FULL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 23, 2025
3:00pm - 5:30pm
MetroHealth Board Room (K107) and Virtual

Meeting Minutes

Trustees: Artis Arnold, III-I, John Corlett-R, Ronald Dziedzicki-R, Dolores (Lola) Garcia-R (late), Adam Jacobs, Ph.D.-R (late), Nancy Mendez-I, John Moss-I, Michael Summers-I, E. Harry Walker, M.D.-I[1]

Staff: Christine Alexander-Rager, M.D.-I, Peter Benkowski-I, James Bicak-I, Kate Brown-I, Robert (Doug) Bruce, M.D.-I, Nabil Chehade, M.D.-I, William Dube-I, Joseph Frolik-I, Cindy Gallaspie-I, Joseph Golob, M.D.-I, Geoff Himes-I, Ryan Johnson-I, Kinsey Jolliff-I, Natalie Joseph, M.D.-I, William Lewis, M.D.-I, Dr. Candy Mori-I, Dr. Kate Fox-Nagel-R, Allison Poulios-I, Tamiyka Rose-I, Aparna Roy, M.D.-I, Deborah Southerington-I, David Stepnick, M.D.-I, James Wellons-I[1]

Invited Guests: None

Other Guests: Guests not personally invited to the meeting by the Board Chair are not listed as they are members of the public and some were not appropriately identified.

Dr. Walker called the meeting to order at 3:00pm, 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 a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025 meeting as presented, which was given, seconded, and approved by majority vote. RESOLUTION NO. 19697

II. Mission Moment

Dr. Alexander-Rager provided opening remarks prior to the presentation of the mission moment video. The video titled "Research to Real Life: Metro Café", provided a look into the Metro Café project which is based at the MetroHealth Old Brooklyn

[1] I-In-person, R-Remote

location. The program offers a groundbreaking approach to rehabilitation for survivors of moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). Inspired by a mother's experience with her daughter's recovery, the initiative—developed with Dr. Cole Galloway from the University of Delaware—combines physical, occupational, and speech therapy in a real-world, social setting. TBI survivors manage a cookie counter, engaging with real customers and handling real money, which fosters cognitive, motor, and social development. The café is a dynamic space where researchers measure speech, movement, multitasking, and eye gaze to assess progress. This immersive environment helps bridge the gap between clinical therapy and everyday life, offering emotional uplift and a renewed sense of purpose. Initially drawing people in with cookies, the café became a place of daily connection and healing. With ambitions to expand, the project aims to provide vocational rehab and restore a sense of value and belonging to participants' lives.

III. President and CEO's Report – C. *Alexander-Rager*

Dr. Alexander-Rager shared brief remarks to supplement the written report, reflecting on her appointment as President & CEO last October, emphasizing that her top priority was stabilizing the organization. After assessing the situation and building a strong leadership team, Dr. Alexander-Rager expressed pride in their collective efforts. In April, the team presented a plan aimed at improving the system's operating margin following two consecutive years of financial losses and a rise in uncompensated care post-COVID. Dr. Alexander-Rager noted that the upcoming presentation would provide an update on that plan, with the goal of continuing progress toward financial recovery and organizational stability.

IV. Medical Staff Report

Dr. Joseph provided updates from the July 11, 2025, Medical Executive Committee (MEC) meeting. A major milestone was the successful system-wide implementation of electronic consents (e-consents), with 96% of consents now digitized. Two new at-large MEC members were elected: Dr. Vidya Krishnan, a pulmonary critical care physician, and Catherine Wozniak, a surgical advanced practice provider and participant in the Emerging Leaders program. Faculty achievements included two faculty member promotions to full professor and fifteen faculty member promotions to associate professor across nine departments. Additionally, ten faculty members were appointed to standing committees at Case Western Reserve University, marking the highest number of such appointments in MetroHealth's history, reflecting the faculty's deep integration in the academic community. The Hall of Honor nomination process is underway, with final selections expected by the end of summer. Dr. Walker requested a future update on medical staff turnover, which Dr. Joseph agreed to provide, noting it's being monitored closely in collaboration with the wellness committee.

Dr. Joseph directed the Board to the medical staff report included in the meeting material and asked for approval of the MEC minutes for May 9, 2025, and June 13, 2025, and the approval of the medical staff providers appointments, reappointments, and actions of the Credentialing Committee for the months of May 2025 and June 2025. Dr. Walker requested a motion to approve the medical staff providers appointments, actions and reappointments for May 2025 and June 2025, along with the acceptance of the MEC minutes for May 9, 2025, and June 13, 2025, which was given, seconded and approved by majority vote. RESOLUTION NO. 19698

V. Executive Session

Dr. Walker asked for a motion to move into executive session to discuss hospital trade secrets as defined in ORC 1333.61; and to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public official, 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 as defined by ORC 121.22(G). Mr. Summers made a motion and Mr. Moss 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, and the Board went into executive session to discuss the identified matters at approximately 3:12 pm.

VI. Return to Open Meeting

Following the executive session, the meeting reconvened in open session at approximately 4:38 pm and welcomed back the public virtually and those members of the public who remained in-person. Dr. Walker proceeded to read the following statement: "Today in executive session, Dr. Alexander and her team presented an update on their strategic stabilization plan. Like safety net hospitals across the country, MetroHealth faces significant financial challenges. A continued spike in charity care as well as inflation and operational inefficiencies will make this our third year in a row of increasing operating losses. Government reimbursement changes have added to the challenge and will have an even greater impact in the years ahead. The Board is in agreement and is in lock-step with Dr. Alexander and her team on the urgency of the issue and are pleased with her plans to change our financial trajectory and ensure MetroHealth's ongoing stability. We understand the environment for today's safety net hospitals has fundamentally changed and that we need a mindset focused on innovation, efficiency and results if we want to continue fulfilling our mission for our patients and our community, and we promise to do just that".

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:39pm.

NEXT MEETING: **Wednesday, August 27, 2025 – 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm**
MetroHealth Board Room (K107) or Virtual

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Harry Walker, MD, Chairperson
Board of Trustees