

Health center links expectant moms with care

Continued from Page A1

on staff has resigned his private practice and is joining a larger practice that delivers exclusively at Shore Medical Center," hospital spokeswoman Susan Staeger said at the time.

According to a 2019 OB-GYN Workforce Study: Physician Shortages Contribute to Women's Health Crisis by Doximity, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) projected a shortage of as many as 8,800 obstetricians and gynecologists by 2020, and a shortfall of as many as 22,000 by 2050.

Cape Regional Health System worked with Shore Medical Center and AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center to develop a plan for the health networks to provide maternity services to county residents, according to Staeger, who said all obstetricians who practice in Cape May County currently provide perinatal and maternity care at either one of the medical centers.

CompleteCare turned its attention to Shore to ensure the mothers

it serves still have that connection to physicians for prenatal care and for a place to deliver their babies.

"It was something we immediately started looking for once we found out that Cape Regional wasn't going to be an option," Tweed said. "We started looking at what would be the best option for our moms. Shore Medical Center is the closest and we have moms who are living in (communities including) Wildwood, Cape May, North Cape May. That can be pretty far to get up the road to other health systems, so getting Shore Medical on board was great.

"We still wanted to offer a resource for those moms so we were fortunate to partner with Shore ... and we are able to bring in some of their providers to our sites to see our expectant moms and offer them delivery options," Tweed said.

CompleteCare was founded in 1973 in Cumberland County.

"We started in 1973 with two small clinics and we have grown over the years," she said, "and expanded into Cape May and

Gloucester counties."

CompleteCare Health Network has 19 locations in across Cumberland, Gloucester and Cape May counties.

The two sites in Cape May County are CompleteCare Medical and Dental Professionals at 3700 New Jersey Ave. in Wildwood and CompleteCare Medical Professionals at 3 Broadway in Cape May Court House.

"Both sites offer a variety of services but we also offer OB/GYN services at the Wildwood location," Tweed said. "We see all patients regardless of their ability to pay for care. That includes anyone who is uninsured as well as anyone on Medicaid and Medicare and all private insurances as well.

"For a lot of people in the area, especially those who are uninsured or underinsured, we're one of the few resources for them to get complete health care in the area," she said.

A key factor in having CompleteCare team up with Shore Medical Center is to have Shore's doctors come to their offices in

Wildwood to help clients so those clients wouldn't be forced to travel for their prenatal care.

"Our concern is that all these moms can get local OB care," Tweed said, "and not have to drive up to Somers Point for every visit.

"When you're pregnant there are a lot of appointments and testing that has to be done, especially when you're near the end of the pregnancy," she said, "so a lot of times people have trouble with that, let alone adding in financial barriers or transportation and language barriers. It can cause a lot of problems for any woman, but especially for our patients to get to those visits."

CompleteCare offers OB/GYN services two days a week at the Wildwood location for anyone who needs it, Tweed said.

Community Baby Shower set for Jan. 25

CompleteCare and Shore Medical Center are having an introductory event next week to introduce expectant mothers and others to

their Wildwood facility.

"We partnered with Shore to host a Community Baby Shower on Jan. 25," Tweed said. "We're pretty much welcoming anyone in the public who wants to come. It's specifically for women who are pregnant now or who are thinking about becoming pregnant. We want them to understand their options in the county for both OB care and their delivery.

"We're going to have a meet and greet with the providers. We're also going to have the lactation consultant from Shore Medical on site and we're having giveaways, some door prizes, a raffle, snacks and water for the moms. We have some local organizations coming to provide education about other resources in the area."

The Community Baby Show will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at the Wildwood health center at 3700 New Jersey Ave. There is no need to register. All are welcome.

More information about CompleteCare can be found online at complecarenj.org.

Two North Cape residents charged with heroin distribution

WILDWOOD — Two North Cape May residents found sleeping in a car at a Wawa market were charged with distribution of heroin and cocaine after police allegedly found 600 bags of heroin in their vehicle.

Wildwood police officers responded to a report of two occupants sleeping inside a parked motor vehicle at about 10:49 p.m. Jan. 3 at the market located at 418 W. Rio Grande Blvd.

Officers observed Cristine Pagan-Perez, 35, and Kenneth Lopez-Aviles, 29, both

of North Cape May, slumped over in their seats, according to a news release.

Additionally, multiple items believed to be controlled dangerous substance (CDS) paraphernalia, including a spoon with burnt residue, were observed in plain view, authorities said, adding that officers believed that both occupants were suffering from a narcotics overdose.

The Wildwood Fire Department was contacted and responded to the scene. Both occupants regained

consciousness on their own but emergency personnel remained on scene to ensure their safety.

During the ensuing investigation, both occupants allegedly admitted they were in possession of CDS paraphernalia and suspected CDS cocaine and heroin. A search of the vehicle yielded in excess of 600 bags of suspected CDS heroin and cocaine. Police also seized more than \$2,000 in cash.

The investigation led the officers to believe that both occupants were actively en-

gaged in the distribution of illegal narcotics, specifically heroin. All items were collected on scene and submitted as evidence.

Both Pagan-Perez and Lopez-Aviles were taken into custody and transported to police headquarters.

Pagan-Perez was charged with two counts of third-degree possession of cocaine/heroin and second-degree possession with the intent to distribute heroin.

Lopez-Aviles was charged with two counts of third-degree possession of cocaine/

heroin, second-degree possession with the intent to distribute heroin and possession of CDS paraphernalia,

a disorderly persons offense. They were remanded to the Cape May County Jail for processing.

Cape May adopts new cash management plan

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a cash management plan to ensure all municipal funds in the bank are fully insured.

The plan is intended to ensure all public funds are deposited in interest-bearing accounts and deposits and investments will be done to ensure the safety, the liquidity and maximum return within limits.

At a Jan. 3 meeting, Councilman Mike Yeager said the city has a basic cash management plan that follows state requirements. He said his concern was when audits were performed in 2020 and 2021, the city had more than \$4 million in the bank that was not insured.

"It's not a complicated process to correct that, and I'm asking that this process be put into this resolution so we have this fixed now and hopefully going forward," he said.

Yeager said the issue was a type of fund the city could not come together with other funds.

City solicitor Chris Gillin-Schwartz said new language could be added to change the resolution stating the chief financial officer will take steps to avoid custodial credit risk for

deposits not covered by the New Jersey Governmental Depository Protection Act (GDPA), which does not apply to intermingled trust funds such as salary withholdings, bail funds or funds that may pass to the municipality relative to the happening of a future condition.

He said the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. covers as much as \$250,000

and the GDPA for public funds extends well beyond that figure.

"But specifically, intermingled trust funds are the types of things that are not covered by that, so this is a heads up to the CFO (chief financial officer) to make other arrangements to make sure those funds are secured in some way," Gillin-Schwartz said.

Yeager said when the

CFO works with banks and establishes appropriate unmingled funds, the city would be fully insured again.

According to the enabling resolution, once a month, council will be supplied with a report of any deposits or permitted investments made pursuant to the cash management plan and earned income on deposits and investments.

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TIDES: Jan. 18-25, 2023

DATE	HIGH		LOW	
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
18	4:25	4:46	10:43	10:32
19	5:23	5:48	11:42	11:31
20	6:19	6:45		12:37
21	7:12	7:39	12:28	1:29
22	8:05	8:32	1:23	2:20
23	8:56	9:25	2:18	3:09
24	9:46	10:17	3:13	3:58
25	10:37	11:11	4:08	4:48

MOON PHASES
New moon, Jan. 21 • first quarter, Jan. 28

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