

**Meeting Minutes
Thurmont Addiction Commission (TAC)
October 12, 2017**

Attendees:

Commissioner Jay Churchill	Commission Chair, Voting member
Commissioner Mike Randall	Commission Co-chair, Voting member
Commissioner Rachel Hubbard	Voting member
Commissioner Kim Kerens	Voting member
Commissioner Edward Schildt	Voting member
Commissioner Gage Randall	Student Representative – voting member
Commissioner Myra Derbyshire (Secretary)	Non-Voting member (alternate)
Town Commissioner Martin Burns	Town Council Liaison
Chasity Fox	General public
Karen Schildt	General Public

Commissioner Gina Carbaugh (alternate) sent her regrets. These minutes were recorded by Commissioner Derbyshire

TAC) approved the August and September Minutes

- In order to make the review of minutes less burdensome, the commission agreed to Commissioner Derbyshire (secretary) sending them first to Commissioner Churchill for review, and once she and Commissioner Churchill have agreed on them, she will submit them to the full commission for review and approval.

Chairman’s remarks

- Commissioner Churchill advised that TAC use the monthly meeting to help further the work of the pillars.
- The commission voted on and agreed to the acronym TAC for the commission.
- Commissioner Churchill updated Commissioners on the intertwining between opioid addiction and suicide
- Commissioner Churchill advised that we embrace the philosophy that, if there are lot of different groups doing things of value, and that if they come together they will have a bigger impact.
- Commissioner Churchill suggested a TAC presentation to the Thurmont Amvets to broaden our message.

Old Business/ TAC

Commissioner Churchill asked Town Commissioner Burns about progress on a TAC web page and Facebook page, he recommended that the pillars also consider Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.

Commissioner Churchill advised that Commissioners to be thoughtful about coordinating meetings with local groups. This might be better coordinated through the use of a calendar listing relevant events.

Commissioner Churchill asked Town Commissioner Burns about progress on getting town emails for the commissioners. Town Commissioner Burns will follow up on whether this is possible.

Old Business / Pillars -

Education and Awareness pillar: Mrs. Karen Schildt and Commissioner Schildt reported for this pillar. TACs addiction education flyer is ready, except for some minor edits such as adding a general TAC email. Once completed, this document will be forwarded to Commissioner Burns for inclusion in the Town of Thurmонт's next electric bill mailings. In the planning is a Nov16, 6pm Narcan Training at Thurmонт Carnival grounds (this program is 30-45 mins).

Prevention and Outreach pillar: Commissioner M. Randall asked Town Commissioner Burns for the Senior Center contact, and for the interested young person contact mentioned in the September minutes.

Support and Recovery pillar: Commissioner Derbyshire reported for this pillar: it continues to develop its vision: that of a healthy Thurmонт recovery community, where the stigma of addiction is reduced. They hope to facilitate improved communication between the various local support groups and foundations, and to have their events be well attended through advertising etc. To this end the pillar has begun conversations with the various groups and hopes next to include the Thurmонт ministerium. Commissioner Derbyshire attended Hartford County's Hard Truth of Addiction program, and sees the possibility of Thurmонт with the support of the ministerium having a comprehensive, family-orientated half-way recovery house in supportive residential area. To that end, Pastor Steve, Derek Hopkins and M. L. Derbyshire organizers of the Hard Truth of Addiction program have voiced their willingness to talk at an appropriate forum. The pillar has recognized the need for a family 12-step Nar-Anon program in the area, Commissioner Derbyshire has agreed to develop that independent of the commission. The pillar continues to explore recruiting local recovery coaches. Thurmонт's Mackenzie's light has asked that encourage TAC commissioners to attend their meetings.

Comments from the Town Commissioner

Town Commissioner Burns asked Commissioner M. Randall to send him the pillar logo for web page. The plan is to have a TAC page on the town web site under a Committees and Commissions page.

Comments from Student Representative

Commissioner G. Randall reported on opioid addiction education at Catocin High School. Along with Commissioner M. Randall of TACs Prevention pillar, he met with Mrs. Deb Wivell and others from the high school to brainstorm ideas. Teachers participating at that meeting felt that the current efforts in this area are insufficient.

TAC New Business

Town Commissioner Burns offered to look into the process of what might happen if someone donates money to TAC. As TAC is not a 501c3 he will reach out to Vicky Grinder about what is involved in the process of becoming a 501c3.

The commission discussed possibly televising meetings. The commission saw potential value in this approach but also recognized some drawbacks. The Commission will revisit this issue at a later meeting.

New Business / Pillars -

Commissioner Schildt spoke for the **Education and Awareness** pillar regarding future education topics and themes. The pillar is considering as possible programs:

- a 101-level education awareness program
- invited speakers, such as Terry Austin from Austin addiction, and Chief Eyler
- a repeat of the Catoctin High School event: Introduction to the enemy
- a fun event scheduled for a weekend
- a remembrance event towards the holidays

Mrs. Micha Hagan is establishing an online one-stop-shop for local areas resources, and would like the pillars to send her resources as they gather them.

Commissioner M. Randall reported on the **Prevention and Outreach** pillar:

Commissioners M. and G. Randall had a meeting with Mrs. Deb Wivell, school assistants and a few teachers. The meeting was approved by the principal who has also reached out to Athletic Director McMullen; the consensus is that there is minimal education on opioid abuse and heroin in the school. The school is awaiting programming from the state level which is in development.

The pillar is considering a presentation which would include interviewing Catoctin graduates and their parents, and looking into creating a video with focus on Catoctin high school. Commissioner M. Randall will be reaching out to Adam Frank of CTC's communications department, to see if there is interest in partnering with TAC on this project. Commissioner M. Randall informed the commission of a new local documentary's: Heroin's Grip which focuses on Frederick County (<http://heroinsgrip.com/>), and American University radio WAMU 88.5 (October 10th, 2017. A Drug Cop. A Daughter On Opioids. One Family's Story Of Addiction. (<http://brookeshouse.org/>)

The pillar is also exploring Rob Collings Youth Programs Specialist from Frederick County Workforce Services as a resource for educating "soft skills" such as balancing check books, improving self-esteem, professional presentation, etc.

Commissioner Derbyshire earlier mentioned new business for the **Support and Recovery** pillar.

Open Discussion

Chasity Fox raised the importance of stopping this problem before it starts, she would like to see youth activities brought back to the community and would support a recovery house. She mentioned recovery school programs.

Closing Thoughts

Commissioners were reminded to consider the possibility of changing or introducing new legislation at the state level.

- The next Meeting will be on Thursday November 9th at 7pm