

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND
DURHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL CORPORATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Joint Meeting**

Durham, North Carolina

Monday, February 19, 2001

12:00 Noon

Minutes

Place: Durham County Regional Hospital, Private Dining Room C, 407 Crutchfield Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, and Becky M. Heron

Durham County Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees: Chairman Charles Blackmon, James Knight, Penelope A. Keadey, Caroline H. Dixon, Gary S. Wilson, Joyce C. Nichols, Dr. Diana Voorhees O'Neal, Mary M. Elkins, Joseph S. Harward III, C. Edward McCauley, Dr. Dwight D. Perry, and Dr. James L. Allen

Absent: Dr. Jean G. Spaulding, Dr. Arnett Coleman, and Commissioner Philip R. Cousin Jr.

Staff: County Manager Michael M. Ruffin, County Attorney Chuck Kitchen, and Clerk to the Board Garry E. Umstead

Richard Leikweg, CEO, Durham County Hospital Corporation; Mary Kritsch, Administrative Assistant; and medical staff members

Presider: Charles Blackmon

Chairman Charles Blackmon called the meeting to order with opening remarks. He said there was no prepared agenda for the meeting. This meeting was called to get to know each one as County Commissioners and Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees. Self-introductions were made by all present.

After lunch, Chairman Blackmon thanked everyone for coming. He commented that he would ask several trustees to talk about the functions of the committees on which they serve. Chairman Black will talk to us about the County's role in the health system. We want you to understand what your role is in the County regarding the health of its citizens

and how we can assist you in meeting that challenge. We want you to understand what our role is and how you can help us. One thing we do is to oversee a community hospital. That in itself is a big responsibility, and it has its burdens. We must develop some ways to alleviate that burden. One of those ways is to prevent people from getting sick in the first place.

Chairman Blackmon talked about how we can begin working together concerning community health-related issues. All segments of the community should be involved.

Chairman Blackmon called on Board of Trustees members to talk about the various committees and functions. The following trustees made comments:

James Allen talked about the composition of the Hospital Board since it has changed.

Diana Voorhees O'Neal talked about the Governance Committee and its work.

Caroline H. Dixon, Vice-Chair of the Board, spoke about the Community Service Committee.

Gary S. Wilson, Chairman, Finance and Planning Committee, talked about the annual budget and planning.

Mary M. Elkins, Chairman, Performance Improvement & Credentialing Committee, talked about the functions of the committee.

Dwight D. Perry, Chairman, Nominating Committee for Officers, talked about the responsibility of his committee to provide a slate of officers.

Joyce C. Nichols talked about the role and responsibility of being a trustee.

Chairman MaryAnn E. Black was asked to make comments relative to the County's role in health care and what can be done to help the Commissioners in the area of health care.

Chairman Black called on the Commissioners, County Manager, and County Attorney for remarks and comments.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow asked questions and made comments about charity care to which the hospital staff responded.

Chairman Black commented she would like to have another meeting like this to talk about the lease agreement with the Duke Health System. There are other issues that I want put on the table for discussion.

Commissioner Heron made comments about the Medicaid match required by the state of North Carolina. She commented that the nonprofit requests in the upcoming budget would increase because other revenue sources have been cut. The Commissioners will have a difficult time trying to increase the funding for the additional requests. Commissioner Heron said the hospital trustees and Commissioners have had a good relationship in the past, and I want it to stay that way. I look forward to working with you.

Commissioner Bowser made comments about the mission statement prepared by hospital staff. He said the hospital mission statement should also be the Commissioners' mission statement. The trustees and the Commissioners should promote a healthy community.

County Manager Mike M. Ruffin made comments about the state tax difficulty that has decreased revenue by \$3.3 million in Durham County.

Richard Leikweg made remarks about the financial stress that the Durham County Hospital Corporation has been in since he arrived in November 1999.

Chairman Blackmon gave the trustees who did not make a presentation an opportunity to make remarks and comments.

Chairman Blackmon made closing remarks about working together to solve the problems.

The Commissioners were given an opportunity to take a tour of the Rehabilitation Department and the Emergency Room.

No official action or votes were taken at the meeting.

Adjournment

Chairman Blackmon adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CM
Clerk to the Board