

**TRINITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**May 4, 2026**

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I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Marjory Pulvino.

**Board Members Present:** Marjory Pulvino, President  
Cheryl Spearman, Secretary  
Patricia Rogers  
Laura Huffman  
Deana Shelly

**Board Members Absent:** Randy Karnes  
Steve Hancock, Vice President  
Michelle Medlock  
Sunnie Frye

**Others Present:** Billy Goodin, Executive Assistant

II. **INVOCATION:** Cheryl Spearman

III. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proposal from MD Health Pathways-**

Marjory reported that Dr. Dirk Perritt, an emergency room doctor in Dallas, Texas, called her recently to discuss a program which could improve access to health care in the district. He said that he and other health care workers receive so many calls from people questioning if they need to go to the ER, clinic, or see a doctor with their health concerns.

He said that some people call for ambulance service with nonemergent health concerns. If the ambulance goes out to their home, then the ambulance is tied up, and the response time is delayed. Calls like this affect our local ambulance service and costs money for their trip and time.

Dr. Perritt said that in rural areas with few doctors and hospitals, there needs to be an alternative way to handle who have health issues either during off hours for a clinic, they are not established patients at a clinic, they don't have insurance or money, and there is no hospital or emergency room. Dr. Perritt said he has an idea to put in a physician network through an app available by text audio or video. The average response from a provider would be under two minutes, no insurance necessary, no copays, no scheduling and available continuously to every household in the district. The free care would be delivered through a HIPAA-compliant SMS messaging app every household already uses. E-prescribing is routed to local pharmacies, and clinic referrals routed back to clinics and hospitals.

When this free service is available, Dr. Perritt said it helps people with health concerns, will free up ambulance time, and decrease the number of unnecessary clinic visits.

He said that the federal government has the states \$1.4 billion through 2030 for national rural healthcare. Texas will receive \$280 million over the next five years. One of the ways that Dr. Perritt said the money could be used is on the idea described. He has created MD Health

Pathways, and it can be financed through a grant from the Texas State Department of Health requiring no matching funds. Dr. Perritt said if our hospital district agrees to partner with his group, he would write and submit the grant and take care of all the reporting. The documents to the Board members provided state that the cities of Ferris, Henderson, Crandall, and Troup, Texas have functioning working systems like this.

The Board discussed the idea. Marjory surveyed the attending five Board members, and the unanimous consensus was that the Board approved Dr. Perritt to get started on a grant in partnership with TMHD. Marjory said the entire Board would be asked to vote at the May 18, 2026 meeting.

**Action:** No Action was taken

- IV. ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, Patricia Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting. Deana Shelly seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 18:06 p.m.

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Billy Goodin, Executive Assistant

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Date