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Then the group announced it would be opening a medical clinic with assistance from a five-year, \$360,000 U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration grant. Scheduled to open Oct. 20, the clinic never did.

According to *The Observer*, Oltz said MAP had "neglected to get approval for reimbursement by Medicare and Medicaid, health programs for the poor, elderly and disabled."

The current situation leading to the on-the-verge closure of MAP, Oltz said, had "transpired over several weeks" and stemmed partly from organizational problems surrounding the opening of the medical clinic.

"The government had suspended our Part C and Part D grants because they felt the clinic had not moved quickly enough to get open and see clients," he said.

Other than ongoing payables, Oltz said MAP has no extraordinary debt currently. He's adamant that there has been no financial mismanagement at the organization. "If there had, I wouldn't still have a job," he said. He also said that the current situation was unrelated to any concerns over past finances. "This is more related to an ongoing concern that donations have never really picked up."

Why the suspension of Ryan White funding would lead to the close-to-complete closure of MAP remains unclear, although Oltz said he'd be able to discuss the situation in

greater detail in coming days. The group's next annual 990 financial report wasn't available by press time.

Oltz has assured that the organization's aim is to keep their services for clients rela-



Metrolina AIDS Project

tively unchanged. "If someone walks into our offices on Monday and needs help, we'll be there," he said on Thursday, Jan. 29. While *Q-Notes* had received information that some clients were going without case management, Oltz said those rumors were entirely false and that clients were receiving care.

The new non-profit entity succeeding MAP will begin formation as early as next week. Other area AIDS service organizations, like the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN), could end up picking up many of the services MAP once offered. Although RAIN's board of directors met in closed session on

Jan. 29, details on sharing service responsibility weren't readily available by press time. *Q-Notes* attempted contacting RAIN communications director Susan Ingle and president Debbie Warren. Those calls remained unre-turned by press time.

Concerns over appropriate board oversight have prompted questions on who will sit on any new non-profit's board. Oltz assured *Q-Notes* that the new non-profit's board would be comprised entirely of new individuals.

Past president Dogens remains concerned for the future of HIV/AIDS care in Charlotte. "MAP has served the community for 20-some years and they serve a vital role for people living with HIV/AIDS," Dogens told *Q-Notes*. "MAP has great people and they're passionate for what they do."

Dogens added that he hopes MAP can get back on its feet. "It would be unfortunate for the Charlotte community to lose that.

"If MAP no longer exists it will leave a huge gap," he said. "The most important thing is that they get back the community support and be able to continue care."

Correction

In the original Jan. 29 *Q-Notes* Online article on this subject, we attributed Ann White as the source for information regarding the reimbursement of Dennis Thaw Fund monies. That person was Ed DePasquale. ▀

This is a developing story.

As such, some information and circumstances contained in this print edition might have changed.

Go to *Q-Notes* Online for the most up-to-date news on this developing story.

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