

## **Hospital Authority of Houston County – Meeting Summary, August 2008**

During their meeting this evening, the Hospital Authority of Houston County discussed the following items:

The invocation was given by Rev. George Masciarelli from Marshallville United Methodist Church, a member of the Perry Hospital Chaplains.

Tim Luther from United Way of Central Georgia presented information and showed a video highlighting this year's campaign to the Board and thanked them for their support in the past.

### **UTILIZATION/FINANCE REPORT**

Mr. Frank Powell, CFO, reported that Houston Healthcare inpatient admissions during the month of July increased by nearly 13 percent at both Houston Medical Center and Perry Hospital. Surgery and endoscopy volumes were above budget by more than seven percent at Houston Medical Center and 37 percent at Perry Hospital. Births at Houston Medical Center were above budget by over 12 percent.

Many of Houston Healthcare's outpatient service areas experienced increases in patient volumes when comparing July 2008 to budgeted volumes:

- Houston Lake Rehab visits up by 27.85%
- Houston Lake Med-Stop visits up by 33.67%
- Pavilion Med-Stop visits up by 4.80%
- Pavilion Rehab visits up by 3.79%
- Outpatient Visits at HMC up by 16.43%
- Outpatient Visits at Perry Hospital up by 18.06%

For the month of July, Net Funds Available reflected an increase of \$445,000, compared to a budget of \$1.2 million.

However, for the first five months of FYE 09, Net Patient Revenues for Houston Healthcare were \$84.3 million, above the budgeted amount of \$81.8 million. The organization ended with Net Funds Available of \$5.5 million, as compared to a budgeted amount of \$7 million for the five month period.

During July, Houston Healthcare incurred more than \$3.8 million in uncollectible, indigent and charity care deductions, reflecting an increase in comparison to a budget of \$3.14 million.

The Authority approved capital improvement expenditures of \$245,405 at Houston Medical Center and \$35,000 for construction at Perry Hospital, along with capital improvements as part of the long range strategic plan equaling \$385,000 at Perry Hospital.

### **CEO'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Philips reported that the Emergency Departments at both Houston Medical Center and Perry Hospital have been very busy and continue to grow. He also reported that the

ED Task Force and the Kaizen events were successful in the HMC ED. A couple of areas identified for adjustments are the staffing levels and adding services to better accommodate the staff and the patients. The REACT program was also evaluated for better patient flow and has since seen a decrease in length of stay minutes by 40% for minor emergencies.

Mr. Philips thanked the staff and physicians at Houston Medical Center and Perry Hospital for their continued dedication during this very high census time.

Town Hall Talks have gone very well and over 550 employees have attended so far at all facilities. The focus for these sessions is around the five Pillars of Excellence, focusing on retention, growth of services, quality care involving all aspects of the system, maintaining a healthy financial position in order to grow our services and lastly improving the patient care experience at every level.

Mr. Philips also shared that the Service Awards held this week were very successful. The range of years of service was five to 40. He has heard very positive feedback from those who attended. He also thanked the committee for their work in organizing the event.

Lastly, Mr. Philips noted that the month of July has seen quite an increase in admissions and thanked the staffs at all Houston Healthcare facilities for stepping up and taking care of the entire community.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Lynne Thomas Gordon, Administrator of Houston Medical Center, shared that recently Gilbane hosted a luncheon recognizing the workers for going 300 days without a worksite injury. She noted that the construction for the new tower is on schedule and they are working hard to keep costs down.

Mr. Skip Philips also noted that about half of the contractors and sub-contractors are from Houston County and the surrounding areas.

The Hospital Authority approved a faculty position for the Nursing program at Macon State College for one year in the amount of \$70,000. Since Spring 2007, Houston Healthcare has hired 19 new graduates from the Macon State College Nursing program. We also have eight externs working at Houston Healthcare facilities from Macon State. Nine nurses are continuing their education through Macon State College. This initiative will help with recruitment and retention of nurses throughout the system.

Mr. Fred Graham thanked the Emergency Department employees for continuing to keep a steady flow and good public relations. He has visited several times and has noticed that things are working well.

Mr. Larry Warnock commended David Campbell and the staff at Perry Hospital along with Lynne Thomas Gordon and the HMC staff for their readiness on Tuesday during the tornado warnings for Houston County.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.