

1 PRESENTATION OF REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM HOSPITALS

2
3 UF Health Leesburg Hospital

4 Mr. Phil Braun, Vice President and General Counsel for University of Florida (UF) Health
5 Central Florida, displayed information representing who his organization was, some of the
6 patients they saw, and some of the services they offered. He showed a slide with a
7 community benefit statement, noting that this was the amount of funding they spent which
8 was not reimbursed. He noted that it fell under charity care and did not cover their costs,
9 and he also pointed out the investment that they put back into infrastructure and items that
10 helped a hospital provide a better quality of care. He explained that the actual budgeted
11 and projected operating expenses of UF Health Leesburg Hospital was over \$243 million
12 for one year, and he displayed a chart regarding their payor mix. He indicated that about
13 80 percent of their business did not pay what it cost to provide care, and that only about 17
14 percent of their business was profitable. He mentioned that they had faced tremendous
15 supply and labor cost increases, and that if a not for profit hospital did not make a profit,
16 then they could not reinvest, keep up with inflation, keep up with the newest services and
17 equipment, or attract the best staff. He opined that they would like to see an eight percent
18 margin; however, their margin in 2021 was 2.3 percent, and they had a negative margin in
19 fiscal year (FY) 2022. He commented that some of this was a reduction in the amount of
20 funding provided by the NLCHD, noting that they lost out on \$3 million and were not fully
21 funded. He said that they were projected to break even in FY 2023, hoping that they would
22 receive some funding from the NLCHD to make this budget. He said that in the previous
23 year, the NLCHD budgeted \$1.1 million for UF Health Leesburg Hospital, though in the
24 past they had budgeted up to almost \$4 million in reimbursement of their indigent care. He
25 stated that UF Health Leesburg Hospital submitted about \$2 million, noting that it was
26 resource-intensive to submit claims. He showed some slides with testimonials about the
27 care and services needed by patients, and he encouraged the NLCHD to fund the clinics
28 and set the millage at 0.75 mills. He remarked that the hospitals had typically spent about
29 the same amount of funding in charity care, and he proposed for the NLCHD to take what
30 funding they had left over and allocate it to the two hospitals; furthermore, at the end of
31 the year, they could do a true up and reallocate funding. He explained that uninsured
32 individuals without money still needed acute care services, and that clinics did not have
33 the equipment and staff to provide these services. He pointed out how much it cost the
34 hospital to operate, and said that every dollar they could use to offset these costs helped
35 them get closer to breaking even or having a positive margin.

36
37 LifeStream Behavioral Center, Inc.

38 Ms. Carol Dozier, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for LifeStream Behavioral Center,
39 remarked that they recently celebrated LifeStream's 50th anniversary. She shared that in
40 the past year, they saw over 24,000 individuals being serviced, and she displayed a slide
41 showing the split between services for adult mental health, children's mental health, adult
42 substance abuse, and children's substance abuse. She mentioned that they had a wellness
43 integration team, which was part of what the NLCHD's clinic dollars funded, noting that
44 individuals with behavioral healthcare issues were not well suited for a private community
45 clinic. She mentioned that LifeStream was able to see individuals in a natural environment
46 and provide wraparound services, including prescriptions. She added that LifeStream was
47 also a homeless family shelter and provided almost 400,000 services in the past year. She

1 commented that they had over 950 employees serving seven counties, of which Lake
2 County was a significant part. She said that they were accredited by the Commission on
3 Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and that they were the safety net for
4 behavioral healthcare. She relayed that they had 999 days of service for 255 patients for
5 inpatient psychiatric beds, and that the average length of stay was only three to four days;
6 therefore, they were not warehousing individuals in their psychiatric hospital, and were
7 trying to get individuals back into the community and on the way to recovery. She said
8 that they had 118 visits for primary care services, and she displayed an outline of their
9 inpatient units. She mentioned that they had two full-time dedicated practitioners in their
10 wellness integration team, and she displayed a slide regarding their payor mix. She
11 explained that self-pay was about one percent of their care, and that Federal and State grant
12 revenue was 52 percent of what their services were provided by. She commented that for
13 grant funding, the Federal and State Government would like them to have match dollars,
14 noting that the NLCHD's funding helped LifeStream bring in those Federal and State
15 dollars as matching funds. She indicated that LifeStream also received funding from
16 pharmaceutical manufacturers for free and donated medications so that individuals could
17 receive the care they needed. She commented that for their psychiatric hospital, individuals
18 could be brought there with the Marchman Act or Baker Act, along with ex parte for mental
19 health or substance misuse; additionally, individuals could be court ordered, along with
20 some individuals being voluntary. She explained that most of the services that LifeStream
21 provided, which the NLCHD funded, were for individuals who had been asked to come to
22 LifeStream.

23
24 Mr. Tim Sullivan said that the Lake County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) and local law
25 enforcement agencies were supportive because of LifeStream's Baker Act activities. He
26 added that if they did not have LifeStream, then individuals could end up in a County jail
27 which had no place or services for them.

28
29 Ms. Dozier added that it would also be significantly more expensive. She continued her
30 presentation and showed a list of other services operating in Lake County, noting that it
31 included children and adult substance use and mental health. She said that in the following
32 year, they were about to open a community forensic unit in the North Lake County area.
33 She elaborated that when individuals were released from the Baker Act, this may not be
34 end of their care, and they sometimes needed extra support systems. She commented that
35 LifeStream had been granted an opportunity to provide residential units for these
36 individuals, and she then mentioned that a challenge for behavioral health was the increase
37 in suicide rates and attempts primarily related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
38 19) and isolation. She said that part of the NLCHD's funding funded this for adults and
39 children, and she concluded that LifeStream would be appreciative if the NLCHD
40 continued to fund them.

41
42 Ms. Price recalled that LifeStream served 24,000 people in the previous year, and she asked
43 how many of them were residents of Lake County.

44
45 Ms. Dozier replied that their percentage for Lake County was roughly 39 percent and was
46 a significant amount.

47

1 AdventHealth Waterman

2 Mr. Abel Biri, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for AdventHealth Waterman, displayed an
3 overview of their hospital's scope of services. He pointed out that they saw nearly 68,000
4 patients in their emergency room (ER) in the previous year, and that they were the busiest
5 ER in Lake County. He added that this number was expected to exceed 70,000 in the
6 current year, and that over 900 people received free care in their community clinic, which
7 was also expected to grow in the current year. He commented that they were one of the
8 largest employers in the county and provided economic stability to their area. He relayed
9 that between charity care and shortfall, in the previous year they spent in excess of \$30
10 million, noting that about \$7 million of this came from uninsured or underinsured patients,
11 and about \$23 million came from closing shortfalls in Medicare and other government
12 programs that they participated in. He said that they continued to invest resources in their
13 community to improve access, care and quality, and that nearly \$15 million was invested
14 in the previous year. He addressed the request for the following fiscal year and clarified
15 that the funding was to offset the cost of care associated with providing services to indigent
16 individuals in the designated district. He elaborated that the NLCHD Board had oversight,
17 and that this was not limited to setting the millage; rather, voters had bestowed
18 responsibility and accountability for ensuring that indigent patients the hospital cared for
19 lived in this district, that the patients qualified for the services, that the services received
20 were medically necessary, and to audit the compliance of organizations that received this
21 funding. He explained that the statute provided for the NLCHD to do this through the
22 auditors that the Board had selected and maintained for years, noting that the information
23 could be accessed and verified. He relayed that the voters wanted to support the local
24 healthcare infrastructure that was designed to support individuals and those who could not
25 care for themselves. He indicated that his hospital would continue to do this, and he
26 showed a slide with a patient testimony. He submitted their 2022-2023 request for funding
27 from the NLCHD to offset the cost of care they provided in the community.

28
29 PRESENTATION OF REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM CLINICS

30
31 Community Health Centers, Inc.

32 Mr. Mark Dickinson, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Community
33 Health Centers, remarked that during the previous year of funding, their clinic saw about
34 3,500 clinic visits in their City of Leesburg and City of Tavares sites, along with about
35 2,130 patients at or below 200 percent of poverty. He said that over 57,000 pharmacy
36 scripts had been written at those locations, and that 21,000 of these were for individuals at
37 or below 200 percent of poverty. He opined that going through these sites saves residents
38 a significant amount of money, and indicated that they also offered behavioral health
39 services which they did not ask for funding for. He related that they provided dental
40 services, and that they started optometry services at their City of Leesburg location. He
41 stated that he had supplied an economic impact statement, and that they had five centers in
42 Lake County. He mentioned that as an organization, they provided services for over 68,000
43 patients in the previous year, along with about 250,000 visits; additionally, slightly over
44 24,000 patients were at or below 200 percent of poverty. He clarified that they were not a
45 free clinic and that they had a nominal fee system with a minimum \$20 fee for a visit;
46 however, they found that their patients were more engaged when they paid some money.
47 He stated that his request for the previous year was for \$265,000, and he thought that they

1 would exceed this. He relayed that they saw an increase in patients after COVID-19, and
2 he was unsure if the emergency orders would be lifted in October 2022; furthermore, if the
3 orders were lifted, then many people on Medicaid would become uninsured and find their
4 way to the clinics and hospitals. He also mentioned that his organization was getting ready
5 to expand in Lake County, and that he looked forward to having funding going forward.

6
7 Ms. Price commented that they had a state of the art dental clinic.

8
9 Community Medical Care Center

10 Ms. Tammy Youngren, Ministry Director for Community Medical Care Center, said that
11 she was in attendance in place of Mr. Bill Jones, Executive Director for Community
12 Medical Care Center. She read the following letter from Mr. Jones: “Over the past 26
13 years, Community Medical Care Center has provided medical care to the most medically
14 needy residents of Lake County. Our clinic is able to provide more indigent care visits
15 than any of the other free clinics in our county due to our large number of volunteer
16 physicians. We currently enjoy a partnership of volunteerism with over 40 licensed
17 primary care and specialty care physicians. At every clinic session, we have a family
18 practice or an internal medical physician working alongside our nurse practitioner to assure
19 quality medical care. We also provide our patients with in-house specialty medical care in
20 over 15 different areas of expertise. These physicians, along with our volunteer nurses and
21 16 office professionals, make our clinic a one-stop medical home for our patients both in
22 primary care and specialty care. We also wrap our medical care around a state of the art
23 dental wing where retired volunteer dentists volunteer their time and expertise to assure
24 that dental problems do not become large medical problems. In 1990, our community
25 recognized the critical need of indigent care for those in our area. Because of their great
26 compassion and love of their neighbors, the NLCHD formed. People wanted to do more
27 than just talk about things like “love your neighbor as thyself.” We wanted to live it out.
28 Over the past 31 years, that love and compassion has helped thousands upon thousands
29 during their greatest need and time of medical care. The hospital district makes it possible
30 for free clinics like ours to reach out with the personal healing touch that so many in our
31 community could not get any other way. This critical funding provides about 80 percent
32 of our overall budget and without it, our services would be greatly reduced, leaving a huge
33 hole in the lives of the most vulnerable in our community. Knowing the heart of the Board
34 and your desire for free clinics like ours to be ready to help those in need, we are requesting
35 that you would allow us to continue the important work we are providing and fund us with
36 \$325,125 to meet the needs of the estimated 2,125 patient visits coming this year. We are
37 grateful for your continued service to our community by carrying out the desire to help
38 their neighbors in need. It is our passion and our pleasure to press on in our mission by
39 ensuring that the most basic needs of the medically underserved in our community will be
40 met by the local free clinics with a caring, professional, and personal environment,
41 providing them and their family with health and hope for the future.”

42
43 AdventHealth Waterman Community Primary Health Clinic

44 Ms. Edlyn Fernandez, Community Clinic Manager at AdventHealth Waterman’s
45 Community Primary Health Clinic, said that their clinic continued to serve as a safety net
46 for patients in northeast Lake County. She mentioned that they were still seeing patients
47 who were underinsured, who were residents of the county, and who had income at or below

1 200 percent of the federal poverty level, noting that 82.1 percent were below 100 percent
2 of the poverty level, which was an increase of about 1.6 percent from the previous year.
3 She stated that from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, they saw 586 total medical visits,
4 had 153 referrals to specialty care providers and clinical services, and had 2,026 social
5 service appointments and referrals, noting that this was an increase of 36 from the previous
6 year. She indicated that there were 55 new patients seen in this timeframe, representing a
7 total combined 77 visits to the ER, which would have attributed to \$552,000. She said that
8 they continued to work collaboratively with their ER and their care management teams to
9 identify patients who would qualify and benefit from a primary medical home; furthermore,
10 all of the patients who came to their clinic received whole person healthcare, noting that
11 this meant they offered social services screening and referrals. She explained that they
12 reviewed the patient's eligibility and provided patient appreciation gifts and education;
13 additionally, they continued to collaborate with community organizations. She stated that
14 they continuously worked on scheduling efficiencies to ensure that patients received care
15 immediately, and that they had the ability to provide medication through their partnerships
16 with other organizations. She read a patient testimonial, and she displayed a slide with
17 additional stories. She relayed that they provided bi-annual patient satisfaction surveys,
18 and she displayed their scores and continued feedback from the community. She asked
19 that the NLCHD allocate them \$121,923 for FY 2022/2023, commenting that this would
20 be for a total of 787 medical visits.

21
22 LifeStream Primary Care Clinic

23 Ms. Dozier commented that they had presented a joint presentation with their hospital
24 request earlier in the meeting.

25
26 St. Luke's Free Medical and Dental Clinic

27 Ms. Erin Burley, Clinic Coordinator for Catholic Charities of Central Florida and
28 representing St. Luke's Free Medical and Dental Clinic, thanked the Board for their
29 funding in the past, and requested that they continue the funding. She said that her clinic
30 was asking for \$37,200, and that they were the smallest clinic in the county; however, the
31 service they provided was still important. She explained that one of the ways they helped
32 the county was by maintaining a healthy workforce, noting that many people would be
33 missing many days of work if they did not have the clinic to visit; furthermore, this ended
34 up costing the employers money and could be passed onto taxpayers and other residents.
35 She stated that most of their patients wanted to work but may not be able to, and she relayed
36 stories about two of their patients.

37
38 Ms. Price mentioned that she had sent many people to St. Luke's Free Medical and Dental
39 Clinic.

40
41 Orlando Health Medical Group

42 Ms. Kirste indicated that this request was withdrawn at 3:30 p.m. on the current day, noting
43 that they may consider applying in the following year.

44
45 PUBLIC COMMENT ON REQUESTS FOR FUNDING

46 Ms. Mary Kay Rosinski, a former NLCHD Board member, said that she saw the great work
47 that the clinics and hospitals did, opining that they were serving the community by serving

1 those in need. She commented that many workers had no insurance through their
2 employers, that they earned too much to qualify for Medicaid, and that they earned too
3 little to qualify for insurance through the Affordable Care Act. She relayed that the medical
4 care provided by these clinics and hospital was the only care for many, and that the millions
5 of dollars of NLCHD funds that was infused into the local economy created jobs, provided
6 state of the art medical equipment, kept their ERs and hospital rooms from overflowing,
7 kept costs down with preventative care and education, kept families from being forced into
8 bankruptcy, and reduced human suffering. She relayed her understanding that the
9 community wanted these clinics to continue, and that in 2016, 59 percent of the county
10 voters voted to reinstate the NLCHD for another 10 years. She mentioned that the Board
11 was elected to oversee these centers and to help those in the community who were less
12 fortunate. She asked the Board to fully fund the clinics and hospitals.

13
14 Ms. Christi Susewitt, a resident of Lake County, commented that 10 years prior, she served
15 on the audit staff who performed the quarterly audits. She related that the 2012 legislation,
16 to ensure transparency and accountability to taxpayers, required quarterly audits to be
17 provided by independent auditors. She elaborated that these auditors were bound by their
18 ethics and must reflect data for all eligible providers and all eligible expenses. She
19 indicated an understanding that there were taxpayers who were finding their property taxes
20 burdensome, and that there were members of the indigent population who relied on these
21 services to provide for a safer and healthier community. She opined that her opinion and
22 the Board's opinion should not override the legislation that called for all eligible expenses
23 to be reimbursed to all eligible providers. She relayed that she was not asking for
24 workshops, private entities or legislative changes; rather, she asked that the Board remove
25 its bias toward providers, and administer funds based on the data provided by the
26 independent auditors. She opined that Board members asking for patient and expense data
27 raised data privacy and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
28 (HIPAA) concerns, and she assured the Board that the audits were done with the utmost
29 integrity and the highest level of scrutiny. She said that in 2016, she voted on a referendum
30 to continue the NLCHD according to the guiding legislation, which meant that both
31 hospitals and clinics would receive reimbursement. She noted that a majority of North
32 Lake County voters voted to continue funding these providers, and she opined that the
33 Board had injected some instability in funding, along with fears that other providers would
34 lose funds based on opinions, against the will of the voters. She mentioned that Florida
35 Governor Ron DeSantis had vetoed a bill to disband hospital districts, and that he had said
36 that local funding approved by county taxpayers provided to hospitals was used in a State
37 match low income pool program; furthermore, this ensured that each county was
38 responsible for its indigent care without needing to expand Medicaid. She expressed
39 support for the Governor, and she hoped that the Board would fully fund all of the district
40 providers according to the legislation and as voted by the people of North Lake County.

41
42 OTHER MATTERS

43 Ms. Kirste indicated that Mr. Chet Ross, with Shumacker, Johnston & Ross, PA, was not
44 going to submit to perform the annual audit for the following year; therefore, they would
45 like to draft a request for proposal (RFP) for an auditor that would do the work in January
46 2023. She added that Mr. Matt White, with Crippen & Co., would assist her with the
47 language.

1 Mr. Sullivan asked if this was the audit of the NLCHD itself and if they were required by
2 law to do this.

3

4 Ms. Kirste confirmed this, and added that MSL was staying on for the everyday work.

5

6 On a motion by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried unanimously by a vote
7 of 4-0, the NLCHD Board approved to seek auditing services other than those provided by
8 Mr. Ross, due to his declination of providing those services going forward.

9

10 Ms. Kirste then reminded the Board that they had two upcoming meetings on September
11 15, 2022 for the preliminary budget meeting, and on September 29, 2022 for the final
12 budget meeting. She also added that they were working with the webmaster, relaying her
13 understanding that everyone was currently locked out of their emails for the NLCHD. She
14 stated that they would be sending information in the best method they could use.

15

16 ADJOURNMENT

17 The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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23 _____
Barbara Price, Chairman

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