

Minutes of Meeting  
Health Services Council  
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 29 September 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Beck Conference Room  
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
<b>Committee-I</b>			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair)			X
Edward F. Almon	X		
John Donahue	X		
John W. Flynn			X
Wallace Gernt	X		
Amy Lapierre	X		
Steven Lonardo	X		
Thomas M. Madden, Esq.			X
Robert Quigley, DC (Chairman)	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Robert Whiteside		X	

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

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. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of six in favor with none opposed (6-0) 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: Almon, Donahue, Gernt, Lapierre, Lonardo, Quigley.

The Chairman welcomed a new member of the Health Services Council: John X. Donahue

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of **Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island** [Care New England Health Systems] for a Certificate of Need to acquire a da Vinci Si Robotic System to offer minimally invasive gynecologic procedures.

The applicant discussed utilizing dedicated teams to decrease turnaround time and noted the learning curve involved in operating the da Vinci robot. With regards to the impact on the OR availability, the applicant noted that there is enough capacity to accommodate the robot as the robot is not utilized in emergency situations and scheduling would take place later in the evening. The applicant noted that training will be done on easy cases.

Mr. Donahue requested information regarding differences in reimbursement for surgery and physician payments for robot versus non-robot surgery. Mr. Varadian asked about the financial efficiencies achieved by the robot. Mr. Gernt requested that the applicant provided data as to the number of patients traveling to MA for robot surgery.

Mr. Donahue inquired to as to whether the local chapter of OB GYN is in support of this proposal. The applicant agreed to look into it.

Ms. Lapierre asked the applicant to identify what component of robotic surgery may not be covered by hospital's charity care policies. The applicant answered that the anesthesiology fee and the non-staff physician fee would not be covered.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA  
Health Economics Specialist