

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System held Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the hour of 9:00 A.M. This meeting was held by remote means only, in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

## **I. Attendance/Call to Order**

Chair Reiter called the meeting to order.

Present: Chair Robert G. Reiter, Jr. and Directors Joseph M. Harrington; David Ernesto Munar; and Director Otis L. Story, Sr. (4)

Board Chair M. Hill Hammock (ex officio) and Directors Robert Currie; Mary Driscoll, RN, MPH; Ada Mary Gugenheim; and Mike Koetting

Absent: Director Hon. Dennis Deer, LCPC, CCFC (1)

Additional attendees and/or presenters were:

Andrea M. Gibson – Interim Chief Business Officer  
Charles Jones – Chief Procurement Officer  
Jeff McCutchan – General Counsel  
Israel Rocha, Jr. – Chief Executive Officer  
Deborah Santana – Secretary to the Board

Robert L. Sumter, PhD., Chief Information Officer and  
Interim Chief Operating Officer, Stroger Hospital and  
Central Campus

The next regular meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

## **II. Electronically Submitted Public Speaker Testimony** (Attachment #1)

Public testimony was received from the following individuals and was read into the record:

1. Dian Palmer – President, SEIU Local 73
2. Rolanda Watkins – Registered Nurse, Care Coordination

## **III. Action Items**

**NOTE: action was taken on Agenda Items III(A), III(B) and III(C) in one (1) combined motion.**

### **A. Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, May 20, 2021**

Chair Reiter inquired whether any corrections needed to be made to the Minutes.

### **B. Receive and file CCH requests to accept grant award-related item** (Attachment #2)

Charles Jones, Chief Procurement Officer, provided an overview of the grant-related items.

### **C. Contracts and Procurement Items** (Attachment #3)

Mr. Jones provided an overview of the contractual requests presented for the Committee's consideration. The Committee reviewed and discussed the requests. It was noted that a minor correction was made to request number 11.

### **III. Action Items (continued)**

#### **D. Proposed Transfer of Funds (Attachment #4)**

Chair Reiter referenced the public testimony presented earlier in the meeting that questioned the intent of the proposed transfers; it was alleged that funds were being transferred from wages and salaries to pay for contracted labor, in order to replace public employees rather than bargain with them. Andrea M. Gibson, Interim Chief Business Officer, provided background on the subject to address those concerns.

She stated that, in FY2020, budget constraints and the way the turnover was budgeted limited the number of hires. During the preparation of the FY2021 budget, in an effort to avoid being in that predicament again, the administration made adjustments to turnover so the budget would not be an impediment to hiring. In retrospect, it is possible that the administration overbudgeted for that, as there is quite a bit of salvage in the personnel lines. One of the tools available to address that is the ability to transfer funds. This past year and a half has been characterized by change and unpredictability, and has required the administration to do more transfers of funds than they normally would.

This transfer does not contemplate eliminating filled or vacant positions. It was created to address some of the emerging issues that have been seen this year. There are two (2) principal issues that this transfer seeks to address. The first issue relates to the pace of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement for a lot of the registry services. The administration is waiting for at least \$7 million in reimbursement for registry services (mostly for nursing) from FEMA. As a result, some of the registry bills need to be paid before the reimbursement is received. The other big piece is related to regulatory compliance. Some areas have been identified over the past several months that need additional support, to make sure that everything is within regulatory compliance.

She reviewed the proposed transfers by line item. In response to a question from Board Chair Hammock, Ms. Gibson confirmed that this transfer would not restrict nurse hiring. Director Harrington inquired regarding salary competitiveness for nursing positions. Israel Rocha, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, stated that CCH is competitive in this market; he indicated that a market comparison and update on the subject can be provided at an upcoming Human Resources Committee meeting.

Chair Reiter suggested that the item be withdrawn today and placed directly on next week's Board Agenda for consideration at that time. He recommended that he, Board Chair Hammock, Director Story, Mr. Rocha and Ms. Gibson take time between now and the Board Meeting to socialize this more with the stakeholders so there is a full understanding of background and intent for the transfers.

#### **E. Any items listed under Section III**

Director Harrington, seconded by Director Munar, moved to accept Item III(A) May 20, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes; to receive and file Item III(B) CCH Request to accept grant award-related item; and to approve Item III(C) Contracts and Procurement Items containing request numbers 1 through 16, as amended and subject to completion of review by Contract Compliance.

A roll call vote was taken, the votes of yeas and nays being as follows:

Yeas: Chair Reiter and Directors Harrington, Munar and Story (4)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: Director Deer (1)

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



Attest:

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Deborah Santana, Secretary

Follow-up/Requests

Follow-up:       Regarding salary competitiveness for nursing positions, a market comparison and update on the subject can be provided at an upcoming Human Resources Committee meeting. Page 2