

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL**

DATE: 27 February 2007

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Council: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Maria R. Gil, Catherine E. Graziano, R.N., PhD, Amy Lapierre, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

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

Excused Absence: John W. Flynn, John Keimig, Robert S.L. Kinder, M.D., Denise Panichas, Robert Ricci

Staff: Valentina Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Donald C. Williams, Jessica Chaput (Intern)

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 2:45 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The minutes of the 6 February 2007 meeting of the Health Services Council were approved as submitted. 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 a vote of eleven in favor and none opposed (11-0) 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: Almeida, Almon, Coia, Gallogly, Gil, Graziano, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the Election of Health Services Council Officers. The nominations for the Health Services Council Officers were as follows: Chairman - Robert J. Quigley, Vice Chairman - Victoria Almeida, Secretary – Reverend David Shire. There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. The Council Members cast their ballots. The results of the election were as follows: Chairman – Robert J. Quigley (11 votes); Vice Chairman – Victoria Almeida (11 votes); Secretary – Reverend David Shire (11 votes).

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of Apria Healthcare, Inc. [Apria Healthcare Group, Inc.] for initial licensure of a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency in East Providence. Staff summarized committee deliberations on this matter.

The applicant noted that they would like to be able to hire their own IV nurses and, right now, contract for those services. The applicant noted that there are not enough specialty nurses available through other agencies. The applicant stated that they are presently accredited by JACHO.

A motion was made, seconded and passed, with eleven voting in favor and none opposed (11-0) to recommend that the application be approved with appropriate conditions of approval

The next item on the agenda was the report of the Internal Operations Committee (IOC). The IOC presented proposed changes and recommendations to CON, CEC and IL application forms. The IOC proposed that the members of the committee only receive the essential components of the applications and that full copies will be available upon request. The Chair requested that the IOC review another issue regarding Committee member attendance.

The next item on the agenda was the DRAFT proposed Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Charity Care in Health Care Facilities.

Mr. William J. Waters, Ph.D, Deputy Director, made a presentation. He noted that the proposed changes are an attempt to address some outstanding issues and are composed of a number of underlying factors. He stated that hospitals and nursing care providers have been questioning why only they have charity care requirements. The Health Service Council has been asking for standards and guidance regarding charity care. There has also been ongoing discussion with community health centers and their problems with referring their patients to specialty care. Finally, the Department of Health has a strong interest and legislative responsibility to promote access to health care and strengthen primary care.

Mr. Ross raised the issue that some facilities may be receiving donations specifically for charity care. Reverend Shire requested that the Rhode Island Free Clinic be added to the list in section 3.1.2.

Mr. Madden inquired if there are currently any facilities that would meet section 4.1. Dr. Waters explained that there are, however did not have a specific list on hand.

Ms. Lapierre noted that section 3.1.2 should reflect how the monies

should be distributed.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova