



Department of Health

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MINUTES OF MEETING
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE-II

DATE: 2 October 2014

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Department Operations Center (DOC)
Rhode Island Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-II			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Chair)	X		
John J. Barry III	X		
Raymond C. Coia, Esq.	X		
Steven DeToy			X
Joseph L. Dowling, MD	X		
Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD	X		
Robert Hamel, RN			X
Jeanette Matrone, RN, PhD	X		
Daniel Orgel, MPA			X
Denise Panichas	X		
Reverend David Shire (Vice Chair)	X		

Staff: Edward D'Arezzo, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Amy Coleman, Esq., Krista Sevigny (Intern)

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 2:32 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. A motion was made and passed by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed (8-0) 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, Dowling, Graziano, Matrone, Panichas and Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of **The Episcopal Housing Foundation of Rhode Island** for initial licensure of an Organized Ambulatory Care Facility in Providence.

Representatives of the applicant made a presentation and responded to the Committee's questions.

Kathleen Heren, the Rhode Island Long Term Care State Ombudsman, commented in support of the application saying, "they do outstanding care" and "I make many referrals to them."

A motion was made by Sen. Graziano, seconded by Mr. Coia, and passed by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed (8-0) to recommend that the application for initial licensure be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Barry, Coia, Dowling, Graziano, Matrone, Panichas, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **LHCG LIX, LLC [LHC Group, Inc.] d/b/a Life Care at Home** for change in effective control of Life Care at Home of Rhode Island, Inc. d/b/a Life Care at Home, a home health provider in Cranston.

Representatives of the applicant made a presentation and responded to the Committee's questions.

Nicholas Oliver of the Rhode Island Partnership for Home care commented in support of the application saying Life Care at Home is a "great quality partner" and is "national leaders in home health care."

A motion was made by Mr. Coia, seconded by Sen. Graziano, Rev. Shire, and Mr. Dowling, and passed by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed (8-0) to recommend that the application for a change in effective control be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Barry, Coia, Dowling, Graziano, Matrone, Panichas, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Coram Healthcare Corporation of Massachusetts [CVS Health Corporation]** for change in effective control of Coram Healthcare Corporation of Massachusetts d/b/a Coram Specialty Infusion Services, a nursing care provider in East Providence.

Representatives of the applicant made a presentation and responded to the Committee's questions.

A motion was made by Rev. Shire, seconded by Mr. Coia and Mr. Dowling, and passed by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed (8-0) to recommend that the application for a change in effective control be approved subject to the conditions of approval. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Barry, Coia, Dowling, Graziano, Matrone, Panichas, Shire.

The next item on the agenda was the application of **Athena Hospice Services of Massachusetts, LLC d/b/a Hospice Services of Massachusetts [Lawrence G. Santilli (38%), and others]** for a certificate of need to establish a hospice provider in Providence.

Representatives of the applicant made a presentation and responded to the Committee's questions.

Under public comment, Kathleen Heren, Rhode Island State Long Term Care Ombudsman, noted among other things that there is no need for more hospice agencies in Rhode Island. Nicholas Oliver, Executive Director, Rhode Island Partnership for Home Care, noted among other things that, with eight existing agencies, there is presently an oversaturation of hospice agencies in Rhode Island. Charles Iacono, Vice President for Philanthropy, Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island, spoke in objection to the application

A motion was made by Rev. Shire, seconded by Ms. Matrone and passed by a vote of seven in favor and one opposed (7-1) that the instant application be denied. Reasons members cited for voting to recommend the application be denied included that need was not established; there are presently enough hospice facilities; no substantial or obvious need demonstrated; and there was not a clear argument for need. The member voting against a recommendation to deny the application noted that he was persuaded by the data and the evidence does not show that the hospice service is saturated in Rhode Island and that competition is needed.

3. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Dexter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael K. Dexter
Chief
Office of Health Systems Development