

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 28, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m., in the Town Council Chambers.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Dennis.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2006, MEETING

The Minutes of the February 1, 2006, Medical Care Commission were approved through consensus of the Commission.

V. RESIDENT SURVEY UPDATE

Chair Dennis introduced members of Profile Marketing Research, who had designed the resident survey: Judy Hoffman, President, and Sean Houlihan, Project Director.

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Ms. Hoffman made some introductory remarks concerning the history of the company, and described the work done on the survey.

Ms. Hoffman responded to comments from the Commission including the following:

- * Addition/deletion of some of the medical specialties.
- * Stressing that the survey was a confidential questionnaire.
- * Results will be available to the public
- * Offering respondents the ability to submit contact information if so desired.
- * Inclusion of a separate form for people to fill out if they are interested in volunteering.

The Commission then reviewed the cover letter that would accompany the survey, and comments were provided for some minor adjustments to the cover letter. Ms. Hoffman stressed the importance of having something eye catching on the envelope, and using quality paper.

Mr. Royall Victor, 208 Via Tortuga, commented that the envelope carrying the survey must be clearly identified, and that publicity beforehand should lead up to the public receipt of the survey.

Mr. Stanley Rumbough, resident, questioned the need for a survey, and maintained that he would rather take the advice of the six Commission members as to whether or not there was good emergency care available.

Chair Dennis responded that the Commission had given this more than a fair amount of thought, and that the Commission believed it was important to establish an advocacy role with the citizens. He noted that the citizens can provide information that only they could provide – from the people themselves. In order to evaluate the needs of the people it was necessary to reach out to everyone and let them know that they had the ability to provide input.

Commission Member Friedman commented that the survey would bring the experience of those using the hospitals. It would indicate patterns and also indicate whether there were many people with one particular illness, such as diabetes. Information provided from the survey would also indicate whether there were enough doctors available to provide certain services.

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Commission Member Traverse commented that studies had found that people were not taking flu shots and pneumonia shots, and that resulted in crowded emergency rooms. Also, he pointed out that the questions regarding CPR classes and knowledge of the use of automatic external defibrillators were added because if there were many people that had not taken those classes, the Commission may be able to approach it from an advocacy level. He also noted that there may be the necessity to approach the need for legislation on certain issues, such as malpractice, and to prove that there was a causal relationship, which would be indicated by the results of the survey.

Ms. Hoffman indicated that a revised cover letter would be available later this day, and that she would submit it to Town Hall for distribution to the Commission members.

Ms. Hoffman mentioned that a basic layout of the envelope would be done, and also mentioned the possibility of sending a reminder postcard, which may increase response rates. The only costs incurred would be printing and postage. Those who responded to a second mailing would be different than those who responded to the initial mailing.

Commission Member Traverse pointed out that the initial returns of the survey could be evaluated, and then it could be decided whether a second mailing was necessary or not.

The Commission then reviewed the survey line by line, and made suggestions to Ms. Hoffman of additions or deletions.

Mr. Rumbough commented that it may be appropriate to add a question concerning educational programs on CPR, to determine the interest in attending. He noted that he had great faith in the Medical Care Commission, and speaking for the Palm Beach Civic Association, he would be delighted to put it on the Agenda when funding requirements were determined, so that it could be discussed at the next Palm Beach Civic Association Executive Committee, so that the Association could back up the Commission not only verbally, but financially.

Chair Dennis thanked Mr. Rumbough for his representation.

Discussion took place regarding inclusion of a question on the survey that would request opinions on a Good Samaritan Law that would protect physicians providing specialty care in the emergency room. After further discussion Chair Dennis suggested that the Town Attorney may wish to review any questions that would have legal implications.

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Commission Member Goldblum requested exact information regarding how long it takes to get to Palm Beach Gardens from a Fire-Rescue emergency call. He explained that may help to establish a need.

Mr. Fuller responded that he could provide that information.

Commission Member Friedman moved that the proposed question that was discussed by the Commission regarding liability law, would be excluded from inclusion in the survey. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Stein. On call of the Chair, the motion carried 4/1, with Commission Member Traverse casting a dissenting vote.

Ms. Hoffman advised that she would provide another draft of the survey for the review of the Commission. She noted that adding a comment code would increase costs at approximately \$.50 per question per respondent, plus a small fee for building the list of codes.

Commission Member Stein moved that Chair Dennis be authorized to review the draft survey and provide approval of the final survey. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Friedman. On call of the Chair, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Hoffman advised that a revised survey would be provided to Chair Dennis no later than Friday, March 3, 2006.

Mr. Rumbough suggested that the cover letter include information regarding the help of the Palm Beach Civic Association, and any other organization that may help with the costs.

Chair Dennis replied that the cover letter was not a solicitation for funds, and that perhaps a more appropriate spot to recognize contributors would be through the press.

In response to the comments of Commissioners Furlaud and Stein, Mr. Fuller replied that it would take formal legislation to provide for the use of a medical helicopter for other than trauma situations.

Commission Member Goldblum expressed concern that Good Samaritan was located on very valuable property, and that a proactive stand should be taken to ensure that it remains there.

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VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were none at this time.

VII. NEXT MEETING MARCH 7, 2006

Chair Dennis noted that Don Steigman, of Tenet Healthcare System would be present at the March 7, 2006, Medical Care Commission Meeting.

XII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Medical Care Commission Meeting of February 28, 2006, was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Michael Dennis, M.D.
Chairman

Prepared by:
Susan A. Eichhorn
Town Clerk