

**Meeting Minutes
Thurmont Addiction Commission**

June 14, 2018 7pm- 9pm

Attendees:

Commissioner Jay Churchill	Commission chair, Voting member
Commissioner Michael Randall	Commission Co-chair, Voting member
Commissioner Rachel Hubbard	Voting member
Commissioner Edward Schildt	Voting member
Commissioner Gage Randall	Voting member (Student rep)
Commissioner Myra Derbyshire (Secretary)	Non-Voting member (alternate)
Town Commissioner Martin Burns	Town Council Liaison
Town Commissioner Buehrer	
General Public – Brian Riffle, Susan Crone, Karen Churchill, Karen Schildt, Genesis Treatment service (Dawn James and David Heard)	

TAC approved the April commission minutes and the May commission minutes (with one modification), written by Commissioner Derbyshire.

Commission chairman Jay Churchill asked the commission for comments and updates on the bulleted points following:

- Status of the resource compendium. Ms. Karen Schildt is directing the competition of a resource guide for the TAC recovery coaches which they started to develop during their training. Coaches have met once since the training to brainstorm on this, and will next meet of Aug 2nd. The coaches plan on visiting several of these resources to become familiar with them. This project is in co-ordination with the Frederick County Health. Ms. Schildt said she will aim to move forward on this by the end of July.

Commissioner Jay Churchill asked that we “allow collective eyes to view the resource guide, and suggested it be sent around to the commission by email, for commissioners to help with vetting and editing. Genesis generously offered to assist in developing a resource guide, and have an intern on staff to begin to look at resources in the area. Commissioner Churchill thanked Genesis, but hoped that Ms. Schildt would spearhead, to maintain objectivity. Ms. Schildt agreed that it would be helpful to be able to match what Genesis was gathering with ours. Commissioner Ed Schildt added that he was amazed at the variety of local resources that were gathered at the TAC recovery coach academy. Ms. Schildt will organize the guide in sections such as childcare, intensive outpatient therapy (IOPs), social services, and housing; each resource will be assigned into the categories into which it falls.

- Commission progress towards 501(c)(3) status: Commissioner Rachel Hubbard said that various questions needed answering, such as an address, officers etc. Dawn James from Genesis Treatment Services added that the advisory board should include someone from the treatment community. Commissioner Rachel Hubbard suggested the TAC commissioners met in a closed meeting to generate the answers to the questions before bringing it to an open meeting. Commissioner Jay Churchill agreed that such a closed meeting would be helpful and asked Commissioner Rachel Hubbard to send out a message to the TAC commissioners arranging such a meeting outside of this meeting. Later in the meeting, when conversation came back to 501(c)(3) status, questions were asked, such as would the 501(c)(3) be a subgroup of the commission or is the commission the 501(c)(3)? Would the chair of TAC be the chair of the 501(c)(3) ? it was agreed to table this conversation and continue it in the closed meeting.
- When TAC discusses spending of its operating budget given by the Town of Thurmont for fiscal year 2018, Commissioner Jay Churchill asked that TAC approaches it not as three independent pillars on this, but as a whole, and with a clear idea of TACs priorities?
- Commissioner Churchill would like to see an identifiable process for filling an open position on TAC, for example it should include the best path of communicating an opening. He gave the example of Commissioner Gage Randall (TAC student representative) who is retiring shortly, who had identified a Catocin High School student as a strong prospect to replace him. Commissioner Derbyshire cautioned that with every position to be filled TAC should consider diversity, and suggested that TAC needed a recovering person with substance use disorder on the commission. Commissioner Mike Randall noted that he knew of other students interested in the student rep position.

A discussion followed, and several suggestions were made as regards the replacement process, including the following: interested candidates should be able to make a case for being considered for a TAC opening; that TAC should look at how other town positions were filled and use this as a guideline for a vetting process; that TAC should first identify what it is looking for in a candidate, consider a candidates interest in certain areas, consider a time frame of perhaps two weeks and interview within that time frame; TAC should advertise on the TAC and Town websites, and solicit applications in writing. Typically, the candidates would go before major and council, and they could choose, one suggestion made was that TAC could give the town a recommendation and they chose. Other suggestions including TAC asking for a commitment to attend a certain number of meetings per year, and require a certain level of involvement in TAC work, and for this to be codified. Suggestions were made to also codify that commissioners living outside the corporate limits of Thurmont could vote on certain non-monetary items etc. and to codify term limits on positions, and a structure with respect to our roles

Ms. Dawn James (Genesis Treatment Service) added that she was impressed with the uniqueness of the Addiction commission and advised as TAC formulates things that it doesn't lose track of what its original goals and missions are, particularly when moving forward into

501(c)(3) status. Commissioner Churchill thanked her reiterating that TAC is not trying to be like other groups, and that TAC needs other groups but strives to be different.

Commissioner Jay Churchill suggested a TAC workshop outside of this meeting to hammer out these issues. Commissioner Randal put forward a motion to have that meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. TAC will make it a priority to have this meeting. Commissioner Mike Randall made the motion to use the next meeting in a closed session to hammer out these details. The motion was passed. A suggestion was made for the next meeting to be July 19th (and not July 12th) due to town parade and other festivities. However, this may conflict with a program in planning by the "Education and Awareness" speaker series (discussed later), so the workshop date may need to be changed if that happens. Town Commissioner Burns added that as residents of Thurmont, Commissioners are members of the municipal league, and can use their documents as a guide.

