

**115th Meeting of the
Maryland Community Health Resources Commission**

**Monday, November 29, 2022
Virtual Meeting**

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

The meeting (call) was called to order at approximately 10:00 am.

In addition to Chair Kasemeyer and Vice Chair Howard, Commissioners Gibson, Giusti, Thornton-Davis, Lehr, Loker, Lichtenstein, Masden, Muqueeth, and Ramjohn were present in the virtual meeting. AAG Michael Conti was also present at the virtual meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

A review of the October 13, 2022, minutes was held. Vice Chair Howard made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Masden. The minutes were approved unanimously, without edits.

FY 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Chair Kasemeyer requested that CHRC Executive Director Mark Luckner provide Commissioners with an overview of the RFP process and the Letters of Intent received from potential applicants as well as the status of the eligibility determinations as of the date of the meeting. Mr. Luckner briefed Commissioners that of the 82 Letters of Intent received, staff had determined the eligibility of 44 applicants. An additional 30 applicants may be eligible provided the applicants furnish supplemental information requested by staff. Mr. Luckner noted, there are five applicant Letters of Intent which the Commission should take a position on eligibility.

Chair Kasemeyer requested the Mr. Luckner present the five potential applicants for consideration:

Urban Institute of Mental Health – Commissioners were asked to make a determination about whether the Urban Institute of Mental Health, which provides behavioral health services, is eligible as a Community Health Resource offering primary health care services. AAG Conti advised that, pursuant to the applicable regulations, a Community Health Resource offering primary health care services must “...address a patient’s general health needs...” Commissioner Lehr noted that behavioral health services, as delivered by the Urban Institute of Mental Health, are primary care services and made a motion to approve Urban Institute of Mental Health as eligible to proceed in submitting a full proposal. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Alternative Approaches to Mental Health Crisis Center – Upon further review of the materials submitted by Alternative Approaches to Mental Health Crisis Center, it was determined that the applicant did not have an established sliding scale fee schedule, which is a minimum qualification for eligibility as a Community Health Resource under Md. Code Ann., Health-General Article § 19-2101(d)(1) and COMAR 10.45.05.05, therefore the applicant was deemed ineligible to proceed. Commissioner Loker made a motion that the applicant is ineligible to proceed due to the lack of sliding scale fee schedule. Commissioner Muqueeth seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Arrow Child and Family Ministries – This applicant is proposing family and child behavioral health services as primary care. Commissioner Gibson noted the intermingling of ministry and health care services and cited that the Commission has previously awarded grants to organizations such as Associated Catholic Charities, however, this potential applicant indicates that they are a “Christian provider connecting church and government services...” Commissioner Gibson asked AAG Conti whether there were any prohibitions on religion-based applicants. AAG Conti noted that as long as the applicant entity meets the definition of a Community Health Resource, there are no statutory or regulatory provisions that address, or would prohibit eligibility, on the basis

of the applicant's religious status or affiliation. Commissioner Ramjohn noted that the Commission could provide provisional approval pending a statement of their nondiscrimination policy. Commissioner Lichtenstein agreed and asked that staff request a statement noting "all services are provided to all regardless of religious affiliation." Commissioner Muqueeth made a motion to approve Arrow Child and Family Services as an eligible Community Health Resource, pending receipt of a nondiscrimination statement noting that services are to be provided regardless of religious affiliation. Commissioner Loker seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Roberta's House – Commission staff provided an overview of the organization and advised that the services that it provides are grief support services. The question for the Commission is whether grief support services meet the regulatory requirements governing primary health care services. AAG Conti noted that the regulations governing primary health care services, COMAR 10.45.05.02 include the following pertinent language:

(3) Provides medical care to address a patient's general health needs, including:

(a) Promotion and maintenance of the patient's health;

(b) Treatment of illness;

(c) Prevention of disease;

(d) Maintenance of the patient's health records; and

(e) Making referrals for medically necessary and appropriate specialty care services.

Commissioner Lehr made a motion to deem the applicant ineligible as a Community Health Resource. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and Chair Kasemeyer opened the motion for discussion. Commissioner Giusti noted that grief support services are important, but believes it is specialty care and not primary health care. Commissioner Muqueeth advised that navigating grief is an aspect of mental health, and its implications on the rest of a person's health. Commissioner Ramjohn noted that CareFirst is a prior funder of the applicant, and the program they provide fills a gap that doesn't currently exist in Baltimore City and their services enhance the recovery from traumatic events. Commissioner Lehr compared the referral to grief support services to referrals to orthopedic services. Commissioner Howard requested that should the applicant be deemed ineligible that staff note the specialty care and note that they could be a subgrantee to a future applicant. Chair Kasemeyer then called a roll call vote on the previous motion by Commissioner Lehr to deem the applicant ineligible. With seven Commissioners voting in favor of rejecting Roberta's House as eligible to proceed, two Commissioners opposing the motion and Commissioners Giusti and Lichtenstein abstaining, the motion carried.

The Healing Institute – Commission staff noted that the applicant was using a treatment modality called "Brainspotting Neuroexperiential Therapy and Intervention and noted that they were unfamiliar with the modality, and unsure about its practicalities. Commissioner Giusti noted that the treatment modality did not meet the qualification as primary health care and made a motion that the applicant be deemed ineligible as a Community Health Resource. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Kasemeyer thanked the Commissioners for the discussion and asked that Commissioners volunteer for review committees to be held in early 2023. He also asked for a motion to accept the remaining 30 applicants as eligible pending the receipt of additional information, as outlined by Commission staff. Commissioner Ramjohn made the motion to approve the 30 applicants, pending receipt of the required documentation, and Commissioner Muqueeth seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

GRANT MODIFICATION REQUESTS

Mr. Luckner presented an overview of the grant modification requests by: (1) Garrett County Lighthouse, (2) Tuerk House, (3) Holy Cross Health, (4) Stone Run Family Medicine, (5) City of Frederick, and (6) Washington County LHIC for Commissioners and advised that staff recommends increased reporting for some of the grantee requests. Commissioner Lichtenstein made a motion to approve the grant modifications including staff

recommendations for Garrett County Lighthouse, Holy Cross Health, Stone Run Family Medicine, City of Frederick and Washington County LHIC. Commissioner Lehr seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Ramjohn noted a significant reduction in the original service target from 2,800 to 500 in the grant modification request submitted by Tuerk House. Michael Fay, Program Manager, noted that there was a significant delay in the facility construction and that services began in earnest in January 2022. Commissioner Ramjohn made a motion to approve the Tuerk House request including the staff recommendation that the grantee be required to submit quarterly progress reports for the remainder of the grant period. Commissioner Howard seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

MARYLAND CONSORTIUM ON COORDINATED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Mr. Luckner provided an update to Commissioners on Consortium activities.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kasemeyer requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lehr made a motion to adjourn, and Vice-Chair Howard seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.