

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING OF THE HOSPITAL SERVICE  
DISTRICT #2 OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON  
**JANUARY 7, 2026**

A regular monthly business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Hospital Service District #2 of the Parish of St. Mary was held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. in the Media Room of the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District Building located at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, LA 70380

PRESENT: Dr. William A. Cefalu, Jr., Jackie Cheramie, William McCarty, Clarence Robinson, Jr., Angelena Brocato, Thane Aucoin and Barry Dufrene  
Also present: William E. Bourgeois, Counsel for Hospital Service District #2

Dr. Cefalu called the meeting to order.

Dr. Cefalu lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken. Those Board Members present and those absent listed above.

On motion of Mrs. Brocato, second by Mr. Aucoin and unanimously carried, the Board approved and signed the Minutes of December 10, 2025.

Dr. Cefalu opened the floor for Guest/public comments, to which there were none. Dr. Larry Nelson, Anaesthesiologist with Ochsner St. Mary (OSM), Lea Hebert, member of OSM Governing Board and Bill Decker, Reporter with the Daily Review attended without comment.

Dr. Cefalu called for the Financial Report. Mrs. Cheramie presented the Financial Report for the period ending November 30, 2025. On motion of Mr. Robinson, second by Mr. McCarty and unanimously carried, the Board approved the financials as presented. A brief discussion was held as to whether the accounts/funds have been converted to accrual basis, to which Attorney Bourgeois made a brief response and stated that as of this date the accounts have not. He also stated that the HSD #2 had retrieved a \$2.3 million check from the Sheriff's Office for the millage proceeds for the month of December and those funds will be deposited this date. Attorney Bourgeois further advised that we closed on 12/17/2025 for the borrowing and we received in our project bank account \$6.7 million in accordance with the Resolution. A brief discussion was held as to this matter and the fees that were deducted from said amount.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on three (3) year term engagement of Pitts & Matte, CPAs for annual audits. Attorney Bourgeois discussed the Engagement Letter contained in the meeting packet. On motion of Mrs. Cheramie, second by Mr. Dufrene and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Dr. Cefalu to sign the three (3) year term Engagement Letter with Pitts & Matte, CPAs. At this time, Tim Matte, CPA addressed the Board concerning the annual Audit

in addition to certain procedures being performed and reports issued as required by the Legislative Auditor and which could be changed yearly. Further discussions were held. On motion of Mrs. Cheramie, second by Mr. Dufrene and unanimously carried, the previous Motion was amended to reflect a one (1) year term provisional Engagement with Pitts & Matte, CPAs regarding Legislative Auditor requirements.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on scholarship award approvals. Attorney Bourgeois advised that the Scholarship Committee approved the first scholarship award to Landyn LaCoste who is attending Fletcher Technical Community College pursuing a career in radiology. Miss LaCoste's application and letters of recommendations were provided in the Board Member packet for their review. Further discussions were held as to this matter and having a "photo op" during the presentation. Attorney Bourgeois stated that he would look into that suggestion.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on usage of LAMPS for investments with a local bank for checking account. Attorney Bourgeois advised that with the holidays the forms had been received, a decision on the use of a local bank needs to be made and that we are currently working through the process. Further discussions were held as to this matter.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on the authorization to reimburse OSM per the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) for emergency pressurization work. Attorney Bourgeois advised the Board that the rooftop work, etc was complete and we are waiting on the invoices from OSM along with the "back up" invoices for the work actually done. At this time, the matter will be tabled until next month's meeting. Further discussions were held as to the costs.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on infrastructure projects: Attorney Bourgeois gave an update and stated that a zoom call was held on 1-6-2026 with Ochsner team, YKH Engineering and Barry Lann regarding the "5 year plan" and the different Phases and costs. Pressing for Architectural and Engineering work done as soon as possible so things can be placed out for bid. Further discussions were held as to the different phases (first floor renovations) and adding in things regarding the work in the kitchen area.

A. Front Entrance Overhang - completed - certificate of substantial completion was done and once the "punch list" is completed the retainage will be paid:

B. First floor renovations - are ongoing

C. Exterior Replacement Panels - on hold

D. Emergency Generator Replacement - a brief discussion was held as to awarding the contract to the lowest bidder and the costs thereof. On motion of Mrs. Brocato, second by Mrs. Cheramie, and unanimously carried, the contract was awarded to DXI Electric, LLC and the Board authorized Dr. Cefalu to sign any/all contract documents;

E. Phase 2

I. Water Heater #2

II. Heat Exchanger #2 - Attorney Bourgeois advised that he had received information this date that items I & II will be going out for the bid process on 1-16-2026,

III. Replacement of Staff Elevators - Attorney Bourgeois stated that they are working

on the design documents and have contracted an elevator consultant and understand that the need to have it done soon and that it is a “phase operation” process. Attorney Bourgeois requested that the Engineering Architect provide the Board with an update monthly and provide updated the costs estimates.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on OSM’s position on Provider Needs Assessment and Community Needs. Attorney Bourgeois advised that a meeting with OSM is currently set for 1/21/2026 and he will provide the Board with an update thereafter.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on pediatric behavioral health services. Attorney Bourgeois advised that he had met with community leaders and there will be a follow up meeting to obtain more detailed information regarding community needs/what the provider’s responses were and he will then provide the Board with an update at next month’s meeting.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on Cooperative Endeavor Agreements with Ochsner. Attorney Bourgeois advised that he had nothing to report this date.

Dr. Cefalu called for discussion and any action on endowment fund with South LA Community College. Attorney Bourgeois advised that he had followed up with Lana Fontenot, Executive Director Foundation for South LA Community College regarding Endowments. The Board reviewed her email response, which was contained in their meeting packet and a brief discussion was held. Attorney Bourgeois advised that through the news it was reported that Jennifer Wise, present this date was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for South LA Community College and congratulations were given. She made a brief statement regarding in the Endowments. Further discussions were held as to whether an Endowment should be made by the HSD #2. It was agreed that this matter be tabled pending further detailed information. Attorney Bourgeois advised that he would invite Mrs. Fontenot attend the next meeting for further clarifications and to answer any other questions the Board may have regarding Endowments. It was suggested that she be provided with questions from the Board ahead of time so that she could be better prepared to give accurate/detailed/precise answers.

In regard to the Administrative Report, Dr. Cefalu stated that he had nothing new to report.

Dr. Cefalu once again announced the 2026 Meeting dates as follows: February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, August 5<sup>th</sup>, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Bill Decker with the Daily Review was present and given a written list of meeting dates for 2026.

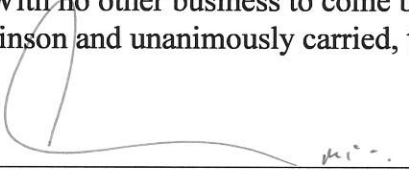
Discussions were held regarding feedback from the community as to the new front entrance, to which Mrs. Wise stated that there had been positive feed back and Dr. Cefalu stated that patients have personally given him great comments and they were appreciative of the renovations.

Discussions were held regarding the development status of the HSD #2 website. It was

suggested that photos of the renovations and the presentation of the scholarship to the recipient be posted. Social media posts were also discussed.

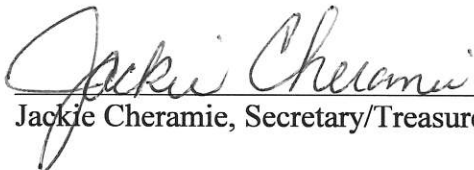
Dr. Cefalu stated there were no matters to be taken up in Executive Session this date.

With no other business to come before the Board, on motion of Mrs. Cheramie, second by Mr. Robinson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.



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William A. Cefalu, Jr., M.D., Chairman



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Jackie Cheramie, Secretary/Treasurer