TAC pillar then gave updates:

For the Support and Recovery Pillar, Commissioner Myra Derbyshire gave an update on the TAC Recovery coaches, and ways they hope to deliver their services to the Town. Commissioner Ed Schildt emphasized the many opportunities for coaches to meet someone in the community at their time of need, to meet them where they are at this moment, and help them navigate obstacles. Communicating that out to the community is the next challenge. Ms. Dawn James added, that in Carol County recovery coaches are tied to the sheriff's dept., and apply their skills at the point of overdose. Commissioner Schildt mentioned a model in Ohio where recovery coaches carry out wellness visits. Commissioner Myra Derbyshire also reported that pillar has T-shirts for TAC, she showed the design and asked anyone present to be in touch with her to get a t-shirt at cost. She has a variety of sizes, M, L, XL and XXL and Grimes Graphics is keeping the template for future orders.

For the Prevention pillar, Commissioner Mike Randal announced that 3 winners of the Catoclin High school poster contest, who will be awarded their prizes at the June 26 Town meeting at 7pm. 1st prize was for \$100 dollars plus a Rebecca Perl certificate, 2nd prize \$75 dollars and 3rd prize was \$50. Ms. Deb Wivell with more lead time next year will advertise the contest more. Commissioner Mike Randal also met with Susan Crone, from the Fuse teen center who is now working with the RJ's lasting strength foundation, and Commissioner Mike Randal's sense was to throw his support behind Susan, and propose that she take over the leadership of the prevention pillar: Commissioner Mike Randall emphasized her suitability in being an educator in the school system with lots of contact with youth.

Commissioner Jay Churchill praised the knowledge and good leadership skills that Commissioner Mike Randall brought to this community and said he hoped that he would remain on the commission perhaps in a different position. Town Commissioner Burns also agreed that what Commissioner Randall brings to the board is immeasurable, and asked if he still wanted to contribute to TAC in a different way? The question was again raised how does the addiction commission and the 501(c)(3) envisage working together? And the possibility of conflicts of interest were raised such as: Could TAC use 5013c monies to support the teen center if Ms. Crone is on the board? Commissioner Derbyshire reiterated that TAC did not want to lose Commissioner Randall.

For the Education and Awareness Pillar, Commissioner Ed Schildt announced that a July 19th event in the planning (for the same evening as the proposed TAC workshop, Thurs July 19th). If it happens it would

include "Introduction to the enemy" PLUS JAMM a musician in recovery from substance use disorder. He said that JAMM is enthused by the uniqueness of TAC and what it is trying to do, and offers good insight. Commissioner Ed Schildt added that if this event doesn't materialize TAC should use July 19th (monthly meeting of the education and awareness speaker series) for the workshop, to reflect on what it is doing. He added that Commissioner Myra Derbyshire is pulling the accomplishments of TAC together in a first draft for the 501(c)(3) process and this would be a starting point to solidify actions moving forward. Town Commissioner Burns suggested that Commissioner Mike Randall moving away from the prevention pillar may have an interest in drafting sample of bylaws

Ms. Karen Schildt announced that August 31 is overdose awareness day and that she anticipates TAC doing a community event with the RJ's Lasting Strength foundation that evening for northern Frederick county,

Commissioner Gage Randall (TAC student representative) suggested that TAC could be involved with Catoctin High Schools "Safe and Sane" program. He felt that awareness of TAC was spreading among the Catoctin Youth, and is looking forward to meeting in the summer with Catoctin's Deb Wivell, to find more candidates interested in replacing him on TAC, and to plan activities for the upcoming school year. He will be with TAC until sometime in July.

Commissioner Churchill then opened the meeting up the public:

Ms. Susan Crone announced the Fuse summer program: Tues (High school age students) and Thurs (Middle school age students) coffee house, at Trinity church of Christ. She said there would be two rooms for activities, one room for quieter activities, the other room more active with a pinball machine. She asked for volunteers willing to give 2 -3 hours of time over the summer. She said that Fuse has no budget, and asked TAC members for gift cards, and snacks. Commissioner Burns asked Ms. Crone to send him the information and he'll announce the summer program at the town meeting and solicit donations etc. Ms. Crone said they were having a "school's out" picnic, for Sat June 16 with whiffle ball, corn hole etc.

Mr. Erich Kleinschmidt Eric suggested TAC communicate with the Frederick county health department, with an official liaison with substance abuse treatment, and use their larger resources to benefit Thurmont, he added that he would be glad to do that. Commissioner Derbyshire mentioned TACs present collaboration with Santita Prather from the health department. The "Heroin consortium" was also suggested.

Dawn James gave an update on Genesis treatment services Frederick, it is still in construction phase, and unfortunately restoration efforts were needed after the flood, which have slowed progress down a couple of weeks. Ms. James reiterated how important it is to capture the things TAC has done, particularly when looking ahead to funding, which needs data collection and is evidence based, i.e. the number must be documented. She suggested TAC capture that data, even if only a sign in to some of events, or a record of numbers attending. Commissioner Hubbard added that she has been curating newspaper cuttings.

Meeting convened at 8:45pm.