

**Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency
Public Hearing
May 19, 2009
Upper Cumberland Private Clinic
Spencer (Van Buren County), TN
CN0903-024**

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT

**Mark Farber, Assistant Executive Director
Jim Christoffersen, Deputy General Counsel
Melissa Bobbitt, Administrative Services Assistant III
Rhonda Finchum, Director of Administrative Services**

ATTENDEES PRESENT [* indicates those that spoke]

In Support

Ashly, Marlattate, Assistant Director, UCHRA
Bennett, Phyllis, Executive Director, UCHRA*
Beuoy, Doug*
Brown, Dave, Alcohol & Drug Counselor*
Carlile, Laura, Van Buren County Head Start*
Connell, Courtney
Connell, D. Paul "Rip", CEO, UCPC
Connell, Jonathan*
Connell, Lorie
Connell, Ricky, Counselor, Private Clinic North*
Dishman, Delma
Dishman, Kelly J., County Mayor, Van Buren County*
Gannon, Mike, County Executive, Cannon County*
Goney, Diann*
Grisholm, Donna*
Hale, Marla, Assistant Director, UCHRA*
Harris, Rebecca, Transportation Director, UCHRA*
Hatala, Stephen

Hill, Danny*
Hillis, Karla, Van Buren County Head Start*
Hitchcock, Shirley*
Leeds, Robert*
Mooneyham, Donna L., UCHRA*
Peace, Nancy, Development Director, UCHRA*
Rapp, Ed
Rowlands, Debra, Van Buren County Head Start*
Thompson, Janet, Van Buren County Head Start*
Waid, Lisa, RN, Private Clinic North*
Watts, Davis, Senior Vice President, First Tennessee Bank*
Weintraub, Nancy*
Wheeler, Johnnie, Government Task Force, UCHRA*
Wilhoilt, Deirdre, Private Clinic North*
Williams, Cindy, Counselor, Private Clinic North
Woodlee, Don, Chairperson, Advisory Committee for UCHRA*
Yates, William

In Opposition

Adcock, Bonnie
Averitt, Jackie
Averitt, John, M.D.*
Baker, Jim
Baker, Ruby, Century 21, The Wright Choice*
Ballinger, Paul
Ballinger, Paula
Brown, Paul

Bunch, Billy*
Bunch, James
Burdett-Grimes, Linda, LSP Appraisal Services*
Christensen, Freda
Craighead, Jason, 31st District Attorney's Office*
Crilbeechee, Stacey

(Continued on Page 2)

In Opposition (Continued from Page 1)

Crosby, Joseph, M.D. *
Crosby, Opal
Dearman, Maureen
Dodson, Chasity*
Dodson, Christy
Dodson, Jim
Gilliam, Randal*
Gossett, James*
Gossett, Rachel
Grimes, Lewis*
Grinan, Donna
Hale, Houston*
Hall, Apryl, M.D., Cumberland Regional Medical Center*
Hall, Jeff, M.D.
Hancock, Melissa
Hancock, Scott
Haynes, Douglas*
Haynes, Sandra
Henry, Alton F.
Henry, Dale I.
Hillis, Mark
Hillis, Zeda
Jahoples, Diane
Johns, Randy
Julian, Darrell R.
Julian, Keri*
Kell, Leland C.
Kerr, Jo Ann
Kirby, Shellie*
Locke, Bill
March, Barbara
Menefee, Kathy
Morgan, Susan*
Nielson, Joanne
Nuthalapaty, Sam*
Price, Brad, 31st Judicial District Drug Court Coordinator*
Price, Bula
Simms, Henry
Smith, Jeff
Smith, Sullivan, M.D., Volunteer Medical Group*
Stepp, Berki*
Sullivan, Carrie*
Talbot, Rachelle, Heritage Log Homes of the Cumberland*
Taylor, Audrey
Taylor, Mike, District Attorney General*
Thacker, Bernice
Thurman, Rebecca
Voss, Heather
Waller, Craig
Wilkinson, Lisa*
Williams, Thomas H.
Zavogiannis, Lisa, District Attorney General*

CALL TO ORDER /ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mark Farber, Assistant Executive Director, in the Spencer Civic Center, College Street, Spencer (Van Buren County), TN.

Mr. Farber provided instructions for those speaking in support or opposition of the establishment of a non-residential methadone treatment facility and the initiation of methadone treatment at 299 Industrial Drive, Spencer (Van Buren County), TN 38585.

Mr. Farber informed the audience that this was a fact-finding public hearing and this application will be presented to the members for review at the June 24, 2009 Health Services and Development Agency Meeting in Nashville, TN.

Jim Christoffersen, Deputy General Counsel provided instructions for filing support/opposition with the Health Services and Development Agency, and for initiating an appeal. Mr. Christoffersen stressed the law's technical requirements for appeal and offered to answer questions that evening and via telephone and email going forward.

SUPPORT

D. Paul "Rip" Connell, CEO, UCPC, addressed the staff and audience on behalf of the proposed clinic.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Kelly J. Dishman, Van Buren County Mayor, stated that the Clinic will provide guidance, support, education, and an option to combat addiction. New jobs will be created for the community; the program will enhance Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency; helping addicts to maintain a normal life; and therefore decreases in crime and the jail population will decrease.

Speakers supported the Clinic for the following reasons:

- To help people stop drug addictions, become independent, function normally, maintain family life,
- To help people maintain jobs, become self sufficient
- To educate the community
- To enable patients to be nearer to home for treatment
- To enhance public safety
- That jobs will be offered to the community
- To improve the patients' quality of life
- To reduce crimes

OPPOSITION

Speakers opposed the Clinic for the following reasons:

- The community and Churches are available to help fight addictions
- There better ways to treat opiate addictions
- Security is inadequate
- This treatment is not safe for pregnant women because babies will have withdrawal starting within two (2) minutes to two (2) weeks after birth and possibly lasting up to six months, with increase risks of SIDs being 2 to 4 times higher than other drugs.
- 90% of the crimes in Rossville, GA are near the applicant's other methadone clinic
- With only two (2) police officers that work 8:00 am to 12:00 am and none between 12:00 am to *:00 am. Spencer lacks adequate law enforcement to handle incidents caused by this project
- With no ambulance service, Spencer does not have emergency staff to cover accidents
- There are no heroine problems in the community
- Suboxone is a better substitute for addiction than methadone
- Deaths have been reported as results of methadone overdose and has increased by 300% since 1990
- Dependency on methadone is long term
- The clinic does not have the support of the community
- Crimes committed in the area are not heroine related
- The location is not suitable as the road is small, and near a residential area where a large number of children reside.
- Crimes are committed while people camp out waiting for the clinics to open
- The clinic needs to be more centrally located in the service area. Of the proposed fourteen (14) counties, Van Buren County is in the southern tip.
- Public safety will be an issue with slow response time from police and ambulances
- There is not a hospital in Spencer
- Law enforcement is inadequate
- There are 158 existing addiction treatment facilities in Tennessee, of those, 96 are within 90 miles of Van Buren County.
- Patients driving skills are impaired with the methadone, therefore causing automobile accidents and injuries
- Property values will decrease
- The city of Spencer does not have enough money to support additional law enforcement, ambulance services, autopsies, etc., that the proposed clinic would burden the city with.

Letters of Opposition were received from:

Lewis E. Grimes
Opal M. Crosby
Joseph F. Crosby, O.D.
David L. Cook
R.C. Hodge
Shellie D. Kirby
James Cunningham
Mark Hillis
Bula Price
James W. Johnson, Jr.
Ruby Baker
James M. Baker
James B. Averitt
Chasity Dodson
Kathy Johnson
Rachel and James Gossett
Petition signed by 214 residents of Van Buren County
Suneetha S. Nuthalapaty, M.D., Regional Rehabilitation Center, PLLC
Rachelle Talbot, Heritage Log Homes of the Cumberland
Article from National Center for Health Statistics; local newspaper article

Letters of Support were received from:

Kelly J. Dishman, Van Buren County Mayor
OP Walker, DPh, Pharm D., Director of Pharmacy, Cookeville Regional Medical Center
Debra Rowlands
Shirley Hitchcock
Janet Thompson
Danny Hill
Rebecca R. Harris
Laura Carlile
Karla Hillis
Donna L. Mooneyham
Marla Hale
Mike Gannon
Johnnie Wheeler
Phyllis Bennett, Executive Director, Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency
Hal D. Gray, Jr.

ADJOURNMENT

Mark Farber adjourned the Public Hearing at 11:00 p.m.

Mark Farber, Assistant Executive Director
MF/MAB