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John Elias Baldacci  
Governor

## Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Commissioner's Office

221 State Street  
#11 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Brenda M. Harvey  
Commissioner

February 14, 2007

Senator Joseph C. Brannigan, Co-Chair  
Representative Anne C. Perry, Co-Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Health and  
Human Services  
Cross Office Building, Room 209  
Augusta, ME 04333

Senator Margaret Rotundo, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeremy R. Fischer, Co-Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations  
and Financial Affairs  
State House, Room 228  
Augusta, ME 04333

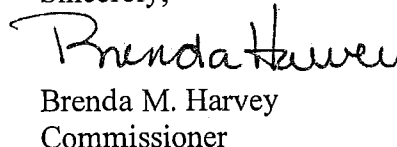
Dear Senators Brannigan and Rotundo, Representatives Perry and Fischer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Health and Human Services and Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services I am pleased to provide this report pursuant to Public Law 2005, Chapter 683, section C-11 which appropriated funds to make grants to Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice and the Hospice of Southern Maine. These grants were used to support newly built or to be built in-patient hospice facilities.

While the role of the Department was rather small in scope, we were very happy to have facilitated the grant process that enabled these resources to become available to citizens in Maine who are near the end of their life. Should you have any questions about the report, please feel free to contact me or Diana Scully, Director of the office of Elder Services.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Brenda M. Harvey  
Commissioner

BMH/klv

Enclosure

*Our vision is Maine people living safe, healthy and productive lives.*

Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Public Law 2005, Chapter 683, Section C-11  
Report to the Joint Standing Committee of Health and Human Service and the Joint  
Standing Committee of Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
February 7, 2007

This report is being submitted pursuant to Public Law 2005, Chapter 683, Section C-11 which appropriated funds for grants to Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice and Hospice of Southern Maine to support newly built or to be built in-patient hospice facilities. (Law 2005, Chapter 683, Section C-11 amended Public Law 2005, Chapter 519, Part GGG-1 to clarify that a competitive bidding process was not required in awarding these funds).

As required by the legislation, both Hospice of Southern Maine and Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice submitted detailed plans to the Department of Health and Human Services by July 1, 2006, including but not limited to information on construction, expected costs, and services to be offered from the facilities. Grant agreements were executed with both entities as of September 1, 2006. Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice and Hospice of Southern Maine were each awarded \$125,000. A brief update on these projects, including how the grant funds are being utilized, is set forth below.

Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice:

Hospice House of Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice opened November 2005 in Auburn, Maine. A seven patient suite wing opened in November followed by a second seven patient suite wing in March 2006, one month ahead of schedule.

The total project cost for Hospice House of Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice was \$3,864,124 paid for by a combination of a community fundraising campaign that raised \$1.6 million, and long term financing. The appropriation from the State of \$125,000 is being used to pay down the balance of the loan. The additional funds applied to the principal will save approximately \$70,000 in interest over the 15-year amortization period.

A review of first year operations (November 2005-October 2006) found that:

- 261 patients received care at the Hospice House. Eighty-six (86) percent were age 60 and above. The average stay was 10 days,
- Patients came from 52 different towns throughout central, western and southern Maine. The majority (76%) were from Androscoggin County.
- Ninety-three percent of the patients were in need of in-patient hospice care for pain and symptom management. A small number received respite services and others were at the Hospice house for a short time due to a caregiver crisis at home.
- Of those cared for at the Hospice House, 50% had a terminal diagnosis of cancer. Other diagnoses included general debility, respiratory conditions, renal and heart

failure. Eighty-two percent of the patients cared for passed away at Hospice House.

#### Hospice of Southern Maine:

Construction on the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House began in September 2006.

The estimated cost to build and prepare the facility for occupancy is \$5,200,000. In addition, the cost of startup and information technology is estimated to be \$600,000. Hospice of Southern Maine has raised \$5,500,000 in cash and pledges (the greater part to be received over the next five years) to create the facility. The expenses of the capital campaign are \$500,000, leaving \$5,000,000 to build the facility. The appropriation from the State of \$125,000, along with the procurement of two loans, is being used to cover the gap in funding.

- The facility will be an 18 bed hospice facility in Scarborough, Maine that will serve approximately 700 patients per year and their families.
- The project is on target to complete the building phase in July 2007 and it is anticipated that patients will be admitted beginning in August.
- Once fully occupied, Hospice of Southern Maine anticipates employing 36 full time equivalents to staff the facility.

Further information on these projects, including photographs and the grant application materials, is available from the Office of Elder Services.