

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 20 January 2011

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 401

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-II			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Chair)			X
Raymond C. Coia, Esq.			X
Joseph L. Dowling, MD			X
Gary J. Gaube		X	
Maria R. Gil			X
Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD	X		
Robert Hamel, RN			X
Daniel Orgel, MPA	X		
Denise Panichas			X
Reverend David Shire (Vice Chair)	X		

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, 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 2:30 PM by Rev. Shire, Acting Chair. The Acting 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 three in favor and none opposed (3-0) 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: Graziano, Orgel, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Gentiva Health Services, Inc.** for change in effective control of Odyssey Healthcare, Inc. and its subsidiary Odyssey HealthCare Operating B, LP d/b/a Odyssey Hospice a Hospice Care Provider Agency in Warwick.

Ms. DeBlasio, legal counsel to the applicant, introduced the representatives of the applicant. Mr. Cunningham, Vice President of Compliance, Hospice Division, stated that the plan of treatment for hospice patients is determined by a doctor. He noted that claims have to be medically

necessary. The applicant discussed the investigation and inquiries by the FCC and SEC and noted that it is a competitor, Amedisys, which is being investigated by the Department of Justice.

Ms. Heren, Executive Director, Alliance for Better Long Term Care, noted her concerns regarding the proposal. The applicant noted that Gentiva's readmission rate is 22% and below the national average of 28%.

The applicant discussed improvements made since the acquisition by Gentiva which included merger of back office functions, streamlining of best practices, better benefits package and new payroll system.

The Acting Chair, asked if the Committee members had any outstanding issues. The Committee members indicated there were no outstanding issues.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Comfort, LLC** for initial licensure to establish a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at 165 Dyerville Avenue in Johnston.

The applicant summarized its proposal and confirmed that Ms. Miller will be a full time administrator.

Ms. Cranston, Executive Director, Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care, raised questions regarding the proposal and noted that the applicant doesn't have home care experience and the proposed administrator has no administrative or supervisory experience. Ms. Miller responded that as a registered nurse she is responsible for the entire plan of care of her patients, and that CNA and LPNs report to her. She stated that as an ICU nurse she has to pay attention to a lot of details. Staff requested that the applicant provide resumes for additional staff members proposed to be employed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist