

AFFILIATION COUNCIL
Minutes
November 19, 2007

Present:

Crouse: Paul Kronenberg, MD, Elizabeth Hartnett, JD, Derrick Suehs, Kimberly Boynton, Mary Darcy, Harold Wanamaker, MD

Upstate: David Smith, MD, Phillip Schaengold, JD, Steven Brady, Stephen Albanese, MD

Guests: Wanda Thompson, PhD

Absent/Excused

Upstate: Steven Scheinman, MD

Recorder: Wendy Masters

The meeting of the Crouse/Upstate Affiliation Council was convened on November 19, 2007 at 8:05 a.m., in the Crouse Hospital Board Room.

1. Approval of Minutes *

The first Council meeting took place prior to all the members being in place so the October 26, 2007 minutes can only be approved by the eight people that attended that meeting. It is felt that it is important to keep these records in order to document the activities of the Council. Ms. Hartnett asked if the DOH reviewed copies of the minutes and if they had any questions on them. The response was that they were given a copy of them and have not questioned anything. The CON/DOH approvals are recorded in the meeting minutes in order to address the Affiliation Council Charter's charge. It was moved by Ms. Boynton, seconded by Ms. Hartnett and voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes.

2. Introduction of Community Members

In the spirit of introducing the two community members attending today's meeting Dr. Kronenberg suggested that everyone introduce themselves. All of the Crouse members were present, including community members Mary Darcy and Dr. Hal Wanamaker. Drs. Smith and Thompson were not there during the introductions but did arrive a bit later. Dr. Steven Scheinman was absent and Mr. Dean Vlassis, the community member chosen by Upstate was not present. Dr. Kronenberg asked if everyone had a copy of the Charter, which they did.

3. Secretarial Support

Dr. Kronenberg said that this group had previously discussed that whoever held the meeting would take care of the scheduling and minute taking for that particular meeting. However, to ensure consistency, Dr. Kronenberg proposed that one person handle this and offered Wendy Masters from his staff for this position. Dr. Smith and Mr. Schaengold concurred with this proposal. Wendy will work with Chairman Shaw and run the Council from an administrative standpoint.

4. Selection of Chairman

At the previous meeting possible candidates for a chairperson was discussed. All agreed that Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw would make a very good choice. As Chairman of the MDA and a long-time member of the community he has a good basic background.

Ms. Darcy asked if there had been other names mentioned as possible candidates. Dr. Kronenberg said that Mr. Steve McCormick of Anheuser Busch was mentioned but the committee felt that Dr. Shaw may have a better understanding of the community issues even though he would have to learn how both of our institutions work.

Dr. Kronenberg had a conversation with Dr. Shaw who indicated to him that he would agree to serve if his nomination was approved by the Council. He said he would be happy to do it and that he had no immediate plans to leave the area during this time.

Mr. Suehs made a motion to select Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw as Chairman. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Educational Process for Community Members

Dr. Kronenberg asked for an open discussion of ways to bring everyone on board so they have a good understanding of how each hospital works and to determine what the community members need to know.

There was mention of collaboration meeting efforts prior to the Berger Commission. The Charter is designed for a more involved approach. Berger was briefly discussed and Dr. Smith noted that the hospitals operate differently as a State facility versus a private facility. Ms. Darcy said she felt she has a good understanding of Crouse but not of Upstate.

We need a formal orientation of past and current practices including each Union’s support and involvement. It was suggested to formulate an educational session separate from the regularly scheduled Council meetings. A half-day session may be necessary in order to orient appropriately and encompass all areas. It will be important to describe the future state of each institution. Ms. Boynton said we need to know how to integrate clinical aspects. Ms. Darcy asked about hospital research. It was noted that there is clinical research done currently in both hospitals.

Dr. Wanamaker suggested that when this aspect is complete it would be good to sit down together with a Post Standard reporter to communicate what we’re doing. Everyone agreed it is important for the community, elected officials, the physicians, employees and unions to understand what we want to accomplish. It was suggested that the VP of Communications and Governmental Affairs at each institution attend as invited guests when necessary.

