

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

THE REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION HELD ON MARCH 20, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Medical Care Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 9:39 a.m., in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Those found to be present: Chairman Michael Dennis, Vice Chairman Robert Friedman, Commission Members Richard Furlaud, Norman Goldblum, and Norman Traverse. Commission Member Michael Stein arrived at 9:50 a.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Dennis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

Chair Dennis read his statement into the record as follows:

The Palm Beach Medical Care Commission will soon complete its appointed term, which began in November of 2005. On behalf of my colleagues, I want to recognize Mayor McDonald, whose vision created the Commission in response to express disappointments in the health care system from our residents. We wish to express our gratitude to the Town Council, who generously provided seed money for our two projects that involved some costs. Great appreciation must also go to *The Palm Beach Daily News*, for their assiduous and accurate coverage of our very frequent, sometimes weekly meetings. I also want to thank the loyalists that I see in the crowd, who came and attended almost every meeting. Speaking personally, I wish to thank my colleagues: Bob Friedman, Mike Stein, Dick Furlaud, Norman Goldblum, and Dr. Norman Traverse, who formed the most dedicated and inspired determinative and supportive group for which any chairman could possibly

MCC 3-20-08

Post Office Box 2029 • 360 South County Road • Palm Beach, Florida 33480
Telephone (561) 838-5416 • Facsimile (561) 838-5417

E-mail: townclerk@townofpalmbeach.com • Website: www.townofpalmbeach.com



hope. Our efforts to achieve results in our mission were collective, collegial, and cohesive. That mission was to assess the needs of our residents, identify and evaluate the components of the system serving us, encouraging the improvement of services in our regional hospitals; in the process, become a catalyst for additional programs, that would meet the needs of our island population and our neighbors to the west, such as the presence of the Cleveland Clinic in our region, the improvement of many of the hospitals, and the development of the federally qualified health clinics that provide care for those who care for us. Tangible evidence of our success can be found in the applications and information learned from our resident survey and in the creation of our *Area Medical Care Guide*, which is unique to any municipal community. Positive changes in the hospital structures, and in the programs necessary to serve us in emergencies is being reported frequently in the regional newspapers. The Commission can, of course, take credit only for a portion of the changes we have witnessed. The Commission has at least raised the level of awareness of the citizens to issues, which directly affect their health, and that has brought about results and action. Can we now say that we have everything we need? Of course not. As an example, for such a populace and economically blessed area, we still lack a comprehensive multi specialty academic medical center, that can provide an assurance of excellence in training, recruiting, and retaining needed health personnel. Although, incremental steps are being taken in that direction, we face a looming crisis in the numbers of physicians that will be available at triage and basic general medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery and neurosurgery, to name a few. We will hear about that a little bit later, as well. Creating confidence in the local system for acute vascular management is a necessary component of improving our overall degree of pride in what we have here, in this area. Time does not allow me to delineate all the remaining issues that still need to be addressed, but the good news is that the Commission, which has tried to function as your advocate and agent, will be replaced by a foundation that was discussed as a concept in a public meeting last year. It is in the formative stages, but it is a natural segue from the existing situation; there will be no interruption at having a concerned group looking out for your best interest in this community. As the Mayor was quoted recently in the paper, "it is a positive outcome of the Medical Board's existence, because that is a great step forward in meeting its objectives". Those observations and objectives, as well as suggested plan of action for the future will be delivered to the Town next month. Presumably the foundation will carry on the mission of serving you in a comprehensive and compassionate manner. Rest assured that we will have your best interests at heart, literally. We as a Commission wish you the best for your health and happiness, as a community.

IV. PRESENTATION BY PALM BEACH COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Tenna Wiles, chief executive officer of Palm Beach County Medical Society, addressed the Commission encouraging support for the initiative of the Palm Beach County Medical Society. She noted that the Emergency Department Management Group (EDMG) had made recommendations to

the Health Care District, to put together a proposal to address the critical issues in the community that would be submitted to the Attorney General in Tallahassee.

Tim Henderson, Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Medical Society, provided a handout summarizing his presentation on behalf of the Palm Beach County Medical Society entitled *Physician Supply and Demand: The Palm Beach County Physician Census*.

Discussion occurred, with questions from the Commission, and responses from the Palm Beach County Medical Society. Several issues discussed were: malpractice rates; that many remaining physicians were self insured; incentives to remain in primary care programs, percentage of physicians in the younger age group; internal care medicine physicians; and congressional support for Medicare reductions.

Public Comment:

Dr. Fink commented regarding the shortage of physicians, and the best ways to correct the situation.

V. UPDATE ON JFK MEDICAL CENTER - GINA MELBY, CEO

Gina Melby, chief executive officer of JFK Medical Center, provided an update relating to the progress and accomplishments of JFK Medical Center in areas of neurology and vascular medical care. She made several of the following comments: the expansion of the JFK facility would support orthopedics, a tremendous amount of time and dollars were being spent to support the medical teaching program, and JFK was able to provide full services to the community.

Discussion occurred about the status of JFK's recruitment of physicians, the increased cost rate for the uninsured, and qualified health clinics.

VI. UPDATE ON UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI AT PALM BEACH COUNTY INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY PROGRAM - CHARLES POSTERNAK, M.D., PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Charles Posternak, program director of the University of Miami at Palm Beach County Internal Medicine Residency Program, addressed the Commission regarding the accomplishments made in converting JFK to an academic center. He discussed the manner in which dollars were being spent on health care, how efficiencies could be addressed, and the financial health care realities

of the future. He noted that the pay for performance system was now implemented by the government, and noted the effect it had on health care dollars, and physician training.

Comments of the Commission were heard, and discussion occurred regarding the JFK program. Several of the issues discussed were: educational programs in Palm Beach County and that the *Area Medical Care Guide* would be updated electronically.

Public Comment:

Julie Campazzi, representing Island Medical Care, thanked the Medical Care Commission for all of its efforts. She provided an update on the Island Medical Care facility.

Stanley Rumbough, 655 Island Drive, and chairman of the Palm Beach Civic Association, offered the assistance of the Palm Beach Civic Association to future efforts of the members of the Commission.

Dr. Fink congratulated JFK and the University of Miami, and commented regarding the selection of physicians in building a top medical institution.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none.

VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

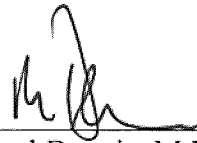
Chair Dennis thanked Mayor McDonald, the Town Council, and noted that it had been delightful to work with the dedicated Commission members.

Commission Member Stein commented that he had served on many boards, and had never experienced a chairman such as Dr. Dennis and thanked him.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Medical Care Commission meeting of March 20, 2008, was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Dennis', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Dennis, M.D.
Chairman