

Minutes of the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority Annual Meeting held on May 25, 2023 on the fourth floor of Building #4, Station Plaza, 22 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ.

The following *Authority Members* were in attendance:

Robin Ford, Designee of the Department of Health; Bridget Devane, Public Member; and via telephone: David Brown, Public Member (Chairing); Greg Lovell, Designee of the Commissioner of Human Services; Manny Paulino, Designee of the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance; and Sam Maddali, Public Member

The following *Authority staff members* were in attendance:

Frank Troy, Alpa Patel, Taryn Rommell, Cindy Kline, Edwin Fuentes, Ron Marmelstein, Nino McDonald, Bill McLaughlin, Kia Inman, Michael Solidum, Jessica Waite; and via telephone, Tracey Cameron

The following *representatives from the State and/or the public* were in attendance:

Stephanie Gibson, Attorney General's Office; Dorian Smith, Governor's Authorities Unit; and, via telephone, John Kelly, Wilentz, Goldman, & Spitzer; Tamara Cunningham, RWJ Hospital

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and announced that this was the Annual Meeting of the Authority, held in accordance with the schedule adopted at the May 26, 2022 Authority meeting. Complying with the Open Public Meetings Act and the Authority's By-laws, notice of this meeting was mailed to The Star-Ledger, the Courier Post, and provided to numerous other newspapers and media outlets serving New Jersey, early enough to publish an announcement at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting.

Mr. Brown reminded Members on the phone to identify themselves before making or seconding a motion.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES April 27, 2023 Authority Meeting

Minutes for the Authority's April 27, 2023 Meeting were distributed for review and approval prior to the meeting. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Ford made the motion. Ms. Devane seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions or comments on the motion. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Brown called for a vote. With Mr. Brown abstaining, all Members voted in the affirmative and the minutes were approved.

2. NEGOTIATED SALE REQUEST Equipment Revenue Note Program

Mr. Brown called on Michael Solidum to present a request for a negotiated sale in the form of a private placement for the Equipment Revenue Note Program to the Members.

Mr. Solidum began by referencing the Authority's Equipment Revenue Note Program, which offers borrowers a quick turnaround for financings no greater than \$60 million for the purpose of acquiring equipment or retrofitting a facility for equipment.

Mr. Solidum noted that, at prior meetings of the Authority, the Members pre-approved the use of a negotiated private placement for financings completed under this Program. A predetermination of this method of sale is permitted under Executive Order #26 and was requested by the Authority's Advisory Panel in order to complete these transactions in a more efficient and timely manner.

Therefore, Mr. Solidum explained, the Members were provided with a Resolution for consideration which extends the ability to use negotiated private placements for the Equipment Revenue Note Program through May 31, 2024.

Mr. Solidum asked if there were any questions, which there were none. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the request for a negotiated sale in the form of a private placement for the Authority's Equipment Revenue Note Program. Mr. Paulino made the motion. Ms. Ford seconded. Mr. Brown asked if the Members had any questions on the motion. There were no questions. All Members voted in the affirmative and the resolution was approved.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-A

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby adopts the resolution entitled, "**RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS BY NEGOTIATED TRANSACTION PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26 GOVERNOR CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN.**"

(attached)

3. RELEASE OF HACKENSACK MERIDIAN AMBULATORY CARE FROM THE LOAN AGREEMENT FOR THE MERIDIAN HEALTH SERIES 2016A BONDS

Mr. Brown called upon Edwin Fuentes to explain the reasons for the release of Hackensack Meridian Ambulatory Care from the loan agreement for the Meridian Health Series 2016A Bonds.

Mr. Fuentes began by stating that the Authority previously issued its Refunding Bonds, Meridian Health System Obligated Group Issue, Series 2016A (the "Series 2016A Bonds"), which currently

has an outstanding principal balance of approximately \$109.6 million. The proceeds from the sale of the Series 2016A Bonds were lent by the Authority to HMH Hospitals Corporation and Hackensack Meridian Ambulatory Care, Inc. (“HMAC”) pursuant to an Amended and Restated Loan Agreement, dated as of July 12, 2017 (the “Loan Agreement”) between the Authority and both borrowers. A portion of the proceeds of the Series 2016A Bonds was used by HMAC to refinance the costs of the construction, renovation and equipping of a residential care facility located in Wall Township, New Jersey (the “Wall Facility”). The Wall Facility was the only asset owned by HMAC which was refinanced with the proceeds of the Series 2016A Bonds.

Mr. Fuentes informed Members that on March 16, 2023, Hackensack Meridian Health, Inc. (“HMH”), the parent company of both HMH Hospitals and HMAC, sold the Wall Facility to a for-profit entity. As a result, in order to maintain the federal tax exemption of interest of the Series 2016A Bonds in accordance with relevant IRS regulations, HMH caused the portion of the Series 2016A Bonds which was allocable to the refinancing of the Wall Facility to be redeemed, paid and fully retired on May 1st, 2023. As a result of such redemption and the fact that the Wall Facility was the only asset owned by HMAC and refinanced with the proceeds of the Series 2016A Bonds, HMAC no longer has any obligation to pay the debt service on any portion of the outstanding Series 2016A Bonds. Consequently, HMH has now asked that HMAC be released from its obligations as one of the Borrowers under the Loan Agreement.

Mr. Fuentes stated that Banc of America Public Capital Corp. (“BofA”), the holder of 100% of the outstanding Series 2016A Bonds, has already released HMAC from its obligations under the Continuing Covenants Agreement between the Borrower and BofA and has consented to HMAC being released from its obligations under the Loan Agreement.

Mr. Fuentes also noted that approval of the attached “Resolution Of The New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority Approving The Release Of Hackensack Meridian Ambulatory Care, Inc. From Its Obligations As A Borrower Under The Loan Agreement Relating To Its Refunding Bonds, Meridian Health System Obligated Group Issue, Series 2016A” (the “Resolution”) will allow for the execution of a Release Document by an Authorized Officer of the Authority in an agreed upon form in consultation with Bond Counsel, the Attorney General’s Office, and an Authorized Officer of the Authority executing such document.

Mr. Fuentes concluded with staff recommends the approval of the Resolution. John Kelly from Wilentz Goldman and Spitzer or he would address any questions or concerns the Members had.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve a resolution for the release of Hackensack Meridian Ambulatory Care, Inc. from its obligations as a borrower under the Loan Agreement relating to the Meridian Health, Series 2016A Bonds. Mr. Lovell made the motion. Mr. Paulino seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions or comments on the motion. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Brown called for a vote. With Ms. Devane recusing, all Members voted in the affirmative and the motion was approved.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-B

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby adopts the resolution entitled “**RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY APPROVING THE RELEASE OF HACKENSACK MERIDIAN AMBULATORY CARE, INC. FROM ITS OBLIGATIONS AS A BORROWER UNDER THE LOAN AGREEMENT RELATING TO ITS REFUNDING BONDS, MERIDIAN HEALTH SYSTEM OBLIGATED GROUP ISSUE, SERIES 2016A.**”

(attached)

4. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Mark E. Hopkins

Mr. Brown called upon Frank Troy to read the Resolution of Appreciation for Mark E. Hopkins to the Members.

Mr. Troy began by reminding Members that Mark retired as of May 1st, 2023 after serving as Executive Director for over eighteen years. Mark led the Authority through a time of tremendous change in the health care delivery system, several economic cycles and a pandemic and he never missed an Authority meeting during his tenure. It is only fitting that we show our appreciation for Mark’s commitment and service. Mr. Troy then read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority (“Authority”) was created through the enactment of Chapter 29, Laws of New Jersey 1972, which was amended in January of 1998 to ensure that all health care organizations have access to financial resources to improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State; and,

WHEREAS, Mark E. Hopkins was appointed Executive Director of the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority on August 2, 2004; and,

WHEREAS, Mark E. Hopkins served the Authority through the tenures of five Governors and eight Commissioners of Health; and,

WHEREAS, Mark E. Hopkins, as Executive Director of the Authority, demonstrated initiative in carrying out the mission of the Authority, that of ensuring “that all health care organizations have access to financial resources to improve the health and welfare of the citizens of the State”; and,

WHEREAS, toward that mission, during Mark E. Hopkins’ tenure the Authority issued over \$13.9 billion in financings for New Jersey’s health care organizations; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Executive Director, Mark E. Hopkins became a trusted advisor to the Governor of New Jersey, the State Legislature and the State Commissioners of Health and Senior Services on all issues related to New Jersey health care; and,

WHEREAS, during his employment as Executive Director, Mark E. Hopkins led the Authority and its staff through the COVID-19 pandemic that required swift transition, adaptation, and the use of technology to ensure business continuity; and,

