

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 17 February 2009 TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

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

Excused: Thomas M. Madden, Esq.

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

Committee-II: Present: Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, MBA, Bruce Cryan, MBA, MS, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

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 2:35 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the Project Review Committee-I meetings of 20 January 2009 and 3 February 2009 were adopted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor with none opposed (7-0) 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, Almon, Flynn, Gernt, Lapierre, Quigley, Ricci.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the Change Order Request of **Miriam Hospital** [Lifespan Corporation] to the 27 October 2004 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.

Mr. Donovan, Executive Director of Rhode Island Health and Education Building Corporation, addressed the feasibility of the proposed bond issue. Dr. Hittner, President of Miriam Hospital, and Lifespan officials stated that Rhode Island Obligated Group will go ahead with a \$110 million bond issue regardless of whether financing is approved for this specific project (as other projects at Miriam could be used for the bond issue). She noted that Mr. Vecchione, President of Lifespan Corporation, instituted a spending freeze across Lifespan for non-emergency projects. She stated that the ER and ancillary services portion of the project will not be implemented (indefinitely delayed) unless funds are borrowed or financial situation is improved.

The Chair noted condition of approval requiring reporting. Ms. Lapierre noted a grant from CMS to address avoidable ER visits and requested that the applicant participate. She also requested that the applicant work with physicians and payors to mitigate in the overuse of ER

The Committee voted on the change order request separately by the following components: (1) change in scope and cost overrun, and (2) change in financing.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor, none opposed and one recusal (6-0-1) to recommend that the change in scope and cost overrun components of the change order request be approved subject to conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almon, Flynn, Gernt, Lapierre, Quigley, Ricci. Almeida recused.

A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of three in favor, none opposed, one recusal, and two abstentions (3-0-1-2) to recommend that the change in financing of the change order request be approved subject to conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor: Almon, Gernt, Ricci. Almeida recused. Quigley and Lapierre abstained.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist