

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 29, 2002**

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:** Eddie Creamer, Chairman; Bevin Putnal, Jimmy Mosconis, Cheryl Sanders, and Clarence Williams, Commissioners; Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk; Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services.

**9:00 A.M.** Chairman Creamer called the meeting to order.

(Tape 1-5) Chairman Creamer opened the meeting by saying this was a Special Board Meeting. He said it was called for the purpose of discussing the application of Federal Grant for funding of a Federal Qualified Health Center. Commissioner Mosconis said he would begin the discussion. He said after the last Board Meeting he did some research on these type clinics. He stated he met with Jeff Lawson, Development Director, North Florida Medical Clinics, Inc., his boss, and their attorney last week in Tallahassee. He said he also attended the local physician's association meeting after the ribbon cutting ceremony at the FCPHU last week. He stated he thought the consensus was the medical community wants to make sure the residents of Franklin County who are falling through "the cracks" are medically taken care of and they did not want another "bureaucracy" created for Franklin County. He said his feeling was there was some "middle" ground everyone could work on. He stated the problem is the "working poor" of Franklin County receiving medical care. He said this would be a person who does not qualify for any other kind of health care. He stated in other words they work and cannot be declared indigent, but would not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. He stated the only way these people can pay for medical care is out of their pockets. He said a doctor from Alabama he has known for twenty-five years was in the County and he asked this doctor what he thought about these type clinics. He stated he met with Dr. Junejo, FCPHU, Dr. Miniati, and the Hospital Administrator, Barry Gilbert and with his doctor friend from Alabama. He said this doctor had nothing but good things to say about these clinics in Alabama. Dr. Junejo made a brief presentation to the Board at this time. She presented the Commissioners with a sheet with comparison information reflecting the demographic data between Franklin County, Gulf County, Liberty County, and Wakulla County. Jeff Lawson also made a brief presentation to the Board. Douglas Kent, Gulf County Public Health Unit, appeared before the Board to inform them he had, on behalf of the GCPHU, submitted one of these grants for a FQHC for Gulf County. He said it would work in conjunction with their local Health Department and help them fund more programs. Dr. Miniati, Dr. Sanaullah, Dr. Nitsios and Dana Holton, P.A. all expressed their concern over a clinic like this coming to the County. Dr. Sanaullah said he and his colleagues treat a lot of indigent people. He stated they are all concerned about this new clinic-taking patients away from them when they cannot afford to lose any patients. After a lengthy discussion Alan Pierce, Director of Administrative Services, suggested the Board send a letter of support for the grant, but not to one group specifically. He said he thought this would be the fairest thing to do. He stated then any group or organization that wanted to apply for the grant could do so with County support. Commissioner Mosconis made a **motion authorizing the Chairman's signature on a letter To Whom It May Concern**

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supporting the development of a Federal Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Franklin County. Commissioner Putnal seconded the motion. All for. MOTION CARRIED.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

Eddie Creamer

EDDIE CREAMER, CHAIRMAN

Kendall Wade

KENDALL WADE, CLERK