



**Thursday, August 17, 2023**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Sergent called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Commissioners present via telephone and in person:** Bhandari, Boyle, Douglas, Jensen, O’Grady, Ojikutu, Wood.

**AGENDA ITEM 1.**

**ACTION: Exemption from Certificate of Need Review - Hospice of the Chesapeake (Hospice of Charles County/Calvert Hospice Merger) (Docket No.: 23-02-EX016)**

Jeanne Marie Gawel, Acting CON Chief briefed the Commissioners on the recommendation to approve the Exemption from Certificate of Need (CON) in the matter regarding the merger and consolidation of the Hospice of Charles County, Inc. (Charles) and Calvert Hospice, Inc. (Calvert) by Hospice of the Chesapeake, Inc. (HOC). She stated that the merged hospice agency would be authorized to serve the residents of Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, and Prince George’s Counties.

Ms. Gawel explained that Charles and Calvert affiliated with HOC on October 2, 2020, and June 14, 2022, respectively. Each affiliation agreement was approved by the Maryland Health Care Commission (Commission) and HOC now requests an exemption from CON review pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.04 to merge and consolidate the current affiliated hospice services.

She concluded by sharing the staff recommendation that the Commission **APPROVE** this exemption request based on the staff’s conclusion that the proposed project:

- (a) is in the public interest
- (b) is not inconsistent with the State Health Plan and
- (c) will result in more efficient and effective delivery of health services

Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the Exemption from Certificate of Need Review - Hospice of the Chesapeake (Hospice of Charles County/Calvert Hospice Merger) which was seconded by Commissioners Boyle and Wood and after discussion, unanimously approved.

**ACTION: Exemption from Certificate of Need Review - Hospice of the Chesapeake (Hospice of Charles County/Calvert Hospice Merger) is hereby APPROVED.**

## **AGENDA ITEM 2.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Bhandari asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and after there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m. upon the motion of Commissioner Jensen, which was seconded by Commissioner Bhandari.

**ACTION: NONE**