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## County seeks infirmary proposals

By MICHAEL ANICH, The Leader-Herald

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JOHNSTOWN - Fulton County supervisors decided Thursday to send 85 to 90 requests for proposals to health care institutions and have them returned by March 3 to explain why they would want to take over the county nursing home or its nursing service.

The Fulton County Board of Supervisors' Health Services Committee met at the County Office Building with representatives of the Rochester-based Center for Governmental Research, the consulting firm that drafted the RFP. The firm was hired by the county in August for \$63,000 to evaluate whether the county wants to sell the county Residential Health Care Facility or its Certified Home Health Agency, known as CHHA.

County officials Thursday stressed no decision has been made yet whether to sell the infirmary or CHHA, keep the infirmary as it is, or shut it down.

"This is something that's going to take many months to evaluate and see if there's a benefit to do something," county Administrative Officer Jon Stead said.

Committee Chairman David Howard said, "We know what our options are because the state government is bankrupt, the federal government is bankrupt and a good amount of money that goes through [the infirmary] comes from those two entities."

Howard said he would "like to see" a recommendation from CGR on the best five to seven proposals after March 3.

Dr. Donald Pryor, CGR's project director, and Maria Hyoob, senior research associate, presented the RFP in draft form, and it was later approved to be sent next week by CGR.

"The list basically includes hospitals, nursing homes and CHHAs," Hyoob said.

Pryor said proposals will go mostly to institutions in the Capital Region and those west toward Rochester and slightly out of the state.

The committee agreed with Pryor's recommendation to have proposals back by March 3 to the Board of Supervisors office. But he said CGR will stress to "potential bidders" the county needs to know about their basic interest by Jan. 16. He also said the institutions can submit questions to CGR by Jan. 27.

"Any potential [vendors] need to do that in writing and they need to do that through e-mail," Pryor said.

Pryor said tours of the nursing home will be coordinated through CGR for those who show "serious interest."

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### Article Photos



The Leader-Herald/Michael Anich

Dr. Donald Pryor, project director, and Maria Hyoob, senior research associate, of the Center for Governmental Research speak to Fulton County supervisors Thursday morning at the County Office Building in Johnstown.

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