



**Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

September 25, 2017

Mr. Kevin McDonald  
Chief  
Certificate of Need Division  
Center for Health Care Facilities Planning & Development  
Maryland Health Care Commission  
4160 Patterson Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21215

Dear Mr. McDonald:

As the Chief Executive Officer of Prince George's County Public Schools, I would like to offer this letter of support for Seasons Residential Treatment Center to build and operate a new 72-bed Residential Treatment Center for adolescents and young adults struggling with mental health challenges.

The Prince George's County Public Schools system is the second largest schools system in the state of Maryland. We support the educational needs of more than 130,000 students across a broad footprint that includes rural and urban centers and diverse cultural backgrounds.

Our students come to us with varying levels of preparation, educational needs and support including those suffering from mood disorders, depression and anxiety. Studies suggest students with untreated mental health issues and co-morbid substance abuse are more likely to demonstrate severe and aggressive behaviors, disrupt classrooms and have a higher level of truancy and expulsions. This population also has a lower high school graduation rate compared to students receiving treatment.

For students and families in Prince George's County with mental health issues, the consequences of not having adequate and accessible mental health resources and coordinated care can greatly impact our students' educational progress and overall potential for long-term success.

The proposed program would allow students in need of a more structured, therapeutic environment to receive round the clock treatment while matriculating towards a high school diploma in an educational program certified by the Maryland State Department of Education. We support Seasons Residential Treatment Program because the proposed program extends local school level support for students and families in need of treatment for behavioral, emotional and psychological issues.

According to the program outline, Seasons Residential Treatment Program will also satisfy a significant gap in services for older males ages 18-21. Young adult males with therapeutic, educational and vocational challenges will benefit from the proposed specialized programming. The ability to collaborate with Seasons to serve older youth in the local community may lead to better long-term educational outcomes and career options for these students.

We support Seasons Residential Treatment Program because we believe the facility will be a great community resource and will help promote mental and public health and wellness and better prepare adolescents and young adults.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 301-952-6008.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer