

North Broward Hospital District Board of Commissioners  
1700 Northwest 49th Street, Suite #150, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

## **LEGAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING Immediately Following the Compliance and Ethics Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

The Legal Affairs & Governmental Relations Committee Meeting of the North Broward Hospital District was held on March 24, 2021, immediately following the Compliance and Ethics Committee Meeting, at the Broward Health Corporate Spectrum Location, 1700 NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 150, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309.

### **1. NOTICE**

Official notice is attached to these minutes, titled EXHIBIT I. Agenda of this meeting is attached to the minutes, titled EXHIBIT II. Supporting documents, if applicable, are attached to these minutes, titled EXHIBIT III. These exhibits are presented for consideration of the Board.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chair Nancy W. Gregoire at 11:32 a. m.

### **3. COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

*Present:*

Commissioner Ray. T. Berry  
Commissioner Marie C. Waugh  
Commissioner Stacy L. Angier, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Nancy W. Gregoire, Chair

*Senior Leadership*

*Additionally Present:*

Alan Goldsmith, Chief Operating Officer  
Alex Fernandez, Chief Financial Officer  
Linda Epstein, Corporate General Counsel

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Gregoire opened the floor for public comments, in which there were none.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Without objection, Chair Gregoire approved the minutes, dated February 17, 2021.

Motion *carried* without dissent.

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## 6. TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

### 6.1. Legislative Updates (Presenter – Ashley Boxer, VP External Affairs)

Ms. Boxer presented the below updates:

- Federal Activities
  - Health and Human Services (HHS)
    - Appointed new secretary, Xavier Becerra, former California Attorney General and Congressman.
  - Advocacy Action Alert regarding Medicare sequestering
    - Advocating at the State level.
    - If not extended by end of May, there will be a \$133-million-dollar impact to Florida hospitals.
  - American Rescue Act
    - Passed in the amount of \$1.9-trillion dollars.
    - Florida is expected to receive \$9-10-billion dollars.
    - Governor DeSantis made budget recommendation regarding pending Federal monies.
- Florida Legislative Sessions
  - Sessions March 2 through April 30.
  - Remaining sessions will be consumed with budget and budget negotiations.
  - Post-partum care – House Speaker Sprowls announced an extension in the Medicaid program from 30 to 365 days
  - COVID-19 liability protection
    - Two bills, protecting businesses and hospitals, are now under one bill.
    - It passed in Senate and is on the Special-Order Calendar in the House, and it is expected to pass
  - House Bill 1497
    - Sponsored by Representative Tom Fabricio.
    - Waiting to be heard in four referenced committees.
  - House Bill 3983, State Appropriation, Broward Health iMATR (Integrated Medication Assisted Treatment Response)
    - Appropriation approximately \$426-million dollars passed first committee.
    - Waiting to be heard by second and final committee.

The Legal Committee requested that a discussion be planned with the incoming Broward Health CEO, regarding a seat on the Florida Hospital Association. The previous seat had been extended to Gino Santorio, former Broward Health CEO.

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## 6.2. General Legal Department Updates (Presenter – Linda Epstein, General Counsel)

Ms. Epstein shared the following Legal Department updates with the committee, as seen below.

- New Engagement Letters
  - Hall Render
    - Health care regulatory law firm.
    - Two partners presented 90-minute presentations for the Legal Department on Stark and Anti-Kickback regulation changes, effective January 2021.
- Investigative Training Sessions
  - Two-part training sessions.
    - Part 1: Interview techniques.
    - Part 2: How to write a report and capture the information.
- Legal Budget

Ms. Epstein reported on Fiscal Year 2021 Legal Department Budget items, as seen below. For further detail, related slides are available on Broward Health's Board of Commissioners' web calendar.

- Report included the overall budget status for Fiscal Year 2021 through January 31, 2021.
- Highlighted the column containing the Actual/Incurred Costs.
  - To date, \$1.4 million spend out of the Board-approved \$8.3 million. Largest spends are:
    - Health Care Regulatory.
    - Litigation.
    - Medical Staff Fair Hearings.
  - Fiscal year spend through October 2020 was at \$900,000. From October 2020 through the end of January 2021, the spend was at \$1.4-million, an additional \$561,000.
- Fair Market Value (FMV) (Presenter – Jerry Del Amo, Deputy General Counsel)

For further detail, related slides are available on Broward Health's Board of Commissioners' web calendar.

- Mr. Del Amo noted continued positive trends with respect to the FMV spend, as the monthly spend had averaged below budget.
  - FMV Budget: \$80,000 per month.
  - FMV Actual Spend: \$52,000 per month (average spend).

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7. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business on the agenda, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Marie C. Waugh, Secretary/Treasurer

DRAFT