REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Medical Care Commission was called to order at 9:06 a.m., on December 10, 2007, in the Town Council Chambers. Members of the Commission present were: Chair Michael Dennis, Vice Chair Robert Friedman, Commission Member Michael Stein and Commission Member Norman Traverse. Commission Member Richard Furlaud and Commission Member Norman Goldblum were absent.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Dennis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

Chair Dennis made several of the following comments:

- Upon request, the Medical Care Commission surveyed the residents to determine their needs and assess the availability of services;
- The original mission was to focus on the viability of Good Samaritan Medical Center, but eventually expanded focus on every medical center in the region;
- The perception had been that services were being withdrawn, and disorganized;
- The current perception was that services had improved due to the following:

- Scripps was now in place with the potential for a clinical collaboration.
- The FAU/Miami four-year medical school was in association with Boca Raton Community Hospital.
- JFK Medical Center's superb stroke and cardiac program now included clinical residencies and internal medicine.
- The Medical Care Commission encouraged Cleveland Clinic to locate in West Palm Beach rather than Boca Raton.
- An Urgent Care Center in the Town of Palm Beach was still in formative stages.

- Met with Davide Carbone, Chief Executive Officer of St. Mary's Medical Center;

- St. Mary's shared many of the issues of other hospitals and positive efforts were underway;

- St. Mary's was on a 100-acre campus with enormous potential with the Trauma Center for Palm Beach County, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), and the geographic proximity of the Nicklaus Children's Hospital; and

- Palm Beach County needed an academic medical center.

IV. PRESENTATION BY ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, CEO DAVIDE CARBONE

Davide Carbone provided a presentation of the status, growth, and opportunities at St. Mary's Medical Center.

Responding to Chair Dennis, Mr. Carbone made the following comments:

- The unfunded care was growing;

- St. Mary's contributed $175,000 in cash payments to several organizations in the community last year;

- St. Mary's received recognition and accolades from the state, and many local awards;

- The hospital was almost cash neutral, which made about $13 to $14 million, and the same amount of money was invested in capital equipment;

- St. Mary's was a "break even" facility; and

- Out of county transfers were compensated through patients' insurance.

Chair Dennis recognized the following people who were present:

Dr. Jean Marie Malecky, director of the County Health Department;
Paul Gionfriddo, president of the Quantum Foundation;
Dwight D. Chenette, chief executive officer of the Health Care District; and
Marianne Sprinkle(ph) and Marcia Kegley(ph), of the University of Miami.

Responding to the Commission Members' questions, Mr. Carbone made several of the following comments:

- The patients records were kept by zip code;

- St. Mary's would be concentrating more on informing the public of its program through an improved and increased marketing campaign;

- He could not understand why, after 70 years, enough resources had not been committed for both St. Mary's and Good Sam to provide services for cardiac care and strokes.

- St. Mary's would welcome the patient that waived his right to sue on an elective basis. Doctors in the community did not want to abandon St. Mary's, but many of them had, because they did not want to put their livelihood on the line;

- The trial attorneys represented the majority of the state legislators, and as long as they had the funding and the backing, there would not be sovereign immunity coming to hospitals like St. Mary's;

- Placing a cap on awards for malpractice cases through legislation was attempted a few years ago in Florida, but did not get passed;

- St. Mary's had "Specialists on Call", the teleneurology system for a stroke patient for quicker response time;

- The medical staff exchange between Good Sam and St. Mary's was not as complete as desired. There had been a rivalry between the medical staff's for many years. St. Mary's became more of trauma, obstetrics, and high risk hospital, and the doctors that wanted to avoid those areas migrated to Good Sam. There was not a complete overlap, and resulted in two distinct separate medical staffs;

- Three years from now, St. Mary's would have completed a ten year obligation with the Attorney General, and would continue to operate.

- Sub-specialty physicians were "on call basis", and were obligated to come in within 30 minutes.

- The Nicklaus Children's Hospital was now and had always been the Children's Hospital at St. Mary's. Several years ago, Jack and Barbara Nicklaus wanted to put their names on the Hospital to help bring awareness of pediatric services and to help grow the Children's Hospital and their foundation. They were always independent of the Hospital and the only thing that changed was the name.

- He would be meeting with the people of the University of Miami who put together the residency programs, as there was a lot of speculation that needed clarification. St. Mary's was very interested in a pediatric residency program, if funding could be found for it.

- The faculty of an academic center would be taken from the local community whenever possible.

- St. Mary's occupational rate was from 250 to 350 patients, and on an average, year-to-date was 290 patients.

Dr. Fink provided an update on academic centers, such as the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic.

Commission Member Traverse commented that support should begin with the local hospitals.

V. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

VI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the December 10, 2007, Medical Care

Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

____

Michael Dennis, MD
Chairman