WHEREAS, during his service as Executive Director, Mark E. Hopkins pioneered the creation of the COVID-19 Emergency Loan program which allowed health care facilities to gain access to interest free loans to off-set the expenses incurred by the pandemic until the Federal Emergency Management Administration funds were available; and,

WHEREAS, during his service as Executive Director, Mark E. Hopkins developed new policy initiatives to maintain the Authority's competitive advantage by streamlining the municipal bond process and reducing borrower fees; and,

WHEREAS, Mark E. Hopkins participated in many projects at the Authority that required working with industry and government experts through working groups and with the Authority Members through open communication and organized retreats to create best practices for the Authority, its borrowers and its bondholders; and,

WHEREAS, during his tenure, Mark E. Hopkins helped the State of New Jersey address a number of challenging policy issues including charity care reimbursement rates, the health care stabilization fund, the hospital asset transformation program, and the statewide rationalization of health care services; and,

WHEREAS, after more than eighteen years of service with the Authority, Mark E. Hopkins retired from his post on May 1, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority wishes to acknowledge Mark E. Hopkins for his dedicated service to the Authority and the New Jersey health care organizations which it supports; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority wishes to acknowledge Mark E. Hopkins' commitment to the Authority and to applaud the integrity which he demonstrated in carrying out the Authority's mission and goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority hereby expresses its appreciation to Mark E. Hopkins for his contributions to the Authority, the health care organizations, and the citizens of New Jersey; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to Mark E. Hopkins for his dedication and loyalty; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution of Appreciation be sent to Mark E. Hopkins as a tribute from the Authority for his service and accomplishments as Executive Director of the Authority.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Mark E. Hopkins. Mr. Lovell made the motion. Ms. Ford seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions or comments on the motion. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Brown then called for a vote. All Members voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-C

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby adopts the resolution entitled, **“RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR MARK E. HOPKINS”**

(attached)

5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Officers**
- b. 2023/2024 Meeting Calendar**
- c. Approval of Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for Authority Deposit Accounts at TD Bank**

Mr. Brown announced that the May meeting serves as the Authority’s Annual Meeting and therefore, the Members were required to elect officers and approve meeting dates for the upcoming year. Mr. Brown asked for nominations for the officers.

a. Election of Officers

Robin Ford made the following nominations:

Officers of the Authority

Vice Chair	David Brown
Secretary	Thomas Sullivan
Assistant Secretaries	Ron Marmelstein Cindy Kline
Treasurer	Sam Maddali
Assistant Treasurer	Bridget Devane

Authority Finance Committee

Chair	Sam Maddali
Members	David Brown Thomas Sullivan
Alternate Member	Bridget Devane

Authority Evaluation Committee

Chair	Sam Maddali
Members	David Brown Thomas Sullivan
Alternate Member	Bridget Devane

Ms. Ford also nominated the ex-officio Members from the Department of Health and Department of Banking and Insurance, or their designees, Ms. Ford and Mr. Paulino, and Ryan Feeney, a representative from Treasury, to serve on the Audit Committee.

According to the Authority's enabling legislation, Judith M. Persichilli, as Commissioner of Health, will remain as Chair.

Mr. Brown asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Mr. Brown asked for a motion to approve the list of nominations. Mr. Paulino made the motion. Ms. Devane seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions on the motion. There were no questions. Mr. Brown called for a vote. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mr. Brown noted that the terms of the Authority's elected officers begin immediately following the Governor's ten-day veto period, barring any veto notification from the Governor's Office.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-D

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby elected to serve in the official positions noted until May 23, 2024, or until the next election of officers:

Vice Chair – David Brown
Secretary – Thomas Sullivan
Treasurer – Sam Maddali
Assistant Treasurer – Bridget Devane
Assistant Secretaries – Ron Marmelstein and Cindy Kline

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority’s Finance Committee will be chaired by Sam Maddali with David Brown and Thomas Sullivan serving as Committee members, and Bridget Devane serving as an alternate member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority’s Evaluation Committee will be chaired by Sam Maddali with David Brown and Thomas Sullivan serving as Committee members, and Bridget Devane serving as an alternate member.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority’s Audit Committee consists of the ex-officio Members from the Department of Health and Department of Banking and Insurance, or their designees, Robin Ford and Manny Paulino, and Ryan Feeney, a representative from Treasury.

b. 2023/2024 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Brown referenced a proposed list of dates on which to conduct meetings of the Authority and its Finance Committee for the coming year. Mr. Maddali offered a motion to adopt the schedule. Mr. Lovell seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions on the motion. There were no questions. Mr. Brown then called for a vote. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-E

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby adopts the following schedule of dates on which to conduct meetings of the Authority; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as provided by the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act and the Authority’s By-laws, the Assistant Secretary is authorized to provide notice of these meeting dates to the Authority’s designated newspapers, to post notice in the Authority offices and on the Authority’s website, and provide notice to the Secretary of State.

AUTHORITY MEETING Board Room 10:00 a.m.
<p>2023</p> <p>Thursday, June 22</p> <p>Thursday, July 27</p> <p>Thursday, August 24</p> <p>Thursday, September 28</p> <p>Thursday, October 26</p> <p>Thursday, November 16</p> <p>Thursday, December 14</p>
<p>2024</p> <p>Thursday, January 25</p> <p>Thursday, February 22</p> <p>Thursday, March 28</p> <p>Thursday, April 25</p> <p>Thursday, May 23</p>

Mr. Brown noted for the record that, unless advertised to the contrary, all meetings are open to the public and shall be held in the Authority’s office on the fourth floor of Building #4, Station Plaza, 22 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey. He added that the Authority’s staff will perform the required public announcement and notification of the meeting dates once the Governor’s ten-day veto period has passed.

c. Approval of Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for Authority Deposit Accounts at TD Bank

Mr. Brown asked Alpa Patel to present the resolution for the approval of the Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for Authority deposit accounts.

Ms. Patel explained to the Members that the By-Laws of the Authority require that any checks of the Authority shall be signed by any two members of the Authority who are also officers of the Authority. Officers of the Authority authorized to sign checks include the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and any Assistant Secretary or Assistant Treasurer. The checks are signed by either using the actual signatures of the Authorized Officers, or the facsimile signatures, depending on the dollar amount and/or type of account.

According to Ms. Patel, with the New Jersey State Senate confirming the appointment of Sam Maddali and Bridget Devane as public members of the Authority Board and as a result of the new slate of officers elected at today’s meeting, it is necessary for the members of the Authority to adopt Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for its two (2) accounts at TD Bank. In addition, a new Business Account Maintenance Form will have to be signed.

Ms. Patel then offered to answer any questions from the Members.

Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adopt a resolution approving the Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for Authority deposit accounts. Mr. Paulino offered the motion. Ms. Ford seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions or comments on the motion. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Brown then called for a vote. All Members voted in the affirmative and the motion passed.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-F

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Authority hereby approves the attached Governmental Entity Certificate of Resolution for Authority Deposit Accounts at TD Bank as a result of the appointment of a new Officers and authorizes the submission of new signature cards.

6. AUTHORITY EXPENSES

Mr. Brown referenced a summary of Authority expenses and invoices provided to the Members. Ms. Ford made the motion to approve the expenses. Mr. Lovell seconded. Mr. Brown asked if there were any questions or comments on the motion. There were no questions or comments. Mr. Brown then called for a vote. All Members voted in the affirmative. The resolution was approved to approve the bills and to authorize their payment.

AB RESOLUTION NO. 2023-5-G

WHEREAS, the Members of the Authority have reviewed the memoranda dated May 17, 2023 summarizing expenses incurred by the Authority in connection with Trustee/Escrow Agent/Paying Agent fees and general operating expenses in the amount of \$29,500.00 and \$78,844.14, respectively, and have found such expenses to be appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Members of the Authority hereby approve all expenses as submitted, and authorize the execution of checks representing the payment thereof.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Brown thanked staff for the Project Development Summary, Cash Reconciliation Report, and First Quarter Budget Report.

Mr. Brown then asked Executive Director Frank Troy to present his Executive Director's report.

Mr. Troy reported the following:

1. I would like to thank the Authority Members who accepted officer positions and committee roles today and thank you to all of the Members and Designees for your continued dedication and service.

Thank you to the Authority Members and Senior Staff who filed their 2023 Financial Disclosure Statements with the State Ethics Commission by the May 15, 2023 deadline. Those granted extensions can reach out to Robin Piotrowski, the Authority's Ethics Liaison Officer, if you have any questions.

2. New Jersey Hospital News

- a) The spring 2023 Leapfrog Hospital Safety scores were recently released. New Jersey hospitals ranked No. 1 in the country for the percentage of hospitals that received an "A" grade at 51% and 77% receiving either an "A" or "B" grade. None received lower than a "C". A NJ Biz article listing spring 2023 and fall 2022 scores was included in this month's package.
- b) Health care staffing is getting a lot of attention both locally and nationally. According to Adzuna, a job listing site, New Jersey ranks among the 10 states with the most unfilled registered nurse positions with 13,404. Nurses gathered at the Statehouse in Trenton on May 11th in support of Senate bill S-304 which would set enforceable mandatory minimum staffing requirements. Two staffing-related bills were recently passed by the State Assembly Appropriations Committee. A-4614 would expand eligibility for a program that helps nurses pay off their student debt. A-4613 would allow qualifying loan redemption to primary care and other health care practitioners in areas of the State deemed underserved or with a shortage of providers. There is a total of nine health care staffing bills currently making their way through both houses. In its State Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request, the New Jersey Hospital Association requested \$400 million for bonus incentives in the amount of \$3,000 per hospital employee, one of many workforce related items. On the federal level, an Ohio Senator and an Ohio Representative reintroduced a minimum staffing level bill for nurses.
- c) The Inspira Health Network was one of 24 health systems with strong finances listed in a May 4th Becker's Hospital Review article.
- d) Northjersey.com reported that Hackensack University Medical Center reached an agreement with the city and will pay \$24 million over the next six years for municipal services. The pact supersedes existing agreements between the hospital and city, and the parties can renegotiate the terms in 2029.
- e) Virtua Health appointed Wolf Commercial Real Estate as the exclusive marketing agent for an approximately 110-acre landsite located in Westampton. Virtua was to build a \$1 billion hospital complex at the site but revised its plans after the acquisition of Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County in nearby Willingboro and Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden from Trinity Health in 2019.

- f) Staff has learned that Brian Ulery became CEO of Saint Clare’s Health System on April 3rd. Mr. Ulery previously held leadership positions in Florida, Georgia and West Virginia. Saint Clare’s is owned and operated by Prime Healthcare and has acute care hospitals in Denville and Dover.
- g) CarePoint Health Systems, Inc., the non-profit entity created when two of the principal owners of CarePoint transferred their equity, applied for \$104 million in federal grants requesting a total of \$26.7 million for Hoboken University Medical Center, \$37.4 million for Christ Hospital and \$40.6 million for Bayonne Medical Center. A significant portion of the funds would be to defray the cost of agency nurses incurred by the hospitals.

3. Ratings Agency Actions and Publications

- a) Fitch Ratings affirmed Inspira Health Network’s AA- rating on approximately \$400 million of revenue bonds issued by the Authority. The outlook is Stable. Inspira is rated A2 which is equivalent to Fitch’s A by Moody’s Investor Service, also with a Stable outlook.
- b) S&P Global Ratings affirmed Hunterdon Medical Center’s A- rating on approximately \$135 million of outstanding bonds issued by the Authority. The outlook is Stable. Hunterdon is also rated A- by Fitch but with a Negative outlook meaning a ratings downgrade is possible in the next 12 to 18 months.
- c) In its May 15th Credit Outlook, Moody’s noted the April Consumer Price Index data showed inflation eased somewhat to 4.9% and suggested that if inflation declined further in May, the Fed may pause rate hikes leaving the federal funds rate in the 5.00%-5.25% range. Moody’s believes it is unlikely the Fed would reduce rates until next year. Moody’s view of a potential Fed pause is not universally held.

For those who think current rates are extremely high, I included a graphic of rates from 1950 to present. In 1981, the Fed funds rate was over 19%. By the way, the next Fed meeting is June 14th.

- d) Also provided with the articles distributed were the April Kaufman Hall National Hospital Flash Report and an interview with Kaufman Hall’s Lisa Goldstein from Nursing Economics magazine. Lisa spent many years at Moody’s before joining Kaufman Hall and has always been very supportive of the Authority.

4. New Jersey Health Care News

- a) A report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation finds racial disparities in health access and outcomes remain 'embedded' in New Jersey. The Foundation recommends:
 - Ensuring New Jerseyans have equitable access to affordable housing;

- Improve maternal and infant health outcomes by enhancing care, supports, and prevention; and
- Investing in and supporting a modern public health system.

5. National Health Care News

- a) The COVID-19 public health emergency, which started at 5:00PM Eastern Standard Time on February 2, 2020, expired on May 11th after more than three years of social disruption, at least 6 million hospitalizations, and an estimated 1.1 million U.S. deaths. A Fact Sheet on the subject put out by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was among the articles distributed. One aspect of the end of the pandemic that is receiving considerable attention is the potential disenrollment from Medicaid of millions of Americans who may no longer qualify but had remained in the program during the emergency by law. Policy makers fear a large percentage could become uninsured as a result of the mandatory redetermination process.
- b) May is National Nurses Month, we express our gratitude and appreciation to all nurses for their hard work and dedication.
- c) Unionized workers at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (or UPMC) filed a 55 page complaint which they say is a first-of-its-kind formal request with the U.S. Justice Department Antitrust Division to investigate alleged wage suppression and other anti-competitive behaviors in violation of the Sherman Act. Mostly through acquisitions and mergers, UPMC has grown into a 41-hospital system with 800 doctors' offices and clinics and \$26 billion in operating revenue last year. The system is the largest private employer in the state of Pennsylvania with about 95,000 people in medical and health insurance entities. For comparison purposes, Hackensack Meridian Health and RWJ Barnabas Health each operate twelve hospitals.

This could be an interesting case as large health care systems created by mergers have faced increased scrutiny in recent years and the Federal Trade Commission, which also enforces federal antitrust laws, has been interested in looking at potential post-merger anti-competitive behavior in health care since 2016.

- d) The Medicare for All Act of 2023 (the Act) was introduced by U.S. Representatives Jayapal of Washington and Dingell of Michigan and U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont. The Act would expand Medicare to provide comprehensive benefits to every person in the United States including primary care, vision, dental, prescription drugs, mental health, substance abuse, long-term services and supports and reproductive health care. It also includes universal long-term care coverage and the ability to negotiate prescription drug prices. As with previous "Medicare for All" attempts, the estimated cost and the tax increases that would be required to implement such a health-care system may make it a nonstarter politically.
- e) There has been a number of recent articles on drug shortages in the U.S. In New Jersey, Adderall, used for attention deficit and hyperactivity disorders, and some cancer

medications have been in short supply. Demand spikes, manufacturing problems and ingredient supply issues have contributed to the shortages. Pricing and vanity have also resulted in some drugs becoming scarce. For example, a shortage of the popular diabetes treatment Ozempic, touted by celebrities for aid in weight loss, developed when consumers favored it over the more expensive weight loss drug Wegovy which is the same compound.

- f) A report on artificial intelligence, or AI, by consulting firm Accenture listed healthcare as having high potential for automation and augmentation. Dr. Anthony Mazzaelli, Co-CEO and a former Emergency Room physician at Cooper University Health Care appeared in a recent Fox News interview about Cooper's use of an AI tool to reduce physicians' paperwork allowing more focus on patients.

6. Bond and Tax Legislation and Regulatory News

- a) U.S. Senators Wicker of Mississippi and Stabenow of Michigan reintroduced the Lifting Our Communities through Advance Liquidity for Infrastructure (LOCAL Infrastructure) Act on May 9th. The legislation would amend the federal tax code to restore state and local governments' ability to use advance refunding to manage bond debt and reduce borrowing costs for public projects. New Jersey's Senator Menendez is among a number of bipartisan co-sponsors. Advance refunding of tax exempt municipal bonds has not been available since 2017. The Authority's trade association is hopeful passage could open the door to restoring the ability to advance refund bonds issued for non-governmental purposes that support public policy reasons such as those issued by the Authority.

7. Authority News

- a) Taryn Rommel, who recently marked 15 years with the Authority, was promoted to Director of Research, Investor Relations and Compliance effective May 1st. Congratulations Taryn!
- b) Senior Assistant Account Administrator Diane Johnson marked 30 years with the Authority yesterday. Congratulations and thank you, Diane!
- c) Project Manager Edwin Fuentes received a Master of Business Administration degree from Rider University last weekend. Congratulations, Edwin!

Thank you and enjoy the holiday weekend!

Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Troy for his report, congratulated the staff for their accomplishments, and wished everyone a safe holiday.

As there was no further business, Mr. Brown asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lovell made the motion and Mr. Maddali seconded. All Members voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39am.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE
FOREGOING IS A TRUE COPY OF
MINUTES OF THE NEW JERSEY
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES
FINANCING AUTHORITY MEETING
HELD ON MAY 25, 2023.

Cindy Kline, Assistant Secretary