

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 26 June 2008 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair), Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Excused: Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Robert Hamel, RN

Not Present: Gary Gaube, Wallace Gernt, Maria Gil, Ellen Nelson, PhD

Committee-I: Present: Amy Lapierre

Staff: Valentina Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Helen Drew, Robert Marshall, PhD, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Rodriguez (Intern)

Public: (Attached)

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of Project Review Committee-II meetings of 30 August 2007, 7 February 2008 and 29 May 2008 were accepted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor with none opposed (5-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Graziano, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Allegiance Hospice Care of Rhode Island, LLC** (subsidiary of Allegiance Hospice Group, Inc.) for initial licensure to establish a Hospice Care Provider Agency at 615 Jefferson Boulevard in Warwick. Staff reviewed the information that was mailed and handed out to the Committee. Staff noted comments received on this application.

Mr. Zubiago, legal counsel to the applicant, reviewed the responses to follow up questions.

The following members of the public presented written and/or oral testimony against the proposal: Mr. Tavares, Executive Director of the RI Partnership for Home Care, and Ms. Wulfkuhle, President of Home & Hospice Care of Rhode Island. Ms. Wulfkuhle noted that the applicant did not provide all the requested information in their responses to follow up questions. It was further noted that the applicant should not only be required to seek but also maintain accreditation.

There was discussion regarding the provision of hospice care services at a patient's home. Mr. Zubiago stated that the applicant would accept a condition of approval that the applicant seek out home based hospice patients.

Rev. Shire noted concerns regarding Mr. Gasmire, Board Member of Allegiance Hospice Group, Inc. Sen. Graziano noted the Perry Sullivan bill. The Committee discussed the difficulty of finding hospice volunteers.

A motion was made and seconded that the application be denied. The applicant requested an opportunity to consider the Committee's comments and requested another meeting. The Committee agreed to postpone the vote and the motion and second were withdrawn.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Walgreens Corporation** for a change in effective control of Option Care, Inc. and its subsidiary Option Care Enterprises, Inc., which operates a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency in East Providence and an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility in Providence.

The applicant reviewed the proposal and stated that there have been to changes to the operations of the Rhode Island facilities.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the application be approved. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Graziano, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Marshall, PhD