

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 18 January 2011

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 401

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-I			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Chair)	X		
John X. Donahue	X		
John W. Flynn			X
Wallace Gernt	X		
Theresa Jeremiah	X		
Amy Lapierre	X		
Steven Lonardo	X		
Thomas M. Madden, Esq.	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Reverend Shire (Vice-Chair)	X		
Robert Whiteside		X	

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Amy Zimmerman

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 Project Review Committee-I meetings of 19 October 2010, 30 November 2010, 7 December 2010 and 11 January 2011 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, Donahue, Gernt, Jeremiah, Lonardo, Madden, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Eleanor Slater Hospital** [Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals] for a Certificate of Need to consolidate building operations on the Pastore Campus in Cranston. Staff handed out and read into the record a summary of the review process.

A motion was made by Rev. Shire, seconded by Mr. Donahue and passed by a vote of seven in favor, none opposed and one abstention (7-0-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor included: Almeida, Donahue, Gernt, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Shire. Mr. Madden abstained and noted for the record that he did so because he had requested staff to ask Eleanor Slater Hospital to provide information regarding per diem costs.

Staff noted that this information will be requested from the applicant to be provided at the Health Services Council meeting.

The next items on the agenda was the application of **Rhode Island Hospital** [Lifespan Corporation] for Certificate of Need to combine The Miriam Hospital's and Rhode Island Hospital's open heart surgery programs on the campus of Rhode Island Hospital and add one hybrid operating room and the Change Order Request of **Rhode Island Hospital** [Lifespan Corporation] to the 31 May 2006 approval of 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.

Rev. Shire noted that he is recusing with regards to these applications.

Staff handed out a memo from the Office of Health System Policy and Reform.

The Committee questioned the applicant regarding transportation time and process, and on-call team availability. Mr. Gernt requested that the applicant provide their transfer protocols.

Mr. Donahue inquired as to the clinical visions of the hospitals and inquired as to whether such information was included as part of the Master Plan filed with the city of Providence.

The Committee members raised questions regarding other program consolidations not being included as part this review. Mr. Donahue questioned the representatives of Rhode Island Hospital regarding their progress towards the merger of Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. The applicant discussed the progress made towards the merger including the establishment of a "mirror" board structure, where the same board members serve on each of the boards of both Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. Mr. Donahue requested that the Department's determination that this "mirror" board proposal does not require prior regulatory review by the Department be provided to the members of the Health Services Council Mr.

Donahue requested that the Department provide assurances that actions on this proposal will not compromise future actions.

To Mr. Gernt's question regarding why both hospitals weren't operating under a single license the applicant noted the potential jeopardy to the magnet status of The Miriam Hospital.

Mr. Gernt questioned the applicant regarding Chaplin services.

Amy Zimmerman, Chief of Health Information Technology, made a presentation to the Committee regarding Currentcare. To Ms. Lapierre's question regarding individual hospital's performance, Ms. Zimmerman reviewed the participation rates. Ms. Lapierre suggested that as a condition, Rhode Island Hospital should have a requirement similar to CharterCare's with regards to Currentcare.

To Mr. Lonardo's questions regarding expected savings, the applicant noted that quality improves safety but that it's hard to quantify that in dollars.

The next item on the agenda was the Change Order Request of **South County Hospital** [South County Hospital Healthcare System] to the 26 July 2006 approval of the Certificate of Need to construct a 10-bed Orthopedic/Airborne Infection Isolation unit and relocate and renovate the ICU.

The applicant reviewed responses to follow up questions. The applicant noted that as a result of this and other projects it projects savings of \$700,000 over the next several years.

A motion was made by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Rev. Shire and passed by a vote of six in favor, none opposed and one recusal (6-0-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor included: Almeida, Donahue, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Shire. Mr. Gernt recused.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist