

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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## FULL BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The MetroHealth System Board Room K-107 and via Zoom

### Meeting Minutes

**Trustees:** Inajo Davis Chappell-R, John Corlett-I, Maureen Dee-I, Sharon Dumas-I, Ronald Dziedzicki-I, Nancy Mendez-R, John Moss-R, Michael Summers-R, E. Harry Walker, M.D.-I<sup>1</sup>

**Staff:** Christine Alexander, M.D.-I, Peter Benkowski-I, Victoria Bowser-I, Kate Brown-I, John Chae, M.D.-I, Nabil Chehade, M.D.-I, Alfred Connors, M.D.-R, Will Dube-I, Joe Frolik-I, Joseph Golob, M.D.-I, Derrick Hollings-I, Olusegun Ishmael, M.D.-I, Natalie Joseph, M.D.-R, Barbara Kakiris-I, Thomas Lowenkamp-I, Candace Mori-I, William Lewis, M.D.-I, Richard Palmisano-I, Allison Poullos-I, Tamiyka Rose-I, Dalph Watson-I, James Wellons-I, Adam Winston-I

**Invited Guests:** Kate Cieslowski-R, John Gerak-R, Lisa Mack-R, Jacob Pritikin-R, Adrian Thompson-R

**Guests:** Guests that were not invited on the Zoom were not listed because they were members of the audience and were not appropriately identified

Dr. Walker called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm, in accordance with Section 339.02(K) of the Ohio Revised Code with a quorum present.

(The minutes are written in a format conforming to the printed meeting agenda for the convenience of correlation, recognizing that some of the items were discussed out of sequence.)

#### **I. Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Walker requested for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2024 Board Meeting as presented, which was given, seconded, and approved. Ms. Dumas was not present during the vote to approve the August 9, 2024, minutes.  
RESOLUTION NO. 19641

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<sup>1</sup> I-In-person, R-Remote

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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## II. Mission Moment

Dr. Walker introduced the Mission Moment video highlighting the journey of Cheyenne Morningstar, a 2022 graduate of Lincoln-West Science and Health, who began her career journey at MetroHealth as a Patient Care Nursing Assistant. Ms. Morningstar has gained valuable firsthand experience through her education. After viewing of the Mission Moment video, Dr. Alexander provided remarks recognizing the incredible partnership of the Lincoln West High School and MetroHealth, which started as a response to the lack of vaccinations and child checkups. As school health program grew, relationships blossomed and the only high school on a hospital campus in the country was established.

## III. Committee Reports

### A. Facilities & Planning Committee

Dr. Walker provided a summary of the Facilities & Planning committee meeting held earlier today. The committee discussed a number of items including campus transformation, next steps, and emphasized the Board's commitment to keeping stakeholders and the community informed of updates as the campus transformation progresses. Additionally, facilities management updates were discussed, including the effects of recent storms, older buildings, increased maintenance costs, parking challenges, and anticipated changes in the Apex building.

### B. Finance Committee

Mr. Moss provided a summary of the Finance committee meeting held earlier today. The Committee discussed investments and their performance. An 11.6% increase in non-reserve investments, with a 1.61-point increase on the reserve was reported. The non-reserve investments include stocks and bonds, with a conservative reserve of \$325 million. The year-to-date investments increased by \$20 million, helping with cash. EBIDA numbers showed a \$16,000,000 increase, \$4.3 million more than the budget and \$5.4 million more than last year. However, the pharmacy experienced a significant increase in expenses, resulting in a loss of \$35,000,000. Overall revenue increased by 88%, but expenses increased by \$100 million. Assets and payer mix remained consistent, with cash on hand decreasing from 145 days in 2019 to 154 days in 2023.

### C. Oversight/Executive Committee

Dr. Walker provided a summary of the Oversight/Executive committee meeting held on 8/27/24. Dr. Walker explained that the Oversight/Executive Committee is in place as part of the Board of Trustees requirements to assist the acting CEO. Dr. Alexander

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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met with the committee to present a proposal for a continuance of the lease for the sleep lab which will be presented for a vote on the consent agenda.

## D. **Quality, Safety & Experience Committee**

Mr. Dziedzicki provided a summary of the Quality, Safety & Experience Committee held earlier today. The meeting focused on a patient story and the use of a new tool for safety surveys. The results showed a significant increase in employee participation and a positive perception of the caregiving environment. The open-ended capability added complexity to the survey but also reinforced the overall safety of employees. The Quality team completed three ODH program surveys without any citations or deficiencies. Two DHS surveys related to patient compliance were completed without any deficiencies. Accreditation site visits are upcoming in preparation for a trial visit from a Joint Commission and preparation for an on-site survey, and a review of the quality plan for the Emergency department was presented. A legal update was received and will be on the consent agenda.

## IV. **Consent Agenda**

### A. **Quality, Safety & Experience Committee -**

- i. The Board unanimously approved the Approval of a Claim Settlement.  
RESOLUTION NO. 19643

### B. **Oversight/Executive Committee -**

- i. The Board unanimously approved the Approval of the Renewal of a Lease.  
RESOLUTION NO. 19644

## V. **Recommendation/Resolutions**

### A. **Approval of a Member and Director of the Board of Directors of CCH Development**

Dr. Walker explained that when Vanessa Whiting's term expired as a member of the MetroHealth Board of Trustees, she was also an appointee to the Board of Directors of CCH Development. Michael Summers is being appointed as a new member and Director of the Board of Directors of CCH Development to fill the vacant seat. Dr. Walker asked for a motion for the Approval of a Member and Director of the Board of Directors of CCH Development, which was given, seconded and the resolution was approved unanimously. RESOLUTION 19645

## VI. **President and CEO's Report**

Dr. Christine Alexander, Acting Chief Executive Officer, provided a summary of the written President and CEO's Report to the Board of Trustees for the month of August:

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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The report discusses the devastating storms in Cleveland, including hurricane winds and tornadoes in early August. These events led to the closure of one community hospital and affected about twelve offices for varying amounts of time. The Emergency Management team led by Gigi Hubbard, nursing and other clinical leaders worked together to problem solve and care for the community during this time.

The inpatient unit in Parma had to transfer patients to the Cleveland Heights inpatient unit, which was a bit tied up with patients waiting to be transferred. The team worked on restoring services and serving the community, with employees staying over at the hospital and sleeping in waiting rooms to avoid missing work. This commitment to patients and the community was an incredible effort.

The internal community, including the Human Resources and People Division, put together food packets for those who lost food at home. The week was unique in many ways, but the overriding theme was how Metro Health took care of its patients and focused on the community. The report includes a message sent out to all employees, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts.

Several updates have been made since the last meeting, including employee appreciation events, which have been well attended and moved out into community satellites. Many of MetroHealth's physicians have been listed in the Best Doctors list, and Cleveland Magazine has published a picture of the team and their families.

Lastly, MetroHealth received the North Coast 99 Award as one of the best places to work, an ongoing honor for the organization.

## **VII. Medical Staff Report – Dr. Joseph**

Dr. Joseph presented a report on behalf of the Medical Staff to the Board. The Medical Staff pulled together during the crisis, providing pop-up clinics for people who were not able to get to their medical appointments during the power outage. A special meeting of the Medical Staff was held by Dr. Walker and Dr. Alexander on August 20th to address questions and concerns of the Medical Staff about the dismissal of Dr. Steed. For upcoming events, a day of hope is scheduled for September 19th, focusing on physician burnout and suicide prevention. Packets with treats and hope cards will be sent to members of the Medical Staff, fostering social care and collaboration. The Medical Staff Office is finalizing the 2024 class of emerging leaders, aiming to grow talent from within and expose them to leadership skills. An ongoing search continues for the Chair of Psychiatry and recruiting efforts

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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are on hold for the EVP Chief Physician Officer as Dr. Alexander is serving a dual role. Dr. Joseph recognized Dr. Ashwin Sehgal who recently received a \$7.2 million grant to study air quality. Upon the conclusion of Dr. Joseph's updates, Dr. Walker asked for a motion for the Approval of Medical Staff Providers Appointments, Actions and Reappointments for July 2024 and the Acceptance of Medical Executive Committee Minutes of July 2024, which was given, seconded, and approved unanimously. RESOLUTION NO. 19642

## **VIII. Executive Session**

Dr. Walker asked for a motion to move into executive session to discuss hospital trade secrets as defined by ORC 133.61, to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, and to conference with the public body's attorney to discuss disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Ms. Dee provided the motion and Mr. Dziedzicki seconded. The Board held a roll call vote with all Trustees in attendance voting to approve the motion to go into executive session for the purposes stated by Dr. Walker. Members of the public were excused. The Board went into executive session to discuss the identified matters at 5:38pm.

## **Return to Open Meeting**

Following the executive session, the meeting reconvened in open session at approximately 7:00pm and welcomed back the public via Zoom and those members of the public who remained in-person.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:**      **Wednesday, October 23, 2024 – 3:30pm - 5:30pm**  
                                 **The MetroHealth System Board Room K107 or via Zoom**

**THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM**

E. Harry Walker, MD, Chairperson