



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

TMC Board Room

**Council Members Present:**

Carolyn Belk, Houston Methodist  
Tanweer Kaleemullah, HCPHES  
Edgar Smith, Houston Community College Systems  
Rosie McStay, Texas Children's Hospital  
Remmele Young, Houston Community College Systems  
Stephen Linder, UTHealth  
Ashlea Quinonez, Memorial Hermann Healthcare Systems  
Alicia Lee, Greater Houston Partnership  
Weldon Gage, Texas Children Hospital  
King Hillier, Harris County Hospital District  
Scott Forbes, UTHealth

**Guest Speakers Present:**

Robert D. Miller, LockeLord

**TMC Members Present:**

Dr. Arthur "Tim" Garson, Director of Health Policy  
Tatum Boatwright, Marketing Associate  
Shawn W. Cloonan, EVP, General Counsel  
Chase Untermeyer, Strategic Advisor TMC; Former Ambassador Qatar

## HIGHLIGHTS

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Dr. Arthur “Tim” Garson, Texas Medical Center & Rosie Valadez, Texas Children’s Hospital
  - The meeting commenced shortly after 8:30 a.m. all members went around the table and introduced themselves.
  
- II. Guest Speaker: Texas and United States health care - Robert Miller, Lockelord
  - Robert Miller provided an overview of the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Donald Trump won the election with 306 popular votes. Throughout the presentation, Miller displayed maps and graphs of the democratic and republican parties and presented interesting facts and statistics in regards to the Houston area and healthcare industry.
  - The United States Senate after the election had 34 candidates on the ballots, 24 republicans and 10 democrats. The current house of representatives is 204 republicans and 194 democrats. As our country is turning into a republican nation, the council was able to ask different questions about our nation moving forward. The most skeptical states of this election were Wisconsin and Pennsylvania since they both ended up becoming Republican states. However, democrats typically live in the urban areas and republicans in the rural.
  - In Houston, we have been able to see the trend changes with our surrounding areas. For examples, Fort Bend County has merged into a democratic area and has become the most diverse county in the nation. Unlike Harris, Fort Bend splits at the Brazos with east and west. As seen in Dallas County in 2006, they went to a democratic and then they never went back. Another aspect of Houston, is in regards to Houston ISD. HISD is now a property wealthy school district, where we will owe \$162 millions of recapture to the state beginning next spring. HISD taxes will most likely go up as well with this.
  - One election that will still take place on December 10, 2016 is the Louisiana runoff election. Louisiana doesn’t narrow candidate fields in state and local races with a primary election before the general election. Instead, the state’s primary election for these offices coincides with the November election and all candidates appear on the same ballot. The republican state treasure is favored for this runoff election this year.
  - If you have any questions for Robert D. Miller, please find his contact information at ([rmiller@lockelord.com](mailto:rmiller@lockelord.com), or 713-226-1186)
  
- III. Round-Table Discussion: Post-Election Debrief

- The council had a roundtable debrief over the election after Robert Millers presentation. Rosie McStay brought up the subject of being the lame duck. A lame duck in politics is an elected official who is approaching the end of their tenure, especially one whose successor has already been elected. This official is often seen as having less influence with other politicians due to their limited time left in office. Topics that were brought up during the debrief included:
  - Reformation of Medicaid in regards to children
  - The challenge of the budget and government funding
  - The thoughts of trade issues and health care protection with Harris County and Houston
  - The education of members about black grants and per capita caps
  - Uncompensated Care Form
  - The direct line of communication for health care industries to be heard.

#### IV. Health Policy Course Update– Dr. Arthur “Tim” Garson, Director of Health Policy, TMC

- Dr. Stephen Linder and Dr. Tim Garson proposed to start a health policy course back at our last council meeting. Dr. Linder provided an update on the course and steps moving forward. This course will be shared with the academic institution on health policy and cover multiple topics for the students. All of the participating institution would have a local course instructor that would take a turn teaching the students as it will be hosted in Third Coast or a central area of the TMC.
- To date, they have 14 institutions that have signed off on joining the course. It will be either a 13 or 16-week course and will begin in the Fall of 2017. This will be accredited through the curriculum course and grades will be locally graded and inputted for the students.

#### V. Additional Council Updates

- **Council Members:** Please send any potential council members to Tatum Boatwright ([tboatwright@tmc.edu](mailto:tboatwright@tmc.edu)). We will be inviting new members in 2017!
- **Council Members:** if you have any agenda items or speakers you would like to see if 2017, please send these to Tatum Boatwright ([tboatwright@tmc.edu](mailto:tboatwright@tmc.edu))

Next Meeting:  
TBD 2017