

December 15, 2005

Peter Luongo, Ph.D.
Director, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
55 Wade Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Dear Dr. Luongo,

In response to your letter dated October 26, 2005, St. Mary's County Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council met on November 16, 2005 to identify priority/action areas in the strategic plan as part of the planning process to advance our County's system of care. As a result of that meeting, the Council has approved the following:

1. Reduce the deficit at Anchor ICF by shifting \$100,000 from Outpatient Addictions funding to the ICF program. Anchor is currently drastically underfunded and is incurring a significant deficit. The addition of \$100,000 will provide us the appropriate level of the funding to operate at the equivalent of a sixteen (16) bed facility. (Goal 3: Objective 1)
2. Obtain additional \$250,000 in new funding from the ADAA to expand static capacity at Anchor to 24 beds to address our increasing waiting list. As a result of the economies of scale at Anchor, increasing the static capacity would result in diminishing total cost per client served because the fixed cost of operations would be spread to a larger population. (Goal 3: Objective 1)
3. Obtain \$195,000 in new funding from the ADAA for ten (10) Level III.1 long-term beds for individuals with co-occurring psychiatric and substance abuse disorders to be located at Anchor, utilizing vacant beds. (Goal 3: Objective 2)

N.B. The Council is also interested in the discussions regarding the proposed Behavioral Health Coordinator. The major obstacle to this is funding for the position.

Please find enclosed the action/priority areas for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Local Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council
Chair - George Forrest, County Government
Vice-Chair – Nancy Luginbill, SMC Health Department