

At this time, Vice-Mayor Vellucci stated it was important that the children of Cambridge be examined regarding their ability to consume dairy products. He stated that it has recently come to his attention that many children are unable to drink milk because of allergies, reactions, etc., and it's important that they be examined.

Councillor Duehay added that such examination shall include testing for drug and alcohol abuse.

At this time, Vice-Mayor Vellucci stated he was still unhappy with the air quality within the schools, because he feels that the children are still complaining of headaches, nausea and colds, and that more work should be done in this general area.

At this time, Mr. O'Brien provided the Committee with an overview of the current fiscal health of the Hospital. He informed the Committee that he believed the worst has passed and that for the period of January 1st to June 30th, 1987 the weekly revenues have averaged \$604,000., an increase of \$160,000. weekly. He further informed the Committee that the patient volume has stabilized and that the deficit was in a descending scale. The cornerstone of success, he said, lie within the areas of geriatrics and women's health programs. He further stated that he is in receipt of a communication from the Harvard Community Health Plan Administrator, which indicated that contingent upon contractual relationships being established, Cambridge employees covered by HCHP will now be able to choose The Cambridge Hospital for health care services.

At this time, Councillor William Walsh questioned the status of third party payment and bill collection.

Mr. O'Brien responded by stating collections were up, third party payments were stable and that financial assistance was provided by the Hospital for those patients not covered by adequate health insurance.

Mr. O'Brien finally informed the Committee of two other points not on the agenda, the first of which was the fact that the Hospital is in receipt of a \$10,000. anonymous donation for use of the Hospital. Mr. O'Brien stated that a group of senior staff will be working to properly utilize the donation. Finally, Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that the JCAH Accreditation Committee has recently completed its survey and it appears that the Hospital will be fully accredited for another three years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

For the Committee,

Vice-Mayor Alfred E. Vellucci
Chairman.



Harvard Community Health Plan

July 29, 1987

Mr. John O'Brien, Administrator
Cambridge Hospital
1493 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Ma 02139

Dear John:

It was a pleasure meeting you and your staff on Thursday, July 23, 1987.

Dr. Mendis and I have reviewed the substance of the meeting and felt it was important to let you know the Cambridge Center staff will be pleased to offer to all Cambridge Center members the option of receiving care at Cambridge Hospital rather than other hospitals with whom we are affiliated.

Our ability to offer this option is, of course, contingent upon establishing a contractual relationship between HCHP and Cambridge Hospital which includes mutually satisfactory per diems.

Dr. Mendis, Deborah Cucinotta and I will be available during August to work on the substance of the contract as we hope to conclude the negotiations by September 1, 1987.

If I may be of assistance in furnishing you with any information, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

Diane Richards *rf*

Diane Richards,
Administrator
Cambridge Center
Harvard Community Health Plan

cc: M. Coverdale
D. Cucinotta
J. Ludden
P. Mendis

The Cambridge Center
1611 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

City of Cambridge

In City Council August 3, 1987

The Health & Hospitals **Committee** conducted a public hearing on Thursday, July 30th, 1987 in the James Mahan Trustee Boardroom at the Cambridge Hospital beginning at 8:13 a.m. Vice-Mayor Alfred Vellucci opened the meeting by stating the purpose of the meeting would be to receive the report regarding the School Health Program, a fiscal update relative to the operations of the Hospital and to accept and act upon any and all business which may properly come before the Committee.

At this time, the Committee heard from John V. O'Brien, Administrator, The Cambridge Hospital, who outlined to the Committee a proposal to change the administration of the School Health program as it currently exists. Specifically, he informed the Committee that the past practice of a nurse practitioner dividing her time between the neighborhood health clinics and the School Department was counterproductive and oftentimes represented fragmented delivery of public health services. Furthermore, he stated that effective August 3, 1987 it was his intention to have four nurse practitioners providing school health care while each practitioner would have one four hour assignment within a clinic on a weekly basis, three of the four nurse practitioners would work a 10-month shift versus 12-months.

In response to questions from Councillor Alice Wolf, Mr. O'Brien stated that there has been some negative feedback regarding this proposal, but feels most if not all the problems could be resolved, particularly in light of the acute nursing shortage which currently exists at the Hospital.

Councillor Wolf stated she agrees that some change in the delivery of health services to the schools should be made, since it is her belief that the children should receive the best of care and it is important to their personal development.

Councillor Francis Duehay stated that he, too, agrees with comprehensive health care programs and would like a memorandum from Mr. O'Brien as to the programs which have been offered in the past.

In response to questions by Vice-Mayor Vellucci, Dr. Melvin Chalfen stated that the Director of the School Health Program was Dr. Gertrude Hansen, who directly reported to Dr. Link at the Hospital and that the nurse practitioners would now play a more important role under Dr. Hansen's leadership.

Mr. O'Brien stated that in conjunction with Dr. Chalfen, a task force on school health would be appointed shortly to develop comprehensive goals and objectives, defining health care delivery regarding elementary and secondary students.

Both Councillor Duehay and Councillor Wolf requested that a report from the task force be provided to the Committee within two months of submission of the FY88-89 Budget outlining whether or not the task force did, in fact meet its goals.

28. S-480

REPORT

Committee on Health & Hospitals

Re: School Health Program & a fiscal update
on the operations of The Cambridge Hospital.

In City Council,

August 3, 1987

Placed on file