# SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST

# **AUDITORS' COMMUNICATION LETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2022** 



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March 11, 2024

To the Special Fiduciary of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust

We have audited the financial statements of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan) for the year ended September 30, 2022. Professional standards require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

#### Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated April 3, 2023, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Plan. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

#### Planned Scope, Timing of the Audit, Significant Risks, and Other

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit involved judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit included updating our understanding of the Plan and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Plan or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Plan.

According to U.S. generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS), significant risks include management override of controls, and GAAS presumes that revenue recognition is a significant audit risk. Accordingly, we have considered these as significant risks. We also identified transactions related to benefit obligations and investments as significant audit risks during our planning.

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to management during our preliminary audit meetings.

# Significant Audit Matters

# Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Plan are described in the Note 2 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during fiscal year 2022. We noted no transactions entered into by the Plan during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were the fair value of investments (particularly alternative investments), the settlement contribution receivable, and actuarial information presented in the note disclosures and in the required supplementary information.

Management's estimate of the fair value of investments is based on input from outside investment managers, consultants, and general economic conditions. The settlement contribution receivable is calculated using the net present value of the original settlement. The actuarial information presented in the note disclosures and in the required supplementary information is based on actuarial methods and assumptions determined by the Plan in consultation with the actuary. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop those estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements are those pertaining to investments and funded status of the plan.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

# Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

# Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements.

#### Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

# Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 11, 2024.

#### Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the organization's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

# Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Plan's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

#### Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the schedules of changes in the net pension liability and related ratios, employer contributions, and investment returns, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

#### Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Special Fiduciary and management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Sincerely,

Williams Keepers uc

WILLIAMS-KEEPERS LLC