

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 24 February 2009

**TIME:** 2:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Health Policy Forum  
Department of Health

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Council:** **Present:** Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Joseph Dowling, M.D., John W. Flynn, Gary J. Gaube, Wallace Gernt, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, R.N., Ph.D., Robert Hamel, R.N., Amy Lapierre, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Robert J. Quigley, D.C (Chair), Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

**Excused:** Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Denise Panichas, Robert Ricci

**Not Present:** Joseph V. Centofanti, M.D., Maria R. Gil, Robert Whiteside

**Staff:** Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Robert Marshall, PhD., Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

**Public:** (Attached)

**1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability and Report of the Nominating Committee of the Health Services Council.**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. Minutes of the Health Services Council meeting of 27 January 2009 were adopted as submitted. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. 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: Almon, Dowling, Flynn, Gaube, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire.

The report of the Nominating Committee of the Health Services Council was presented by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Sen. Graziano. Robert J. Quigley, DC, was nominated for Chair, Victoria M. Almeida, Esq. was nominated for Vice Chair, and Reverend David F. Shire was nominated for Secretary. The elections will be held at the next meeting.

**2. General Order of Business**

The next items on the agenda were the *Addendum to the Report of the Health Services Council on the application of Rhode Island Hospital [Lifespan Corporation] on the Certificate of Need to expand and upgrade inpatient beds through construction of a three story addition above the Bridge Building, renovation of Jane Brown North Building and 10th floor of the Main Building, and decanting of the Jane Brown South Building* and *Addendum to the Report of the Health Services Council on the application of Miriam Hospital [Lifespan Corporation] on the Certificate of Need to Construct Three Floors to House*

*Medical/Surgical Nursing Units, Upgrade the Emergency Department, and Consolidate and Upgrade Diagnostic and Patient Treatment Areas.* Staff reviewed the mailing and handouts.

The Council heard statements from the applicants, representatives of Lifespan Corporation, and representatives of Morgan Stanley and RIHEBC. The Council discussed the proposed change in financing. Council members questioned the applicants and representatives.

Reverend Shire noted whether the Council would benefit from a consultant. Mr. Gernt noted his concern that these proposals are time sensitive. The Chair noted that there has not been representation made on the record from an independent/impartial fiscal advisor.

Mr. Flynn made a motion that the Health Services Council engage a consultant to look at the financial representations that have been made as part of these applications, and that the consultant be an independent CPA firm that does not work for hospitals and is not conflicted by being on the Board or Finance Committees of hospitals. He stated that any independent CPA firm could validate the information in a very short period of time. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Flynn stated that the numbers presented have changed at every meeting and Miriam Hospital has yet to produce financial statements for the last fiscal year. He noted that members with a non-financial background would feel comfortable with an independent opinion. Ms. Lapierre requested that the consultant also address the issue of affordability to the state.

There was discussion by Mr. Macri, Executive Vice President at Rhode Island Hospital, regarding operating steps taken at the hospital to reduce costs.

Mr. Madden also noted his concern over timing and usability of the information to be provided by a consultant.

Mr. Lapierre made a motion to move the question. The motion to move the question was seconded by Sen. Graziano, and passed by a vote of eleven in favor and one opposed (10-1). Those members voting in favor were: Dowling, Flynn, Gaube, Gernt, Graziano, Hamel, Lapierre, Madden, Quigley, Shire. Those members voting in opposition were: Almon.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor and five opposed (6-5) to recommend that a consultant be retained. Those members voting in favor were: Dowling, Flynn, Graziano, Lapierre, Quigley, Shire. Those members voting in opposition were: Almon, Gaube, Gernt, Hamel, Madden.

The Chair provided additional opportunity for any comments from the applicants, representatives, and the public.

### **3. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA  
Health Economics Specialist