

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

DATE: 13 February 2007

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, John W. Flynn, John Keimig, Amy Lapierre, Robert J. Quigley, D.C., (Chair), Robert Ricci

Not Present: Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., Robert Whiteside

Excused Absence: Robert S.L. Kinder, M.D., Thomas Madden, Esq.

Other Members Present: Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D., Larry Ross

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq

Public: (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 2:50 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the 9 January 2007 Project Review Committee-meeting were approved. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by eight voting in favor and none opposed (8-0). Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Flynn, Graziano, Keimig, Lapierre, Quigley, Ricci.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of Rhode Island Hospital for a Certificate of Need to establish pediatric and adult bone marrow transplantation services.

Mr. Macri presented PowerPoint presentation to the Committee. The presentation included the summary of the program, the projected patients and their needs, and public need analysis. He noted that 75% of patients go out-of-state for services. The establishment of an HIO/BMT program is a key component for RIH to obtain National

Institute of Health (NIH) Designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center. According to him, this program is affordable and reduces costs for patients and insurers.

A member of the Committee inquired whether RIH has sought specialist physicians and if so, how will they be utilized. The applicant stated that they have and that they will use them on a consulting basis if they encounter some issues.

Ms. Lapierre asked the applicant for an estimate on the number of Medicaid patients they service and requested further information on this topic. She noted that it is important to know what the impact on Medicaid will be.

Sen. Graziano asked the applicant how they plan to prepare the nurses for participation in this program. The applicant responded that they would train the nurses in hematology/oncology and with additional training with the critical care series. Sen. Graziano also asked if RIH will be sending their nurses outside of their facility for the specialized education. The applicant stated that they were not sure and it could be a possibility.

Ms. Almeida asked about the minimum standard for nursing credentials in this specific area. The applicant responded that the ultimate goal is to have all the nurses ONS certified. It was requested that the applicant provide more information on this issue for the next

meeting. A comment was made regarding concerns of the high risk of infection.

Staff inquired if the proposal falls under NIH designation. The applicant responded that this will be clarified.

Mr. Williams inquired about the advantages to the people of the state. He noted that RIH is proposing a modest program when there is already the same modest program in place at Roger Williams Hospital. He asked why should there be two relatively small programs. The applicant responded by saying that there is a demand for the program. The applicant noted that their projections include patients going out of state, but not those who are currently going to Roger Williams.

A member of the committee requested that the applicant break down their numbers between the additional volumes and costs of HIO and BMT separately.

A member asked the applicant how one can justify creating a program for approximately nine patients a year. The applicant said that they believe there will always be one patient staying in the program during the year.

Additionally questions were raised regarding the HIO component of the proposal.

Ms. Almeida raised the issue of the contract with nurses from India. The applicant stated that they started an international recruitment effort to close the gap and reduce the use of contract nursing staff. The Chairman requested that the applicant provide information on the progress of their other projects and whether they are on goal financially and what RIH would be requesting next if this project were approved.

Mr. Norman, legal counsel to Roger Williams Hospital, stated that in 1992 Roger Williams had the only BMT in the state. He stated that the real focus needs to be on whether there is really need for another BMT in the state and that need is based on Rhode Island state need, and not regional and out-of-state need. Mr. Norman stated that he looks forward to working with the Council to see what the need really is and will give a presentation in the future.

The next item on the agenda was the application of Sun Healthcare Group, Inc. and Horizon Merger, Inc. for a change in effective control of two nursing facilities: Harborside Healthcare Greenwood Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at 1139 Main Avenue in Warwick and Harborside Healthcare Pawtuxet Village Rehabilitation and Nursing Center at 270 Post Road in Warwick.

Mr. Goulet, legal counsel to the applicant, stated that the transaction

involves Sun Healthcare merging with Harborside. Sun Healthcare is a publicly traded company. There will not be a lot of change at the Harborside facility level. Mr. Goulet noted that Sun Health would be able to meet the working capital requirement. He noted that Harborside has more than sufficient capital to operate for the first thirty days in addition to the line of credit. He noted that Sun Healthcare will maintain contracts with the Harborside employees.

To a question, it was noted that Harborside will be a subsidiary of Sun Healthcare and that Sun Health will retain the same Medical Director.

Questions were raised regarding Sun Healthcare's bankruptcy in 1999. The applicant acknowledged this bankruptcy and noted that they emerged and there is now a new CEO and senior management in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova