



MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners

FROM: Ben Steffen *Ben Steffen*

DATE: May 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #3 Certificate of Need - Pascal Crisis Services, Inc. (Docket No. 22-02-2459), and

This memo provides additional information regarding Agenda Item 3 – Certificate of Need – Pascal Crisis Services, Inc. (Pascal). Commissioner Wang, the reviewer for the application, determined that Gaudenzia, Inc. and Hope House Treatment Center (Hope House), two other drug treatment facilities qualified as interested parties. In contested cases, one MHCC Assistant Attorney General represents the Commissioner reviewer and the other MHCC AAG represents the Commission. Caitlin Tepe will represent the reviewer and Ari Elbaum, Assistant Attorney General to the Health Services Cost Review Commission, will represent the Commission because Alexa Bertinelli is currently on maternity leave. Mr. Elbaum is a seasoned AAG and has represented the HSCRC on numerous issues. He will support the Commission via ZOOM as he is off-site on Thursday.

The applicant and interested parties are permitted to submit exceptions to Commissioner Wang's recommended decision. Gaudenzia did not submit exceptions, but Hope House submitted a letter that mirrored their original request for interested party status. The letter did not identify any specific exceptions to Commissioner Wang's recommended decision. Pascal Crisis Services contended in its opposition that Hope House's letter does not constitute an exception request. Chairman Sergent has ruled that Hope House letter does not constitute an Exceptions under MHCC's procedural regulations. Hope House has been informed that they will not be permitted to speak on their general opposition to the Pascal project during the commission meeting. Gaudenzia will not speak at the meeting because they did not file exceptions to the recommended decision.

The packet for this agenda item includes Commissioner Wang's Recommended Decision and a supplement containing Chairman Sergent's ruling, the letter from Hope House on May 3, 2023, and their January 12, 2023 request for interested party status. The exception from Pascal Crises Services' to Hope House's May 3rd letter is also included. The complete record on the matter is accessible at https://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/hcfs/hcfs_con/hcfs_con_pascal_crisis_2459.aspx.