

David Martin Council Comments

Well Perception is reality, imagine the surprise when I learned that the Maryland Health Care Commission announced on Good Friday, April 10, 2020, a holiday weekend that they had scheduled a meeting and posted the Agenda for Thursday April 16, 2020. Item #5 on the agenda was Upper Chesapeake Health – Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County the closing. On Saturday morning April 11, 2020 I posted on social media pages Facebook, Next Door Bulle Rock, This is Havre de Grace, You Know You're from Havre de Grace informing people of the scheduled meeting in a time of pandemic. That evening at 6:55 pm Lyle Sheldon corresponded with every elected official from the county to state level but excluded every municipal elected official. One of his comments was "In closing thank you for your continued support of UM UHC's comprehensive health care delivery plan; and we ask that you take no direct action as requested by the City of Havre de Grace leadership."

Isn't it amazing that the letters written in support of UM UHC all had the same catch phrase: While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from select elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it's important for you to be aware, that those opinions and concerns are not shared consistently across the majority of elected officials here in the County nor myself as County Executive.

The dramatization that is taking place, and framed within the context of this COVID-19 pandemic is inappropriate and inaccurately presented on many fronts.

Accusing the leadership of Havre de Grace of using the cover of the pandemic crisis as a cover. The true inappropriate actions were by the MHCC and UMHCH in scheduling a meeting when no-one was watching.

David Martin Council Comments

I never received a response from any member of the MHCC, UMUCH or the elected officials to my questions and concerns. To Lyle Sheldon and cc'd MHCC and all elected county and state officials for Baltimore/Harford, Harford and Harford/Cecil counties. As you stated you have been working over the last several years for the transformation of health care in Harford County however UM UCH is not working to maintain the health care needs of the community as a priority.

Why now? Both Harford County Hospitals are unable to keep pace with the current demand for patient care. Looking at the CHATS Region III report for January 2020 prior to the pandemic, Harford Memorial Hospital (UMUCH) had 13 Yellow Alerts with an average of 5.18 hours and total hours of 67.32, Red Alert 11, with an average of 17.16 hours and a total of 188.78 and Re-Route 6, average hours 1.08 and total of 6.5 hours.. Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UMUCH) had 22 Yellow Alerts with an average of 14.80 hours and total hours of 325.67, Red Alert 7, with an average of 27.27 hours and a total of 190.89 and Re-Route 34, average hours 1.40 and total of 47.44 hours.

What is the rush in moving forward on the closing one of the two hospitals in Harford County?

Why isn't the MHCC waiting to see what the future structure of health care will become?

As you stated the information you are operating is several years old and did not consider a pandemic. I believe it is time to re-evaluate the facts based on the new information of the negative impact this pandemic has had on our current health care infrastructure and the proper way to respond for future health care delivery. It is the wrong time to make such an important and permanent decision.

David Martin Council Comments

I want to thank Delegates Mary Ann Lisanti, and Steve Johnson, County Council Member Andre Johnson, John Corrieri Jr, former Mayor of Havre de Grace, Ryan Nilsen, President Havre de Grace Ambulance Corp, Mayor Martin and my fellow councilmembers for their responses and correspondence to the MHCC.

I will have copies of the letters place with my comments on the city website

MHCC voted to close the hospital and I'm still asking "Why now?" The pandemic hasn't ended. There has been no chance to evaluate the impact on the future of healthcare. No chance for an after-. action review by the federal, state or health care professionals. I'm saying: "Just Not Now!"

If you want to review the agenda and letters this is the link to the Maryland Health Care Agenda for April 16, 2020.

mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/meeting_schedule/documents/agenda/2020/MHCC_agd_20200416.pdf

Excerpts from Letters to MHCC

Lyle Sheldon - President/CEO University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health.

In closing, thank you for your continued support of UM UHC's comprehensive health care delivery plan; and we ask that you take no direct action as requested by the City of Havre de Grace Leadership.

Barry Glassman – Harford County Executive

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from select elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it's important for you to be aware, that those opinions and concerns are not shared consistently across the majority of elected officials here in the County or me as County Executive. The dramatization that is taking place, and framed within the context of this COVID-19 pandemic is inappropriate and inaccurately presented on many fronts.

The County Executives letter has been made non-viewable on the MHCC site

L. Jesse Bane - Town Administrator, Town of Bel Air

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from some elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it important for you to be aware that their opinions and concerns are not shared consistently by a majority of the elected officials here in Harford County nor myself as the Town Administrator of the County Seat. The dramatization that is taking place and framed within the context of this COVID-19 pandemic is unfortunate and inaccurately presented on many different fronts

Excerpts from Letters to MHCC

Russell W. Moy, MD, MPH - Harford County Health Officer

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from select elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it is important for you to be aware, that I do not think those opinions and concerns are shared consistently among most elected officials here in the County, nor myself as the Health Officer for Harford County. Suffice it to say, that I support UM UCH's projects moving forward recognizing that UM Harford Memorial Hospital will not close until the projects are complete on the Aberdeen campus as well as a recognition that the facilities on the Aberdeen campus will not be operational for at least two and a half years, well beyond our current pandemic situation.

Muhammad Jokhadar, MD, President Medical Staff University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health

While you, and perhaps the MHCC Commissioners themselves, may have received concerned letters and/or calls from select elected officials and a small number of the public, I think it is important for you to be aware, that I do not think those opinions and concerns are being dramatized for political gain and contain, as you are aware, many factual inaccuracies. The inaccuracies and misinformation are purposely shaped inappropriately during this unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic, in a manner that cannot take MHCC off track and unfocused on the bigger picture, for the long term, for resident of Harford County.

Local Correspondence to MHCC

Steve Johnson, Mary Ann Lisanti – Delegates District 34A

Any action to move forward on Item #5 is a blatant disregard for public health and a direct assault on the health and safety of the people we represent, therefore we respectfully ask you to remove this item from consideration until this public emergency is over and we have a better understanding of our community healthcare needs.

Ryan Nilsen – President Havre de Grace Ambulance Corp

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you to voice our concerns regarding the University of Maryland Upper

Chesapeake Health (UMUCH) Certificate of Need Application.

In light of the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the stress on the healthcare system in Harford County prior to the pandemic we are extremely concerned. The surge of critically ill and the unknown consequences this pandemic may have on the physical structure of healthcare delivery, we are vehemently opposed to the current review of UMUHC's Certificate of Need application at this time.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, which will have a significant impact on the lives of those living in Harford County and the surrounding communities.

Local Correspondence to MHCC

JOHN P. CORRERI Jr. - Former Mayor of Havre de Grace

Good morning, Ben,

I heard the Governor tell us that he sees a light at the end of the tunnel, that is good to hear but my Father always taught me that you do see that light but the fact of the matter is that you are STILL IN THE TUNNEL.

" LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD....SAVE OUR HOSPITAL " (HARFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

Local Correspondence to MHCC

David Glenn HDG Council President April 16, 2020

I know a lot of people have weighed in over the past week. My key concern is that I do not want leadership to make a premature decision. Lyle Shelton has made his case for moving forward, but that was all based on arguments prior to COVID-19. During the past month, we as a country have faced enormous challenges. Again, I truly feel that before "any" decision is made regarding the future of healthcare facilities in Harford County or the State of Maryland, we need to get through this crisis, conduct a comprehensive review of everything that took place and generate an after action review that will shape the path forward for healthcare across the state. People are our most valuable resource and we must ensure we look out for "their" best interests. I realize that the closure of Harford Memorial Hospital is still 2+ years away, but you have to ask yourself, given the recent crisis, is a Free Standing Medical Facility in the best interests of all concern. Is it truly the right decision moving forward? Until that comprehensive review is conducted we don't know that answer. So I encourage you to do the right thing. Delay any decision about healthcare facilities in Harford County until we have all the supporting documentation to make that informed decision. Our focus must be on putting together a strategy that generates a system that will ensure the best healthcare possible for the people I represent.

They are counting on you to do the right thing. To make any decision today to move forward with a Free Standing Medical Facility without the supporting documentation from COVID-19 would be major oversight.

Local Correspondence to MHCC

David Glenn HDG Council President April 16, 2020

Ben,

- The City of Havre de Grace found out by chance on April 10th that next week on April 16th, the Maryland Health Care Commission will be voting on the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health Care System's Application to shut down Harford Memorial Hospital and replace it with a Free Standing Medical Facility – one that will not provide acute care services and only limited emergency services. I am concerned that you would move forward with such a request at this time given the ongoing global pandemic.*
- It has always been my hope for the "hospital" to remain in Havre de Grace. We have had a long standing relationship with Harford Memorial Hospital and it has been a huge part of our community, serving our community for over 100 years. However, Upper Chesapeake has contended that a full service hospital is no longer a viable option. While I am not a subject matter expert on healthcare, I find it hard to believe that as our region continues to grow, only "one" full service hospital can adequately serve the needs of Harford and western Cecil County. This is especially true when you consider the location of Aberdeen Proving Ground (and what they do each and every day is inherently dangerous given the myriad of testing conducted), the I-95 corridor and the countless accidents that occur each and every day, the closing of Kirk Army Hospital, the ongoing drug problems/concerns, the countless nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the area, and any potential for a pandemic situation.*
- I think it is fair to state that in light of the ongoing COVID-19, the healthcare systems in the State of Maryland as well as Harford*

County were faced with countless challenges. Through the tireless dedication of Governor Hogan and his administration, the State of Maryland put in place concerted efforts to increase the number of available hospital beds and Harford Memorial Hospital proved that it had the ability to not only deliver essential critical care, but to expand the number of available beds on short notice. Any and all after action reports associated with this global pandemic will without a doubt provide invaluable supporting documentation that will pave the path forward for the future of healthcare in the entire State of Maryland, as well as Harford County. As a long time civil servant at Aberdeen Proving ground, I learned from some of the best that one must always have the necessary supporting documentation in which to make an "informed" decision. With that being said why would you want to move forward in making a critical decision on the future of healthcare in Harford County without such vital information? Doing so is a major oversight. Bottom line – it is definitely the wrong time to make such decisions.

- Therefore, I request action be initiated to pull the Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County from the upcoming agenda and defer such action/decisions until such time that the State of Maryland can revisit the criteria required for the closing of such acute care facilities. We need to protect our most valuable resource – PEOPLE.*
- Thank you for your favorable consideration of this request.*

Dave Martin Comments on Social Media about MHCC

David Martin Havre de Grace City Council - April 11, 2020

The Maryland Health Care Commission has just announced a meeting for April 16, 2020. Imagine the surprise when I learned item #5 is Upper Chesapeake Health – Reconfiguration of Hospital Facilities and Services in Harford County

A. ACTION: Request for Exemption from Certificate of Need Review – Conversion of University of Maryland Harford Memorial Hospital to a Freestanding Medical Facility (Docket No. 17-12-EX004)

Now during this global Covid-19 pandemic and the fact that Maryland has not reached the peak in the curve, the Governor is re-opening closed hospital facilities and creating emergency field hospitals what is the rush in moving forward on the closing one of the two hospitals in Harford County?

Why isn't the MHCC waiting to see what the future structure of health care will become? I believe their actions are irresponsible and hasty.

Please reach out to the Maryland Health Care Commission and our elected officials' I've done the homework. All you need to do is send the e-mail to them.

Dave Martin Comments on Social Media about MHCC

David Martin Havre de Grace City Council - April 13, 2020

Here is an excerpt from a letter to the MHCC that Lyle Sheldon sent to state and county elected officials dated April 11, 2020. "In closing thank you for your continued support of UM UHC's comprehensive health care delivery plan; and we ask that you take no direct action as requested by the City of Havre de Grace leadership." As usual Lyle Sheldon failed to reach out to any municipal elected official. I sent this letter to Lyle and cc'd all elected state and local elected officials.

To Lyle Sheldon,

As always you continue to ignore the municipal elected officials of Aberdeen, Bel Air and Havre de Grace. You are incorrect in one thing you do need to defend your irresponsible actions during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you stated you have been working over the last several years for the transformation of health care in Harford County however UM UCH is not working to maintain the health care needs of the community as a priority.

Why now? Both Harford County Hospitals are unable to keep pace with the current demand for patient care. Looking at the CHATS Region III report for January 2020 prior to the pandemic, Harford Memorial Hospital (UMUCH) had 13 Yellow Alerts with an average of 5.18 hours and total hours of 67.32, Red Alert 11, with an average of 17.16 hours and a total of 188.78 and Re-Route 6, average hours 1.08 and total of 6.5 hours.. Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UMUCH) had 22 Yellow

Alerts with an average of 14.80 hours and total hours of 325.67, Red Alert 7, with an average of 27.27 hours and a total of 190.89 and Re-Route 34, average hours 1.40 and total of 47.44 hours.

David Martin Havre de Grace City Council - April 13, 2020

Yellow Alert: The emergency department temporarily requests that it receive absolutely no patients in need of urgent medical care.

Red Alert: The hospital has no ECG monitored beds available. These ECG monitored beds will include all in-patient critical care areas and telemetry beds.

Re-Route: This policy provides guidelines for both emergency medical services (EMS) and emergency medical dispatch (EMD) personnel when a basic or advanced life support unit is being held at a hospital emergency department because a bed is unavailable.

In response to your statement “For those who spotlight this pandemic as the key driver to halt our multi-year progressive plan at regionalizing health care in our community, there is an outright neglect in remembering the critical drivers for the need to transform health care in Harford County as well as within the state of Maryland.” In a recent Washington Post report, Dr. David Marcozzi, a professor and physician who is leading the COVID-19 response for UMMS, stated “the health care systems across the country contracted as a result of trying to provide more efficient care... but if you contract the system, then when you have a surge, you are squeezed.” He added, “You don’t have enough beds open and nurses waiting to provide care.”

I and the constituents I represent are not happy with the closing of 1 of the 2 hospitals serving the citizens of Harford and Cecil Counties. As you stated the information you are operating is several years old and did not take into account a pandemic. I believe it is time to re-evaluate

the facts based on the new information of the negative impact this pandemic has had on our current health care infrastructure and the proper way to respond for future health care delivery. It is the wrong time to make such an important and permanent decision

David Martin Havre de Grace City Council - April 16, 2020

Well today is the day. MHCC votes on the closing of UMH. Still asking why now? Pandemic hasn't ended. No chance to see the impact on the future of health care. No chance for an after-action review by the Fed's, State or health care professionals. **I'm saying just not NOW!**



CHATS Region III-County/Hospital Alert Tracking System January 2020



CHATS Region III - County/Hospital Alert Tracking System

Alert Summary -- Region III For 2020-01-01 - 2020-01-31

Sunday, February 2, 2020 8:22:32 PM

Hospitals	Yellow Alert			Red Alert			ReRoute			Total		
	#	Avg Hours	Tot Hours	#	Avg Hours	Tot Hours	#	Avg Hours	Tot Hours	#	Avg Hours	Tot Hours
Anne Arundel Medical Center	18	13.30	239.46	4	15.33	61.30	0	0.00	0.00	50	1.38	69.11
Baltimore Washington Medical Center	28	8.86	248.04	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	56	1.73	96.74
Bon Secours Hospital	9	6.48	58.29	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	4	0.72	2.89
Carroll Hospital Center	15	20.11	301.67	5	34.59	172.93	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Franklin Square (MedStar)	25	13.16	328.92	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.48	0.48	15	1.20	17.94
Good Samaritan Hospital (MedStar)	17	9.86	167.66	12	17.04	204.48	0	0.00	0.00	1	1.18	1.18
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	20	11.65	232.98	9	13.51	121.56	0	0.00	0.00	4	0.70	2.82
Harbor Hospital (MedStar)	12	5.53	66.31	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	33	1.50	49.56
Harford Memorial Hospital (UMUCH)	13	5.18	67.32	11	17.16	188.78	0	0.00	0.00	6	1.08	6.50
Howard County General Hospital (JHM)	24	14.58	349.83	1	47.34	47.34	0	0.00	0.00	12	2.25	27.06
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center	23	20.53	472.21	16	4.32	69.06	0	0.00	0.00	8	1.59	12.70
Johns Hopkins Hospital	12	29.13	349.58	10	21.96	219.60	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.91	0.91
Johns Hopkins Hospital (Pediatric ED)	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Mercy Medical Center	17	10.32	175.48	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Midtown (UM)	34	7.79	264.88	14	10.88	152.28	0	0.00	0.00	3	1.45	4.35
Northwest Hospital	21	13.24	278.10	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	4	1.44	5.76
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore	18	19.31	347.58	7	21.36	149.55	0	0.00	0.00	8	1.63	13.04
St. Agnes Hospital	27	6.68	180.45	9	6.70	60.34	0	0.00	0.00	24	1.62	39.00
St. Joseph's (UM)	19	13.51	256.74	9	24.50	220.52	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.73	0.73
Union Memorial Hospital (MedStar)	18	3.78	67.99	6	7.39	44.36	0	0.00	0.00	1	0.89	0.89
University of Maryland Medical Center	17	12.08	205.28	12	7.72	92.64	0	0.00	0.00	10	1.80	17.96
Upper Chesapeake Medical Center (UMUCH)	22	14.80	325.67	7	27.27	190.89	0	0.00	0.00	34	1.40	47.44
Totals:	409	12.19	4984.44	132	15.12	1995.63	1	0.48	0.48	275	1.51	416.58