

MINUTES OF MEETING
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

DATE: 25 January 2011

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room B
Department of Administration

ATTENDANCE:

Council: **Present:** Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq., John X. Donahue, Joseph L. Dowling, M.D., John W. Flynn, Maria Gil, Catherine E. Graziano, R.N., Ph.D, Robert Hamel, R.N., Theresa Jeremiah, Amy Lapierre, Steven Lonardo, Thomas M. Madden, Esq., Daniel Orgel, MPA, Denise Panichas, Reverend David Shire (Vice-Chair)

Excused: Wallace Gernt

Not Present: Gary J. Gaube, Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside

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

Public: (Attached)

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. Minutes of the Health Services Council meeting of 14 December 2010 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 twelve in favor and none opposed (12-0) 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: Almeida, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Shire.

The report of the Nominating Committee of the Health Services Council was presented by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Sen. Graziano. Victoria Almeida, Esq., was nominated for Chair, Reverend David Shire was nominated for Vice Chair, and Maria Gil was nominated for Secretary. The members of the Nominating Committee are Sen. Graziano, Mr. Flynn, and Mr. Hamel. No additional nominations were made. The Chair called for a vote to close the nominations, the a motion was made by Dr. Dowling, seconded by Ms. Jeremiah and passed by a vote of thirteen in favor and none opposed (13-0) to close the nominations. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Shire. The elections will be held at the next Health Services Council meeting.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the *Report of the Committee of the Health Services Council on the application of Eleanor Slater Hospital's certificate of need to consolidate building operations on the Pastore Campus in Cranston*. Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

As requested by Council member Madden, Mr. Young, Chief Executive Officer of Eleanor Slater Hospital, compared the per diem costs at Eleanor Slater Hospital to a similar psychiatric institution in MA and local community hospitals. He noted that Eleanor Slater Hospital has an average Medicaid per diem rate of \$1,034 and by comparison a state psychiatric hospital in Massachusetts has an average Medicaid per diem rate of \$1,036. He noted that the community hospitals in Rhode Island with psychiatric units have average Medicaid per diem rates that range from \$809 at Landmark Medical Center to \$1,577 at Bradley Hospital. He noted that the impact of the implementation is estimated to increase the Medicaid per diem rate by approximately \$15 to \$20 at Eleanor Slater Hospital. He noted that information on the operational savings is part of the annual budget submission to the General Assembly.

A motion was made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Mr. Hamel and passed by a vote of fourteen in favor and none opposed (14-0) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gil, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the *Report to the Health Services Council on the application of Providence Community Health Centers, Inc. d/b/a Providence Community Health Center at North Main for initial licensure as an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility in Providence*. Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

The applicant made a presentation to the Council. The applicant noted that it is a mature organization that has the capability to expand, has expertise, and has a partnership with The Providence Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services ("TPC"). The applicant noted that its 15-member board is made of 51% consumers and that it has a strong senior management team. The applicant stated that in the future it will adopt electronic health records, will seek NCQA accreditation and develop patient centered medical home.

The Council questioned the applicant regarding their pro-forma projections, scope of service proposed for the new facility, charity care policies and integration with TPC.

A motion was made by Rev. Shire, seconded by Dr. Dowling and passed by a vote of fourteen in favor, none opposed and one abstention (14-0-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gil, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Shire. Sen. Graziano abstained.

The next item on the agenda was the *Addendum to the Report of the Health Services Council on the Certificate of Need Application of South County Hospital Healthcare System to construct a 10-bed orthopedic/airborne infection isolation unit and renovate and relocate the ICU*. Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

Mr. Giancola, President of South County Hospital, noted the positive outcomes at the ICU unit. He

noted that the ICU environment needs to be updated.

A motion was made by Mr. Flynn, seconded by Ms. Gil and passed by a vote of thirteen in favor, none opposed and one recusal (13-0-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Flynn, Gil, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lonardo, Orgel, Panichas, Shire. Mr. Madden recused.

The next item on the agenda was the *Addendum to the Report of the Health Services Council on the Certificate of Need Application of Tockwotton Home to construct a replacement facility and increase its licensed bed capacity by ten beds*. Staff summarized the application and deliberations of the Committee on this matter.

Mr. Coia noted the comments submitted in opposition regarding the proposed general contractor. He stated that this is part of his deliberations. He stated that he has to look at the elements required in CON criteria, and is the job going to get done and will they stay within the budget. He recommended that a condition of approval the Council require of the applicant that any contractor working on the project comply fully with all of the Department of Labor rules and standards as it relates to wages and workers compensation requirements.

Mr. Miller noted that he is not aware of a specific review criterion that would cover this issue. He noted that there is a review criterion that allows the Council to consider any other factors deemed relevant but that he believes that tying this condition to that criterion would be a reach.

Mr. Hamel questioned whether this condition was outside of the charge of the Council. He noted that these regulations [cited in the proposed condition] have nothing to do with healthcare. Mr. Madden stated that this seems to be outside of the Council purview and is redundant of an existing law. The Chair stated that she doesn't believe the Council has jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Mr. Madden, seconded by Rev. Shire and passed by a vote of thirteen in favor, one opposed and one abstention (13-1-1) to recommend that the application be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Donahue, Flynn, Gil, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Orgel, Panichas, Shire. Mr. Coia voted in opposition. Dr. Dowling abstained. Mr. Coia noted that he voted in opposition because the proposed condition of approval was not incorporated into the recommendation.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist