

**Minutes of Meeting  
Health Services Council  
Project Review Committee-I**

**DATE: 12 July 2005**

**TIME: 3:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Health Policy Forum**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee I: Present: Edward F. Almon, Joseph V. Centofanti, MD, John W. Flynn, Robert S.L. Kinder, MD, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair),**

**Not Present: John Keimig, Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside, John Young**

**Excused Absence: Victoria Almeida, Esq, (Vice Chair), Robert L. Bernstein**

**Other Members: Present: Denise Panichas, Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire**

**Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Donald C. Williams**

**Public: (see attached)**

## **1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM. Staff noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman stated that due to the Open Meetings Act the minutes of the meetings have to be available to the public by the next meeting date or within thirty-five days, which ever is sooner. The Chairman noted that the next meeting might not occur within thirty-five days or the minutes might not be available by the next meeting. He further noted that there is an allowable exception whereby the availability of the minutes may, by a majority vote, be extended. A motion was made, seconded and passed by five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almon, Centofanti, Flynn, Kinder, Quigley.**

## **2. General Order of Business**

**The first item on the agenda was the application of Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island for a Certificate of Need to construct a**

**five-story addition and increase the number of NICU bassinets and licensed bed capacity for obstetric services. Staff stated that the capital cost of the proposal is \$64 million, proposed to be financed with 53% equity and 47% debt, the first year operating cost will be \$10,992,000. Staff noted that the review of this application commenced on 10 July 2005 and the comment period runs through 29 August 2005.**

**Ms. Gail Costa, Vice-President for Planning of Care New England, stated that it has been 20 years since the hospital opened. She introduced Ms. Howes, President and CEO, Dr. Cousnaw, Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at the Brown Medical School, Dr. Padbury, Chief of Pediatrics and Vice-Chair of Pediatrics at Brown Medical School, Pat DeMario, Senior Vice-President for Facilities Development, May Kernan, Vice-President for Marketing and Communications, Jack Sutherland, CFO, Kellie Sullivan, Finance Planning Analyst, and Andrew Rosa, Planning Analyst.**

**Ms. Howes presented a Power Point Presentation to the Health Services Council. The Chairman asked if Women & Infants Hospital (“W & I”) was planning on including any shell space to accommodate future expansions. Ms. Howes stated that it is difficult to project need and noted that this application includes half of a floor as shell space. She noted that the space that will be vacated will be available to reconfigure the flow of surgical services. She noted that the hospital**

might need an additional C-section room if the rates continue to increase.

Mr. Flynn inquired if there would be any savings in staffing. Ms. Howes stated that the ratio of caregivers will remain about the same and there will be a need for additional support staff.

The Chairman stated that W & I will eliminate some parking and inquired about how the hospital will resolve its parking situation. Ms. Howes stated that 50 parking spaces will be lost and that W & I is working with Rhode Island Hospital to address the parking situation. The Chairman inquired if a solution would be made before a final decision is made on this application. Ms. Howes stated that in the design, as much parking as possible will be replaced, and additionally the hospital will work on a long-term plan with Rhode Island Hospital. She stated that by the time the new facility opens it will be in place. The Chairman inquired if the hospital has spoken with zoning and planning departments of the city regarding parking. Ms. Howes stated that they have and that they've obtained the approvals.

Mr. Ross stated that not only will parking spaces be eliminated but there will be an additional 30 beds. Ms. Howes stated that the hospital is not anticipating any more patients as a result of this proposal. She stated that the expectation is that hospital will not divert any more patients. She noted that out of 30 additional beds being requested, 22

beds are needed today. She noted that the additional increment is much smaller.

Staff asked what types of feedback W & I received from their patient satisfaction surveys and of those how much was considered in this design. Ms. Howes stated that the hospital found that the patient satisfaction correlated negatively with periods of high census. She stated that the hospital anticipates utilizing patients' input in the actual design of the facility.

The Chairman asked what amount of input the nursing staff have into this project. The applicant stated that two teams were used, one of which traveled to other hospitals. The applicant stated that currently at the hospital a conference room has been turned into a center for communication and staff input.

Mr. Ross inquired about the contingency fee for construction included in the cost. The applicant stated that an outside expert was used to develop this information and it's for unexpected events during the construction. Mr. Ross inquired about the letter of credit information identified in the debt service schedule. The applicant stated that the hospital has an existing working relationship with Bank of America and has a letter of credit which it will use for this project rather than having a debt service reserve fund. Mr. Ross requested that the applicant provide a narrative, explain this.

**Ms. Panichas inquired how this proposal would impact other hospitals and change W & I market share. Ms. Howes stated that this project is not dependent on additional market share. She stated that this is to support other hospitals and for high-risk mothers. Ms. Panichas requested that the applicant provide more detail about what types of services were provided to different communities.**

**Staff stated that several years ago additional standards and requirements were developed for neonatal care and inquired if this project would require any variances from those new requirements. Mr. Padbury stated that no variances will be required.**

**Mr. Flynn noted that though the expenses would increase a large portion of that would be due to the depreciation.**

**Mr. Ross requested that the applicant provide projections for NICU admissions, as identified on page 14 of the application, from 2002 through the first three years of operation.**

**Mr. Almon stated that we are developing a concept of providing care to the people of Rhode Island through centers of excellence and that centers of excellence will reflect favorably not only on the community but upon Brown University's Medical School, and he sees the state of Rhode Island better off because of it.**

**The Chairman stated that the proposal includes an increase in the**

licensed bed capacity and requested that the applicant identify what W & I does and projects to do in the future to decrease the need for NICU care. Ms. Howes stated that the March of Dimes has a campaign against prematurity and there is laboratory research conducted at W & I looking at causes of preterm birth. The applicant agreed to provide this information in writing.

The Chairman announced that on 16 August 2005 there will be a site visit to W & I. Staff noted that there will be questions sent to the applicant. Staff noted that on Thursday, 14 July 2005, at 2:30 PM there will be a site visit to Newport Hospital.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova