



WALDEN

A Pyramid Healthcare Company

Help for Today; Hope for Tomorrow

30007 Business Center Drive, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

P: (301) 997-1300 | F: (301) 290-0280

July 8, 2019

Dear Community Partners:

Walden and Walden Sierra remain in deep appreciation of the long-standing support and partnership of the community and our partners for our long-standing 24 hour hotline and crisis and trauma services.

As many of you have seen in our recent press release and have heard representatives of Walden and Walden Sierra share in community meetings, Walden Sierra is embarking on a “new chapter” and will no longer be providing any domestic violence, sexual assault or crisis hotline (301-863-6661) services. Effective July 1, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV) is providing services to domestic violence and sexual assault victims. MSCFV is also providing a 24-hour domestic violence/sexual assault services hotline and has opened an office in St. Mary’s County. Walden encourages the community to get to know the diverse, empowerment-focused services that MSCFV is now newly offering in St. Mary’s for those who are impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. Meanwhile, please be assured that Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy continues to provide local victims of domestic and sexual violence with legal representation, a 24-hour hotline, and an array of case management and crisis services. Both organizations offer services at no cost.

We understand that the sunset of the 301-863-6661 number is a change for the community. Instead of one general crisis hotline for any and every type of crisis, there are now specific numbers matched to support callers with specific needs. We have worked with our local partners in domestic violence and sexual assault (Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence and Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy) as well as Tammy, Loewe, Behavioral Health Director at St. Mary’s County Health Department, to create the attached information sheet.

Please feel free to print and share the attached information sheet as needed. As noted, for general crisis our recommendation is to utilize 211. For suicidality, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline of 1-800-273-TALK is recommended. Domestic violence and sexual assault specific hotlines are provided as well by both Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence and Southern Maryland Center for Family Advocacy. We encourage you and community members to continue to call Walden for substance use treatment and recovery needs.

Please also feel free to reach out to Laura Webb (301-997-1300 x 804, lwebb@pyramidwalden.com) to discuss any questions or concerns regarding Walden’s services. It is our unwavering goal to deliver timely and relevant help for today and hope for tomorrow in our areas of expertise and service. Please also look forward to hearing more information about Walden Wise, Kathy O’Brien’s new project being launched from Walden Sierra.

With sincere gratitude for your commitment to the community,

Kathleen O’Brien, PhD.

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Executive Director, Walden Sierra



Laura Stewart Webb

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Associate Executive Director