda and are not necessarily in the order of discussion.

I. The minutes of the regular Legal and Government Relations Committee meeting held on September 11, 2019 were approved as presented.

II. Consent Items

The consent items below were discussed in Executive Session prior to being approved in open session.

A. Recommendation to the Board of Trustees of The MetroHealth System for the Approval of the Proposed Modifications to the Audit and Compliance Committee Charter

Upon return to open session, the Chair noted that the Board of Trustees were provided information concerning the proposed modifications to the Charter and the Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

B. Recommendation to the President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System to Ratify Settlements of Liability/Worker's Compensation Claims at or Under \$100,000 For 2019

Upon return to open session, the Chair noted that the Board of Trustees were provided information concerning the ratification of settlements of liability and worker's compensation claims and the Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for full Board action.

III. Discussion Items

A. Government Relations Update

Mr. Frolik noted a period of transition within the Government Relations team, noting Michael Dalton is transitioning into his new position as Vice President of Executive Projects. Mr. Frolik began in October 2019 and added Michael Tobin to the team in November 2019, noting Mr. Tobin was a former Plain Dealer reporter who the last five or six years handled communications at the U.S. Attorneys' Office for Northeast Ohio and will assume local government relations on behalf of MetroHealth.

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur visited MetroHealth and took an interest in the Institute for H.O.P.E as she spent her career focused on similar issues. Ohio Treasurer of State Robert Sprague met with Mr. Dalton and visited the Lincoln-West School of Science and Health and discussed innovative ways in the future his office could assist. U.S. Representative Anthony Gonzalez's District Representative and Legislative Aid visited MetroHealth, the Lincoln-West School of Science and Health and the Campus Transformation Center in November 2019 and were interested in discussion surrounding infant mortality and how their office could be helpful. Ohio Senator Nicki Antonio from Lakewood, Ohio, representing the 23rd District, visited MetroHealth and was also interested in what is taking place at MetroHealth. State Representative Jeffrey Crossman from the 15th District visited the Old Brooklyn campus, the Rehabilitation Institute and the Zubizarreta House.

Dr. Joan Papp, Medical Director of the Office of Opioid Safety, testified before the Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee concerning Senate Bill 59 sponsored by Senator Antonio regarding the Pharmacy Board's requiring pharmacists to receive training regarding dispensing Naloxone, which bill passed the Senate is currently pending in the Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee. Dr. Gregory Heintschel, Chair of Dental Medicine, testified before the Ohio Senate's Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee in support of House Bill 11 which addresses the dental hygiene of expectant mothers that could involve preterm delivery and infant mortality issues which is pending in the Ohio Senate.

In terms of outreach, Terry Stancin, PhD, Chief, Psychology Section, was invited to attend a White House Summit in Washington on December 19, 2019 on transforming mental health treatment with the focus of mental health and violence, it being important from a grant standpoint that we have an expert in this field and that we have someone representing the voice of our community at these forums. Governor Mike DeWine is tentatively scheduled to visit MetroHealth on February 27, 2020 to discuss the Institute of H.O.P.E. and the Office of Opioid Safety.

Lastly, Mr. Frolik led a discussion surrounding the 2020 United States Census beginning in March through April 2020 and how it relates to government and community relations. In the past Cleveland was the second nationally in undercounted children and that people have historically misunderstood that a person does not have to be of age to be counted in the census. He stressed the importance that MetroHealth reach out to the community and inform them that every person who is born and alive needs to be counted because the data produced by the census impacts many things such as funding and eligibility of the community to participate in programs.

B. Update on Risk Management/Insurance Developments

Ms. McBride's report on pending litigation and claims and insurance developments were reserved for Executive Session.

C. Legal Updates

Ms. McBride reviewed with the Committee developments regarding the System's sick leave policy noting that there is a base line statute that applies for all public entities that governs but does allow public entities to establish policies that move off the state standard that applies for all public employees and noted that there has been a year-long process in updating these policies. Over the last number of years employees have challenged the policy of wanting to pay out sick leave under OPERS at times other than retirement when that time could have been accrued by a previous public employer or an individual could leave MetroHealth and seek employment from another public entity. The Board approved resolutions in 2011 and 2013 for the delegation to the Chief Executive Officer confirming that sick leave would only be paid out at the time of retirement at specified levels. She indicated that we wanted to inform the Board, but Board approval is not needed, that the new policy recently approved at the System level has not changed from current practice but formally clarifies in writing when an individual is entitled to have sick leave paid out at the time an employee leaves MetroHealth and retires from OPERS to address any questions and confusion in the future.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to move the Committee into Executive Session to discuss trade secrets. The Committee returned to regular session at 1:40 p.m.

IV. Action Items - None

There being no further business to bring before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Phillips
Senior Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer