

**Meeting Minutes
Thurmont Addiction Commission**

August 9, 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)
Commissioner Kim Kearns (late to join meeting)	
Commissioner Gina Carbaugh (late to join meeting)	
Town Commissioner Bill Buehrer	Town Council Liaison
General Public	

Commission chairman Jay Churchill Address.

Commissioner Churchill advised TAC that it was: Time to hit pause, re-orientate, and take time to think about where TAC wanted to go before moving forward.

1. TAC approved the June commission minutes written by Commissioner Derbyshire.

2. Commissioner Churchill asked for comments on the TAC by-laws, which were passed earlier by email confirmation by voting members and became official July 3rd. He asked that voting members present sign this document by the end of this meeting. The bylaws will be posted on the town web site and become the “rules by which TAC operates”.

3. Commissioner Churchill reminded the group that as per the approved by-laws, Commissioners will serve for a 2-year continuous period. He asked present voting members if they would stay on in their current capacity to complete the 2-year period. All present agreed to this with the exception of Commissioner Mike Randall who would continue as TAC co-chair, but not as a pillar lead, in compliance with TAC by-laws. TAC therefore needs a replacement Prevention & Outreach pillar lead to serve for the next 1-year period. Commissioner Churchill suggested that the replacement pillar lead, only serve for one year. There was agreement on this proposal.

Commissioner Hubbard asked if she should she still remain on TAC, as she had just accepted the position as Vice-President of the “Music is Medicine Foundation”, a local organization serving persons grappling

with substance abuse and their families, which would run a soon-to-open a recovery center in Thurmont. She was concerned that continuing to serve on TAC might present a conflict-of-interest. In the discussion that followed, the consensus was that as long as she did not vote on any TAC decision involving money associated specifically with the Music in Medicine Foundation, that she would not need to resign and could stay on the commission.

Commissioner Churchill continued: that according to the by-Laws, in the process to replace the pillar lead, TAC had a window of solicitation of 30 days, with the clock starting now. The pillar opening will be advertised on the TAC website and other links. Co-Chair Commissioner Randall will spear-head the solicitation process. It will be on the agenda for the September meeting of TAC, when we hope to take a vote and have this resolved.

Replacement of Commissioner Gage Randall as the student representative also needs to be resolved. There is one interested party (Mark Rogers), Commissioner Gage Randall will discuss this with Deb Wivell (Catoclin High School) to see if more students are interested. This vote will also occur at the September TAC meeting.

Commissioner Churchill added that although TAC is looking to expand leadership opportunities, it is always interested in the perspectives and opinions of people willing to be parts of pillars, or simply attend meetings and lend their expertise, adding the reminder that “we need people this side of the table as well as out there doing things”.

4. TAC next discussed the progress towards achieving 501(c)(3) status. The completed “articles of incorporation” should be in available “by next week”. The next step would be to set up a bank account – with Woodsboro bank the suggested local bank, and requiring two signatures on the account. The question was asked of Town Commissioner Buehrer “if there are presently people interested in making monetary donations, could that money be held in an account through the town?”. Commissioner Bueher responded that he will look into this issue on behalf of TAC.

5. Commissioner Churchill reminded TAC that Colorfest is only two months away and that we need to get moving on what we decide to do at Colorfest. We need to use the opportunity of Colorfest to disseminate TAC information, consider what the best approach to accomplishing our goals might be (parking? selling bottles of water?), and what location would be available to TAC. Commissioner Randall will speak with representatives from the Catoclin Safe and Sane committee as they have expressed possible interest in co-sponsoring events with TAC.

Town Commissioner Buehrer asked about TAC participating in the community show. Commissioner Schildt responded that these efforts are currently underway. Commissioner Buehrer then asked if TAC had considered approaching Criswell Chevrolet of Thurmont about using their site for our activities such as parking cars or selling bottles of water. Commissioner Buehrer provided the name of someone from Criswell that might be able to provide guidance.

Mr. Erich Kleinschmidt added that for an education component it important to give parent’s the signs addiction to be aware of.

6. Commissioner Churchill asked Commissioner Schildt and Karen Schildt about progress on the resource compendium and the resource guide for the recovery coaches. This document is currently compiled in an Excel file, divided into numerous sections for practical use. TAC discussed the importance of vetting sources before recommending resources and Commissioner Derbyshire added that Recovery coaches will be visiting several resource sites and also reminded TAC of resources which do this such as Addictions Connections Resource Inc., and Hope Dealer. The Excel file will be divided and sections sent out to the commissioners for review and feedback. The TAC informational trifold will be updated for Colorfest.

7. Commissioner Churchill challenged the pillar leads to think carefully at the pillar level of very concrete things they would accomplish in the year; to set realistic goals; and to formulate these goals in writing to share with the other pillars and TAC by November.

8. Commissioner Gage Randall provided an update that he had met with Deb Wivell (Catoctin High School) to plan events for the school year including: i) a repeat of last year's TAC poster contest, with more lead time. ii) a neurobiology speaker at a TAC-hosted assembly, during school hours, iii) a survey to teachers recruiting ideas of what they would like to see outside and in school, and a plan to follow this up with meeting with interested teachers regarding how TAC can be of use to them, iv) to distribute TAC sports flyers to the new Athletic Director.

9. Prevention and Outreach Pillar: Commissioner Randal has reached out to Safe and Sane, which he feels is a natural partnership. He mentioned potential participation in Fun Fest, National Night out etc.

10. Education and Awareness Pillar: Commissioner Schildt updated us on: i) plans for the International Overdose Awareness Day, with is August 31st. An event will be held on this day, from 7:00-8:30pm at the Thurmont Mechanicstown Square Park. There will be luminaries made by family members and others who have lost loved ones to overdose. The historical society had kindly offered their parking area, and will open the Creager House during the event, ii) Thurmont Community Show table, iii) October 17th Catoctin High School: Introduction to the enemy and speakers. More details to follow at next month's meeting, iv) new TAC logo.

11. Support and Recovery Pillar. Commissioner Hubbard met with the Lions Club on invitation to talk with them about TAC. Commissioner Schildt remarked that he appreciated her meeting with a local civic organization. Commissioner Churchill agreed that it was useful to do so and that TAC should think carefully about how to do this and reach out to other local organizations.

Commissioner Derbyshire i) discussed attending a state-wide 1-day harm reduction program with mental health professional, on invitation from the health department, to better understand "Harm reduction as a Movement", this will be helpful in terms of the health department move to expand its harm reduction/needle exchange programs to Northern Frederick County. Remembering that with each encounter in such a program a person struggling with substance abuse is offered the opportunity to move into treatment, ii) She continues in discussion with a farm-based transitional recovery program and will shortly organize a visit to Thurmont for Char Hope creator Derek Hopkins, iii) She discussed a phone meeting she had with Ms. Sanita Parada (Frederick County Health Department) on how to start a call center using the recovery coaches, a needed component of which would be a main contact (phone) number. Santita offered for the recovery coaches once they are organized to deliver their services, to talk to the local Drug and Alcohol Abuse council; Santita also suggested a meeting with the director of # 211.

12. Commissioner Churchill then opened meeting to the floor for comment:

Karen Schildt added that beginning with the 2nd Monday in Sept, she and Commissioner Derbyshire would start a family support group at the Weller house and if participation is strong they will consider expanding to an additional day each month.

Commissioner Carbaugh citing “conflicts” as her reason, gave her resignation from TAC. Commissioner Derbyshire thanked her greatly for her participation and input over the past year. Commissioner Schildt applauded Ms. Carbaugh for her efforts and asked that she continue to ask TAC for support for her organization if there were ways TAC could empower her efforts.

Erich Kleinschmidt suggested parenting classes or workshops in areas of: mental health wellness and basic concepts of addiction to provide people life skills. He described addiction as a disease of despair. He is still available to assist in grant applications and is interested in connecting with the Health department on this effort.

Meeting adjourned 9pm.