

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 13, 2003
(9:30 A.M.)**

Proceedings of a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, began and held in the Auditorium at the County Administration Building, 4020 Lewis Speedway (County Road 16-A) and U.S. 1 North, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: James E. Bryant, District 5, Chair
Karen Stern, District 2, Vice Chair
Nicholas Meiszer, District 1
Ben W. Adams, Jr., County Administrator
Dan Bosanko, County Attorney
Michael Hunt, Assistant County Attorney
Robin Platt, Deputy Clerk

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:37 a.m.)

Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order.

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:37 a.m.)

Bryant led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:37 a.m.)

ROLL CALL

Bryant stated, for the record, that he, Stern and Meiszer were present.

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:37 a.m.)

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:37 a.m.)

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Stern, carried 3/0, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda.

(02/13/03 - 1 - 9:38 a.m.)

1. CONSIDER GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR CHAIRMAN JIM BRYANT TO SIGN A LETTER TO ENABLE ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES TO APPLY FOR A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE DESIGNATION

Bryant opened discussion for this item by stating that the reason for this meeting was to discuss support for a grant application being made by St. Johns Health Services (SJHS) and Medical Specialists of St. Augustine, which will be due on Saturday.

(9:39 a.m.) Michael Hunt, Assistant County Attorney, presented the Resolution and read it into the record.

(9:46 a.m.) Bryant pointed out two scrivener's errors that needed to be corrected. He explained that since Medical Specialists of St. Augustine, which runs the Primary Care Clinic, is a private entity, could not make application for the funds and therefore St. Johns Health Services is authoring the grant.

(9:47 a.m.) Dan Bosanko, County Attorney, explained that the Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOAU) referenced in the Resolution, is contingent upon St. Johns Health Services receiving a Federally Qualified Health Care Designation. This would require the St. Johns County Mental Health Department, on reasonable terms, to provide certain services. He further explained that he spoke with Dr. Maria Colavito of the Mental Health Department, and that she has concerns with her department's ability to provide screening/assessment services within 48 hours. He stated that if the designation is obtained there would need to be a much more detailed agreement between the parties.

(9:50 a.m.) James Conzemius, 365 Marsh Point Circle, Treasurer of St. Johns Health Services, stated that he understands that if the grant is received that additional funding would be received to take care of Medicare and Medicaid patients and that there would need to be a compensation agreement between SJHS and the County. He stated that providing assessments within 48 hours is a criteria of the grant.

(9:52 a.m.) Dan Wilson, St. Johns Health Services, stated that he spoke with Dr. Colavito yesterday and they discussed the screening/assessment issue.

(9:52 a.m.) Maria Colavito, Mental Health Director, addressed the differences between screenings and assessments. She stated that she could not guarantee being able to perform an assessment within 48 hours, but that her staff could do a screening in that time frame.

(9:53 a.m.) Wilson commented that the language screening/assessment would be fine, but that the word assessment has to be left in. Discussion followed regarding the requirements of an assessment and it was decided to add the language "screening or assessment, as appropriate".

(9:55 a.m.) Meiszer questioned how the Mental Health Department got involved with this grant application. Bryant explained that the designation requires a full complement of services, which includes dental, medical and mental health services, so the mental health services are being subcontracted to the County's Mental Health Department. Discussion followed regarding the lack of a remuneration clause in the contract.

(9:59 a.m.) Dr. Marathe explained that there is not a remuneration clause due to the fact that they are not sure if they will get the designation, or the grant, and if they did receive it, they don't know how much money they would receive. Discussion followed on the types of mental health services that would be included and the community support for the grant that needs to be illustrated with the application. It was pointed out that Section 3.1.1 of the MOAU outlines the services to be provided.

(10:07 a.m.) Meiszer asked for clarification about the mental health services that would be provided, pursuant to the Resolution and the MOAU. Hunt explained that they are pointed out in Section 3.1.1 of the MOAU. Meiszer stressed concern about the obligations that this agreement would place on the Mental Health Department.

(10:09 a.m.) Conzemius explained that the grantee has to demonstrate how it is going to provide the comprehensive services for the patients who come to the clinic. This agreement demonstrates that they have a plan as to how to provide the required services.

(10:11 a.m.) Colavito suggested that the grant application show that the County Mental Health Department is a partner and that the County is making a large monetary contribution, as well. She also stated that the language in Section 3.1.1 allows for a broad level of services and she feels that the grant may be limited to psychiatric care only and that there should be a better level of specificity in the agreement.

(10:13 a.m.) Bosanko stated that the MOAU is a precedent to a formal contract and that he was concerned that the wording of the agreement not be too specific and to keep the wording flexible as this agreement will be followed by a detailed contract to include the performance terms, the remuneration, and how, where and when services would be delivered in detail. He again stated that the purpose of this agreement is to give assurances to the Federal Grant Agency that the County is willing to provide that service upon reasonable terms.

(10:18 a.m.) Stern stated that she, too, is concerned with the wording of the agreement regarding the commitment to performing assessments within 48 hours.

(10:19 a.m.) Marathe explained that the language "48 hours" has to stay in the agreement, as it is a requirement of the application. Colavito suggested adding the phrase "as clinically appropriate" to Section 3.1.3 of the MOAU. Discussion followed as to whether a Letter of Intent would serve the same purpose as the MOAU and Hunt explained that this is not a binding contract and would have no affect on what happens later, and would have no affect at all if the designation is not received.

(10:23 a.m.) Bosanko reviewed the change that was made to Section 3.1.3 of the MOAU as adding the wording "as clinically appropriate".

(10:24 a.m.) Motion by Stern, seconded by Bryant, carried 3/0, to adopt Resolution No. 2003-27, referencing the changes in Section 3.1.3 of the MOAU, and with the corrections noted on page 2, correcting the date from Wednesday to Thursday, and on page 3 changing the month from March to February.

RESOLUTION 2003-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING THAT IN THE EVENT ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES OBTAINS A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE DESIGNATION, ST. JOHNS COUNTY WILL CONTRACT WITH ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES, INCORPORATED FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL SERVICES, AND ST. JOHNS COUNTY WILL PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE AT NO COST TO ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES, INCORPORATED, THE HASTINGS CLINIC, AND THE ST. JOHNS PRIMARY CARE CLINIC; AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, TO PREPARE AND EXECUTE A LETTER TO JAMES D. CONZEMIUS, TREASURER OF ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES, INCORPORATED THAT ACKNOWLEDGES BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION, AND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' INTENT SHOULD ST. JOHNS COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES OBTAIN A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE DESIGNATION; APPROVING ST. JOHNS COUNTY ENTERING INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT/UNDERSTANDING WITH ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES, INCORPORATED; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT IN ORDER TO FACILITATE ST. JOHNS HEALTH SERVICES, INCORPORATED'S APPLICATION FOR A FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CARE DESIGNATION.

(10:26 a.m.) Motion by Bryant, seconded by Stern, carried 3/0, to adjourn the Special Meeting.

Approved February 25, 2003

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: James E. Bryant
James E. Bryant, Chair

ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK

By: Wonna King
Deputy Clerk

