# STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

In re the Certificate of Need Application ) of: )

GRAYS HARBOR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL,

Applicant.

Docket No. 99-02-C-1017CN

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER

A request to voluntarily dismiss this proceeding was brought before Senior Health Law Judge Eric B. Schmidt, Presiding Officer for the Department of Health, by Stephen I. Pentz, Attorney at Law, representing Grays Harbor Community Hospital (the Applicant). Richard A. McCartan, Assistant Attorney General represents the Certificate of Need Program of the Department of Health (the Program). Having reviewed the record in this proceeding, the Presiding Officer hereby issues the following:

# I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1.1 On February 9, 1999, the Applicant filed an Application for Adjudicative Proceeding to review the Program's January 19, 1999 decision to deny a certificate of need to the Applicant to establish a Medicare/Medicaid-certified hospice program to serve Grays Harbor County and Pacific County.

1.2 On March 3, 1999, the Adjudicative Clerk Office issued a Scheduling Order/Notice of Hearing, which scheduled a prehearing conference for July 12, 1999, and a hearing for August 9-13, 1999.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER - Page 1 of 5

 On March 23, 1999, the Adjudicative Clerk Office issued an Amended Scheduling Order/Notice of Hearing, which left the prehearing conference scheduled for July 12, 1999, and rescheduled the hearing to August 16-20, 1999.

1.4 The Presiding Officer issued a number of continuances of the prehearing conference and the hearing dates to allow time for settlement discussions. See Prehearing Order No. 5 for a chronology of those continuances.

1.5 During the prehearing conference on October 13, 2000, the Applicant requested that the hearing dates be rescheduled for October 19 and 20, 2000. The Program did not object, and the Presiding Officer granted the request in Prehearing Order No. 6.

1.6 On October 16, 2000, the parties filed a request to continue the hearing dates to allow for additional settlement discussions.

1.7 The Presiding Officer held a telephonic scheduling conference with the parties on October 27, 2000. The parties requested the hearing dates be continued until March 2001.

1.8 On November 1, 2000, the Presiding Officer issued Prehearing OrderNo. 7, which continued the hearing dates to March 6 and 7, 2001.

1.9 On March 2, 2001, the parties filed a request to continue the hearing dates to allow for additional settlement discussions.

1.10 The Presiding Officer held a telephonic scheduling conference with the parties on March 13, 2001. The parties asked that the hearing dates be stricken and that a scheduling conference be set for June 2001.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER - Page 2 of 5

1.11 On March 27, 2001, the Presiding Officer issued Prehearing Order No. 8, which struck the hearing dates and scheduled a telephonic scheduling conference for June 11, 2001.

1.12 During the scheduling conference on June 11, 2001, the Applicant requested a two-month continuance to allow the Applicant to decide whether to pursue this proceeding. The Program did not object to a continuance.

1.13 On June 28, 2001, the Presiding Officer issued Prehearing Order No. 9, which continued the telephonic scheduling conference to August 13, 2001.

1.14 During the scheduling conference on August 13, 2001, the Applicant reported that its board of directors had not yet reached a decision on whether to pursue this proceeding, and requested an additional two-month continuance. The Program did not object to an additional continuance.

1.15 On August 23, 2001, the Presiding Officer issued Prehearing OrderNo. 10, which continued the telephonic scheduling conference to October 30, 2001.

1.16 During the scheduling conference on October 30, 2001, the Applicant reported it would be voluntarily dismissing this proceeding.

1.17 On December 7, 2001, the Applicant filed a letter voluntarily dismissing its Application for Adjudicative Proceeding.

### II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

2.1 The Department of Health, through the Senior Health Law Judge, has jurisdiction over the Applicant's application for an adjudicative proceeding in this matter.

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER - Page 3 of 5

2.2 The Applicant has voluntarily dismissed its application for an adjudicative proceeding.

#### **III. FINAL ORDER**

3.1 Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, the Presiding Officer hereby orders this proceeding DISMISSED.

"Filing" means actual receipt of the document by the Adjudicative Clerk Office. RCW 34.05.010(6). This Order was "served" upon you on the day it was deposited in the United States mail. RCW 34.05.010(19).

As provided in RCW 34.05.461(3), 34.05.470, and WAC 246-10-704, either party may file a petition for reconsideration. The petition must be filed within ten (10) days of service of this Order with the Adjudicative Clerk Office, 1107 Eastside Street, PO Box 47879, Olympia, WA 98504-7879. The petition must state the specific grounds upon which reconsideration is requested and the relief requested. The petition for reconsideration shall not stay the effectiveness of this Order. The petition for reconsideration is deemed to have been denied twenty (20) days after the petition is filed if the Adjudicative Clerk Office has not acted on the petition or served written notice of the date by which action will be taken on the petition.

# FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER - Page 4 of 5

Proceedings for judicial review may be instituted by filing a petition in superior court in accordance with the procedures specified in chapter 34.05 RCW, Part V, Judicial Review and Civil Enforcement. The petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 days after service of this Order, as provided in RCW 34.05.542.

DATED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2001.

/s/ ERIC B. SCHMIDT, Senior Health Law Judge Presiding Officer

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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND FINAL ORDER - Page 5 of 5