**Joint Meeting of the**

**Community Oversight Board & Community Advisory Council**

Public Meeting

February 28, 2024

6:00 PM

Webex

University Hospital

Newark, New Jersey

**COB Members Present:** Diane Hill, PhD, Chair; Nicole K. Butler; MBA; Iris Herrera MD; Gary Huck; Ed Jimenez; Mary O’Dowd;

**COB Members Absent:** John Gerow; Wendy Bobcombe, RN

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order and Opening Statement**

Chairwoman Hill welcomed all in attendance, called the meeting to order and asked Ms. McKenzie Wilson to please read the Open Public Meeting Notice and take a roll call. With a quorum of members present, the meeting convened at 6:02pm.

**II. Patient Safety Story**

Mr. Ed Jimenez, President & CEO, provided a patient safety story about the work that the

University Hospital EMS team had done when they recently received a call about a woman who had given birth to a child in her home. The EMS team was praised for its work in making sure that the child was given the proper attention that was needed, and the child and mother were brought to University Hospital for follow-up monitoring. Mr. Jimenez then went on to highlight that the mother had received her pre-natal care at a neighboring hospital.

**III. Report of the President and Chief Executive Officer**

Mr. Ed Jimenez provided a presentation on multiple topics that are currently going on at University Hospital. These topics included an update on the hospital’s FY25 state budget request. Mr. Jimenez explained how this request would help with the funding of the masterplan currently in effect. He also provided an update on the new Emergency Department Expansion project that was happening at University Hospital.

**IV. Discussion Items and Presentations**

1. *Discussion of the New Rutgers Medical School- Dean Robert L. Johnson and Dean Amy P. Murtha*

Dean Robert Johnson of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Dean Amy Murtha of the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, led a discussion surrounding the ongoing discussion of the merger of these two respected schools into one medical institution. They provided the background as to why this merger has been agreed upon, and explained their understanding of the questioning that they were receiving regarding this topic in the public. Dean Murtha explained that one of the main driving factors was the ability for greater fundraising for both schools by going through with this merger.

Members of the Community Oversight Board and the Community Advisory Council asked questions to Dean Johnson and Dean Murtha. This discussion was mostly surrounding how this will affect the Newark community as well as University Hospital. The Dean’s emphasized that these changes would not affect the level of care at University Hospital or how it serves the community.

**V. Public Comment**

Chairwoman Hill opened the meeting for public comment and Ms. McKenzie Wilson, Corporate Secretary provided instructions for the public. The topic of the public comment period was the continued discussion surrounding the merger of the Rutgers Medical School. Members of the public echoed the sentiments of the Community Oversight Board and Community Advisory Council in stating the need for the level of care to not change at University Hospital or for the community. Representatives of the Rutgers teachers union did express their opposition to the merger.

**VI. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Chairwoman Hill accepted a motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2023, meeting of the Community Oversight Board. The motion was made and duly seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm. The next meeting of the Community Oversight Board is scheduled for June 26, 2024, at 10:00am via Zoom.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, McKenzie Wilson, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary of University Hospital, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Minutes of the Community Oversight Board of University Hospital’s meeting conducted on February 28th, 2024.

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Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary