

Hospital Authority of Houston County – Meeting Summary, November 2007

During their regular session meeting, the Hospital Authority of Houston County discussed the following agenda items:

RECOGNITIONS

The Authority recognized the members of the Houston Healthcare United Way Committee. Under the leadership of Jerry West and Marilyn Peterson, the committee's efforts led Houston Healthcare in exceeding its goal of \$70,000 to raise \$72,300 for the United Way campaign. Over 560 employees participated in giving to the campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lisa Harris, RN, Director of Infection Control & Prevention, reported to the Authority on plans for an upcoming campaign to increase hand hygiene throughout the organization. Hand hygiene is the most effective measure in preventing the transmission of infections. Hand hygiene is one of the National Patient Safety Goals of the Joint Commission.

Ms. Maggie Kubia, RN, MICU/SICU/ICA Manager at Houston Medical Center, and Ms. Cynthia Ireland, Director of Respiratory Therapy at Perry Hospital, presented an impact report for the Rapid Response Team. The Rapid Response Teams at Houston Medical Center and Perry Hospital were established in 2006 as part of the IHI's 100,000 Lives Campaign to bring critical care to the patient's bedside. The teams include critical care nurses from the ICUs and EDs along with Respiratory Therapists. From January – October 2007, there have been 87 Rapid Response Calls at Houston Medical Center and 25 Rapid Response Calls at Perry Hospital. Of these calls, 58 patients remained in their med/surg patient room; 47 were transferred to the ICU; 2 patients were changed to a DNR status; and 2 patients were transferred to another facility. Plans are currently underway to develop a Rapid Response Team to serve patients being treated within the Houston Health Pavilion.

UTILIZATION/FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Frank Powell, Chief Financial Officer, reported that, year to date, inpatient admissions are two percent above budget at Houston Medical Center while less than 1 percent below budget at Perry Hospital. Patient days are above budget by three percent at HMC and approximately four percent below budget at Perry. Outpatient visits are below budget by three percent at HMC while five percent above budget at Perry. Emergency department visits are up two percent at HMC and up six percent at Perry. Surgery volumes are about one percent below budget at HMC and ten percent below budget at Perry. Births at HMC are one percent above budget year to date.

For the month of October, net funds available for the Complex totaled \$4.2 million compared to a budget level of \$1.4 million. Year to date, net funds available for the

Complex total \$17.9 million, compared to a budgeted amount of \$10.6 million. Also, year to date, indigent care/charity care and bad debt write-offs exceeded \$22 million compared to a budgeted level of \$21 million.

Capital equipment expenditures for the month included \$50,992 at HMC and \$9,233 at Perry Hospital. Long range strategic planning expenditures included \$214,033 at HMC; \$40,581 at Perry Hospital and \$13,008 for EMS. Capital improvement for HMC totaled \$39,822 for the month.

MEDICAL STAFF REPORTS

Dr. Daniel Deighton, Vice Chairman of the Authority and Chief of Staff at HMC, expressed appreciation on behalf of the medical staff for the opening of the new Intermediate Care Area (ICA) at HMC. He also commended the medical staff and nursing staff at Perry Hospital for their efforts in reducing the inpatient average length of stay from 4.6 to 4.19 days.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Mary Jane Kinnas, Executive Director of Marketing & Community Relations, presented the 3rd quarter Patient Satisfaction Survey results for the Inpatient, Emergency Department, Outpatient Surgery and Outpatient Services surveys. She reported that overall inpatient scores improved in all areas and specifically highlighted the 2 Main and 3 Main units, along with the HMC Emergency Department, for improving their scores in all areas for 3rd quarter as compared to 2nd quarter.

Ms. Tommi Gill, Chief Nurse Executive, provided an update to the Authority on Nursing Services and ongoing efforts and initiatives to recruit RNs.

Ms. Lora Davis, Perry Hospital Administrator, presented the Perry Hospital 4th quarter Environment of Care report.

Mr. David Campbell, Executive Director of Physician Services, reported that Houston Healthcare, in conjunction with the Great American Smokeout, had announced that all Houston Healthcare campuses and facilities will become tobacco-free by November 2008.

Mr. Skip Philips, Chief Operating Officer, reported that the topping of the new HMC Northwest Tower will occur mid-December and that the crane will no longer be on the construction site. The construction project is currently ahead of schedule. The CEP will be in operation after the first of the year. Landscaping and a privacy fence along Briarcliff Road are being installed. He also reported that the new Patient Care Evaluation Area adjacent to the HMC ED will be opening in January. He also informed the Authority that the College of American Pathologists (CAP) surveyed the HMC Laboratory this week. An 8-member team spent time reviewing lab policies and practices. He commended the lab staff for an excellent job during the survey process.

Mr. Philips also invited the Authority members to attend the Houston Healthcare Tree of Lights Ceremony to be held Thursday, December 6 at 6 p.m. at The Surgery Center.

Ms. Davis reported that an Open House will be held for the new CT suite at Perry Hospital on Tuesday, December 4th from 2 – 4 p.m.

The Authority approved the nomination of the following members to serve on the nine-member 501(c)3 board being established: Sonny Watson, Fred Graham, Dr. Dan Deighton, Glynn Greenway and Larry Warnock.

The Authority also approved a proposal to lease the Highway 41 property to Mr. Malcolm Giles for farming purposes only at a lease price of \$30 per acre. The property will remain for sale.

Mr. Glynn Greenway recommended that the Authority request that the City of Warner Robins install sidewalks along Briarcliff Road for employees and visitors to be able to walk around the hospital campus. The Authority will send such request to the City.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.