



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

The MetroHealth System

MetroHealth Board Room (K107) - 2500 MetroHealth Dr. Cleveland, OH  
44109

2026-02-25 15:00 - 17:30 EST

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# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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## FULL BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
**TIME:** 3:00pm – 5:30pm  
**PLACE:** MetroHealth Board Room (K107) or via YouTube Stream:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@metrohealthCLE/streams>

## AGENDA

- I. **Approval of Minutes**  
Minutes of 1/28/2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees
- II. **Mission Moment**
- III. **Committee Reports**
  - A. Quality, Safety & Experience Committee - R. Dziejicki
  - B. Finance Committee - J. Moss
  - C. Strategic Planning Committee - A. Arnold
- IV. **Consent Agenda**
  - A. Recommendation to Approve Enterprise Resource Planning System Implementation Consultants
  - B. Recommendation to Approve an Amended Capital Budget for The MetroHealth System for the 2026 Fiscal Year
- V. **President and CEO's Report** – C. Alexander-Rager
- VI. **Medical Staff Report** – Dr. Tagliaferro
  - A. Approval of Medical Staff Providers Appointments, Actions and Reappointments for January 2026
- VII. **Executive Session**
- VIII: **Return to Open Meeting**

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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## FULL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

4:00pm - 5:30pm

Virtual

### Meeting Minutes

- Trustees:** Artis Arnold, III, John Corlett, Sharon Dumas, Ronald Dziedzicki, Dolores (Lola) Garcia (late), Adam Jacobs, Ph.D., Michael Summers, E. Harry Walker, M.D.
- Staff:** Christine Alexander-Rager, M.D., Peter Benkowski, James Bicak, Michelle Block, Kate Brown, Robert (Doug) Bruce, M.D., John Chae, M.D., Nabil Chehade, M.D., Corey Clay, Jennifer Esposito, David Fiser, Erin Fogarty, Joseph Golob, M.D., Natalie Joseph, M.D., Carol Martz, Ashish Masih, Dr. Candy Mori, Kate Nagel, Allison Poulis, Jeff Rooney, Tamiyka Rose, Aparna Roy, M.D., Brendan Sorg, Deborah Southerington, David Stepnick, Joseph Tagliaferro, M.D., James Wellons, Patrick Woods
- 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 4:01pm, 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 December 10, 2025 meeting as presented, which was given, seconded, and approved by majority vote.  
RESOLUTION NO. 19721

#### II. **Mission Moment**

Dr. Alexander-Rager introduced the Mission Moment video, capturing the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) journey of an infant named Jermel, born at 25-week gestation. Jermel's mother, Charvette, a MetroHealth employee, had three successful prior births. Last year, on Super Bowl Sunday, she unexpectedly went into premature labor while her partner was out of town. She bravely drove herself to the hospital, where staff quickly assessed that she was in active labor, much to her shock, as she was only 25 weeks along. After an urgent C-section on February 10,

## The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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2025, baby Jermel entered the world weighing only 2 pounds, 1 ounce. Over the next 99 days, the NICU team provided around the clock care to stabilize, nurture, and support both Jermel and his family. Nurses created small but meaningful mementos such as footprint cards that captured the fragile but determined progress of their tiny patient. The video highlighted the skill and compassion of clinicians who managed Jermel's breathing support, celebrated incremental weight gains, and offered emotional guidance during the most uncertain moments.

### III. Committee Reports

#### A. Human Resources & Compensation – J. Corlett

Mr. Corlett presented a summary of the Human Resources & Compensation Committee meeting, which took place on December 17, 2025. The meeting began with an overview of MetroHealth's volunteer program. In 2025, 410 volunteers collectively contributed more than 10,000 service hours. The Committee also viewed a video about the PAWS program, which brings therapy dogs and puppies to comfort patients, staff, and families. Additionally, the Committee reviewed workforce updates including paid full-time equivalent (FTE) numbers, progress on reducing first-year employee turnover, and a high-level status report on the employee engagement survey. The Human Resources and Compensation Committee then entered executive session during their December meeting, and no resolutions were introduced or adopted.

#### B. Facilities & Planning – E. Walker, MD

Dr. Walker presented a summary of the Facilities & Planning Committee meeting, which took place earlier in the day. The Committee received a report from the RSM team regarding expenditures related to the Campus Transformation project. The Committee received updates on the status of major construction initiatives, including the Outpatient Health Center scheduled to open on June 1, 2026.

Dr. Walker acknowledged the significant operational and construction challenges required to meet that date but expressed optimism. Additional updates included progress on ambulatory enabling projects, emergency department renovation efforts, and strategies to keep the emergency department fully functional during ongoing refresh activities. The committee also heard a Facilities Management update from Ms. Dethloff. The Committee further discussed the emergency department project, as well as strategies for the eventual demolition of the legacy hospital building and potential opportunities for securing funds to support the demolition process.

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## C. Governance Committee – M. Summers

Mr. Summers presented a summary of the Governance Committee meeting, which took place earlier in the day. The meeting centered on consent agenda items, including approval of the CEO's service on three external boards: WellLink (formerly The Center for Health Affairs), the Ohio Hospital Association, and the United Way of Cleveland. The Committee also reviewed and revised the Board of Trustees Policy BOT-04 and the CEO Emergency Succession Plan policy, clarifying responsibilities and expectations for succession processes. Mr. Summers described discussions related to committee charters, voting rules, and the potential for incorporating non-Board expertise into governance work. The Committee reviewed objectives and discussed the use of Onboard document tools to strengthen consent agenda oversight. Governance priorities for improving Board culture, including meeting preparation, attendance, engagement, and advocacy, were also reviewed.

Mr. Summers listed board education topics planned for the coming year, including revenue cycle, regulatory and reimbursement.

## D. Executive Committee – E. Walker, MD

Dr. Walker presented a summary of the Executive Committee meeting, which took place earlier in the day. Dr. Walker explained that most of the discussion occurred in executive session. The Committee discussed updates to the combined Board Liaison and Chief of Staff job description, which required revision following the merger of the two positions. The Committee also received a report from Dr. Alexander and Chief Legal Officer, James Wellons, regarding the CEO Emergency Succession Plan, discussing implementation strategy and alignment with Board expectations. Finally, the Committee reviewed the template for the upcoming CEO evaluation, a model originally developed by the Governance Committee, which a Governance Committee representative attended the session to offer historical context and suggestions for enhancement.

## IV. Consent Agenda

### A. Governance Committee -

The Board approved the Approval of Revisions to Board of Trustees CEO Emergency Succession Plan Policy BOT-04. RESOLUTION NO. 19722

### B. Governance Committee -

The Board approved the Approval of CEO Official Capacity Appointments. RESOLUTION NO. 19723

## V. President and CEO's Report – C. Alexander-Rager

Dr. Alexander-Rager delivered the President and CEO report, beginning with a detailed overview of strategic, operational, and community engagement developments since the last board meeting. First, Dr. Alexander-Rager addressed

## The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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the January 15, 2026, announcement by the Cleveland Clinic regarding the planned opening of a Level 1 trauma center on its main campus. Dr. Alexander-Rager stated that MetroHealth has urged Cleveland Clinic to reconsider, citing concerns about oversaturation of trauma services in Greater Cleveland and potential negative impacts on patient outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations. Dr. Alexander-Rager asserted that additional Level 1 trauma centers can dilute clinical experience across systems and worsen outcomes when regional populations cannot support the volume requirements needed to maintain proficiency.

Dr. Alexander-Rager then provided updates on safety and security efforts across the system. Chief Griner implemented enhancements to safety plans, including 24/7 officer staffing in emergency departments. Previously, officers stationed at emergency departments could be reassigned into other buildings as needed, but under the updated plan they are now dedicated solely to the emergency department setting. Additional security personnel are being supplied by an outside contractor to maintain coverage while recruitment efforts continue. Dr. Alexander-Rager explained these decisions were based on employee feedback and were part of a formalized plan to improve safety for patients and staff.

Turning to the outpatient health center, Dr. Alexander-Rager confirmed the new opening date of June 1, 2026, explaining that the delay from April 2026 provided additional time for staff training, workflow refinement, and orientation to the new facility. Dr. Alexander-Rager recognized the success of recent Total Care community health events at which more than 400 patients obtained healthcare coverage and financial assistance support. The third event, hosted at a Ukrainian church, had the highest turnout yet and even required scheduling follow-up appointments due to demand.

Dr. Alexander-Rager concluded by noting that Epic Systems Corporation had again recognized MetroHealth for sophisticated and effective use of the electronic health record (EHR). Dr. Alexander-Rager announced that the annual State of the System address will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026.

### VI. Medical Staff Report

Dr. Walker introduced Dr. Joseph to present the medical staff report. Dr. Joseph introduced Dr. Joe Tagliaferro, the president-elect of the medical staff, who will soon assume broader responsibilities. Dr. Joseph herself recently transitioned to the role of interim Chair of Surgery after the departure of Dr. Marie Crandall and will be stepping out of the medical staff presidency ahead of schedule while assisting Dr. Tagliaferro through the transition.

## The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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Dr. Joseph shared several updates, beginning with an announcement that invitations would soon be sent for the March 15, 2026, Hall of Honor brunch event, which will recognize distinguished physicians including Dr. Robert Bilenker, Dr. James Campbell, Dr. Brian Mercer, Dr. John Moore, and Dr. Hunter Peckham. Dr. Joseph also expressed gratitude to the emergency preparedness team, whose proactive actions during recent severe weather helped maintain safety and operational continuity. Another important update was the grand opening of the medical staff Wellness and Resource Center, designed to support clinicians' wellbeing. The space includes conference rooms, quiet areas, workstations, and gathering spaces. Dr. Joseph thanked Dr. Alexander and the executive team for their responsiveness to medical staff feedback and for supporting the project. Dr. Joseph also mentioned that compensation adjustments were recently announced, reflecting acknowledgment of long-standing concerns about pay equity and workforce morale. Several promotions took effect on January 1, 2026, totaling 13 faculty members, including multiple professorships and associate professorships across clinical departments. Dr. Joseph also acknowledged several retirees for their long-standing contributions to MetroHealth, including Dr. Richard Blinkhorn (Department of Medicine), Dr. Thomas Frank (OB/GYN), and Barbara Halbrich, APRN (Geriatric medicine). Dr. Joseph then directed the Board to the medical staff report included in the meeting material and asked for approval the Medical Staff Providers Appointments, Reappointments, and Actions of the Credentialing Committee for the month of December 2025. Dr. Walker requested a motion to approve the Medical Staff Providers Appointments, Actions and Reappointments for December 2025, which was given, seconded and unanimously approved. RESOLUTION NO. 19724

### **VII. Executive Session**

Dr. Walker asked for a motion to move into executive session to discuss hospital trade secrets as defined by 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 as defined by ORC 121.22(G). Mr. Dziejdzicki 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 4:27pm.

# The MetroHealth System Board of Trustees

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## **Return to Open Meeting**

Following the executive session, the meeting reconvened in open session at approximately 6:06pm and welcomed back the public virtually.

## **VIII. Recommendation/Resolution Approvals**

### **A. Approval of Enterprise Resource Planning System**

Dr. Walker asked for a motion on the resolution for the Approval of Enterprise Resource Planning System, which was given, seconded and the resolution was approved by majority vote. RESOLUTION 19725

### **A. Approval of a Settlement of a Claim**

Dr. Walker asked for a motion on the resolution for the Approval of a Settlement of Claim No. 23-47-1219, which was given, seconded and the resolution was approved by majority vote. RESOLUTION 19726

With no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07pm.

**NEXT MEETING:      Wednesday, February 25, 2026 – 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm**  
**MetroHealth Board Room (K107) and Virtual**

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Harry Walker, MD, Chairperson  
Board of Trustees

## RECOMMENDATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER

### **Recommendation**

The Finance Committee ("**Committee**") of the Board of Trustees ("**Board**") of The MetroHealth System ("**System**") and the Interim Chief Financial Officer of the System recommend that the Board approve the engagement of a third-party firm to assist the System in implementing its enterprise resource planning ("**ERP**") platform, as fully described in Attachment A, for costs not to exceed the amounts shown.

### **Background**

The Board approved the System's selection of an ERP platform in Resolution 19725. In accordance with industry best practices, the System now desires to select a third-party firm to assist in implementing its ERP platform.

APPROVAL OF ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER

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RESOLUTION XXXXX

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees ("**Board**") of The MetroHealth System ("**System**") has been presented a recommendation by the Finance Committee ("**Committee**") of the Board to approve the engagement of a third-party firm to assist the System in implementing its enterprise resource planning ("**ERP**") platform as fully described in Attachment A hereto;

WHEREAS, the Committee has reviewed this recommendation and now recommends its approval to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the engagement of one of the finalist third-party firms to assist the System in implementing its ERP platform as described in Attachment A, for costs not to exceed the amounts shown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the System's President and Chief Executive Officer or her designee are hereby authorized to take necessary actions, including the negotiation and execution of agreements and other documents consistent with this resolution.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

DATE:

February 25, 2026

**CONFIDENTIAL: THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS TRADE SECRETS AND INFORMATION THAT IS CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY PROPERTY OF THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM AND MAY NOT BE COPIED, PUBLISHED ,OR DISCLOSED TO OTHERS WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION OF AN AUTHORIZED OFFICER OF THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM. THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE KEPT ONLY IN CONFIDENTIAL FILES WHEN NOT IN USE.**

## RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN AMENDED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR THE METROHEALTH SYSTEM FOR THE 2026 FISCAL YEAR

### **Recommendation**

The Finance Committee ("Committee") of the Board of Trustees ("Board") of The MetroHealth System ("System") and the President and Chief Executive Officer of the System, on the advice of the Interim Chief Financial Officer of the System, recommend that the System approve a proposed amended capital budget for the 2026 fiscal year as more fully described in Attachment A ("Amended 2026 Capital Budget"). Approval of the Amended 2026 Capital Budget is recommended due to the System's improved year-end financial performance in fiscal year 2025. The additional capital expenditures in the Amended 2026 Capital Budget will be funded out of available operating reserves.

### **Background**

On November 5, 2025, the Board approved in Resolution 19708 a capital budget for the System for the 2026 fiscal year.

Approval of an Amended Capital Budget for The MetroHealth System  
for the 2026 Fiscal Year

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RESOLUTION XXXXX

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees ("Board") of The MetroHealth System ("System") has been presented a recommendation by the Board's Finance Committee to approve an amended capital budget for the System for the 2026 fiscal year as more fully described in Attachment A ("Amended 2026 Capital Budget"), following the System's improved year-end financial performance in fiscal year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Board's Finance Committee has reviewed this recommendation and now recommends its approval to the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the Amended 2026 Capital Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the additional capital expenditures in the Amended 2026 Capital Budget shall be funded out of available operating reserves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chief Executive Officer and President of the System or her designee are hereby authorized to take necessary actions consistent with this resolution.

AYES:

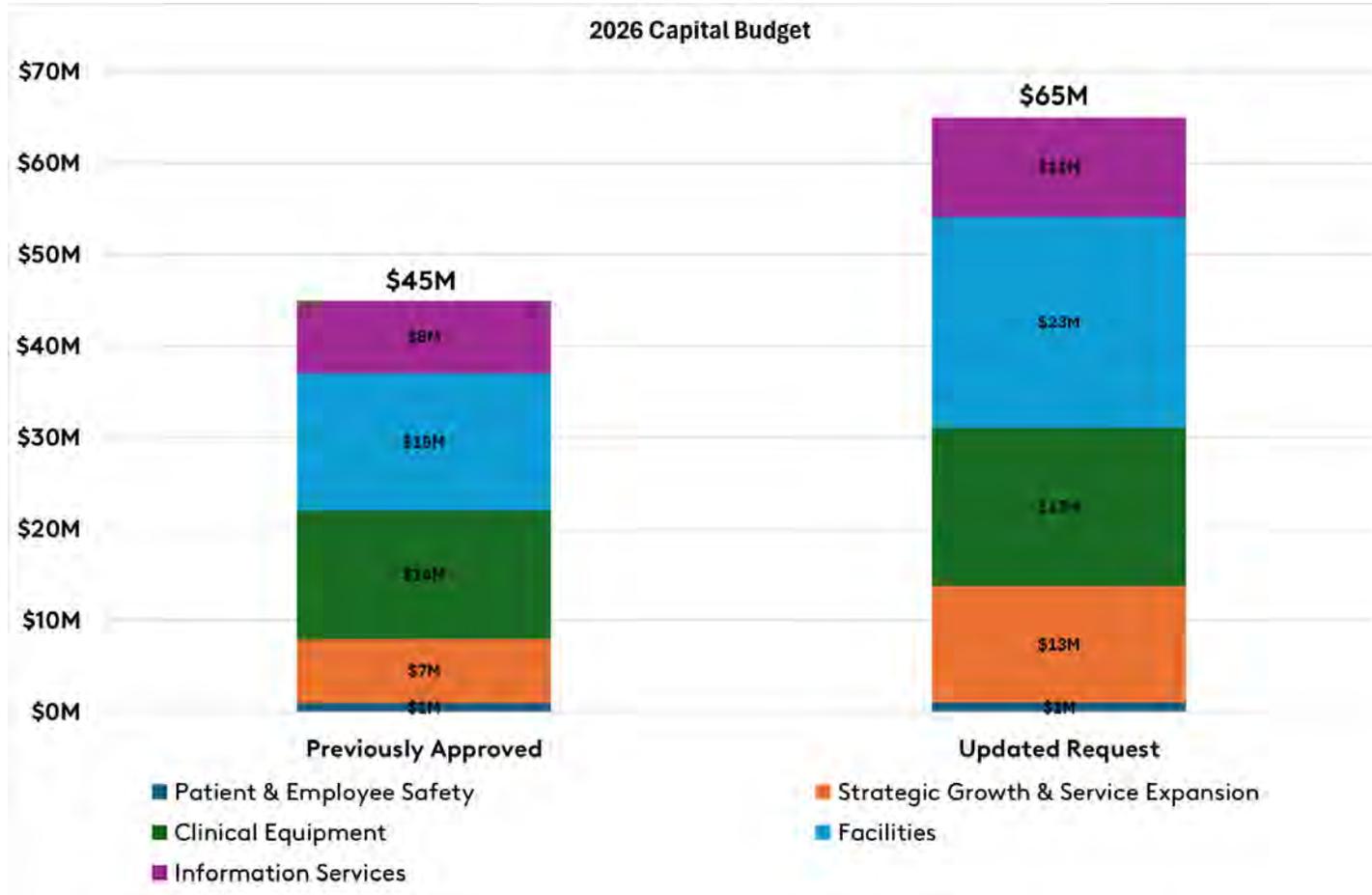
NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

DATE:

## ATTACHMENT A



- \$20 million increase over original budget
- \$5 million commitment from MH Foundation
- \$15 million additional request today from operating reserves



Christine Alexander-Rager, MD

President and CEO  
The MetroHealth System  
2500 MetroHealth Drive  
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

February 2026

## President's Report to the Board of Trustees

Good afternoon, Trustees:

Thank you for your service to our system, our patients, our caregivers and our community.

Throughout February, I hope you are joining me in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black History Month. In an email to our caregivers, I shared that for a safety-net hospital like MetroHealth, this month is about more than a reflection on our past. It is about our commitment to the original vision of Black History Month: to move beyond narratives of struggle to showcase African American excellence in science, politics, art and, of course, medicine.

Caregivers from across the System have come together to organize Black History Month events, including a film screening and a Community Prayer Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who is helping MetroHealth caregivers celebrate, learn and engage during Black History Month!

Here are some other highlights. As usual, please consult your Board books for more details and updates.

- Last week, we received the magnificent news that MetroHealth nurses had again achieved Magnet Recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. This is the highest honor a hospital can receive for nursing care. This was our fifth consecutive Magnet Recognition.

Not only that, MetroHealth was the *only hospital in Ohio* to achieve Magnet with Distinction, the first time we received this "best of the best" honor.

To achieve Magnet status, an organization must demonstrate excellence through visionary leadership, empowered nursing staff, and a commitment to innovation and evidence-based practice to produce measurable, high-quality patient outcomes.

Congratulations to our extraordinary nurses!

- On February 5, I delivered the annual State of the System presentation to our caregivers. I reviewed the successes we achieved in 2025 and the challenges we faced and overcame. I reminded our staff how their actions, their sacrifices, their ideas and their unwavering focus on our mission helped stabilize our finances, our operations and our future.

I also shared my vision for 2026, which includes improving access, efficiency, innovation and safety/security.

Throughout the presentation, I reminded caregivers of our 189-year-old role as guardians of our community's health. When threats to our region's health appear, it's our responsibility to step up. One of these threats is Cleveland Clinic's plan to open a Level I trauma center on its main



**Christine Alexander-Rager, MD**

President and CEO  
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campus. Research and experience have shown that when it comes to trauma centers, more is not better. Adding unneeded trauma centers hurts patient outcomes, raises prices for everyone and harms the quality of trauma care teams. Protecting our community from these reckless plans is a priority for 2026.

I concluded the presentation by recognizing and celebrating our caregivers, reminding them how much they are valued – and that because of their efforts, we are now able to invest back into our workforce. That includes a long-overdue wage adjustment for non-bargaining employees and market adjustments to compensation for our medical staff.

Joining us for the State of the System were reporters from about a half-dozen local news outlets. After the presentation, Chief Quality and Safety Officer **Joseph F. Golob Jr., MD**, joined me to answer their questions about our System's 2025 performance, our plans for 2026, our promise to protect the community on trauma care, and much more. I appreciate their interest in what we are doing, and I am grateful to provide the transparency they need to do their jobs.

- Speaking of trauma, we recently shared exciting news about our new dyad leadership team for the Division of Trauma, Critical Care, Burns and Acute Care Surgery. **Nimit Patel, MD, FACS**, has been appointed Medical Administrative Director, and **Laura Kreiner, MD, FACS**, will serve as Medical Clinical Director. Dr. Patel joined the faculty at MetroHealth in 2012 and has since demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to surgical education and trauma care. He has held several leadership roles. For the last 18 months, he's served as Interim Division Director for Trauma, Burns, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery. Dr. Kreiner joined the MetroHealth faculty in 2014 and has made significant contributions to the Department of Surgery and MetroHealth's trauma program. She's also held several leadership roles. A highly respected educator, Dr. Kreiner received a Faculty Teaching Award in 2025 from Case Western Reserve University where she also serves as an Associate Professor Surgery.

Together, they will leverage their complementary strengths and experience to advance the Division's clinical, academic and educational missions. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Patel and Dr. Kreiner on their new leadership roles.

- At the beginning of February, I visited Washington, DC, to brief our congressional delegation on MetroHealth's strategic priorities and ensure they have the insights and information needed to advocate for and best serve our region. These meetings are always productive because they allow us to share the remarkable work of our caregivers, researchers and educators. In addition to face-to-face meetings, I stay in regular contact with our lawmakers via phone and email. Thank you to our Government Relations team for their dedication to our mission and for all their assistance.

- As part of our broader strategy to strengthen our Pride Network – and as part of our unshakable commitment to these patients – MetroHealth is expanding services across our Pride Network. This includes a new Pride Clinic at the West Park Health Center in addition to the existing clinics in Brooklyn, Brecksville and Cleveland Heights.



**Christine Alexander-Rager, MD**

President and CEO  
The MetroHealth System  
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Cleveland, Ohio 44109

As part of this shift, by March 1, we will transition away from providing part-time, on-site clinical services at The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland's Gordon Square location. To support continuity of care, we will introduce a dedicated Access Advocate at the Center to help community members schedule appointments, navigate services and connect with MetroHealth's affirming providers.

Beginning in 2026, we will also partner with the Center to offer mobile medical and dental services at the Center's Gordon Square and East Side locations and collaborate on community health fairs and outreach events. These services will help LGBTQ+ individuals access affirming care close to where they live, work and gather.

We recognize the importance of accessible care delivered in settings where LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, supported and welcomed.

Thank you again, Trustees, for all you do for MetroHealth.

With deep appreciation,

**Christine Alexander-Rager, MD**

President and CEO  
The MetroHealth System

# System News and Accomplishments

# The MetroHealth Foundation



## FreeWill Estate Planning Highlights

- Since January 12th, 25 individuals have included The MetroHealth Foundation in their estate plans using the [new FreeWill tool](#), including:
  - 19 primary bequests totaling **\$77,200**
  - 3 secondary bequests totaling **\$500,000**
  - 3 tertiary bequests totaling **\$450,000**
- 5 individuals have added MetroHealth to their obituary language.
- More than **101** estate plans have been created – mostly by MetroHealth employees.

## Outpatient Health Center (OPHC) Donor Case for Support

- The opening of the OPHC is one of our key [2026 giving priorities](#). Share our new [donor case](#) with your networks and save the date for the OPHC Opening Celebration on Saturday, May 16.

## 2026 Corporate Giving Program

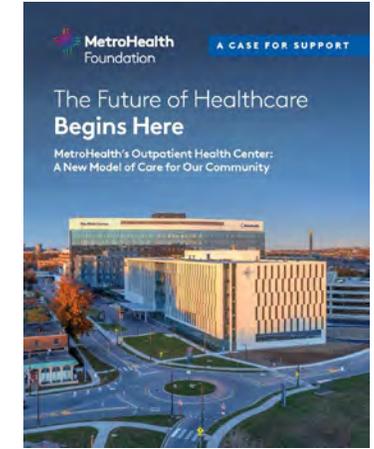
- Know a corporation or business that may want to partner with us? Contact Abbie Sender, Philanthropy Officer, at 440-592-1390 or [asender1@metrohealth.org](mailto:asender1@metrohealth.org).

## Notable Gifts (\$25K+)

- \$250,000 gift in support of orthopedic patient care, education and research
- \$200,000 grant from Experian in support of the School Health Program
- \$30,000 grant from the American Cancer Society in support of Patient Transportation
- \$25,000 gift in support of the Duncan V. Neuhauser Quality Improvement Endowment



[FreeWill Estate Planning Tool](#)



[Donor Case for Support](#)



[2026 Corporate Giving Program](#)

# The MetroHealth Foundation



## Champion of Philanthropy: Diane Dunleavy

Diane serves as Administrative Coordinator in Marketing, Communications, Government and Community Relations, and External Affairs - and leads by example at work, on the course and across the community.

[Read her story.](#)

## Partnering for Parents: MetroHealth and Project NICU Launch Respite Room

The first-of-its-kind Respite Room provides a space where parents can relax, have a meal and to privately express their feelings – without being too far from their baby. [Read the story.](#)

## Tri Delta Cleveland Alumnae Chapter Visits Child Life and Education Program

The Tri Delta Events Committee, alongside MetroHealth and Foundation team members, celebrated their meaningful partnership and presented a check for \$18,120, the total amount raised in 2025.

## Investiture of Meera D. Kondapaneni, MD, as the chairholder of the Louis Rakita, MD, David S. Rosenbaum, MD, and Maurice Moss, MD Professorship in Cardiology

On January 13, MetroHealth and the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine celebrated the investiture of Dr. Kondapaneni, Division Director of the Heart and Vascular Center.

## Florida Events Focus on Main Campus Emergency Department Transformation

Foundation and System leadership spent time with longtime supporters and met new friends on February 8 and 10 in Sarasota and Bonita Springs, Florida, as they shared the vision for our Main Campus Emergency Department transformation.

## Save the Date

- Investiture of J. Daryl Thornton, MD, MPH, as the chairholder of The Mary Elizabeth Connors Professorship in Critical Care Research – Tuesday, March 31, at 4:30 p.m., at Main Campus.
- KeyBank Celebration at Buckeye Opportunity Center – Wednesday, April 22. (More details coming soon.)
- 10th Annual Resiliency Run – Saturday, June 6, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. Registration opens March 1. To sponsor, contact Abbie Sender at 440-592-1390 or [asender1@metrohealth.org](mailto:asender1@metrohealth.org).



# Nursing

- On February 17, MetroHealth received its **fifth Magnet designation**. For the first time, MetroHealth earned Magnet designation with **Distinction** – the highest and most prestigious recognition a healthcare organization can receive for nursing practice and quality patient care.
- MetroHealth is the **only hospital in Ohio** to earn the recognition with Distinction.
- Magnet recognition with Distinction celebrates hospitals and healthcare organizations that exceed the scoring thresholds required to attain Magnet designation. It raises the bar to recognize top-tier organizations that have achieved the highest level of nursing excellence while addressing emerging challenges and changes in health care moving forward.
- Less than 2% of U.S. hospitals have achieved Magnet designation five times. Only about 1.25% of those hospitals achieved Distinction – Magnet’s highest honor.



# Communications



## External – Media Relations/PR/Social and digital media

- Managed multiple high-interest stories, controlling the narrative to protect MetroHealth image and reputation, including a System press conference
- Transitioned entire media relations team. Successfully executed media outreach tour and listening sessions with multiple media outlets to strengthen relationships and broaden scope of coverage
- Grew total audience for social media by 10.2% (up from 8.3% in 2024)
- Produced 50+ videos shared broadly across digital platforms
- Created and shared unique content – Stories of Hope – advancing awareness through patient success stories to the vital role MetroHealth plays in the health and well-being of our entire community

## Internal

- Created new vehicles for information and content distribution
- Launched *Chrissy's Monthly Rounds*
- Launched *CEO Fireside Chats*
- Grew audience for weekly *Morning Huddle* (80%+ open rate)
- Collaborated to share information on new organizational initiatives
- Resumed *Weekly News Clips* email to leadership and Board of Trustees
- Launched Employee Communications Focus Groups (60+ employees)
- Met with 10+ departments/teams to present GR/Media/Social Media policies and training



# Marketing - MetroHealth.org Post Launch Update



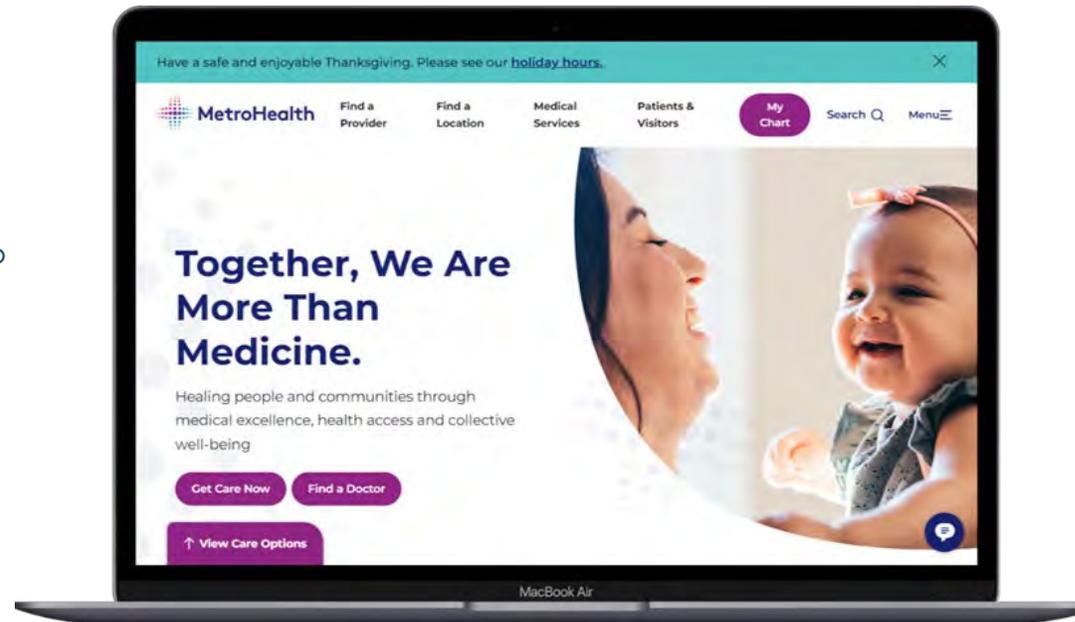
More users are finding their way to the most important sections of the site and performing the key actions we want them to take.

## Overall Website Performance

- Provider Section Sessions, +7%
- Location Section Sessions, +15%
- Sitewide Tracked Conversions, +84%

## Organic Performance Improvement

- Website Click-through Rate, +31%
- Total Keywords/Search Terms, +14%
- Average Position/Ranking, +36%



## Reasons for visit

1. Make an appointment
2. Find a Doctor
3. Find a location

**Next steps: Continue to refine and improve search, business listings, and online appointment experience.**

# Awards and Recognition

- The latest recipients of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses are NICU Nurse **Bethanie Kaminski, RN**, and 6 West's **Jaclyn McNaughton, RN**. DAISY is nationwide recognition program honoring nurses for exceptional care provided to patients and their families.
- Becker's Hospital Review recognized **Dave Fiser**, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer, as one of its "CIOs to know" in 2026. He is also a finalist for the 2026 Ohio Orbie's Award Enterprise Level for CIO of the Year.
- **Luis E. Tollinche, MD, MPH, FASA**, Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, has been elected to membership in the Association of University Anesthesiologists (AUA). The AUA recognizes anesthesiologists with significant scholarly achievement, national leadership and sustained contributions to academic medicine.



Bethanie Kaminski, RN



Jaclyn McNaughton, RN



Dave Fiser



Luis E. Tollinche, MD

## **Credentialing and Privileging Reporting**

The Credentials Committee have reviewed the following Appointments to the MetroHealth System Medical Staff on January 27, 2026. The appointments will then be reviewed and accepted by the Medical Executive Committee on February 13, 2026.

### **Active**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Vargo, John, MD	Medicine	Gastroenterology	1/28/2026

### **Associate**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Carnrike, Chelsey, APRN-CNP	OB/GYN		1/28/2026
Degroote, Anna, APRN-CNP	Surgery	Ophthalmology	1/28/2026

### **Privileged Non-Member**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Singh, Amrinder, MD	Neurology		1/28/2026
Richardson, Angelique, MD	Medicine	Hematology/Oncology	1/28/2026

### **Non-Reviewable Clean List Files**

#### **Privileged Non-Member**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>Effective</i>
Harris, Brettney, APRN-CNP	Medicine	Internal Medicine	1/28/2026
Regney, Brianna, PA-C	Medicine	Internal Medicine	1/28/2026
Uhler, Aubree, MA CCC-SLP	PM&R		1/28/2026
Wildermuth, Veronica, PT	PM&R		1/28/2026
Zakaib, Nazish, PA-C	Medicine	Internal Medicine	1/28/2026

The Credentials Committee reviewed the following actions for the MetroHealth System Medical Staff on January 27, 2026. The Medical Executive Committee will then review the Actions on February 13, 2026.

### **Resignations**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Division</i>	<i>End Date</i>
Bazzoli, Christopher, MD	Emergency Medicine	Life Flight	11/1/2025-R
Blinkhorn, Richard, MD	Medicine	Infectious Disease	1/2/2026-RT
Bobulsky, Alsyon, APRN-CNP	OB/GYN		10/7/2025-R
Brichacek, Tracy, LISW-S	Psychiatry	Social Work	12/1/2025-R
Cherian, Nevin, MD	Anesthesiology		1/19/2026-ET
Conner, Morgan, PA-C	Emergency Medicine		1/20/2026-R
EIShebiny, Tarek, DDS	Dental Medicine		1/7/2026-R
Frank, Thomas, MD	OB/GYN		12/31/2025-RT
Hartman, Scott, APRN-CNP	Emergency Medicine	Life Flight	1/20/2026-R
Haubrich, Barbara, APRN-CNP	Geriatric Medicine		12/31/2025-RT
Hernandez, Alicia, APRN-CNP	Emergency Medicine		1/9/2026-R
Hitchcock, Samuel, CAA	Anesthesiology		1/7/2026-R
Keith, Michael, MD	Orthopaedics		1/8/2026-RT
Kozik, James, DDS	Dental Medicine		12/19/2025-R
Luebke, Donna, APRN-CNP	Medicine	Cardiology	12/31/2025-RT
McFarlane, Andrew, MD	Medicine	Hospital Medicine	12/26/2025-R
Nasky, Kevin, DO	Psychiatry		12/31/2025-R
Rainey, Heather, MD	PM&R		12/22/2025-RL
Rosenberg, Samuel, MD	Neurosurgery		1/2/2026-RT
Sims, Jeffrey, APRN-CNP	Psychiatry		1/14/2026-R
Singh, Harinder, MD	Pediatrics	Pediatric Cardiology	11/19/2025-R
Sweeney, Sarah, MD	Family Medicine		12/29/2025-R
Toste, Joseph, LISW	Psychiatry	Social Work	1/23/2026-R
Vettraino, Ivana, MD	OB/GYN	Maternal/Fetal Medicine	1/20/2026-R

**Category Change**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Category From</i>	<i>Category To</i>	<i>Date</i>
Patel, Nikhil, MD	Active	Privileged Non-Member	1/16/2026

**Additional Clinical Privileges**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Privileges Added</i>	<i>Date</i>
DiTurno, Gabrielle, PA-C	Skin tag removal Privileges	1/27/2026
Fortuna, Suzanne, APRN-CNP	Pediatric Rheumatology Privileges	1/16/2026
Olson, Meghan, APRN-CNP	IUD Insertion/Removal, Nexplanon Insertion/Removal	1/26/2026
Sabo, Amanda, APRN-CNP	Botox Injection Privileges	1/19/2026

CC=Contract Complete, Fellowship Complete

R=Resigned

RL-Relocated

RT-Retired

ET-Employment Terminated

CT-Contract Terminated

## JANUARY 2026 REAPPOINTMENTS-Chairs

### Highlighted abstain vote for themselves

Last Name	First Name	Degree	Department	Division
Abou-Haidar	Antoinette	MD	Family Medicine	
Adebambo	Ifeolorunbode	MD	Family Medicine	
Ali	Ali	DO	Anesthesiology	
Auckley	Dennis	MD	Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine
Avery	Ann	MD	Medicine	Infectious Disease
Ayache	Mirna	MD	Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine
Bare	Rudd	MD	Emergency Medicine	
Barrett	Katherine	DNP, APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	Express Care
Bassett	Michael	MD	Anesthesiology	
Bates	Craig	MD, MS, FACEP	Emergency Medicine	
Berko	Eric	Ph.D.	Family Medicine	
Blackmar	Alicia	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	Express Care
Brandt	Christopher	MD	Surgery	General Surgery
Breahna	Ovidiu	CAA	Anesthesiology	
Bullard	David	MD, MEd	Emergency Medicine	
Cai	Dan	MD, Ph.D.	Pathology	
Campea	Kristine	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	
Chae	John	MD, ME	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	
Chang	Timothy	MD	Dermatology	
Chang	Anthony	MD	Anesthesiology	
Collins	Thomas	MD, FACEP	Emergency Medicine	
Cornes Ribadas	Kristen	APRN-CNP, DNP	Family Medicine	
Crowe	Colin	MD	Family Medicine	
Curley	Catherine	MD	Medicine	Hospital Medicine

D'Abramo	Catherine	MD	Emergency Medicine	
Dardir	Noha	MD	Family Medicine	
Dasarathy	Jaividhya	MD	Family Medicine	
de la Pena	Heather	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	
Draiss	Jacquelyn	PA-C	Emergency Medicine	
D'Souza	Carol	MD	Medicine	Internal Medicine
Edwards	Virginia	APRN-CNP	Neurology	
Effron	David	MD, FACEP	Emergency Medicine	
Einstadter	Douglas	MD	Medicine	Internal Medicine
Eisen	Matthew	MD	Medicine	Internal Medicine
Eversman	George	MD	Emergency Medicine	
Ferrall	Emily	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	
Frolkis	Calen	MD	Medicine	Hospital Medicine
Geletka	Stephanie	CAA	Anesthesiology	
Gelles	Lisa	MD	Dermatology	
Glagola	Sandra	DO	Medicine	Hospital Medicine
Greco	Peter	MD	Medicine	Internal Medicine
Hartman	Holly	APRN-CNP	Emergency Medicine	
Harvey	Scott	CAA	Anesthesiology	
Heintschel	Gregory	DDS	Dental Medicine	Oral Health
Infeld	Michael	MD	Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine
Izquierdo	Marcos	MD	Anesthesiology	
Jones	Robert	DO, FACEP	Emergency Medicine	
Kelly	Shannon	CAA	Anesthesiology	
Kindwall-Keller	Tamila	DO	Medicine	Hematology/Oncology
Kolluru	Leela	MD	Medicine	Hospital Medicine
Koning	Marissa	MD	Emergency Medicine	
Kourouni	Ismeni	MD	Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine
Kozub	Thomas	APRN-CRNA	Anesthesiology	
Kucherak	Candace	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	Express Care
Lewis	William	MD	Medicine	Cardiology
Marwaha	Yuwakshi	DDS	Dental Medicine	Oral Health
Miller	Paul	MD	Medicine	Cardiology
Molton	Mandisa	APRN-CNP	Medicine	Internal Medicine
Moore	Timothy	MD	Neurosurgery	
Moreland	Connie	MD	Obstetrics & Gynecology	
Murad	Khalil	MD, MS	Medicine	Cardiology
Natale	Andrea	MD	Medicine	Cardiology
Patel	Nikhil	MD, MBA	Medicine	Hospital Medicine
Patton	Nicole	PT	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	
Perzy	Holly	MD, MMM	Medicine-Pediatrics	
Pujara	Akshat	MD	Radiology	
Quealy	Kathleen	MD	Medicine	Cardiology
Rovner	Aleksandr	MD	Medicine	Cardiology
Saraiya	Parth	MD	Medicine	Hospital Medicine
Sivak	Edward	MD	Medicine	Pulmonary Medicine
Slone	Robin	APRN-CNP	Family Medicine	Express Care

Steib	John	DO	Anesthesiology	
Wallace	David	DO	Anesthesiology	
Weinberger	Elisheva	DO	Medicine	Rheumatology
Wells	Jennifer	APRN-CNP	Neurology	
Wenz	Amanda	APRN-CNP	Emergency Medicine	
Wilber	John	MD	Orthopaedics	
Winkelman	Marc	MD	Neurology	
Ziv	Ohad	MD	Medicine	Cardiology