



## ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

December 13, 2005

Dr. Peter Luongo, Director  
Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration  
Spring Grove Hospital Center  
55 Wade Avenue  
Catonsville, MD 21228

Dear Dr. Luongo,

On behalf of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC), thank you for your consideration of our request for Montgomery County's Strategic Plan for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Priority Area and Action Plan for Expanded and New Services for the 2006 fiscal year.

Currently Montgomery County is experiencing budget shortfalls that are creating reductions in treatment capacity and delays in accessing care. During FY 2006, Montgomery County was forced to reduce treatment capacity for detoxification from 14 beds to 6 beds and from 40 to 30 beds for detoxification and intermediate care services. The need for a higher standard of care using licensed and certified staff and the need to absorb additional costs of somatic and mental health care have also increased costs and affected capacity.

Without adequate funding to maintain the existing continuum of treatment services, further cuts can be expected for FY 2007. Without an intact community network of substance abuse treatment services along a continuum of need, we cannot respond to the increasing demands of the community for access to effective treatment. It is essential that State agencies support the development of treatment capacity to serve the ever-growing diverse population of the County with evidence-based treatment services.

Again, the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit Montgomery County's Priority Area and Action Plan for your review and support.

Respectfully submitted,

James Lethbridge, Chair