



Department of Health

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**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL**

**DATE:** 18 November 2014

**TIME:** 2:30 PM

**LOCATION:** Conference Room B  
Rhode Island Department of Administration

**ATTENDANCE:**

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Chair)	X		
John J. Barry III	X		
Raymond C. Coia, Esq.	X		
Steven R. DeToy	X		
John X. Donahue	X		
Joseph L. Dowling, MD	X		
Roberta Feather, CNS, PhD, JD	X		
Wallace Gernt		X	
Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD	X		
Robert Hamel, RN	X		
Theresa Jeremiah	X		
Jeanette S. Matrone, RN, PhD	X		
Daniel Orgel, MPA			X
Denise Panichas	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Larry Ross	X		
Tom Sgouros	X		
Reverend Shire (Vice-Chair)			X
Robert Whiteside		X	

**Staff:** Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Krista Sevigny (Intern), Jane Morgan, 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 2:33 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the Health Services Council meeting of 28 October 2014 were adopted as submitted. A motion was made and passed by a vote of twelve in favor and none opposed (12-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act due to the increase in administrative burdens on staff. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Barry, Coia, Donahue, Dowling, Feather, Graziano, Hamel, Jeremiah, Matrone, Ross, Sgouros.

## **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 Athena Hospice Services of Massachusetts, LLC d/b/a Hospice Services of Massachusetts** for a certificate of need to establish a hospice provider agency in Providence. Representatives of the applicant made a presentation and answered the Committee's questions.

Eileen S-P?? from Palliative Services??? presented oral commentary to the Committee urging approval of this application. She informed the Committee that "the need is there and I can attest to that" and that "despite that there is a lot of education out there, we still really need help." Eileen S-P??? answered a number of questions from the Committee Members.

The Vice President of Philanthropy of Home and Hopsice Care of Rhode Island, Charles Iocono, also presented oral commentary to the Committee urging rejected of this application and reminded the Committee that "the idependent study indicated that there is no additional need and [the applicant] did not demonstrate need and affordability."

A motion was made by Mr. Coia, seconded by Mr. DeToy, that the Report of the Committee be rejected and the application be approved. The motion failed by a vote of four in favor, and ten opposed (4-10). Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Coia, DeToy, Dowling, Hamel. Those voting against the motion were: Almeida, Barry, Donahue, Feather, Graziano, Jeremiah, Matrone, Panichas, Ross, Sgouros.

A motion was made by Mr. Barry seconded by Ms. Matrone, and passed by a vote of eleven in favor, and three opposed (11-3) to recommend that the Report of the Committee and the application be approved. Those members voting in favor of the motion were: Almeida, Barry, Donahue, Dowling, Feather, Graziano, Jeremiah, Matrone, Panichas, Ross, Sgouros. Those voting against the motion were: Coia, DeToy, Hamel.

The Committee discussed the issue with parking for these council meetings. Mr. Coia mentioned how "ridiculous" it is that members have to leave in the middle of a presentation and miss important testimony by the applicants in order to put quarters in the meters.

## **3. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael K. Dexter*

Michael K. Dexter  
Chief  
Office of Health Systems Development