WEST WHARTON COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
October 28, 2026

A Meeting of West Wharton County Hospital District was held at 5:00 p.m. at the Old RUTA Building, 25000 US 59 in El Campo, Texas. The following Board Members were present: Steve Cooper, President, Richard Kerzee, Vice President, Anthony Cisneros, Secretary, Travis Cobb, Treasurer, Cuatro Strack, Patricia Korenek, Sean Bowers, Sherrie Hardin, Rick Graff, Susanna Ozuna and Karen Middlebrook.

The Board Member absent was none.

Others attending were Johnny Thompson, WWCHD Administrator, Heidi Dine, WWCHD Financial Manager, Brett Kirkham, MCHS CEO, Irma Rocha, MCHS Senior Administrative Assistant, Judge Randy Clapp, ECMH President, and ECMH Board Members – Rachel Cutrer, Roy Chisum, Michael Trahan and William Griffiths.

I. Upon determining that a quorum was present, Mr. Cooper, President, called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. It was noted that the agenda was properly posted on the WWCHD web page, at the County Clerk's office, the hospital web page, the front entrance of the hospital and Mid Coast Medical Clinic at 10:00 a.m. on October 22, 2026.

II. The US and Texas pledges were said.

III. The invocation was given by Cuatro Strack.

IV. Announcements/Public Comments (Presenters will be limited to 3 minutes and the Board is not required to respond to any items presented).
Mr. Cooper gave a brief announcement and stated that the WWCHD Boad vote to terminate the ECMH lease and the termination letter delivered to Judge Randy Clapp was all void due to not posting the items correctly on the agenda for the October 5, 2026 WWCHD board meeting. He also stated that the discussion of the ECMH lease had not been carried forward on the agenda. Dr. Miguel Sierra-Hoffman, Dr. Brooke Dorotik, Sara Muzik and Paul Soechting all presented to the WWCHD Board.

V. Judge Randy Clapp then presented the ECMH Board response to the void lease termination letter. Mr. Clapp presented information about the Mid Coast Health System board and members. Mr. Clapp read the lease termination letter. He then gave his personal background, along with his experience serving on multiple boards. He introduced the ECMH and MCHS board members. Mr. Clapp then spoke about Brett Kirkham experience. He then discussed transparency for the WWCHD board. Mr. Clapp then discussed the Texas Government Codes, pertaining to the WWCHD board. Mr. Clapp then discussed the packet that shows the critical deficiencies. He stated that they were all false and gave multiple examples. Mr. Clapp asked the WWCHD Board to reconsider the lease termination letter. Mr. Clapp stated that the lease letter is void due to a violation of the Open Meetings Act. It is El Campo's position that the letter is void and unenforceable and will keep operating under the current lease. El Campo hopes to continue working with WWCHD to use the QIPP dollars to renovate the hospital. They are willing to adjust lease terms to account for the renovation as it is completed. They are also willing to listen to the WWCHD's concerns about hospital operations and respond to them in constructive dialog, but only if they occur in open meetings, pursuant to an

open agenda item, clearly identifying the issues to be discussed, and not in closed session.

Johnny Thompson responded back to the response of the critical deficiencies. He stated that on a call on 9/29/26, that included Steve Cooper, Richard Kerzee, Trent Krienke, Fletcher Brown and himself, Fletcher Brown, who is the attorney for El Campo Memorial Hospital, stated that he wanted some type of value from Mr. Thompson. If he did not get that, his time was being wasted. Fletcher Brown came up with the critical deficiencies packet that Randy Clapp discussed, not Johnny Thompson. Mr. Thompson stated, "To reiterate my goal: no mention of the past but plans for the future. The simple plan to get back to just The District and El Campo Memorial Hospital, and possibly Palacios Hospital. This allows for collaboration of District management and Hospital operations, and I put in parenthesis "Brett", working together with multiple people with various backgrounds and resources to make combined decisions for long term needs of the community, and at the same time a transition which care continues with minimum disruption to the employees."

Steve Cooper responded, stating his position. Mr. Cooper and Judge Clapp had a discussion about Mr. Cooper's position. Mr. Cooper stated that Judge Clapp did not state truths. Mr. Cooper stated that the termination letter was created by WWCHD's attorney.

Karen Middlebrook stated that in no WWCHD meeting, was it discussed about removing or demoting Brett Kirkham. Mr. Kirkham stated that he was told he would be demoted in a mediation meeting held the prior week by Bill Russell. Mrs. Middlebrook stated it did not come from the WWCHD Board. Mr. Cooper stated that he has written off around $2M over the last few years.

Richard Kerzee stated that that WWCHD is trying to put a path forward so that the past does not repeat itself. WWCHD has a duty to help make community healthcare the best it can be. He stated that the 501(c)3 Board has done a good job of getting the hospital out of some bad situations. He stated that the spirit of the WWCHD board is doing anything that they can to not allow the missteps of the past to happen again. Mr. Kerzee wants the hospital to succeed and figure out a path-forward. He stated that this is always room for improvement.

Pamela Hunt stated that she would like to see the boards all work together for the betterment of the community.

VI. Executive Session: None

VII. Additional New Business: None

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Travis Cobb, seconded by Cuatro Strack and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Cisneros, Secretary