

**IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

IN RE: Lay, et al. v. Singing River Health System, et al.; Cause No. 2015-0060

---

**REPORT BY SPECIAL FIDUCIARY TRACI M. CHRISTIAN**

---

Pursuant to the appointment of Traci M. Christian as Special Fiduciary of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the "Plan"), the Court has requested a monthly report. The Special Fiduciary brings to the Court's attention the following items for the month of September, 2025.

**Plan Investments**

Attached for the Court's review is a report showing asset positions and activity for the month ending August 31.

Of note this month:

- Equity markets rose higher throughout the month with every asset class experiencing some appreciation.
- We trimmed short duration bonds and U.S. small cap equity during the month.
- There were two pension payouts this month: August 1st and August 29th.
- We received the annual \$4.5 million hospital payment September 5th.

The Plan's investments continue to perform well keeping pace with current market conditions. Subsequent reports will keep the Court apprised as to the investment performance in coming months. **As of August 31, the market value of the Trust is \$98.067 million.**

The Special Fiduciary with the advice of the Plan's independent investment advisor continues to monitor this allocation and make changes within the Investment Policy Statement targets.

### **Updated - Financial Audit of the Fund**

The audit firm of Williams Keepers conducted a financial audit of the fund for the years ended September 30, 2023 and September 30, 2024.

Those audit reports and letters are attached for the Court's review and confirm that the Plan's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the Plan as of September 30, 2023 and 2024, and the changes in its fiduciary net position for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

An audit for the year ended September 30, 2025 is planned to begin next year likely in conjunction with the audit for the year ended September 30, 2026.

### **Administration**

All Plan benefits due and vendor invoices to date have been authorized for payment.

The Special Fiduciary is planning a visit to Plan participants on December 2, 2025. It is anticipated that the October 1, 2025 Actuarial Valuation will be completed by early November and presented to the Court and then to Plan participants. Retired Plan participants will receive notice of the meeting through the mail and participant's still employed by SRHS will receive notice via e-mail. Notice of the meeting will also be posted on the Plan's website.

This concludes the report for the 16th day of September, 2025.

**Respectfully submitted,**



---

**TRACI MILLER CHRISTIAN**

## Singing River Health System Employees' Pension Plan Trust

One Month Ended

## Mark to Market Accounting Summary

August 31, 2025

Investment (\$000's)	Beginning Market Value	Net Additions/ Withdrawals	Interest/ Dividends/Fees	Gains/ Losses	Ending Market Value
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,672</b>	<b>(2,271)</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1,589</b>	<b>98,067</b>
Money Market in Distribution Account	1,527	(1,023)	4	-	508
Money Market in Mutual Fund Account	758	(757)	-	-	1
FCI Advisors Fixed Income	15,631	(0)	54	92	15,776
Vanguard High Yield Corp Adm Fund	1,027	6	-	7	1,040
FCI Advisors Value Equity	6,151	(0)	15	112	6,278
Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund	14,332	-	-	294	14,626
FCI Advisors Select Growth Equity	7,438	(0)	4	18	7,459
Fidelity Mid Cap Index	10,467	-	-	262	10,729
Westfield Capital	2,087	(4)	1	35	2,119
Fidelity Total International Index	10,096	-	-	416	10,512
DFA International Small Cap Value	1,059	-	-	69	1,128
Fidelity Emerging Markets Index Prem	2,723	-	-	60	2,783
DFA US Small Cap I	1,936	(249)	-	104	1,791
DFA Emerging Markets Core Equity I	2,115	-	-	53	2,168
Lord Abbett Short Duration Income R6	1,051	(244)	-	4	811
Gramercy Distressed Opportunities Fund II <sup>1</sup>	686	-	-	-	686
Elliott International Ltd. <sup>2</sup>	7,570	-	-	64	7,634
Invesco US Income <sup>1</sup>	4,636	-	-	-	4,636
Eastern Timberland Opportunities II <sup>3</sup>	4,075	-	-	-	4,075
Eastern Timberland Opportunities III <sup>3</sup>	3,305	-	-	-	3,305

<sup>1</sup>Valuation date: 6/30/2025 using estimated monthly investment performance<sup>2</sup>Valuation date: 8/31/2025 using estimated monthly investment performance<sup>3</sup>Valuation date: 6/30/2024 asset prices quarterly

Withdrawals represent "Employee Benefit Payments" and Additions represent hospital contributions.

Fees represent investment management fees.

Beginning market value may vary from previous month ending market values due to adjustments made during current month.

All values are preliminary.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**AUDITOR'S COMMUNICATION LETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

September 2, 2025

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, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated September 2, 2025. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Because the Plan does not have any employees, for purposes of this letter, the term "management" includes those whom the Plan has engaged to provide professional services for financial and other management functions to the extent those functions have not been retained by the Special Fiduciary.

### **Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit**

As communicated in our engagement letter dated November 1, 2024, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of the internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Plan solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our findings regarding significant control deficiencies over financial reporting and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated September 2, 2025.

### **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated in our engagement letter dated November 1, 2024.

## **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

## **Significant Risks Identified**

According to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), significant risks of material misstatement include management override of controls, and GAAS presumes that revenue recognition is a significant risk. Accordingly, we considered these as significant risks.

## **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

### *Significant Accounting Policies*

Management has the responsibility to select and use of appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Plan is included in Note 2 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during fiscal year 2024. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

### *Significant Accounting Estimates and Related Disclosures*

Accounting estimates and related disclosures are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on 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 markedly from management's current judgments.

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.

### *Financial Statement Disclosures*

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

## **Significant Difficulties Encountered During the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

## **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosure, and the financial statements as a whole and each applicable opinion unit. Management has corrected all identified misstatements.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. None of the misstatements identified by us as a result of our audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole or applicable opinion units.

## **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the Plan's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

## **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in a separate letter dated September 2, 2025.

## **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

## **Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

In the normal course of our professional association with the Plan, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Plan's auditors.

This report is intended solely for the information and 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Williams-Keepers LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WILLIAMS-KEEPERS LLC

**REPORT OF**  
**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM**  
**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**



## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan), which comprise the statement of fiduciary net position as of September 30, 2024, the related statement of changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the Plan as of September 30, 2024, and the changes in its fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that GAAP requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

GAAP requires that the schedules of changes in the net pension liability and related ratios, employer contributions, and investment returns be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*William F. Keelers UC*

Columbia, Missouri  
September 2, 2025

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
September 30, 2024**

**ASSETS**

Investments	\$ 102,759,921
Accrued interest and dividends	146,609
Settlement contribution receivable	<u>65,860,147</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 168,766,677</u></u>

**NET POSITION**

Restricted for pension benefits	<u><u>\$ 168,766,677</u></u>
---------------------------------	------------------------------

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2024**

ADDITIONS:

Investment income	\$ 17,367,188
Investment expenses	<u>(249,776)</u>
Total investment income, net	17,117,412
Interest income on settlement contribution receivable	<u>4,258,975</u>
Total additions, net	<u>21,376,387</u>

DEDUCTIONS:

Benefits	13,045,524
Administrative expenses	<u>357,568</u>
Total deductions	<u>13,403,092</u>

Net change	7,973,295
------------	-----------

Net position - restricted for pension benefits

Beginning of year	<u>160,793,382</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 168,766,677</u></u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

# **SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **1. PLAN DESCRIPTION**

The following description of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Plan members should refer to the Plan Document for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan sponsored by the Singing River Health System (the Health System). The Plan was established on February 17, 1983 and covers eligible plan members who were employed by the Health System on a full-time basis prior to October 1, 2011. The Plan was frozen to new entrants on October 1, 2011.

The Health System is a governmental entity and as such, the Plan is exempt from the reporting requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

A court-appointed "Special Fiduciary" was named trustee of the Plan on October 19, 2015, and was given responsibility for plan administration, asset management, and benefit determination.

*Contributions:* Active members were required to contribute 3% of annual compensation to the Plan through November 29, 2014, at which point employee contributions were frozen. On September 26, 2018, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a class-action lawsuit that provides the Health System will fund the Plan with approximately \$150 million over 35-years. Funding of the settlement contribution receivable is the Health System's only obligation to the Plan. The payment of the settlement contribution receivable may require modification to the Plan to equitably distribute the benefits paid. Any adjustment to the Plan can only be done with Special Fiduciary recommendation and Chancery Court approval after 60-days' notice to the class members and opportunity for hearing.

*Benefits:* The Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to eligible plan members and their beneficiaries. Employees with 10-years of credited service are eligible for normal retirement at age 65, or early retirement at age 60. Terminated employees and active plan members are entitled to their accumulated plan contributions, plus interest.

Benefit accruals were frozen effective November 29, 2014. Earnings and employment after this date are excluded from eligibility and benefit determinations.

Except as described below, normal retirement benefits are calculated based on average monthly compensation during measurement periods in the 10-years of employment immediately preceding the earlier of November 29, 2014, or the date of termination from full-time employment.

Normal retirement benefits are calculated in monthly installments as the sum of the following:

- 1.625% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service, for up to 20-years
- 1.75% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service in excess of 20-years, up to 30-years
- 2% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service in excess of 30-years

For members with less than 20-years of credited service as of September 30, 2011, the normal retirement benefit may not exceed 50% of the final earnings at retirement, and in no case will the normal retirement benefit exceed \$90,000 per year. The minimum annual normal retirement benefit for eligible members is equal to years of credited service multiplied by \$60.

The early retirement benefit is equal to the normal retirement benefit, reduced by 3% for each year preceding normal retirement date. A member with 30-years or more of credited service is eligible for early retirement without any reductions.

After 10-years of service, employees are eligible for disability benefits if they are eligible for Social Security disability benefits. Disability benefits under the Plan are determined using final average earnings at the date of disability, with adjustment factors based on age and years of service.

Death benefits are equal to the normal retirement benefit with a reduction factor for years left to retirement.

The Plan provides for annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement benefit payments equal to half of the change in the Consumer Price Index, up to 2.5%. Cost-of-living increases have been suspended.

Retirement benefits are paid out as an annuity when the actuarial value of the benefit is greater than \$5,000 and as a lump sum payment when the actuarial value of the benefit is equal to or less than \$5,000.

As amended on April 12, 2018, the benefits paid out, as described above, are reduced by 25% effective May 1, 2018. Also included in this amendment, all plan members may elect to take an in-service lump sum distribution, which will total all employee contributions, adjusted with interest. Upon election of the lump sum distribution, the members' accrued retirement benefit derived from employer contributions will be cancelled, and the member will cease to be a member of the Plan, with the member or beneficiary receiving no more further plan benefits.

*Members:* The number of members and benefit recipients served by the plan as of September 30, 2024, were:

Retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits	850
Terminated employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	584
Current active plan members	<u>273</u>
Total	<u><u>1,707</u></u>

*Tax status:* The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan by letter dated August 5, 2014, that the Plan as amended through May 29, 2013, is in a form acceptable under the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Special Fiduciary believes that the Plan and related trust are currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

*Basis of accounting:* The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution. Administrative expenses are paid out of plan assets. Certain administrative functions are performed by employees of the Health System.

*Method used to value investments:* Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of securities traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices. Non-marketable securities are valued based on the Plan's proportionate interest in the net asset value of the funds as reported by the fund administrators.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Investment income includes interest and dividends, as well as realized gains and losses on investments sold or redeemed and the change in unrealized gains and losses on securities held during the year.

*Estimates:* The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Subsequent events:* Events that have occurred subsequent to September 30, 2024, have been evaluated through September 2, 2025, which represents the date the Plan's financial statements were approved by management and therefore available to be issued.

## 3. INVESTMENTS

### Investment Disclosures

The following summarizes the Plan's investments by type as of September 30, 2024:

Mutual funds	\$ 47,469,742
Private equity and other alternative investments	19,941,617
Common stock and other marketable equity securities	15,075,249
Corporate and government bonds	12,881,372
Money market funds	<u>7,391,941</u>
Total	<u>\$ 102,759,921</u>

Funds are invested by outside managers under policies established by the Plan's Special Fiduciary and approved by the Chancery Court. The policy requires that its investment managers invest the Plan's assets with the care, skill, and diligence a prudent person familiar with such matters acting in a like capacity would use in a similar enterprise with like objectives.



The following table illustrates the Plan's approved asset allocation as of September 30, 2024:

Investment type	Policy target	Policy ranges
Debt securities		
Cash equivalent	2%	0% - 10%
US intermediate fixed income	12%	5% - 40%
High yield	4%	0% - 15%
Total debt securities	18%	
Equity securities		
US large cap equities	15%	5% - 25%
US mid cap equities	13%	5% - 25%
US small cap equities	11%	5% - 20%
Real estate securities	4%	0% - 10%
International developed	9%	0% - 15%
International small cap	3%	0% - 10%
Emerging markets equities	7%	0% - 15%
Total equity securities	62%	
Alternative securities		
Hedge funds	6%	0% - 10%
Global macro	5%	0% - 10%
Timberland	5%	0% - 10%
Direct real estate	4%	0% - 10%
Total alternative securities	20%	
Total	100%	

*Interest rate risk:* Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Plan does not have a formal investment policy addressing interest rate risk.

The following summarizes the debt securities' maturities by investment type as of September 30, 2024:

Investment type	Fair value	Investment maturities (in years)			
		Less than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10	More than 10
U.S. government and agency securities	\$ 4,028,862	\$ -	\$ 1,002,508	\$ 400,016	\$ 2,626,338
Corporate bonds and notes	8,852,510	328,019	5,672,346	2,372,272	479,873
Total	\$ 12,881,372	\$ 328,019	\$ 6,674,854	\$ 2,772,288	\$ 3,106,211

*Credit risk:* Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the Plan. The Plan's policy limits investments to investment grade fixed income with ratings dependent on type of investment.

The following summarizes the debt securities' investments by credit rating category as of September 30, 2024:

Credit rating level	Total	U.S. government and agency securities	Corporate bonds and notes
Guaranteed	\$ 4,028,862	\$ 4,028,862	\$ -
A	862,682	-	862,682
A-	2,169,139	-	2,169,139
A+	170,563	-	170,563
AA	123,485	-	123,485
AA-	418,647	-	418,647
AA+	74,454	-	74,454
BBB	2,510,174	-	2,510,174
BBB-	126,325	-	126,325
BBB+	2,397,041	-	2,397,041
Total	<u>\$ 12,881,372</u>	<u>\$ 4,028,862</u>	<u>\$ 8,852,510</u>

*Concentration of credit risk:* Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Plan's investment in a single issuer. The following investments by issuer represent 5% or more of the Plan's total investments as of September 30, 2024:

Schwab S&P 500 Fund - Select	\$ 13,794,767
Fidelity Mid Cap Index Instl	11,505,702
Fidelity Total International Index Fund	9,756,404
Elliot International Ltd. Class B	7,205,583
Federated Treasury Obligation - Money Market	6,931,575

*Money-weighted rate of return:* The annual money-weighted rate of return on the Plan's investments, net of the Plan's investment expenses, was 19.9% for the year ended September 30, 2024. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for changing amounts invested.

## Fair Value Disclosures

The Plan categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset and gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

- Level 1 – unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 – quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations for which all significant inputs are observable.
- Level 3 – valuations derived from valuation techniques in which significant inputs are unobservable.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value.

*U.S. government and agency securities:* Valued at the closing price reported in the market in which the individual security is traded.

*Corporate bonds and notes:* Certain corporate bonds are valued at the closing price reported in the inactive market in which the bond is traded. Other corporate bonds are valued based on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. When quoted prices are not available for identical or similar bonds, the bond is valued under a discounted cash flows approach that maximizes observable inputs such as current yields of similar instruments but includes adjustments for certain risks that may not be observable, such as credit and liquidity risks.

*Mutual funds:* Certain mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices available on an active market which is based on the underlying net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Other mutual funds are valued based on comparable mutual funds.

*Common and preferred stocks:* Valued at quoted market prices available on an active market.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following summarizes the Plan's assets measured at fair value as of September 30, 2024, aggregated by the level in the fair value hierarchy within which those measurements fall:

Investments by type	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Money market funds	\$ 7,391,941	\$ -	\$ 7,391,941	\$ -
U.S. government and agency securities	4,028,862	-	4,028,862	-
Corporate bonds and notes	8,852,510	-	8,852,510	-
Mutual funds	47,469,742	-	47,469,742	-
Common and preferred stocks:				
Computer and technology	2,378,751	2,378,751	-	-
Utilities	2,173,929	2,173,929	-	-
Consumer goods	1,897,421	1,897,421	-	-
Healthcare	1,681,839	1,681,839	-	-
Electrical equipment	1,649,312	1,649,312	-	-
Business services	985,834	985,834	-	-
Insurance	494,701	494,701	-	-
Other	3,813,462	3,813,462	-	-
Total investments measured at fair value	82,818,304	\$ 15,075,249	\$ 67,743,055	\$ -
Investments measured at net asset value (NAV)				
Credit opportunities funds	975,629			
Real estate funds	11,760,405			
Global opportunities hedge funds	7,205,583			
Total investments measured at NAV	19,941,617			
Total	\$ 102,759,921			

Investments measured at NAV	Total	Unfunded commitments	Redemption frequency	Redemption notice period
Credit opportunities funds	\$ 975,629	\$ -	Illiquid, monthly	N/A, 45 days
Real estate funds	11,760,405	-	Illiquid, quarterly	N/A, 45 days
Global opportunities hedge funds	7,205,583	-	Quarterly	45 days
Total	\$ 19,941,617	\$ -		

*Credit opportunities funds:* Consists of funds that invest in a broad range of financial instruments within the credit markets, seeking to maximize return through current income and capital appreciated by investing within various sectors of the credit markets.

*Real estate funds:* Consists of funds that invest primarily in domestic timberland, commercial and multifamily real estate.

*Global opportunities hedge funds:* Consists of funds that generally hold debt instruments of issuers located in emerging markets including distressed, high yield and defaulted debt. These funds use a variety of hedging strategies.

#### **4. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of fiduciary net position

Plan contributions are made, and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits are reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimation and assumption process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near-term would be material to the financial statements.

#### **5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The court-appointed Special Fiduciary charged with administration of the Plan, asset management, and benefit determination is a principal owner of the actuarial firm used by the Plan. Amounts paid to the Special Fiduciary and the actuarial firm totaled approximately \$90,000 and \$146,000, respectively, during the year ended September 30, 2024.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
For the Years Ended September 30**

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total pension liability										
Service cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,636,685
Interest cost	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,454,271	14,893,889	17,011,106	17,939,427
Difference between actual and expected experience	-	-	-	-	-	-	(4,513,723)	4,496,222	(10,199,979)	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	(18,224,000)	(16,304,500)	(15,023,228)	(14,368,870)
Effect of assumption changes or inputs	-	-	-	-	-	-	(256,054,624)	(15,273,971)	29,972,889	(55,525,011)
Net change in total pension liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	(263,338,076)	(12,188,360)	21,760,788	(50,317,769)
Total pension liability - beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-	-	451,440,728	463,629,088	441,868,300	492,186,069
Total pension liability - end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 188,102,652</u>	<u>\$ 451,440,728</u>	<u>\$ 463,629,088</u>	<u>\$ 441,868,300</u>
Plan fiduciary net position										
Employer contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,012,144	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Member contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	395,038
Net investment return	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,979,527	11,329,765	8,958,689	1,750,750
Benefit payments	-	-	-	-	-	-	(18,224,000)	(16,304,500)	(15,023,228)	(14,368,870)
Administrative and other expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	(676,000)	(685,109)	(677,635)	(557,024)
Net change in Plan fiduciary net position	-	-	-	-	-	-	63,091,671	(5,659,844)	(6,742,174)	(12,780,106)
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,010,981	130,670,825	137,412,999	150,193,105
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,102,652</u>	<u>125,010,981</u>	<u>130,670,825</u>	<u>137,412,999</u>
Net pension liability - end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 326,429,747</u>	<u>\$ 332,958,263</u>	<u>\$ 304,455,301</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	28%	28%	31%
Covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 86,061,783
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	354%

*Note to the schedule:*

During fiscal year 2018, a settlement was reached with the Health System. As such, the Health System has recorded a settlement liability and no longer reports a net pension liability.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Year ended September 30	Actuarially determined contribution	Actual employer contributions	Contribution excess/ (deficiency)	Actual covered payroll	Actual as a % of covered payroll
2015	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 86,061,783	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2017	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2018	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2019	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2020	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2021	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2022	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2023	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2024	-	-	-	N/A	N/A

*Note to the schedule:*

During fiscal year 2015, new accounting guidance was implemented which changed the accounting for the employer pension liability and presentation of required supplementary information. The actuarially determined contribution for all years prior to fiscal year 2015 is the same as the previously recorded annual required contribution.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS**

Year ended September 30	Investment return, net of investment expenses
	Money weighted
2015	1.2%
2016	6.8%
2017	9.3%
2018	7.7%
2019	1.4%
2020	4.1%
2021	22.4%
2022	-12.4%
2023	8.2%
2024	19.9%



**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**MANAGEMENT LETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

September 2, 2025

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

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Plan's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

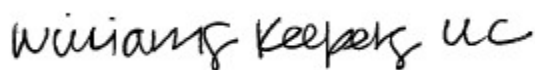
- *Reasonably possible.* The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable.* The future event or events are likely to occur.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

In addition, we noted other matters involving internal control that we have included in Attachment A to this letter. These recommendations are opportunities for the Plan to enhance its internal control.

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

Sincerely,



WILLIAMS-KEEPERS LLC

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **OTHER CONTINUING RECOMMENDATION**

#### **Benefit Payment Data**

From our testing sample of twenty-five (25) participants included in the Plan's benefit payment data, we found ten (10) instances where the Plan did not have complete records for the employee.

As the Plan's benefit payment data should be as accurate and complete as possible for its use in the Plan's actuarial valuations, we recommend the Plan develop policies and procedures to address these issues.

#### **Census File Data**

From our testing sample of twenty-five (25) participants included in the Plan's census file data, we found seven (7) instances where the Plan did not have complete records for the employee.

As the Plan's census file data should be as accurate and complete as possible for its use in the Plan's actuarial valuations, we recommend the Plan develop policies and procedures to address this issue.

**REPORT OF**  
**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM**  
**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**  
**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan), which comprise the statement of fiduciary net position as of September 30, 2023, the related statement of changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the Plan as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in its fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

## **Required Supplementary Information**

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that GAAP requires to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

GAAP requires that the schedules of changes in the net pension liability and related ratios, employer contributions, and investment returns be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

*William F. Keelers UC*

Columbia, Missouri  
September 2, 2025

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
September 30, 2023**

**ASSETS**

Investments	\$ 92,290,076
Accrued interest and dividends	137,746
Settlement contribution receivable	67,301,172
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,064,388</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$ 160,793,382</u></u>

**NET POSITION**

Restricted for pension benefits	<u><u>\$ 160,793,382</u></u>
---------------------------------	------------------------------

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.



**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
For the Year Ended September 30, 2023**

ADDITIONS:

Investment income	\$ 9,546,274
Investment expenses	<u>(517,755)</u>
Total investment income, net	9,028,519
Interest income on settlement contribution receivable	<u>4,387,557</u>
Total additions, net	<u>13,416,076</u>

DEDUCTIONS:

Benefits	12,840,868
Administrative expenses	<u>371,706</u>
Total deductions	<u>13,212,574</u>

Net change	203,502
------------	---------

Net position - restricted for pension benefits

Beginning of year	<u>160,589,880</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 160,793,382</u></u>

The notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

# **SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

## **NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **1. PLAN DESCRIPTION**

The following description of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan) provides only general information. Plan members should refer to the Plan Document for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

The Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan sponsored by the Singing River Health System (the Health System). The Plan was established on February 17, 1983 and covers eligible plan members who were employed by the Health System on a full-time basis prior to October 1, 2011. The Plan was frozen to new entrants on October 1, 2011.

The Health System is a governmental entity and as such, the Plan is exempt from the reporting requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

A court-appointed "Special Fiduciary" was named trustee of the Plan on October 19, 2015, and was given responsibility for plan administration, asset management, and benefit determination.

*Contributions:* Active members were required to contribute 3% of annual compensation to the Plan through November 29, 2014, at which point employee contributions were frozen. On September 26, 2018, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a class-action lawsuit that provides the Health System will fund the Plan with approximately \$150 million over 35-years. Funding of the settlement contribution receivable is the Health System's only obligation to the Plan. The payment of the settlement contribution receivable may require modification to the Plan to equitably distribute the benefits paid. Any adjustment to the Plan can only be done with Special Fiduciary recommendation and Chancery Court approval after 60-days' notice to the class members and opportunity for hearing.

*Benefits:* The Plan provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to eligible plan members and their beneficiaries. Employees with 10-years of credited service are eligible for normal retirement at age 65, or early retirement at age 60. Terminated employees and active plan members are entitled to their accumulated plan contributions, plus interest.

Benefit accruals were frozen effective November 29, 2014. Earnings and employment after this date are excluded from eligibility and benefit determinations.

Except as described below, normal retirement benefits are calculated based on average monthly compensation during measurement periods in the 10-years of employment immediately preceding the earlier of November 29, 2014, or the date of termination from full-time employment.

Normal retirement benefits are calculated in monthly installments as the sum of the following:

- 1.625% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service, for up to 20-years
- 1.75% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service in excess of 20-years, up to 30-years
- 2% of average monthly earnings multiplied by years of service in excess of 30-years

For members with less than 20-years of credited service as of September 30, 2011, the normal retirement benefit may not exceed 50% of the final earnings at retirement, and in no case will the normal retirement benefit exceed \$90,000 per year. The minimum annual normal retirement benefit for eligible members is equal to years of credited service multiplied by \$60.

The early retirement benefit is equal to the normal retirement benefit, reduced by 3% for each year preceding normal retirement date. A member with 30-years or more of credited service is eligible for early retirement without any reductions.

After 10-years of service, employees are eligible for disability benefits if they are eligible for Social Security disability benefits. Disability benefits under the Plan are determined using final average earnings at the date of disability, with adjustment factors based on age and years of service.

Death benefits are equal to the normal retirement benefit with a reduction factor for years left to retirement.

The Plan provides for annual cost-of-living adjustments to retirement benefit payments equal to half of the change in the Consumer Price Index, up to 2.5%. Cost-of-living increases have been suspended.

Retirement benefits are paid out as an annuity when the actuarial value of the benefit is greater than \$5,000 and as a lump sum payment when the actuarial value of the benefit is equal to or less than \$5,000.

As amended on April 12, 2018, the benefits paid out, as described above, are reduced by 25% effective May 1, 2018. Also included in this amendment, all plan members may elect to take an in-service lump sum distribution, which will total all employee contributions, adjusted with interest. Upon election of the lump sum distribution, the members' accrued retirement benefit derived from employer contributions will be cancelled, and the member will cease to be a member of the Plan, with the member or beneficiary receiving no more further plan benefits.

*Members:* The number of members and benefit recipients served by the plan as of September 30, 2023, were:

Retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits	835
Terminated employees entitled to but not yet receiving benefits	597
Current active plan members	<u>298</u>
Total	<u><u>1,730</u></u>

*Tax status:* The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan by letter dated August 5, 2014, that the Plan as amended through May 29, 2013, is in a form acceptable under the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Special Fiduciary believes that the Plan and related trust are currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

*Basis of accounting:* The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution. Administrative expenses are paid out of plan assets. Certain administrative functions are performed by employees of the Health System.

*Method used to value investments:* Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value of securities traded in active markets are based on quoted market prices. Non-marketable securities are valued based on the Plan's proportionate interest in the net asset value of the funds as reported by the fund administrators.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Investment income includes interest and dividends, as well as realized gains and losses on investments sold or redeemed and the change in unrealized gains and losses on securities held during the year.

*Prepaid expenses:* Prepaid expenses represent one month of benefit payments paid in the current fiscal year for the following fiscal year.

*Estimates:* The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

*Subsequent events:* Events that have occurred subsequent to September 30, 2023, have been evaluated through September 2, 2025, which represents the date the Plan's financial statements were approved by management and therefore available to be issued.

## 3. INVESTMENTS

### Investment Disclosures

The following summarizes the Plan's investments by type as of September 30, 2023:

Mutual funds	\$ 42,833,844
Private equity and other alternative investments	20,284,678
Common stock and other marketable equity securities	13,316,627
Corporate and government bonds	11,477,663
Money market funds	4,377,264
Total	<u>\$ 92,290,076</u>

Funds are invested by outside managers under policies established by the Plan's Special Fiduciary and approved by the Chancery Court. The policy requires that its investment managers invest the Plan's assets with the care, skill, and diligence a prudent person familiar with such matters acting in a like capacity would use in a similar enterprise with like objectives.

The following table illustrates the Plan's approved asset allocation as of September 30, 2023:

Investment type	Policy target	Policy ranges
Debt securities		
Cash equivalent	2%	0% - 10%
US intermediate fixed income	12%	5% - 40%
High yield	4%	0% - 15%
Total debt securities	18%	
Equity securities		
US large cap equities	15%	5% - 25%
US mid cap equities	13%	5% - 25%
US small cap equities	11%	5% - 20%
Real estate securities	4%	0% - 10%
International developed	9%	0% - 15%
International small cap	3%	0% - 10%
Emerging markets equities	7%	0% - 15%
Total equity securities	62%	
Alternative securities		
Hedge funds	6%	0% - 10%
Global macro	5%	0% - 10%
Timberland	5%	0% - 10%
Direct real estate	4%	0% - 10%
Total alternative securities	20%	
Total	100%	

*Interest rate risk:* Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Plan does not have a formal investment policy addressing interest rate risk.

The following summarizes the debt securities' maturities by investment type as of September 30, 2023:

Investment type	Fair value	Investment maturities (in years)			
		Less than 1	1 - 5	6 - 10	More than 10
U.S. government and agency securities	\$ 3,520,748	\$ 603,898	\$ 615,737	\$ 620,760	\$ 1,680,353
Corporate bonds and notes	7,956,915	78,128	3,450,822	3,771,164	656,801
Total	\$ 11,477,663	\$ 682,026	\$ 4,066,559	\$ 4,391,924	\$ 2,337,154

*Credit risk:* Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the Plan. The Plan's policy limits investments to investment grade fixed income with ratings dependent on type of investment.

The following summarizes the debt securities' investments by credit rating category as of September 30, 2023:

Credit rating level	Total	U.S. government and agency securities	Corporate bonds and notes
Guaranteed	\$ 3,520,748	\$ 3,520,748	\$ -
A	625,025	-	625,025
A-	1,966,942	-	1,966,942
A+	534,748	-	534,748
AA	397,620	-	397,620
AA-	498,701	-	498,701
AA+	124,179	-	124,179
AAA	116,120	-	116,120
BBB	1,220,445	-	1,220,445
BBB-	309,661	-	309,661
BBB+	2,163,474	-	2,163,474
Total	<u>\$ 11,477,663</u>	<u>\$ 3,520,748</u>	<u>\$ 7,956,915</u>

*Concentration of credit risk:* Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the Plan's investment in a single issuer. The following investments by issuer represent 5% or more of the Plan's total investments as of September 30, 2023:

Fidelity Mid Cap Index Instl	\$ 10,711,809
Schwab S&P 500 Fund - Select	9,807,117
Fidelity Total International Index Fund	7,809,259
Elliot International Ltd. Class B	6,483,819
Invesco US Income	5,177,795

*Money-weighted rate of return:* The annual money-weighted rate of return on the Plan's investments, net of the Plan's investment expenses, was 8.2% for the year ended September 30, 2023. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for changing amounts invested.

## Fair Value Disclosures

The Plan categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset and gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements).

- Level 1 – unadjusted quoted prices for identical instruments in active markets.
- Level 2 – quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations for which all significant inputs are observable.
- Level 3 – valuations derived from valuation techniques in which significant inputs are unobservable.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The Plan's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of valuation methodologies used for assets recorded at fair value.

*U.S. government and agency securities:* Valued at the closing price reported in the market in which the individual security is traded.

*Corporate bonds and notes:* Certain corporate bonds are valued at the closing price reported in the inactive market in which the bond is traded. Other corporate bonds are valued based on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. When quoted prices are not available for identical or similar bonds, the bond is valued under a discounted cash flows approach that maximizes observable inputs such as current yields of similar instruments but includes adjustments for certain risks that may not be observable, such as credit and liquidity risks.

*Mutual funds:* Certain mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices available on an active market which is based on the underlying net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Other mutual funds are valued based on comparable mutual funds.

*Common and preferred stocks:* Valued at quoted market prices available on an active market.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following summarizes the Plan's assets measured at fair value as of September 30, 2023, aggregated by the level in the fair value hierarchy within which those measurements fall:

Investments by type	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Money market funds	\$ 4,377,264	\$ -	\$ 4,377,264	\$ -
U.S. government and agency securities	3,520,748	-	3,520,748	-
Corporate bonds and notes	7,956,915	-	7,956,915	-
Mutual funds	42,833,844	-	42,833,844	-
Common and preferred stocks:				
Consumer goods	2,543,309	2,543,309	-	-
Healthcare	2,400,933	2,400,933	-	-
Computer and technology	1,813,405	1,813,405	-	-
Electrical equipment	979,317	979,317	-	-
Business services	838,429	838,429	-	-
Utilities	821,929	821,929	-	-
Insurance	493,750	493,750	-	-
Other	3,425,555	3,425,555	-	-
Total investments measured at fair value	72,005,398	\$ 13,316,627	\$ 58,688,771	\$ -
Investments measured at net asset value (NAV)				
Credit opportunities funds	1,486,160			
Real estate funds	12,300,007			
Global opportunities hedge funds	6,483,819			
Private equity limited partnership funds	14,692			
Total investments measured at NAV	20,284,678			
Total	\$ 92,290,076			

Investments measured at NAV	Total	Unfunded commitments	Redemption frequency	Redemption notice period
Credit opportunities funds	\$ 1,486,160	\$ -	Illiquid, monthly	N/A, 45 days
Real estate funds	12,300,007	-	Illiquid, quarterly	N/A, 45 days
Global opportunities hedge funds	6,483,819	-	Quarterly	45 days
Private equity limited partnership funds	14,692	-	Not eligible	N/A
Total	\$ 20,284,678	\$ -		

*Credit opportunities funds:* Consists of funds that invest in a broad range of financial instruments within the credit markets, seeking to maximize return through current income and capital appreciated by investing within various sectors of the credit markets.

*Real estate funds:* Consists of funds that invest primarily in domestic timberland, commercial and multifamily real estate.

*Global opportunities hedge funds:* Consists of funds that generally hold debt instruments of issuers located in emerging markets including distressed, high yield and defaulted debt. These funds use a variety of hedging strategies.

*Private equity limited partnership funds:* Consists of funds that are not eligible for redemption. Distributions are received as underlying investments within the funds when liquidated.



#### **4. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term, and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of fiduciary net position

Plan contributions are made, and the actuarial present value of accumulated plan benefits are reported based on certain assumptions pertaining to interest rates, inflation rates and employee demographics, all of which are subject to change. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimation and assumption process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near-term would be material to the financial statements.

#### **5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The court-appointed Special Fiduciary charged with administration of the Plan, asset management, and benefit determination is a principal owner of the actuarial firm used by the Plan. Amounts paid to the Special Fiduciary and the actuarial firm totaled approximately \$92,000 and \$159,000, respectively, during the year ended September 30, 2023.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
For the Years Ended September 30**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total pension liability										
Service cost	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,636,685	\$ 9,301,301
Interest cost	-	-	-	-	-	15,454,271	14,893,889	17,011,106	17,939,427	19,601,873
Difference between actual and expected experience	-	-	-	-	-	(4,513,723)	4,496,222	(10,199,979)	-	(10,575,128)
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	-	-	-	-	-	(18,224,000)	(16,304,500)	(15,023,228)	(14,368,870)	(12,507,174)
Effect of assumption changes or inputs	-	-	-	-	-	(256,054,624)	(15,273,971)	29,972,889	(55,525,011)	70,788,607
Net change in total pension liability	-	-	-	-	-	(263,338,076)	(12,188,360)	21,760,788	(50,317,769)	76,609,479
Total pension liability - beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-	451,440,728	463,629,088	441,868,300	492,186,069	415,576,590
Total pension liability - end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$188,102,652</u>	<u>\$451,440,728</u>	<u>\$463,629,088</u>	<u>\$441,868,300</u>	<u>\$492,186,069</u>
Plan fiduciary net position										
Employer contributions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,012,144	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Member contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	395,038	3,159,856
Net investment return	-	-	-	-	-	9,979,527	11,329,765	8,958,689	1,750,750	14,796,956
Benefit payments	-	-	-	-	-	(18,224,000)	(16,304,500)	(15,023,228)	(14,368,870)	(12,508,174)
Administrative and other expenses	-	-	-	-	-	(676,000)	(685,109)	(677,635)	(557,024)	(370,020)
Net change in Plan fiduciary net position	-	-	-	-	-	63,091,671	(5,659,844)	(6,742,174)	(12,780,106)	5,078,618
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-	125,010,981	130,670,825	137,412,999	150,193,105	145,114,487
Plan fiduciary net position - end of year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>188,102,652</u>	<u>125,010,981</u>	<u>130,670,825</u>	<u>137,412,999</u>	<u>150,193,105</u>
Net pension liability - end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$326,429,747</u>	<u>\$332,958,263</u>	<u>\$304,455,301</u>	<u>\$341,992,964</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	28%	28%	31%	31%
Covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$ 86,061,783	\$ 86,397,101
Net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	354%	396%

*Note to the schedule:*

During fiscal year 2018, a settlement was reached with the Health System. As such, the Health System has recorded a settlement liability and no longer reports a net pension liability.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**

Year ended September 30	Actuarially determined contribution	Actual employer contributions	Contribution excess/ (deficiency)	Actual covered payroll	Actual as a % of covered payroll
2014	\$ 18,388,795	\$ -	\$ (18,388,795)	\$ 86,397,101	0.00%
2015	-	-	-	86,061,783	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2017	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2018	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2019	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2020	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2021	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2022	-	-	-	N/A	N/A
2023	-	-	-	N/A	N/A

*Note to the schedule:*

During fiscal year 2015, new accounting guidance was implemented which changed the accounting for the employer pension liability and presentation of required supplementary information. The actuarially determined contribution for all years prior to fiscal year 2015 is the same as the previously recorded annual required contribution.

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS**

Year ended September 30	Investment return, net of investment expenses
	Money weighted
2014	11.2%
2015	1.2%
2016	6.8%
2017	9.3%
2018	7.7%
2019	1.4%
2020	4.1%
2021	22.4%
2022	-12.4%
2023	8.2%

**SINGING RIVER HEALTH SYSTEM  
EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN AND TRUST**

**MANAGEMENT LETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

September 2, 2025

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

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements of the Singing River Health System Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust (the Plan) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the Plan's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A reasonable possibility exists when the likelihood of an event occurring is either reasonably possible or probable as defined as follows:

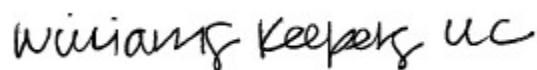
- *Reasonably possible.* The chance of the future event or events occurring is more than remote but less than likely.
- *Probable.* The future event or events are likely to occur.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

In addition, we noted other matters involving internal control that we have included in Attachment A to this letter. These recommendations are opportunities for the Plan to enhance its internal control.

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

Sincerely,



WILLIAMS-KEEPERS LLC

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **OTHER CONTINUING RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Benefit Payment Data**

From our testing sample of twenty-five (25) participants included in the Plan's benefit payment data, we found four (4) instances where the Plan did not have complete records for the employee.

As the Plan's benefit payment data should be as accurate and complete as possible for its use in the Plan's actuarial valuations, we recommend the Plan develop policies and procedures to address these issues.

#### **Census File Data**

From our testing sample of twenty-five (25) participants included in the Plan's census file data, we found six (6) instances where the Plan did not have complete records for the employee.

As the Plan's census file data should be as accurate and complete as possible for its use in the Plan's actuarial valuations, we recommend the Plan develop policies and procedures to address this issue.