



Betty Jo Mahan &lt;bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org&gt;

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**[MPC Comment] Request "Postponement" (No. 60) Christopher Reiley**

1 message

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**cjbraswell** <cjbraswell@knology.net>

Wed, Oct 12, 2016 at 2:50 PM

Reply-To: cjbraswell@knology.net

To: Commission@knoxmpc.org

Request "Postponement" of No. 60 Christopher Reiley (10-H-16-UR)

As President of The Deane Hill Alliance we have "concerns" about the Proposed - Renaissance Recovery Center at 7220 Wellington Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919, Use on Review. Christopher Reiley did not reach out to the neighbors, and we did not know about this until Vice-Mayor L. Duane Grieve brought it to my attention as well as others. (I did go to the Facility on 10/10/2016 and talked with an Evan Sexton, Clinical Director.) We, as The Deane Hill Alliance have some reservations about their expansion.

A postponement would give The Deane Hill Alliance more time to gather information in regard to this matter.

Thank You, Juanita Davis-Braswell  
President, The Deane Hill Alliance

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This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)



Betty Jo Mahan &lt;bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org&gt;

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**[MPC Comment] Renaissance Recovery Oct 13 Use on Review Application**

1 message

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**Chris Reiley** <chris@renaissancerecovery.info>

Tue, Oct 11, 2016 at 12:51 PM

Reply-To: chris@renaissancerecovery.info

To: commission@knoxmpc.org

Cc: herb@claibornehauling.com, eason.mpc@gmail.com, mgoodwin.mpc@gmail.com, jtocher.mpc@gmail.com

October 10, 2016

To: Members of the Metropolitan Planning Commission

Re: Renaissance Recovery Use-on-Review application

Greetings:

My name is Chris Reiley, and I am the Chief Executive Office of the Renaissance Recovery Group. Renaissance Recovery works with women battling addiction during pregnancy and motherhood. Our focus is to prevent drug exposure at birth and to build stronger families through sobriety. Our program is small and our mission is simple: we work to save two lives. For the last year, we have operated at 7220 Wellington Drive as an outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment facility. In that time, we have been a good neighbor. During recent outreach to community and neighborhood leaders, it became apparent that no one even realized that a treatment center was operating in this location. Our work helps to strengthen the wider community by improving the chances of young lives and their families. We are working with the Commission on a use-on-review application so that we can expand these outpatient services to a short term residential stay for our patients, which will allow us support our patients better on their road to recovery.

Our program is supported by groundbreaking research from the University of Tennessee High Risk Obstetric Clinic and Dr. Craig Towers. We employ an Obstetrics and Gynecology doctor as our medical director, and we have a Registered Nurse on staff. Our professional staff has decades of experience and a true passion for the social service our program represents.

The Renaissance Program works to rebuild the whole person. We work across a spectrum of needs to address the underlying causes of addiction and to give these families a chance at lasting recovery. In addition to group and individual counseling, our services include: employment assistance, nutrition education, parenting classes, long-term reversible contraception, smoking cessation, trauma recovery, clothing and donations, physical wellness and more. We work to create a community environment that allows our patients to thrive and survive beyond their time with us.

We have seen amazing results with this community approach. Not only are we a quiet and collaborative neighbor with a friendly, family atmosphere, but our patients love coming to us. We have an 85% patient retention rate. And our work with pregnant mothers has produced a 71% reduction on the length of hospital stay for babies born drug exposed. Our work is improving the lives of both mother and child, and since 100% of our patients are on TennCare, we are saving the state and taxpayers money. Since we started, our program has been responsible for more than a million dollars in savings to the TennCare program. Our outcomes have a measurable positive impact.

Our work helps women and children in need, and improves the outlook of the wider Knoxville community. Our patients are daughters, sisters and cousins. With the growing problem of drug abuse in East Tennessee is likely that we all will be touched by this problem, or that we have already. The realities of treatment can be uplifting and truly a community service.

With approval of our use-on-review application, we intend to continue building on our resume of success by increasing the scope of services offered while also maintaining our reputation for peaceful co-habitation with our neighbors and low impact on the community's existing use. Our location is currently surrounded by other businesses, including another medical facility, and the addition of short-term residential treatment is not anticipated to contribute to any additional noise or traffic.

I have attached a more detailed program description for your review. Renaissance Recovery looks forward to continuing our mission to save two lives and appreciates the Commissions support.

Sincerely,

Chris Reiley

CEO, Renaissance Recovery Group

[865-258-6048](tel:865-258-6048)

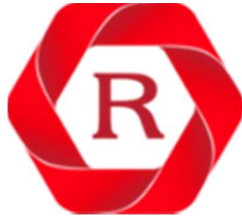
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This message was directed to [commission@knoxmpc.org](mailto:commission@knoxmpc.org)

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 **Renaissance Recovery Plan of Operation - MPC.docx**  
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## **Renaissance Recovery Group Proposed Residential Expansion**

Renaissance Recovery Group is a treatment center focused exclusively on serving pregnant women and new mothers struggling with addiction. Located in Knoxville, Tenn., our goal is to reduce instances of drug-exposed births throughout the East Tennessee region by helping women find sobriety.

### **Residential Program Description:**

**Who:** Over 18, women only, pregnant, and new mothers. 8 residential beds. Programs currently serves 10-20 women each month. The 8 beds would serve patients already in our program who have no stable housing and would not increase the total number of patients served each month.

**What:** We provide substance abuse and mental health treatment in a clinically supervised setting. We are a faith based program designed to help mothers battle addiction and to get completely sober prior to delivery. All treatment is done on site and includes: 12 step rehabilitation, parenting education, trauma counseling, relapse prevention, vocational training, nutrition classes, mental health counseling, family therapy, and more. The residential program will add 8 dormitory beds to our existing program. Staff will be onsite 24 hrs a day to supervise the residents. A full time security detail will ensure the safety and compliance of our residents. A full time nursing staff will ensure the health and welfare of our residents. Residents in the proposed program will stay between 5 and 30 days. Current services will cover these patients Monday through Friday and 2 additional full day counseling sessions will be added to cover Saturday and Sunday.

We provide onsite nursing assessments daily through a staff RN, and also have an OBGYN on staff as a medical consultant who oversees all our medical care and is on site 3 days a week for 2-3 hrs each day.

**Where:** We are located at 7220 wellington drive Knoxville TN 37919. Our patients come from Knox and surrounding counties. Our patient demographic averages 50% from Knox county, 30% Blount county, 20% from other counties including Union, McMinn, Claiborne, and Anderson.

Using evidence-based treatment methods, intensive outpatient therapies and wraparound services, Renaissance Recovery is a frontline fighter against neonatal abstinence syndrome in Appalachia. Renaissance Recovery offers our patients a chance to start motherhood free from addiction.

Why: Since Renaissance Recovery's opening in June 2015, the impact of the program in helping to reduce drug exposure to both mother and child, decreasing the number of days in the hospital and increasing costs savings to the state have been truly amazing. On average, babies born to women participating in the Renaissance Recovery program stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7.3 days. This is a 71% reduction from the state-reported average stay for an NAS birth.

These reduced stays are not only positive for the health and wellbeing of mother and child, they also represent significant saving to the community, which bears virtually the entire brunt of these births. Each day in the NICU costs an average of \$2,200 to tax payers. By reducing the average stay the Renaissance Recovery program has saved the state over 1 million dollars in just 12 months!

## ***Summary of Services:***

### **Renaissance Residential Program**

The proposed program expansion will add the license category of Residential Drug and Alcohol treatment to our existing outpatient program. We will continue to accept women only, over 18, and pregnant and new mothers will remain our specialty. We receive referrals from UT High Risk Obstetrics Clinic and work closely with Dr. Craig Towers and his staff. Our referrals come from a long list of community partners including hospitals, independent OBGYNs, drug courts, TennCare MCO's, and by word of mouth through community outreach events and social media.

When we make contact with a patient we conduct a detailed assessment of medical, psycho-social, and substance abuse needs. We set their level of care based on these assessments and attempt to begin treatment as soon as that day. Women in our residential level of care will have the same needs as patients we serve currently at our PHP level of care. We are a partial hospitalization program which means we accept people with acute needs and from difficult situations.

Homelessness is a significant barrier to treatment for our population. Turning a pregnant away from treatment because she has no place is not an option for us. They need help immediately and we have a responsibility as a community to address this epidemic. Right now, we attempt to make a referral but the list of facilities who will accept a pregnant women for substance abuse treatment is very short, and often comes with long waiting lists. Our experience tells us that on average women wait 6-10 weeks for a spot in a residential bed at best, and often must travel to other regions of the state to receive care. Leaving behind what few resources and family they have to attend an intensive treatment in Nashville can mean that mother does not enter treatment, and both her and her baby will pay the price of this missed opportunity.

Expanding our services to allow residential care at our facility means no one would have to be turned away. We will convert unused office space within our building into a dormitory setting. Plans for this construction have been included with this application. An LPN will be on staff 24 hrs a day to supervise residents of our program. A security system with cameras will be expanded into the common areas and all possible exits. No resident is a prisoner and anyone can leave at any time, if they choose to. Our job is to keep our patients engaged and in treatment as long as necessary. We have a crisis intervention team on call 24-7 already to address patients who are in danger of leaving treatment, or returning to past habits of use and self destruction.

As part of the Renaissance mission, we do everything possible to treat or place into treatment every woman that comes into contact with our program. With approval we can offer a place for those with nowhere else to go. We can take advantage of a critical opportunity and interrupt the cycle of addiction, and save two lives: mother and child.

**Staffing Requirements:**

Currently we employ 8 people and serve 15 patients each month. Our existing staff members are: Clinical Director - LPC/MHSP, Lead Counselor, Intake Coordinator, Nurse Manager - RN, Chief Administrator, Front Desk, Mental Health Counselor, and Medical Director - OBGYN.

The proposed expansion will add 4 new staff members. Sat and Sun will become active treatment days for residents, and staff will be onsite 24 hrs a day to supervise dormitory residents. The 4 new positions will be two Masters Level or LADAC counselors, 1 LPN, and 1 CPR certified security staff.

Our total occupancy currently is 23-25. With residents and new staff our maximum occupancy will not change. The same number of patients will be treated each month, with the change we would simply allow up to 8 of them to stay on site 24-7. The new staff will only be on site during hours the existing staff is gone, meaning no additional maximum occupancy for the expanded program.

***Potential Impacts:***

**Traffic Impacts:**

We use public transportation extensively as most of our patients do not have cars. There is a bus stop at the corner of Wellington and Kingston pike in front of the IHOP restaurant. The bus stop is less than 500ft from our front door. We use TennCare medical transportation services also, which reduce the number of vehicles entering and leaving the facility. All traffic to and from our facility involves the nearby major artery of Kingston Pike. No traffic leaving our facility ever goes further up Wellington into Dean Hill. All traffic comes from Kingston pike, and leaves toward the intersection of Wellington and Kingston Pike. On average we have 5-8 cars present in our parking lot. Less than 25% of our patients have cars. They use public transportation

which we encourage and pay for when needed reducing overall traffic around the facility significantly.

**Noise and Disturbances:**

The patients of Renaissance are pregnant and new mothers. We are a quiet and peaceful community with few disturbances. Children playing, group meetings outside, gardening projects, cleaning up, are the only "disturbances" we ever have. It is possible that a medical issue might require an ambulance some day, though we have been blessed to have that happen only once in 15 months of operation. No police have ever been called at this address and no fights or violence have ever disturbed our safe space. Arguments may happen, and disputes are a natural part of recovery, but they are inside and professionally supervised at all times.

If a patient ever leaves against medical advice they walk straight to Kingston Pike for the bus stop or a ride to pick them up. None of our patients have ever walked the other direction up Wellington. We are close to food, gas, transportation, and the highway which means that even in the rare event that someone chose to leave unsupervised they have a strong pull away from any nearby neighborhoods.

We are across from a major medical facility in Summit Medical Group which has far more traffic than our facility ever will. IHOP and Crouch Florist, also our neighbors, have far more traffic and commercial activity than our facility does.

**Final Summary:**

The Renaissance Program has operated as a community partner for 15 months. We already serve our population quietly and with professionalism. The proposed expansion will not negatively impact the character of the Dean Hill subdivision. We are clean quiet and respectful in all of our interactions. We deal exclusively with women and cultivate a family environment for recovery. We have proven ourselves a safe inoffensive community partner over the last year of operation in this location. We seek to expand our community impact by housing the most vulnerable population in our city. The costs of not treating them are far greater than the minor inconvenience could ever be. Please help us work on behalf of the city and the surrounding counties to prevent drug addicted births in East Tennessee.