Dr. Kronenberg said the Crouse Union has been relatively silent after the Affiliation Agreement was accepted by the DOH. Dr. Smith said their union has also taken a step back in this regard.

6. DOH/CON Submission Review

a) Crouse OR CON

Dr. Kronenberg reported regarding Crouse's OR CON submission to the DOH. A brief explanation was given to update Dr. Albanese.

This endeavor had previous support from Upstate but it was necessary to discuss today and include it in the meeting minutes. The Council reviewed the OR CON submission for duplication, opportunities of reduction or elimination of services and felt it was an appropriate expansion that promotes efficiencies and economies. It was moved by Mr. Schaengold, seconded by Ms. Hartnett and voted unanimously to deem the project to be reasonable and appropriate and recommended that Crouse proceed with its plan.

7. Study of Bed Capacity

Dr. Kronenberg began the discussion. The Berger Commission recommendation for a combined 500-600 beds does not appear to be appropriate at this time. The use of old data in their determination, along with the change in market place, receiving an increase in volume from other areas, will create a greater need. Right now we are utilizing more beds in both hospitals.

We plan to study the appropriate number of beds.

All community issues need to be addressed. For instance, Dr. Smith said that there is a proposal to close some burn units. If that is the case, the possibility exists for additional need here. We need to see the bigger picture, not just use zip codes to determine the numbers.

Ms. Boynton said we want to be sure to do this right, and asked if we felt a separate consultant would be necessary or if we have the right people to do it ourselves. There was much discussion of using local resources as opposed to outside resources as well as how this study would be funded. The dollars attached to Berger were not allocated to do this type of study. Might there be funding available from the State/DOH? Dr. Kronenberg indicated that PWC previously did a study; and Ms. Boynton indicated that there was no lack of consultants available that we could use.

Without resources to support it, a study can't be done. Therefore, we need to look at areas to obtain resources. Mr. Suehs suggested that before the next meeting we should define and/or assess what local community resources could be used, i.e., the HEC and the Maxwell School. We need to identify what we are looking for—service growth; population growth; the healthcare picture of the future; outlying hospitals needing our support. Ms. Darcy also suggested approaching a health foundation for funding the study.

Upon appointment of a Chairman, the process to complete a bed capacity study will be determined with additional discussion to explore local institutional resources.

8. 5M Pediatric Unit

Mr. Schaengold suggested that we table the comprehensive discussion for this agenda item since there was not enough time left to address it properly in this meeting but gave a brief explanation.

Upstate had interest in taking over the clinical management of 5 Memorial as an extension of their pediatric services at Upstate. After the Berger Commission report all action ceased. Upstate would like to revisit this now. Dr. Kronenberg indicated that the issue of privileging is a concern for some of our pediatric physicians. It was also mentioned that clinical demands will drive this discussion.

After a very brief discussion it was decided that the initial physician group should get back together to evaluate. Mr. Schaengold will ask Dr. Tom Welch to bring the group back together and then report to the Council.

9. Other Business

a) Ms. Boynton inquired on the status of the contracts and agreements review. Mr. Schaengold indicated Upstate had not yet completed their review. Ms. Boynton said that Crouse would be able to share our information and/or files if there would be any interest.

b) Ms. Hartnett suggested that we include a “New Business” and “Old Business” category on each agenda to be sure we continue to address all issues.

c) A question was posed regarding an item which had originally been on the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Schaengold had asked that “Medical Staff Affiliation” be removed because it was felt that Drs. Scheinman and Kronenberg may want to frame the issues first. Dr. Kronenberg said this was a complex issue.

10. Adjournment

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m. The next meeting of the Affiliation Council will be held on December 19, 2007 at Upstate—1164 Weiskotten Hall.

Respectively submitted by,

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