



**CECIL COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 10, 2015**

Meeting Location: Cecilton Community Hall, 90B North Center Street, Cecilton

Members In Attendance: John Bennett; Sean Cannon; Ken Collins; Joe Fisona; Jack Foreaker; Stephanie Garrity; Mike Massuli

Others In Attendance: Gregg Bortz; Deni Carise; J.P. Christen ; Lori Cichocki ; Tom Dame; Brad Greenstein; Linda Katz; Paul Katz; Steve Kendrick; Becky Kiersznowski; Barbara Kistenmacker; Cheryl Mattix; Kevin McDonald; Ed Oczkowski; Andrew Pons; Marianne Redding; Robert Mark Thompson; Suellen Wideman; Joe Zang

Call to Order: John Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Chairperson’s Report, John Bennett:

- John Bennett welcomed community members, Council members and special guests from the Maryland Health Care Commission and Recovery Centers of America.
- Provided a brief overview of the agenda.

Board of Health Report, Stephanie Garrity:

- Announced that the Board of Health met yesterday. Topics included annual communicable disease report, update on accreditation efforts, tobacco enforcement, and Bay Restoration Fund.
- Reported that she, Sheriff Adams, and Ken Collins are scheduled to meet with County Executive and County Council on Tuesday, December 15th to discuss the Lieutenant Governor’s Heroin and Opioid Task Force Report.

County Executive Report: no report

County Health Officer Report: no report

Other Committee/ Sub-Committee Reports: no report

PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Maryland Health Care Commission, Certificate of Need Process: Kevin McDonald, Chief, MD Health Care Commission; Suellen Wideman, Esq., Asst. Attorney, General, MD Health Care Commission

- Mr. McDonald reviewed the Certificate of Need (CON) process. Recovery Centers of America (RCA) requested CON approval for 21 in-patient detoxification beds at their Earleville facility, as well as 28 in-patient rehabilitation beds which do not need CON approval. Mr. McDonald explained that both sets of beds would be discussed to establish financial feasibility, which is part

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES410-996-5160
ALCOHOL & DRUG RECOVERY CENTER . . . . .	.410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION . . . . .	.410-996-5168
OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS . . . . .	.410-996-5113	SPECIAL POPULATIONS MENTAL HEALTH C.S.A. . . . .	.410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES . . . . .	.410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY . . . . .	.800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL . . . . .	.410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL . . . . .	.410-996-5550 EXT. 4680

of the CON review.

- Mr. McDonald explained that two competitors, Father Martin's Ashley and Pathways, requested "interested party" status. This requires a Maryland Health Care Commissioner be appointed as "reviewer" to determine if either party has grounds for "interested party" status, and if so, are the issues raised worthy of consideration.
- Mr. McDonald also reported that RCA filed another modification to their application, which has not yet been posted on line. Recovery Centers of America Application to Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is here: http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_con/documents/iled_2015/con_app_mod_rca_earleville_20150518.pdf

Invitation to Comment - Recovery Centers of America: J. P. Christen, Dr. Deni Carise, Dr. Barbara Kistenmacher, Brad Greenstein and Ed Oczkowski

- Ms. Kistermacher was introduced as the new Executive Director of Bracebridge Hall. Ms. Kistermacher graduated from Elkton High School, and currently living in the Earleville area.
- Mr. Christen reviewed expansion plans for Bracebridge Hall. In Phase-1 the current building will be renovated. Due to years of neglect, the exterior building was in need of more repair than initially believed. Local contractors have been, or are being hired, to make the renovations. In Phase-2, a three story stand alone building will be constructed adding 108 in-patient rehab beds. This addition will be connected via a covered walkway to the existing building.
- The permitting process with the county is ongoing.
- Recovery Centers of America website is here: www.recoverycentersofamerica.com/

Questions and Comment - Public

- Lori Cichocki, President Cecilton Volunteer Fire Company, requested that the folks at RCA work with the fire company to establish fire and safety protocol. That request was well received.
- Steve Kendrick, Chief Operating Officer, Father Martin's Ashley, identified his facility as one of those requesting "interested party" status. He suggested the DAAC send a letter to MHCC requesting that a portion of the charity care provided by RCA be dedicated to use by Cecil County residents. Currently the only pledge is for a certain percentage of charity care, but it is not promised for Cecil County residents. When questioned, Kevin McDonald said the DAAC was welcome to send such a letter, and coming from the DAAC, would be viewed with an increased value.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2015: deferred

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE: no announcements.

Adjourned: 7:15 PM

Next Meeting: March 17, 2016

Submitted by Alicia O'Connor