

MINUTES
STATE HEALTH FACILITIES COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 28, 2005
ROOM 626
LUCAS STATE OFFICE BUILDING
321 EAST 12TH STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA
ELECTRONIC MEETING

This electronic meeting of the State Health Facilities Council was held in accord with section 21.8 of the Code of Iowa entitled "Electronic Meetings." The Code states that a governmental body may conduct a meeting by electronic means only if circumstances are such that a meeting in person is impossible or impractical, and if the governmental body complies with the provisions of section 21.8. It was impractical for the Council to hold an in-person meeting to discuss this proposed amendment to the administrative rules because of the expense in assembling the Council in person, time commitments of the Council members, and the anticipated short nature of the meeting. This electronic meeting was held in Conference Room #626, 6th Floor, Lucas Building. Notices and agendas were posted on the CON web page and in the Lucas Building.

I. 10:30 AM ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE: Ed Nichols, Chairperson, Sid Scott, Gary Butz and Cynthia Beauman.

STAFF PRESENT: Barb Nervig and Heather Adams, Counsel for the State.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kirk Norris and Shannon Strickler of the Iowa Hospital Association.

II. CONSIDERATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGE

The chair asked if everyone had received and reviewed the written comments that were submitted. All answered in the affirmative. Barb Nervig explained the advantage to the State of Iowa in better reimbursement (more federal dollars) that participation in the Critical Access Hospital program brings to the state. Some hospitals are hesitant to participate in that program because of the requirement to reduce the number of beds to 25. The hesitancy comes from the concern that if the CAH program should cease to exist or if the community needs additional beds, a CON would be required to reestablish those beds. This amendment deals with that concern by stating that the reestablishment of those beds would not require a CON.

Council members asked about the apparent misunderstanding of the amendment as most of the letters received stated that the amendment clarifies there is no requirement to delete beds to qualify for CAH. Staff has drafted a letter explaining that is not what the amendment proposes. The representatives from the IHA had no comment.

A motion by Butz, seconded by Scott, to approve the proposed amendment to Chapter 202 of the Iowa Administrative Code [641] carried 4-0. The amendment will go before the State Board of Health for adoption on March 9, 2005.