

The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) held a scheduled Executive Board meeting on March 29, 2023. The meeting was held at the MSRC office in Easton, MD. Walter Chase, Chuck Callahan, Frank Bartz, Ricky Travers, Jeannie Haddaway- Riccio, Kurt Fuchs, and Larry Porter were in attendance. MSRC staff Scott Warner and Terry Dieghan and University of Maryland Shore Regional Health (UMSRH) President and CEO Ken Kozel were also in attendance.

Chairman Chase called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and asked Mr. Kozel to provide a financial progress update on the proposed regional medical center.

Mr. Kozel stated that he received an email regarding the Governor's FY 2024 supplemental budget and would forward it to Mr. Warner for distribution to the MSRC Executive Board in case the members have not seen the March 27, 2023, email. The email listed several projects ranging from investments of \$1 million to \$66 million. At the bottom of the email was a statement that,

“the Moore-Miller Administration has worked closely with the Maryland General Assembly to fund a number of shared priorities reflected in the legislature's changes to the budget so far. These include include paygo capital grants for critical projects prioritized by our county governments, the shoring up of funding for the state's emergency medical system and trauma centers, and funding for a new facility for the University of Maryland Medical System's Shore Regional Hospital that will modernize healthcare delivery for the mid-shore region.”

Mr. Kozel has also been working with the Administration and Eastern Shore General Assembly representatives and is being told that this year's budget (FY24) will include \$10 million for the regional medical center. Additionally, it has been communicated that the Governor's future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will include \$20 million.

Mr. Kozel said there are three things that must happen for the regional medical center to move forward: approval of the Certificate of Need (CON), \$100 million for the government, and \$50 million from private donations.

- CON – he does not expect an answer until the fall of 2023
  - It was submitted January 6, 2023
  - Three rounds of questions have been sent to UMSRH so far
    - Round 1 - 51 questions
    - Round 2 - 22 questions
    - Round 3 - 6 questions
    - UMSRH has responded to all questions as of last week.
- Government funding
  - State request is \$100 million
  - Congressionally Directed Spending
    - \$4 million request from each federal representative
    - Mr. Kozel thanked MSRC for their support.
- Private donations
  - Expect 2 to 3 seven figure pledges by summer 2023

Mr. Kozel also stated the HSCRC (Health Services Cost Review Commission) is not looking at waivers/rate applications until July 1, 2023. UMSRH will be submitting an application on July 3, 2023.

Dr. Mohan Suntha (University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) President & CEO) is Ken Kozel's boss. Dr. Suntha is committed that the Regional Medical Center is a priority of UMMS.

There was a lot of discussion and clarification regarding the above topics. The MSRC also discussed communication between UMSRH and the three counties in the possibility of an EDA grant submission by Talbot County and Town of Easton.

UMSRH was planning to meet with Talbot County and Town of Easton tomorrow to start discussing projected timelines, but meeting had to be rescheduled for April 20, 2023. Mr. Kozel will send the timeline spreadsheet to Mr. Warner so it can be shared with the MSRC Executive Board.

Next, the MSRC asked Mr. Kozel to provide an update on the issues discussed during their last meeting on February 2, 2023. Issues ranging from emergency room visits to staffing shortages.

During Mr. Kozel's update he stated that UMSRH is updating its contract with the company that provides hospitalists. The new contract will enable the hospitalists to travel to multiple UMSRH sites to see patients during a given shift. Hospitalists have been an issue of concern since the establishment of the Dorchester freestanding medical facility.

Also of note, Mr. Kozel stated that UMMS has contracted with a national firm to recruit and hire employees. There are approximately 30,000 employees in the UMMS and currently there are 4,000 vacancies, mostly nurses.

The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.